

Untold Italy Episode 272: Grazie! And more - How to express your appreciation in Italian

Grazie! Most of us know that means thank you in Italian, but what are some different ways that we can express thanks when we're in Italy? As we know, a little thanks goes a long way, so I'm taking another lesson in Italian to learn some useful phrases that can be used in different scenarios, plus some etiquette lessons too, on episode 272 of the Untold Italy podcast.

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 Clarke:

Ciao Amici! Buongiorno friends. Come stai? How are you doing today? I hope you're doing well and are ready for another little Italian language and cultural lesson with my lovely friend Monica from Sumisura Italy - a language coaching service that I personally use.

We wanted to make an episode for you about how to express appreciation and we'll get started on that in a minute, but in fact, there is no better time than to say grazie and thank you to all of you, our listeners, for tuning in each week. We appreciate you!

The first episode of the Untold Italy podcast was published over 5 years ago and many of you have been with us from the very start and it's incredible to think about that sometimes. Some of you I have met in person, which has been very special, but we also appreciate all the notes, messages and reviews you send. There would be no podcast if we didn't have listeners, so grazie mille and let's get started learning about all the ways you can express appreciation when you're in Italy.

Katy Clarke:

Bentornata, Monica. Welcome back to the Untold Italy podcast.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Ciao, Katie. It's such a nice feeling to be back here.

Katy Clarke:

Yes. It's always great to chat with you. I always learn something new, and I have to admit, I do love your Torinese accent. It's beautiful. What's been happening in your world lately?

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Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So many news, actually. I just decide to do something crazy and moved back to Italy, to my hometown for three months. So I will have a Italian summer. So June, July, and August in Italy. In Piemonte mostly, but I will travel a bit, and we will meet you in Rome as well. So that's the first big one. And the second one is I will soon move back to Melbourne. So after our trip, we will come and, live in Melbourne again, actually, in the Mornington Peninsula, which is south of Melbourne, in our beautiful little house that has a very big garden so our kids can play there and our dogs as well.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So I'm very excited about my 2025.

Katy Clarke:

I know. I know. I can't believe it's almost halfway through, and you've got so many adventures planned. And we're gonna meet each other in person for the first time, so that's gonna be great. And then you're moving here. Amazing.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. And then we can record a podcast together. Like, you can come over or I can come over, and then we'll be in the same room, which will be nice.

Katy Clarke:

I just had a few good ideas. Anyway, we'll keep them for ourselves so people can tune in and hear them later in 2025 when you are over here. But, Monica, for our listeners who haven't met you yet, can you please remind everyone of your background and what you do?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Well my name is Monica Cazzamani Bona and I now live in Perth, where I have 2 dogs, 2 kids and a husband. I own a little school that is dedicated on helping students to learn Italian via personalized programs and lessons. So it's called Su Misura Italy. Su Misura in Italian means tailor-made. So what we do and what we hope we are doing is, like, literally tailor every lesson on our student, in a way that is quite simple, becomes natural, an appointment that students really want to, like, participate. Yes. I'm doing this from 2018, so it's quite a long time now. And, I love it.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

And you are one of my students, so you probably have to tell something about it.

Katy Clarke:

Yes. We love what you do, and it's it's a lot of fun. And, we'll talk a bit about it at the, at the end because it's a different approach. Everyone learns languages differently. There's lots of different ways you can learn, and you just need to find the one that works for you. And Monica has put together a really great program where it's it's very interactive and it's got an

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appointment that I have to make and I have to show up and I don't like letting people down. So for me, it works really, really well.

Katy Clarke:

It's a bit like going to the gym, but it's learning Italian.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. I always say that is, for me, it's exactly the idea. If I don't have a personal planner, I just don't go to the gym. Even if I have everything set up and I can watch video YouTube or everything. It's just like, it's true. Like, these days, there is so much where you can learn by yourself, can do apps and things. But in the same time, somehow it's good to, yeah, have a, a sort of a program that, help you out and this is what we try to do. And we try to take a bit of distance from, yeah, what is the regular school setting where you actually follow a book that is the same for everyone.

Katy Clarke:

No. I really like it. I feel like it's custom made to me, like Su Misura.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So exactly, I always have to explain the Su Misura. It's what does it mean? Because, on my Instagram account, for instance, is sumisuraitaly. So people sometimes call me Sue because they think Sue is my name and Misura and maybe the surname. I have this name for so long now, and I don't want to change it. But in the same time, if you don't know the language, you probably don't get it straight away.

