

# Untold Italy Episode 164 - Italian phrases you need to know for your trip to Italy

This is the Untold Italy Travel podcast, and you're listening to episode number 164.

Ciao a tutti and Benvenuti to Untold Italy, the travel podcast, where you go to the towns and villages, mountains and lakes, hills and coastlines of Bella Italia. Each week your host Katy Clarke takes you on a journey in search of magical landscapes of history, culture, wine, gelato, and, of course, a whole lot of pasta. If you're dreaming of Italy and planning future adventures there, you've come to the right place.

## Katy

Ciao, benvenuti friends. Today we're going to have a quick Italian lesson with my friend Michele Frolla also known as the Intrepid guide. It's always a good idea to learn some of the language before you visit any country - in my mind it's basic good manners. But sometimes people don't know where to start or go about it?

Now there's a few ways you can do this - lots of people like the free app Duolingo, others like a more structured online course and others like to listen along to podcasts or watch YouTube videos

But if you want a fun way to learn Italian quickly before your trip, Michele has developed a method to get you travel-ready with the key phrases and words that you'll be using when you finally make it to Italy. She's going to share a few of them today with me as her student. Feel free to practice along with us and you can find out to take this one step further at the end of the show

We'll get started after this quick break...

## Katy

Welcome to Michele. Welcome back to the Untold Italy podcast.

## Michele

Hey, Katy. It's good to see you again.

## Katy

It's always a pleasure. Now, Michele, how have you been? I know you've been somewhere exciting lately.

*Untold Italy travel podcast transcript. [Visit our website](#) for show notes and all episodes*

## **Michele**

I've come back from three weeks in Florence. I was there spending a lot of time going to see all the sites, but also things that caught my eye along the way. I took lots of photos, lots of videos. All that stuff will be up on the Intrepid Guide and Intrepid Italian as well, which is where I teach Italian. So yeah, exciting things to come.

## **Katy**

Was there anything particularly - something favorite and new that you found in Florence this time?

## **Michele**

Well, it definitely gave me time to go and see, not just like the Uffizi and Palazzo Vecchio, but other smaller museums. I had time to go to the Galileo Museum. But also I was able to catch up with a few locals, which was nice. I mean, it would take too much time for me to go into details now, but I made - the short story is, I made friends with the lady at the post office, and I have a photo to prove it. She basically bent over backwards to get me this stamp collection because growing up, I collected coins and stamps. But she was an absolute gem. And it just reminded me about the whole reason why I really want to help people learn Italian, because our whole exchange was in Italian. She recognized the passion in me for stamps. She worked at the post office. So it was those experiences. It wasn't so much the sightseeing that obviously I enjoyed, but it was those interactions with people that I just love. And this is the whole reason of why I love teaching Italian, is to have those interactions with people that come out of nowhere. any time, anywhere that you just stay with you forever.

## **Katy**

I love that you made a connection with the stamp lady from the post office.

## **Michele**

Yeah. Maria. I met her husband and her friend, Francesco, and I couldn't believe it was happening. I had to pinch myself. But that's why I got photos because I'm like, no one's going to believe when I tell them what has just happened.

## **Katy**

So you were there in February. Was it busy? Were there a lot of people there? A lot of visitors?

## **Michele**

Florence is a smallish historical center, so it does feel naturally... When there are people there, you can feel it. It's also during the time leading up to Carnevale. So it's nowhere near as chaotic as Venice. Venice, I saw at the time when social media was just, which is just overfall, just overflowing with people. Florence, it didn't have that same festive vibe,

obviously, as Venice does. But there were a few people and there were queues, but the queues were mainly on the weekend. So I always organized all my museums and any day trips during the week because it was naturally quieter. But I noticed I went to the Bargello Museum during the week and it was almost, in quotation marks, dead. But then on the weekend, on the side, there was this massive queue around the building down the road. I'm like, Is there a special event happening I don't know about? But it was because I was there for three weekends, I could see how the flux of people would change. So yeah, I definitely time your museum trips for during the week if you can, just to take the edge off.

