

# HOW ITALIANS CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS?:



1. CHRISTMAS
2. EASTER
3. "FESTA DELLA LIBERAZIONE"
4. " FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA"



# CHRISTMAS (NATALE):



The Christmas season officially starts on December 8th, the Day of Immaculate Conception. On this day many Italian families decorate their home and trees, bake cookies, wrap their presents, and schools and offices are formally closed. From this day on, up to December 26th, the holiday atmosphere gets bigger and bigger: in many Italian streets decorations and huge Christmas trees and Presepi (Nativity scene) are displayed. Christmas day and Christmas Eve (Vigilia di Natale) are observed in different ways all over the country, depending on where you are. Some Italians start celebrating with a nice dinner on December 24th, while others prefer a light meal — preferably without meat — and wait for a huge Christmas lunch, the day after. However, the midnight Mass at the local church is a tradition from the North to the South. After it, the festivity commences: it's time to brindare (make a toast) with a glass of spumante, a slice of panettone and pandoro, and an occasion to open up the presents. Children, excited by Santa's arrival, prepare a glass of milk, nuts and a slice of Christmas cake under the tree to thank Babbo Natale for the gifts.

# EASTER (PASQUA):



Easter is one of the most important holidays of the year in Italy, it marks the beginning of warm-season and outdoor activities. The Easter date is variable since it coincides with the Sunday following the spring full moon. According to this rule, it is said that Easter is low if it falls from 22 March to 2 April, average from 3 to 13 April, high from 14 to 25 April. The celebrations of Easter begin the previous Sunday, to remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which was welcomed by the waving of palm leaves. Thus begins the Holy Week during which various rites are held. Thursday remembers the recurrence of the Last Supper and of the "Eucharistic celebration". On Saturday at midnight, the bells announce the Resurrection. Sunday is the most important day, Lent, the long period of fasting, is over: colorful eggs, dove-shaped cakes and chocolate eggs are distributed. The egg, symbol of life that renews itself and hopes for fruitfulness, is connected to the meaning of Easter as the feast of spring and the awakening of nature. In Italy, the so-called Monday of the Angel - Easter Monday – Little Easter or Pasquetta – is the last day of celebration. It remembers the meeting of the winged messenger with the women who came to the empty tomb. It became a public holiday in the national calendar only after World War II, to prolong the spring break. Since then the use of out-of-town and open-air excursions has spread.

# FESTA DELLA LIBEAZIONE:



FESTA DELLA LIBERAZIONE (Liberation Day):  
italy celebrates Liberation Day, known in Italian as Festa della Liberazione, with a national public holiday each year on 25 April. The occasion is held in commemoration of the end of the Fascist regime and of the Nazi Germany occupation during world war two, as well as the victory of Italy's Resistance movement of partisans, or partigiani, who opposed the regime.  
Formed in 1943, the partigiani comprised a network of anti-Fascist activists, from diverse backgrounds including workers, farmers, students and intellectuals, across Italy. Together they united in armed resistance against the Nazi occupation and the Fascist regime, making their struggle both a war of liberation and a civil war.





# FESTA DELLA REPUBBLICA:

The Festa della Repubblica is an important Italian national holiday celebrated on the 2nd June. It was established to remember the birth of the Italian Republic.

The 2nd June has not been chosen by chance: it is the date of the national referendum which took place in 1946. In that day the majority of Italians voted for the Republic and the monarchy ended after only 85 years.

In the Italian history, the 2nd June 1946 was an important turning point and the start of the modern country. This is why every year many official celebrations take place around Italy.