Katy Clarke:

Now, you know, after saying your thousandth 'Grazie' for the day, it can get a little bit overdone, can't it? So, when you suggested that we teach our listeners some different ways to express appreciation in Italian, I just thought that was such a great idea. So shall we dive into that?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah, of course.

Katy Clarke:

Okay. I think everyone knows Grazie and hopefully I've pronounced it quite well, but I think pronouncing it can be a little bit challenging for people. So I think it is a matter of, you know, if you really want to express appreciation in a very genuine way, it's good idea to get the pronunciation pretty correct because we sometimes hear people trying, which is great, but we also wanna make sure we're actually getting the word right because I don't know what it you might mean something different. I don't know if you say it wrong.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. That's always the chance. You know? In Italian, sometimes but like in English, if you

mispronounce a word, I always say the example about when I ask my husband if we can change the sheet on the bed, and he always laughs because I can't say it well. So, yeah, similar. But in saying that, if you mispronounce grazie, people will understand. But what I always say is to just try to spell it right. So people actually use it even with me. You know? Sometimes they just write me an email and then just write Grazie, and some people misspell it.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

They put a c at the end, a c at the end, Gracia. But we need to remember that is spelled with a zed. That's the most important thing. The zed in Italian is, is pronounced more like like a 'ts' in English. So so. Okay? Ts. Ts. So that's the first thing I usually say and concentrate on that zed. Okay? And then, pronounce very well the last letter, which in English is a 'e'. But in Italian is pronounced 'a'. Very large, e.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Okay? Do you want to try it with me? Just to do e. E.

Katy Clarke:

Eh

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Very good. So. Okay? So at the start, when you when you try to say words, I always suggest, like, just call slow. It doesn't matter. Like, make drag the word as much as you can and train your tongue just to use it. And then more you get confident with that word, the more you can then say the word quickly. So I know you say it well, but maybe it's a good exercise for a learner listener. So if you can say with me,

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Grazi-eh

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Very good. Yeah. So, once you can say Grazie, nice, you can stop here, or you can maybe do some something more. Okay? In Italian, we say thousand thanks. Okay? So thousand in Italian, it's 'Mille'. Do you want to try with me?

Katy Clarke:

Mille

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Very good. So means thank you very much, like many thanks. But we actually say thanks thousand.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Very good and very easy, to use.

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Katy Clarke:

So I think, you know, there's different ways we can express gratitude, and I think thank you is like the it's the straight way. But I was thinking when you were just talking that if someone does something well and you wanna maybe praise them as well, then I know a lot of people in Italian say brava or bravo. You know? And that's a word that I really like to use because it's an easy one to remember, I think, for me, anyway.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Everyone. Yeah. I think, it's because when you go to theater here, often people say from the French, bravo. So you applaud, and then you say bravo. Important, you already know, but maybe not everyone knows, the difference between brava and bravo. Do you know what's the difference between brava and bravo, Katy? Or can you explain?

Katy Clarke:

Sure. I'll have a go. One is for, the feminine, so brava. And if you're saying it about a woman, you say brava or a girl. And if you're saying it about a man or a boy, you say bravo.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

To remember is I always explain a rule like Mario and Maria. Everyone knows that Maria is a girl and Mario is a boy. So you think about the Maria ends by a, so it's brava. And Mario ends by o, so it's bravo. Okay? So that's a very good one. So you could say brava or bravo in situation like, again, theater or a show. So you, plus, which is, or to beat your hands, let's say. And then you say brava or bravo.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

But you can't say the same word, for instance, if you want to say it's good in taste. Similar, we have, again, two different ways to say based on if you describe something that was good that was feminine or good and was masculine. Do you remember how to say it's good?

Katy Clarke:

Buonissimo!

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Okay. Perfect. That's it's very good. So you actually add 'issimo' at the end of 'buono'. So if you add at the end of a word, that becomes very. In fact, you could have said as well, very good in performance.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So brava becomes Bravissimo. Bravissimo. Sorry. Brava, Bravissima. Buono, buonissimo. Okay? So that's good. We already learned other two words. Buono and buonissimo.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

That's for taste. But if you want to say that something is beautiful, like in look, we often say,

like, hi, beautiful. Like in English, how do you say beautiful?