### **Katy**

Yeah. I think, well, probably maybe locals that were having/going for the weekend, maybe, who knows? But it's so true about this timing and all these little tips can really add up. All right, Michele, can you do me a favor? Because maybe some of our listeners haven't met you yet. So maybe we'll give them a quick introduction, and I will later direct people to the big long introduction. But if you could just introduce yourself quickly and let everyone know how you came to be teaching Italian.

### **Michele**

Sure. Well, very quickly, if I can. From Melbourne, Australia, just like you. My dad is Italian. I grew up not speaking the language. I was named after my grandfather, my nonno. My name is actually Michele, if you want to say it with the Italian pronunciation. He didn't speak English, I didn't speak Italian. When he passed away, it was like the final straw for me. I felt really proud to carry his name, but also guilty and disappointed in myself that I never took the time to learn Italian. So that began my journey to learning Italian into my early 20s. Then eventually, I moved to Rome. I lived there for three wonderful years. I don't have a European passport, unfortunately, even though my dad was born in Italy. So I decided to stay as close as I could to Europe and Italy. I came to London, which is where I'm based now, and I started the Intrepid Guide, which is basically a way for me to help others learn languages specifically for travel. And then in more recent years, I've decided to focus more on Italy and Italian because it's my heritage, my passion, my love in life.

### **Michele**

So now I run the website, The Intrepid Guide, but I also have different channels either for general language learning, but also specifically for learning Italian. So Intrepid Italian is where I teach daily lessons on Instagram. I have language courses that use my 80/20 method, and there's a separate YouTube channel as well to teach Italian. So yeah, this is all stemmed from my passion for Italy and Italian and wanting to help others have these connections like I was talking about before in the post office in Italy. The post office in the Uffizi gallery in Florence. It's exactly where we were.

**Katy**

I'm sure Maria meets a lot of people every day. I think it's really special when someone's probably dealing with a lot of foot traffic to make a connection like that sounds really special.

**Michele**

Yeah, it was. And it turns out that she's from a neighboring... She's from the same region as my dad. So my dad's from Puglia, but he's in the area of Foggia, in a little village there. She's also from there, it turns out. Because I'm like, Your accent isn't Florentine. You don't have that Tuscan twang that I can recognize. And she's like, "No, I'm from Bovino, from this little town in Puglia. Turns out it's right near where my dad is from.

**Katy**

No. It was meant to be. It was meant to be. Michele, I thought I'd ask you back again onto the podcast because as we know, a lot of people are heading off to Italy in the next few months, and maybe they want to brush up on their Italian. I know that you're all about quick results, which this is what I love because I think everyone wants to make a bit of progress. So I thought maybe we could focus on a few key phrases that would be useful for anyone traveling in Italy. What do you think?

**Michele**

Yes, let's do it. Okay.

**Katy**

Great.

**Michele**

I love this.

**Katy**

I'll be your student, okay?

**Michele**

Okay. So we'll go through about eight phrases. Now, I'm going to assume, and I don't like to assume, but for the purpose of... this is the second time that we've been chatting about this thing. I'm going to assume that people know the word Ciao. Ciao can mean hello and goodbye. Are you familiar with this term?

## **Katy**

I hope so, because I always sign off with Ciao for now. So hopefully they do.

## **Michele**

Yeah, perfect. So I'm going to skip these ones because these are the ones that I'm going to assume that you already know. You've heard it through yourself or through movies or whatever. So ciao, you can use for hello and goodbye. You can also use it like Ciao Grazie. So Grazie is also another one, which it means thank you. But the pronunciation, I'm just going to touch on here for a moment. It's not Grazi, it's Grazie. Every letter in a time needs to be sounded. So know that Grazie has an i-e ending. So it's not like in English where we can just roll these letters together. They need to be sounded. So Grazie is a really nice one. So you can combine, Ciao Grazie is a way to say goodbye when you're leaving a restaurant or a shop, especially if the shop is small and there's only maybe you and a couple of other clients in there. It's a nice way to say goodbye and it's an easy one to remember. So we've got ciao, we've got Grazie.

