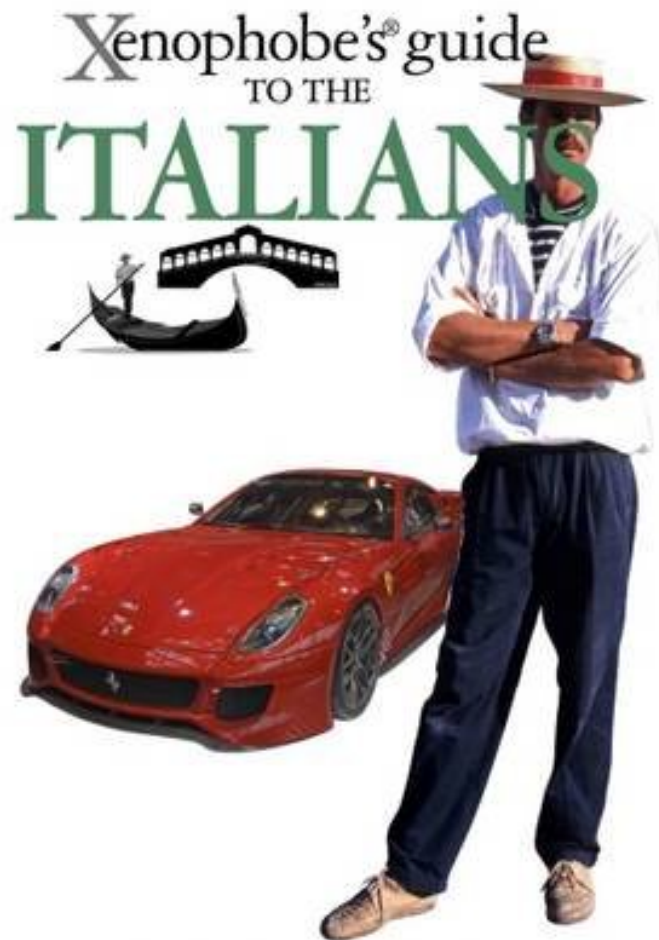


[FREE] Xenophobe's Guide to the Italians

## Xenophobe's Guide to the Italians

*Martin Solly*

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A frank and funny look  
at what makes the Italians ITALIAN

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**Martin Solly : Xenophobe's Guide to the Italians** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Xenophobe's Guide to the Italians:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative, mildly witty By Geval got turned on to this series by reading Xenophobe's Guide to the Dutch, which is a hilarious and enjoyable read. This one isn't quite up to the same

standard of humor, but is a good primer on modern Italian culture, useful for tourists and the curious more than serious students. These books strike a delicate balancing act between telling you PC-washed nothing on one hand, and spouting offensive stereotypes on the other, and I think they do it well. I'm going to Italy shortly - half the reason I bought the book in the first place - and it shall be seen how useful this guide turns out to be. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Xenophobe's Humorous Insights* By Nononsense Like the rest of the *Xenophobe* guides, the Italian book provides an easy introduction to the foibles and stereotypes of the country's inhabitants. Of course there is something to offend every Italian, as in all the *Xenophobe* series, but the humorous approach and obvious overstatement makes it clear these are generalizations carried to extremes. However, the insights into the national character are real. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Simple and interesting* By Vitor Gives a fair amount of information that clarifies bits and pieces of Italian behavior. Some are very funny. Hopefully some Italians will read this lets us know if it is truthful.

*La Dolce Vita* The Italians live life to the fullest, and do not feel in the least bit guilty leading a life of leisure and pleasure 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. This is what life is all about: Italians do not live to work, they work to live. *Achoo Brute?* The most common Italian illness is hypochondria. Italians are in general extremely healthy people who spend a great deal of their time thinking that they should feel healthier than they do. A little truth goes a long way. Italians grow up knowing that they have to be economical with the truth. All other Italians are, so if they didn't play the game they would be at a serious disadvantage. They have to fabricate to keep one step ahead. Always look on the bright side of life. Generally speaking, the Italians tend to look on the bright side of life—a positive outlook aptly illustrated by their touching salutation: “May the saddest days of your future be the happiest days of your past.”

"Light-hearted guides well worth reading before you visit any of the countries or, if you have relatives that hail from those parts of the world, they can explain a lot." --"Burton Mail" "An enlightened new series, good natured, witty and useful. The *Xenophobe's Guides* to different nations deserves a real cheer." --"The European" "From the Back Cover" Italy's laws would be perfect without the Italians, who pay little attention to most of them. For example, although seatbelts are compulsory, few Italians actually wear them (in some parts of Italy there is even a roaring trade in T-shirts with seatbelts painted on them). The Italians know that although other countries might be more powerful and better organized than Italy, in reality the people in the rest of the world behave the same way they do and are just as corrupt as they are, only sometimes they're smarter at not be caught. *Xenophobia* is an irrational fear of foreigners, probably justified, always understandable. *Xenophobe's Guides* - an irreverent look at the beliefs and foibles of nations, almost guaranteed to cure *Xenophobia*. (4 1/4 x 7, 64 pages) About the Author Brought up in England, Martin Solly first became enamoured of Italy as a student, staying with his amici in a superb farmhouse complete with swimming pool. The red-earthed landscapes of Tuscany, Renaissance culture, Chianti and mouthwatering tortellini and zucchini convinced him that the Italians enjoyed the ultimate in sybaritic living. After working on farms, and in bars, restaurants, bookstores and schools, he settled in Piedmont with the intention of improving his knowledge of things Italian. He little realised this would include a beautiful Piedmontese girl, and ignoring the old Italian saying *Moglie e buoi dei paesi tuoi* (Choose your wife and your cattle from your own back-yard) he married her. They now live happily with their two Anglo-Italian daughters in Turin. The author of a dozen books on English language and literature, Martin Solly teaches at Turin University, refusing even in the coldest weather to wear a vest. He does however, drive an Alfa-Romeo.