Katy Clarke:

Ciao bella.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Perfecto. So, again, we have bravo, performance. Okay? Taste, bella, in look. Okay? Or if he's a boy, you will say bello. Also, if you speak about Rome, cities in Italian are feminine. So you can say, Roma So if you remember from another episode, we actually record.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Ciao bello.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Mhmm. Also, if you speak about Rome, cities in Italian are feminine. So you can say, Roma So if you remember from another episode, we actually record.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

It means it is. No? So Roma è Bella or Bella Roma, you could actually just say. No? So we are describing a city, so we can just say Bella. But if you want to say that the restaurant, masculine el ristorante. So bravo, buono. Then there is another one, which is well. When you say very well, I'm well, that's bene and doesn't have two different things. So if you want to say, if very good, very well, so for instance, the dinner was very good, you can say molto buono, very or as we say, buonissima. But you can also say for instance. All good. Tutto bene.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

All well. Okay? Even the waiter when when it comes to the restaurant and you just comes to the table and say tutto bene, and you can answer, Sì, tutto bene grazie. Okay. So is everything good? Everything well?

Katy Clarke:

Oh, that's really interesting because, you know, in Australia, we say all good quite a lot, don't we?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah.

Katy Clarke:

I don't know that it's said necessarily in other English-speaking countries, so I wonder if that's come from Italian migrants. Who knows?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Like Interesting. We can ask to comment, maybe, and then we will know if someone actually use in their country that way. Yeah. It is quite tricky because especially when you learn the

language, you can actually confuse a bit like between bravo, buono, bene. So it's just a matter of, like, understand what is good for look, because in English you just say good, good looking or good in taste is all the same word. When in Italian it is different by what you are describing.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah. And I think Italians are really expressive about expressing that it's good. So they don't just say, well, I mean, you can say it's good or è bella or bella, but they use extra words. I find, a lot. You wanna emphasize it. Make it make it more.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. Exactly. It's very true. More more words and how we use the hands and how much we smile. So there is all this, topic about la Bella Figura, no? Just to make a good appearance. So if you want to make someone that is guesting you or, like, taking you around or is your the restaurant or the waiter, and you want to really want to make them, happy, you have to feed their ego and to make sure that they actually feel that they are doing a Bella Figura with you. So they actually having a good appearance on you. If you don't sort of smile, if you don't make an effort, you can also do it in English, doesn't matter.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

But it's it's so important for Italians to have a good feedback, if there is one. But if you want to appreciate, it's very important to use your words, your your smile, your hands to make sure that they do understand. Because people just, especially with tourists, they they do make a good effort. So it's nice to, yeah, do it back. For instance, when my mum travels, she can't stop saying 'che'. So 'che' means 'what' literally. Yeah. In general. It means what.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

But it used in this way, like, for instance, What good in taste? But it literally means, it's like in English would you translate it like how good. Che buono. Yeah. And then she goes around, like, we are driving and we are driving around the streets, and then she starts to say, 'Che bello' constantly. And you can repeat it so many times because Yeah. Somehow more you repeat it, more it makes the stuff that you are seeing beautiful. So, yeah, is another good little word to add before those, they call adjective, the description words. So you can say even "che grande". Grande is, big.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So if you enter, like, in, San Peter, you actually will be, like, quite, like, impressed about how big it is. So you can say just, grande. No? And, it does it does makes sense. So it does make the feeling this using this. If you just, want to say, that was so good. No? Or No? You'll really make people happy if you if they hear you saying that.

Katy Clarke:

Okay. I've got to confess now. I've been going to Italy for decades and you just explained something I think really fundamental about the Italian psyche, which I, you know, I noticed

people saying it, but I didn't know why. And what you're saying is that people, like, they're looking for that feedback. You know, they're showing their appreciation to you if they're enjoying it too.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

It is really important. Imagine how much effort. Like, especially for job like in restaurant. It's a heavy job. Like, I was a waiter when I was studying. And you just stand for many hours. The system is not really set up. Like, maybe in Australia, for instance, where you do eight hours.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

If you're a waiter, maybe you do eight hours and then you break for a bit and then you start again and then you do other six hours. So it's it's a long time, long hours. So if you have someone in front of you to just show appreciation, you just feel better. Like, it just make your life, like, you feel like you're doing something right. And we we care so much about this Bella Figura. I always say, in Italy, for instance, if you want to have, even in business, the first stuff you say is like, oh, 'Che bel vestito'. How beautiful dress. And then people, you'll notice straight away is like, oh, really? And then they change they change attitude, you know, from, like, from the start.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So it is very important.