## **Michele**

And then, Sì and No is yes and no. Sì, it's got an accent, so it's a hard... It's not see, it's Sì, and then no. So it's not like no, like an Aussie 'oh'. It's an o. It's an o sound. So it's, Sì and, No. So, Ciao, Sì and No, and, Grazie. I'm going to assume that these are somewhat familiar to you, so I'm not going to include these in the eight phrases that we're going to look at.

## **Michele**

The ones that I want to focus on, these are basically like sentence starters. These are ways that you can ask questions. You can use gestures, you can use the English word to fill in the rest of the sentence. This is just to let the other person know what you're talking about, and also just to be able to play around with the language a little bit and have a little bit of fun. So a lot of these are quite short. So I'll give you a couple of examples with each of them where I can.

## **Michele**

Okay, so the first one is when... keeping in mind, this is in the context of traveling to Italy. So we're focusing on things that you're going to be using a lot. You're going to be asking for things. You're going to be asking for tickets, for food, for directions, all these sorts of things.

## **Michele**

So with that in mind, the first word, which is a sentence starter, is, Vorrei. This is I would like. Do you want to have a go at saying, Vorrei?

**Katy**

Vorrei.

**Michele**

Vorrei. Beautiful. Now, I'm just going to touch on this for a moment. Some people are a little bit shy, they may not be able to roll their R's just like we both have just done now. That's okay. Some/a lot of Italians can't do it either. It's called the R(erre) - soft R. If you have trouble with your R's, that's okay. You can practice it by saying the letter TLA really quickly, and you can practice that. Say tla tla tla tla tla tla. You can progressively start slower and then go faster. Or you can just linger a little bit longer on your natural R sound, just so it hits the vowels. So Vorrei means I would like... So to follow this up, you can say things like "un gelato". What did I just say, Katy?

**Katy**

I would like a gelato, which I say many times.

**Michele**

Exactly. So you can start to use this. You can say this for all sorts of food items. If you're in a restaurant, you may want to remember that you can say "il conto". So "Vorrei il conto" and that means the bill.

**Katy**

Vorrei il conto

**Michele**

So good. If you forget the word for "il conto" you can use the international sign language for writing something in the air. You can just say "Vorrei" and then write something in the air. in the air with your imaginary pen. That's okay. But if you want that extra vocab, I've just given it to you.

**Michele**

So it's "Vorrei il conto". Then you've got things like, obviously your food items, which is just a standard espresso coffee, un cappuccino - so you can start to play with it. So in your own time, you may want to write these phrases down as well just to sort of practice. You can also, when you go into a museum, you can say how many tickets you want or that you need. And the word for tickets is Biglietti. So you can have a go at that. You can say one or two tickets. So one is un in this context, un or due for two. How many tickets would you like, Katy?

**Katy**

Due Biglietti, per favore.

**Michele**

Bravissima. You can say it that way too. You can say, "Vorrei due biglietti". I would like two tickets, or you can just say, Due Biglietti - two tickets, and then you can add something on the end, which is another phrase, per favore. Per favor - which literally means 'for a favor'. Favore - favour, per - for. So you can say, Please, this is how Italians say please - for a favor, will you do this for me? Per favore, vorrei due biglietti. Or you can put the Per Favore at the end.

**Katy**

Yeah, it's nice. It's like we do in English, we mix things around a bit. And just for everyone that's listening, we will actually write all these phrases down for you into the show notes so that you've got a little cheat sheet there so you can practice yourselves.

**Michele**

Yes, absolutely. Okay, so let's go on to the next one. The next one is when you're asking for the location of something, either for a monument, a museum, or if you're in the restaurant, where are the toilets? Where is the water closet? Where is the bathroom? So this word is Dov'è. Dov'è. This is literally 'where is'. And it's written... It's got a couple of accents. It's got an accent and it's got an apostrophe, which visually, once you see it written down in the show notes, it'll make it more sense. But if you remember the word of Dove, D-O-V-E, this is the spelling, but Dov'è is how it's pronounced. So you can think of where is the Dove? If you're trying to remember, how do you ask where is something? Oh, a dove. Where is the Dove? You can say "Dov'è, il bagno". That's for the bathroom, the toilet. "Dov'è, il bagno". Or if you're asking for where is the Duomo? Dov'è il Duomo. So do you want to have a go at saying those two?