Katy Clarke:

Oh, I love it. This is so good because I think in Australia maybe and I don't know in other countries so much, but I know here, like, you probably wouldn't say it unless you really meant it. You know? You know? I'm not sure people really mean it, but it's like, you know, you wouldn't think to lead with those compliments. But now I know now. I'm gonna be dropping compliments left, right, and center now when I'm in Italy because yeah. That's so good. I just wow. I love all these cultural differences.

Katy Clarke:

I'm gonna try it with my husband tonight and see how that work. Being Italian, of Italian background, you never know.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Okay. You can start to say to him that he's, you can say, che bello oggi. oh, how beautiful you are today. Maybe he will just do the dishes and take out that rubbish without even you to ask. So just start with that. It's interesting. It's funny that you say about Australia. I feel in in Australia there is something very fun and different is when you enter in a shop, people ask, hi, how are you doing? Or how was your day? You know? And then I remember the start, I actually was answering. I was like, oh, yeah. I'm good.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

How are you? Like, you know, but that it's just a way to say in Australia, especially if you're in the cashier and just paying people just say the sentence when actually in Italy, if people will ask is because they want to know. So so yeah. It's, yeah. Culture wise is, it is, so when we enter for instance in a shop, you probably instead of saying how you doing or how are you today, you will just say you speak about the weather, like, you can say, che caldo. Again che is used a lot. Caldo means hot. How hot is today? Or che sole - how big sun like which is like beautiful day, you know. Or if it is raining. Che pioggia. Or che giornata - what a day! A beautiful day. Or it can be negative if said in a different way. che giornata.

Katy Clarke:

Oh, I love it. You can learn all the words, and then if you don't know the context, then it's not as, as effective sometimes. Okay. You mentioned hand expressions as well. How do we use our hands in Italian to express gratitude?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Pointing? It's not too bad. Like, Damien, my husband, I always say, why are you always pointing things? So pointing and showing what you like, no? It's good because, again, when you're not don't know another language too much, then we'll help you. And then, yeah. I was just saying there is, for instance, buono. When it's something that's very good at this, you take your index and then you you would just put it on your cheek and then you turn it. Turn, up and down, up and down like this. And that means that that was very good. So, yeah, there are little things that people say without even realizing.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. Using hands is, it's fun. There are lots of videos on YouTube, that people maybe want to go and explore about Italian.

Katy Clarke:

So the more expressive the hands, the more appreciation.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. Exactly. And yeah. And then if it's something that's big, you just open your arm, hands, macho. Like so just using your hands literally freely how you will think to use them, That will help your communication and show appreciation in general. Yeah. Shake hands. Good.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Like a good shake hand is important, not like a soft one. People maybe like if you had that really, really good day with the, you know, a private tour guide or whatever, you can even hug at the end. I know, like two kisses and a hug. It's, it's nice. It's but it depends how is the feeling between you and the other person. Don't do it if you feel it forced. But if you feel like, oh, that was so nice and I will miss you even if it was just, we met just for a day, for a day. This is something we can do.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Like, don't be scared of give a double kiss or a good shake and

Katy Clarke:

If you're gonna do the double kiss though, which cheek do you go for? Because I always get this wrong because I've got French relatives and they do the other side.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So my head go towards the left. Okay.

Katy Clarke:

We can see each other, we'll just practise. And I think that's nice. Italians are very affectionate, aren't they? So the more that you're showing appreciation, the more you're probably gonna get back to, I think. What about if so if you really wanna say thank you for your help? How would we say that?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

The sentence is actually a bit longer. So maybe in again, in the show notes, we can write that down. But it's grazie per l'aiuto, which is thanks for, per, we use it before, the help, or you could say if was a visit grazie per la visita or, grazie per la bella giornata - the beautiful day. I like that one. Yep. So is thank you for, and then you can if you don't know, you can just translate to what you need to say thanks for. But, yeah, and then you add.