**Katy**

Dov'è il bagno? Dov'è il Duomo?

**Michele**

Yes, because I've just come from Florence. So where is the Duomo?

**Katy**

Where is it?

### **Michele**

So yeah. Dov'è is when you're asking for the location of something. So it could be la stazione, the station. Where is that?

### **Michele**

So Vorrei, I would like, and Dov'è, where is? These are the two sentence starters that you can think of.

### **Michele**

Okay, the next one is when you're shopping. This is going to happen a lot. Either you're shopping or you're paying for something in some capacity. You want to know how much something costs. So this one is a complete sentence. It's Quanto costa? Quanto costa. Quanto in the sense of quantity and Costa sounds like cost, right? So quantity cost. You can think about it that way. I'm trying to create these little memory hooks, which is an important way for you to help you to remember these things. You can create your own memory hooks. I've just come up with some little off-the-cuff ones here to help. But yeah, Quanto costa? As a question, How much does it cost? So this is what you would ask.

### **Katy**

Quanto costa?

### **Michele**

Quanto costa? Yeah, Quanto costa. Exactly. And then I said this one a lot, and this is why I've included it. It's if you want to pay by card, not necessarily in cash, but I use card because then I can get points. It's just easier to track my finances.

### **Michele**

So this one's a little bit longer, so I'm going to break it down for you. So this is, Can I pay by card? Posso. So can I? Pagare is to pay. Pagare, to pay. So the P, pay, pagare. Con, which is with. And Carta. Carta is card. So, "Posso pagare con la carte?" can I or may I pay with card? Do you want to have a go at saying that? Posso?

### **Katy**

Posso

### **Michele**

Pagare

**Katy**

Pagare

**Michele**

Con

**Katy**

Con

**Michele**

Carta.

**Katy**

Carta.

**Katy**

Bravo.

**Michele**

So can I pay or may I pay by card? So yeah, "Posso" is also a nice one just to use on its own. Posso on its own, you can ask if you want to sit down somewhere, you say you'll point to the seat and you say, Posso? Can I sit? That's what you're applying. So it's a really good one to remember.

**Katy**

I like this one. And I think this is a really good one if you want to take a taxi. You want to check first because sometimes they don't like it. Even though legally they do need to take card before you get in that taxi.

**Michele**

Yeah that's a reall good one.

**Katy**

Otherwise, you might not have cash. I don't carry a lot of cash when I travel. I don't know about you, Michele, but I definitely don't.

**Michele**

Yeah, I'm more of a card person these days where I can. And if you want to be specific, this is another level. If you have an American Express card, they don't always accept it. You can say Con American Express? you just put an Italian tang around the American Express because it's the same name. They just pronounce it. So you have to adjust it to their pronunciation. So yeah, you can say that too.

**Katy**

I would definitely check American Express and Diners.

**Michele**

Yeah, oh Diners.

**Katy**

Yeah, I know. Blast from the past, but some people still use it.

**Michele**

I haven't heard that name in years.

**Katy**

I think I had one in my corporate days. I had a Diners.

**Michele**

Let's do a quick recap of what we've got so far. Okay, so the first one we had was Vorrei, which means?

**Katy**

I would like.

**Michele**

Very good. Vorrei, I would like. The next one we had was Dov'è, or does Dov'è mean?

**Katy**

Where is?

### **Michele**

Where is? So good. The next one we had, which I kind of included there, but the third one was Per favore. What does that mean?

### **Katy**

Please.

### **Michele**

Literally for a favour? Four of favour, please. That helps you to remember it. And then we had Quanto costa?

### **Katy**

How much?

### **Michele**

Quanto costa, yeah. How much does it cost? And then we just had, Posso pagare con carta?

### **Katy**

Can I pay by card?

### **Michele**

Excellent. So good. Okay, so we've got three more. The next one, I'm giving you two here because they mean two different things, even though we have the same word in English. So we would say, Excuse me to get attention. Excuse me to get past someone. In Italian, they have different ways of doing this. Now, I'll give you the formal version, which is something that Italians use a lot. They use the formal for speaking to people that are strangers or people of authority, such as policeman, doctors, and so on. This is "Mi Scusi. "Mi scusi" is just like saying, it sounds like saying, Excuse me in English. This is why it's a good one to learn. "Mi scusi" is the formal version. You may have also heard the Scusa mi, which is the informal version. If you can only remember one, then try and remember "Mi scusi" to be more polite. But if you use "Scusa mi", nothing bad is going to happen.

### **Katy**

They're not going to lock you up.

### **Michele**

The Italians are very forgiving. They just appreciate any effort that you make. So yeah, Mi Scusi's, you can use this to get someone's attention. If you want to get attention, if you want

to maybe apologize, like, “Oh, Mi Scusi”. If you're in someone's way or you bumped into someone, so that's a good one. So, “Mi Scusi”.

### **Michele**

And the next one is when we say we want to get past someone, you might be on the bus or you're in a line or you want to get in front of someone, you need to ask permission.

“Permesso”. “Permesso” is how you ask to get past someone. And it's a polite way to say, May I get past? “Permesso”. Permission is basically what you're saying. So do you want to have a go at saying these two? So we've got “Mi Scusi”.

### **Katy**

Mi Scusi.

### **Michele**

And then we've got Permesso.

### **Katy**

Permesso.

### **Michele**

Yeah, Permesso? just like a question. Permesso? May I get past? This is a good one to use on busy transportation. I've used it quite a lot. But also on busy streets. If you're visiting Italy and it's very crowded, you might need to say this a lot. You can't always assume that they're English speakers, but you'll have a mixture of all different nationalities.

### **Katy**

I had to use it in the Colosseum because my daughter really needed to go to the bathroom. And luckily, all of a sudden, Permesso. And they were very... I mean, there were a lot of Italians there. And in particular, the guides, they pricked their ears up and could hear that someone needed some help. So it was good to know that word.

### **Michele**

Yeah, absolutely. And then you can start to combine these phrases. Once you have them, once you download them from your show notes, you can start to play around with them and form sentences. So then you can start to say, Mi scuse, dov'è il bagno? So you can start to join them together. Mi scusi, quanto costa? Like if you're at a market and you're pointing to something, you're looking at the leather bags in Florence, and you're looking at something, you can say, Oh, Mi Scusi. Can I get their attention? Quanto costa? And then you can point at the item. So

you can start to play around with these phrases and these words, which is why I've chosen them. So I can start to have a bit of fun with them.

### **Michele**

Okay, so the next one is Prego. Prego is a really wonderful, versatile Italian word. And I've included this because it's something that you will may not say as much as you will hear a lot. And you'll hear it in lots of different contexts. It means, literally, it means "I pray". Prego - I pray. It means come in, please come in, Prego. It can also mean "Next, please" if you're waiting in a queue and they'll say, Next, Prego. And it'll say, it's usually like a high pitch "Prego" - come over. And it's also you're welcome, which is the one that you're probably most familiar with. If you've heard it, you're welcome. So if you say, Grazie, to someone, thank you. They'll say, Prego, like you're welcome.

### **Michele**

This is a really nice, versatile word that my students have said, I've heard prego used in this way, but what does it mean? Well, these are all the meanings that it has. If you hear it, generally know that it's a positive thing. It's either come in or come over or you're welcome. You'll hear it in restaurants, they'll be like, Prego, tell me what you want to eat, and they'll take your order.

### **Michele**

One way to remember this is this is something that we used to say in very British old English, not old, old English, but like 17, 1800s English, where if you think of Jane Austen, they would say things like, pray tell. That phrase where they say, Pray tell. It's the same use in Italian, they'll say "prego dimmi". They'll say, pray tell. It's the same use in Italian. They'll say "prego dimmi". They'll say pray tell. It's the same pray in English as they use it in Italian.

### **Michele**

It's to get your attention, like, please come in, or next please, or you're welcome. So try and think of the prego the same way that we used "pray" in English if you're thinking of Jane Austen and English from the 1700s.

### **Katy**

Yeah, it's a good one. Prego.