Katy Clarke:

Now I'm gonna ask you this question because we do have a lot of different cultures on this call, and there's a lot of confusion, but I wanna hear it from you, someone who's Italian and who has worked in the hospitality industry. A lot of people like to show appreciation through tipping or they think that they might need to tip. How does it work in Italy?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Okay. So I will say it depends where you are. If you are in a coffee shop and the coffee was great, and the service was nice, quick, You really enjoy. If the bill was €5.70, yeah, just just put the 30¢ in the jug that is in front of you at the till, that is enough. If you might sit down, let's say, at a cafe or a restaurant and you have a longer service, then you don't have to tip. It's not mandatory. It's not like in America where, yeah, you have to. In Italy, yeah, there is no rules that says that you have to tip.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

If you sort of thinks that the service was, average, normal, maybe you don't. You also decide. You can decide, no, I'm not tipping. It's fine. I just pay whatever I need to pay. Or if it was if you think it was, like, extremely overpriced, then, yeah, you can also not tipping. But remember one thing, even if it was overpriced, so if even if you go in a very nice restaurant, you have to remember that the waiter will not actually earn much money. And also will, they will do a lots of hours and they must have all the time like students.

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Monica Cazzamani Bona:

And if you receive a very good service, it's always good to just leave a tip to the waiter. So I always say, just, have some cash and then give it directly to the person or if it's all the lesson then you can put it on them or where whatever you pay. But if you really appreciate one person then, yeah, just give a tip to the person. It's in the amount of money is really based on how you feel. Back when I was a waitress, I usually got like €5/10. But when I work in very high level restaurant, sometimes, the people were tipping quite a lot. And and we were really happy and, I think when you receive a tip and you keep receiving tips, you again, you know you're doing a great job and you are actually motivated to do even more. People will be more keen to that kind of job because they know that somehow you can round up your, salary with with tips.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So, yeah, I always say, yeah, really think about what kind of service you receive. And if you really enjoy, yeah, why not? If you can, why not leaving a tip even if it's not mandatory? Yeah.

Katy Clarke:

Okay. Thank you. And what about if we're going to someone's house and we wanna bring something? And we always also get a lot of questions on our, Facebook group about, you know, what should we bring. And I find it really interesting. And I was saying to Monica before, when we're coming from Australia, there's, it's really cool. Cause we've got all our animals are so cute. If you're going to visit kids and, and things you can bring like a small soft toy koala or a plush kangaroo or something like that. And people love that.

Katy Clarke:

Love it. Love it. Even they we have that clip on ones. I don't know who's seen those. Exactly. I think what's good about that is it's super local and it's hyper local. So it's not something that's really generic. Like, they really love something that's related to where you live and about your country or your town or something like that.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. Correct. Yeah. It's nice. I mean, if it's the last minute things, you can always, you know, buy flowers or whatever you'll do when you even when you are in your country. But if you can bring something from, like, where you live, I think people really, really appreciate, exactly local things that I think my favorite thing when I go and visit my friends now, whether they are kids or not, I just bring books. If they adult, I'll I take photo books of where I'm live. There are beautiful photo books, of Australia with there is one book.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

It's called Places Where We Swim. And there are all these beautiful photos of Australian beaches. And, yeah, it's very nice. And same for the kids, you know, like you have the Australian animals. And so that is, something that I think people really appreciate. If they are into wine, just bring a good bottle of wine from where you're from, that could be another

option. Or local specialty, like, let's say again in Australia, maybe Macadamia or, yeah. It depends on where you are from.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Something very local of your area, it is really appreciate. And it's good to go again with something in your hand because most of the time when you go and visit some Italian, even if they offer already dinner, they might give you stuff to bring home anyway. So if you don't if you arrive with nothing in your hands, then you will feel a bit, like, guilty. The other way is sending something. Yeah. My mom sometimes, from Italy, sends something, like, to our Australian friend via post. And that's something if you can't carry too much. Just yeah.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Something to think about. Even a beautiful card with, yeah, the landscape. It's also also open up conversations so you can speak about your place and especially if the Italian unfortunately, not all the Italian travel so much. So, yeah, it's good for them.