### **Michele**

Prego. And then the last one is a simplified version of how you can introduce yourself. So say you've had an exchange like I did the post office with Maria, or you're just having a conversation with someone anywhere, really, and you want to introduce yourself. They'll ask you, "Come ti chiami?" This is one that you'll hear. "Come ti chiami?" And this is one that you'll

hear, “Come ti chiami” is how do you call yourself? Is literally what they're saying. Come, how, ti, you or yourself, chiami. How do you call yourself? Now, I'm going to say this one. You don't need to remember how to say it, but just remember what it sounds like, because if you hear it, then you know how to respond. And you can just say, “Mi chiamo”, I call myself. Or a shorter version is, “Sono”. “Sono” and then you can say your name. So, “Sono Michele”. I am Michelle. If you're familiar with Spanish, it's Soy, SOY. In Italian, it's a very similar version. It's Sono, S, O, N, O, Sono. So this is a way that you can introduce yourself. You can use it when you show up to your accommodation.

### **Michele**

You can say. “Ciao, Sono Michele”. So you can start to mix these, all right? So this is just something I wanted to include for any interactions that you have. So you may hear someone ask you, What is your name? And you can say either, “Mi chiamo”, I call myself Michelle, “Mi chiamo Michele”, or, Sono, “Sono Michele”, I am Michele. Do you want to have a go at saying either of those?

### **Katy**

Yeah. Mi chiamo, Katy, e Sono Katy.

### **Michele**

Perfect. So good.

### **Katy**

It's so funny, though, because Italians really struggle with Katy because the A is not a real sound in Italian.

### **Michele**

Ah yeah.

### **Katy**

Find so I get called Katty a lot. Katty. Yeah, that's true. It's really interesting. But it's just like just as we struggle with the rolling the R s, that sometimes that they have those sounds that they haven't grown up with actually. So it's hard to expect them to be able to say that when it's not a natural sound to speak. And I appreciate that. So my R s aren't rolling so well.

### **Michele**

That's all right. We all have our insecurities, and I don't want anyone to feel insecure about your accent or any - sort of what stage you're at in your journey to learning Italian. We judge

ourselves more than others judge us. So it's important to remember that if you make the effort, it's always going to be appreciated.

### **Katy**

I love that. It's so true because I think that's, if I'm honest with myself, the number one thing that's holding me back from speaking Italian - so I can understand a lot of Italian, but speaking is a whole another matter. And I think I'm very hard on myself because of my accent and what I perceive to be my accent, and I don't even know because I don't have that audible lens at all. So yeah, it's really thing that you've got to let go of, I think, and just have a go and try.

### **Katy**

Hey, Michele, I've got a question. There is one word, it's actually my favorite word in Italian, but you hear it all the time. And it's just so funny because you're just like, Oh, what are they talking about? And they go, Allora.

### **Michele**

How do I know you're going to say that? Allora. Yeah, Allora is very versatile, just like Prego is. Allora. It literally just means "So". So it's like moving on, Allora - "you know", "oh well". So it depends on the context, again, what it means. It can mean, "oh, well" - Allora, or Allora, like, "let's go" type of thing. Changing the topic of conversation, let's go, or let's go and do this. So Allora, I could also mean at the time. At that time, yada yada. So yeah, it's a good, versatile one. But nothing bad is happening, so it's okay.

### **Katy**

Especially if your name is Laura, they're not going Oh, Laura.

### **Michele**

Yeah, exactly.

### **Katy**

But I feel like they say it a lot when they're thinking, or they're just trying to work out what to say next. They'll go, Allora. You'll be like, Oh, yeah, okay.

### **Michele**

It's like how we drag out saying So in English. Sooooo... Andiamo (let's go in English). It's a very similar use in that sense.

**Katy**

I do think that So is very Australian. Sooooo.

**Michele**

Soooo, yeah.

**Katy**

Ah Michele, thank you so much. I think this has been so fun. And I love the way you teach and all your little tips. And for our listeners, what I really love about Michele's approach is not only does she focus on those quick results and the relevant info that you need, because I find some of these Italian courses that are giving you stuff that you don't really need to know when you're traveling. And so Michele keeps everything super relevant. But she's also so much fun, which is exactly the way it should be, I think. Anyway, so Michele, people want to... They've been having fun with our little language lesson here, a little Italian lesson. How can they brush up a little bit more on their Italian?