Katy Clarke:

I'm gonna bring a photo book of spiders. No. Only joking. Everyone thinks, oh, we have so many snakes and spiders. Not really. We don't, I haven't seen a spider for years. I don't know what everyone's talking about anyway.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. It is, it is true. Like, I don't know if you saw there there was election in Australia just two days ago. And, it was super funny because every Italian newspaper published photos of Australian people going and vote in their swimmers. They were in Bondi Beach. And then everyone called me and says, oh, is this is how you go and vote?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

And I said, no, there were just few people that decided to make you fun and go like this. But this is like, every newspaper in Italy, published this. So it's, yeah, stereotype, can be quite bad, like, in every country speaking about any other country. So, yeah, if you want to promote your place, just choose well what you're gonna bring.

Katy Clarke:

Oh, well, you I you told me you bought Vegemite, so that's a very local Australian thing. And every kid in Australia loves Vegemite because we grew up with it, and it's what we have. It's like a sounds disgusting. It's a yeast-based extract spread, and it's black.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

And the color is exactly like Nutella or almost like Nutella. So people actually, when it they decide to spread on top of bread, they just put a thick layer and think that this is going to be sweet and, yeah, it's not really like this. But, yeah, it's if they're foodies, like, if your friends are in Italy, they're really into food and they want to experiment. Yeah. Even just something fun like this could be good and just explain how to use it and they they might gonna like it.

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Who knows?

Katy Clarke:

I think anything local is great. And if you're from America, I know people love, you know, getting the baseball caps and things like that. Like so that's a really great way to show appreciation.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Yeah. Or, yeah, basketball things. And, yeah, especially if they're kids, they just love MBA. Yeah. Yeah.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah. I think oh, I love this. I think we all need to do a better job of, showing appreciation. So I just show appreciation to you and say, this has been a great part.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Another one, I can say, 'grazie a te' means thanks to you.

Katy Clarke:

I love it. I love it. But I do do you think my favorite word is buonissimo because you do get to say that a lot.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

It sounds well. Yeah. And it rolls well. There are not many r's in there. So

Katy Clarke:

I like the way you say r's. I have goals about saying r's the way you do anyway. Now, Monica, for, anyone that wants to stay in touch with you and maybe get someone to one tuition with one of your teachers, how can they do that?

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

I'll suggest just to jump on my website and book a meet and greet directly with me. It's a free chat that I'm happy to have with anyone, And, yeah, we can just chat about how we can customize and we can learn some Italian or a lot of Italian based on your goal and what what's your feeling at the moment. So that is a good starting point. If you travel to Italy soon, we have this course. It's called Four weeks to Italy. So it's an intensive course that lasts four weeks and give you all these tips that, you know, we we already spoke a bit a bit of what we already spoke and a bit, definitely more. And, again, has, our one to one tuition, including that. Feel generous as always with you, Katy.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

So 50% of discount on the Four weeks to Italy course or on the first four weeks of, our program that is called Su Misura. But anyway, if you feel like just to have a chat and to see and discuss your goals, happy to, yeah, hear from you.

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Katy Clarke:

Amazing. Well, this has been a lot of fun. I love chatting with you, Monica, and I can't wait to see you in Italy and I can't wait for you to move back to Melbourne so we can hang out for more.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Oh, yes. We'll be good. We'll be very good. So, yeah. Thanks again for having me here. I'll be here always. So I'm always happy to speak with you. Monica.

Monica Cazzamani Bona:

Ciao. Ciao.

Katy Clarke:

Ciao. Ciao.

Katy Clarke:

For all of you listening, I'm doing lessons with one of Monica's teachers and it's a very creative and hands-on program with lots of practicing using real-life examples, which I think makes all the difference. I was doing one lesson a week and now I am doing 2 because I am really determined to get much better.

I have tried lots of different methods and honestly dip in and out of several, including online platforms like the one my friend Michele from Intrepid Italian offers too, as I think you have to immerse your brain and try lots of different things to make the language stick.

If you're interested in speaking with a teacher and getting some direct Italian language coaching tailored to your needs, you can find all Monica's details on our website show notes at untolditaly.com/272 for episode 272. We've also added in the generous offer she mentioned for our listeners, so you have some additional motivation to get.

Grazie ancora, Thanks again to all our wonderful listeners for your ongoing support of Untold Italy. I hope you enjoyed today's show. If you did, then it would be amazing if you gave us a rating or review in your favorite podcast app. That way we can reach more Italy travel lovers just like you.

Next week on Untold Italy, we're heading up north to South Tyrol for a delicious look at the food culture there. But until then it's "ciao for now"!