**Michele**

Yeah. So I have different online language courses for learning Italian. So depending on what your goal is, I have one of my courses is specifically designed for those that are traveling to Italy quite soon. So this is my Intrepid Italian for travel course, and it's something that can be completed in as little as two weeks. Basically, you can take longer, you can take a shorter amount of time to complete it. It's totally up to you. Everything is self-paced, the video lessons. So you can allow yourself at least two weeks to go through that content and to practice it. Or if you've got months, you can also spread it out over that time, give you some time to revise or review that content.

**Michele**

But if you are a bit more serious about learning Italian and you want to get to that more confident conversations where you can bounce off the other person, that's when I have my more in depth language courses. So Intrepid Italian for Beginners A1, Intrepid Italian for Advanced Beginners A2, and Intrepid Italian for Intermediates B1. So if you're not familiar with the A1, A2, B1, it's basically how the European languages are broken down into six levels. So there's A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2. C2 being you're fluent, you're a very competent speaker. You can probably do translation at that point. A1 is you're beginning. B1 is a really good level. It means it can have a lot of flexibility with your conversations that you're having with people. You can understand what's being said. If you're not quite sure, you can ask for clarification. It's the level that you need if you want to apply for university or if your partner or spouse is going for a partnership visa and they need to pass a level test to get that visa. B1 is the level I had when I moved to Italy. It's a really good level to reach. Then after that, it's more about just like polishing your grammar and your vocabulary and all of that. So if that's

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something that you want to aim for, that's the level that I go up to. So yeah, from travel to proficient speakers, there's this course for everyone.

### **Michele**

They're all self-paced. You get lifetime access. You get support from me and other students in the community. We're over a thousand students now, which is really exciting.

### **Michele**

And there's lots of people similar to me with Italian heritage, lots of people that just love Italy. And that's what it's all about. If you love Italy, if you have any interest in learning it for your partner, for travel, for yourself, it would be wonderful to welcome you into the Intrepid Italian community. You can find out more on my Instagram account. I have daily lessons that I post there at [Intrepid Italian](#). And my website, the [Intrepid Guides](#), [intrepiditalian.com](http://intrepiditalian.com), too. And my YouTube channel, it never ends.

### **Katy**

Yeah, she's everywhere in a good way. It's amazing. Michele, congratulations on everything that you're doing to bring the Italian language to the people of the world. And it's just such a beautiful language, I think. And as Michele mentioned, the appreciation that you're actually trying, even if you're stumbling over a few words - people just think it's amazing that you're trying and they really appreciate it. So do have a go and practice your Dov'è, your Vorrei and rolling your Rs. It always gives something back when you're learning your language. Michele, I really appreciate you sharing those tips with us today and those phrases. It's been really great. I can't wait to have you back on the show another time.

### **Michele**

Wonderful. Thank you so much. A presto ciao.

### **Katy**

Ciao Michele.

### **Katy**

How did you go with that little lesson? Were you rolling your 'r's' like a pro. It doesn't matter if you can't do it just yet, everyone in Italy appreciates that you have a go and at least have made an effort to learn their beautiful language.

As Michele mentioned she has a specific course, especially for travelers to help get you up to speed before your trip. All it takes is as little as 2 weeks of practice to get you travel-ready with Italian. We've put a link to the travel course into your podcast app and our show notes

at [untolditaly.com/164](https://untolditaly.com/164) for episode 164. As well as Michele's social channels where you can follow along with her fun daily classes.

Thanks for your ongoing support of Untold Italy. We truly appreciate all of you, our listeners joining us from around the world. We'd love it if you helped spread the word so we can reach more Italy-loving travelers just like you. And the best way you can do this is by leaving us a 5-star rating or review on your favorite podcast app or forwarding this episode onto a friend who also loves colorful towns, delightful local customs, and the magic of regional Italy.

That's all for this week. Next time I'm getting some specific trip advice for our upcoming travels in South Tyrol and the Dolomites with our friends Kate and Vin from Throne and Vine, but until then it's "Ciao for now".