

Untold Italy Episode 333: Italy Travel Q&A: Tips for both First-Timers and Frequent Visitors

The cost of experiences and tours, artisans in Florence, getting to your accommodation in Venice, Sicily at Christmas time and itinerary ideas for northern Italy, plus even some questions about Untold Italy itself! We are covering a lot of ground on this Q&A episode that will be useful for first-timers and regular visitors to Italy.

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:

Buongiorno, Benvenuti and welcome to the Untold Italy Travel Podcast, where we help curious travelers like you open the door to the Italy that they have been searching for. I'm Katy, the founder of Untold Italy and I've been recording weekly podcast episodes since 2020. This is episode number 333 and if you're new here, you might want to download our podcast Episode Guide so you can choose the episodes that are best for you and where you're at in your Italy planning journey. Because there is rather a lot of content, we'll put a link to how you can get that in the episode show notes on our website on your podcast app too. Or you can go straight to untolditaly.com/podcast and you'll find it there.

Katy Clarke:

On today's episode, I'm answering listener questions and there are quite a few to cover. So what I'm going to do for this one is break it down into groups because we have some questions from first-time listeners or from people going back to Italy after many years. We have quite a few about Untold Italy and also some curly questions which I love from our more frequent travellers to Italy.

Katy Clarke:

Our goal, as always, is to help you plan your trip wherever you are in your trip planning journey. We have hundreds of free resources on this podcast and on our website if you are a dedicated DIY planner. But if you do want some help planning your trip or you'd simply like everything done for you, we are here for you too. So let's kick things off with some questions for first timers. I will answer these briefly and then point you to episodes where we have taken a deeper dive into some of these topics. Andiamo, let's get started. Our first question came through from Deb on Instagram. She wanted to know how to safely use an airport ATM

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to withdraw cash and how to tip taxis when you arrive and then how to tip taxi drivers when you're there.

Katy Clarke:

Deb, these are some great questions that we have answered in depth on some other episodes that I'll mention in a minute, but the short answer here is please do not use the airport ATMs. They are a complete rip-off in terms of the exchange rate and the charges that they put on - the extra charges. Plus they're slightly dicey in terms of security. Either get your cash out at a bank in your town or city before you leave or use a bank ATM only. It's best if it's inside and not facing out into the street when you get to Italy. But you know the reality is that you do not need much cash when you are there. I usually take out around €200 and I may not use all of it depending on where I am going. Cards are really accepted everywhere and actually by law places need to take card payment.

Katy Clarke:

In terms of taxis, personally I prefer to book a transfer direct to my accommodation from the airport. Taxis not just in Italy but all over the world, I don't know why but they can be pretty dodgy and they often refuse to take card even though they're not supposed to. And they can charge you too much if you are not really paying attention, which after a long flight many of us are pretty exhausted and not paying that much attention. For me it's simply easier to pay a little more, maybe €10 more and go straight to where I want to go with someone who's going to pick me up at the arrivals area and take me by car in a nice car that doesn't smell. To my hotel. Myself and our team, we use Welcome Pickups. You can book, pay and confirm online.

Katy Clarke:

It's really easy and we'll put a link to them in the show notes. If you want to use taxis it is best to book online with the taxi apps that work like Uber because Uber isn't really available in Italy. That's a whole other story. So you can book, track the taxi and pay online which takes a lot of stress out of trying to work out if you've been understood and what you will need to pay. This being Italy, there is of course a different taxi app for most cities and we put those into the Untold Italy app that covers most of Italy. And if you're looking for the specific taxi app for Rome, that's called AppTaxi. It's the same actually, here in Australia we have different taxi apps. So frustrating.

Katy Clarke:

Anyway, as far as the tipping goes, this can be a huge topic, but the short answer is that tipping is not expected in Italy, but it is of course appreciated. You can use the taxi apps to tip as well. It really does work just like Uber. So I really would encourage anyone who is thinking about getting a taxi here or there to download those apps. It's really easy and straightforward. We do have relevant, deeper dive episodes that go into these topics. Episode number seven is about tipping in Italy. Number five is about taxis in Rome.

Katy Clarke:

Episode 240 is about handling money and all of those things and 172 is arriving in Rome. We also have a big article about Rome airport transfers on our website. Again, these will be in the show notes so you can go and look into that a little bit further. Lori also asked about bringing Euros and Lori, I hope my answer to Deb helped you too. To reiterate, you do not need to bring a lot of cash. Use your card. I have a Travel one and a backup credit card and it works perfectly and it has for many, many, many years. Lori also asked about cell phone reception and purchasing cards to assist with this.

Katy Clarke:

Lori, unless you're going to be very remote, you're going up into the mountains or some really non-touristy areas, I wouldn't worry about reception at all. I use my phone from home here in Australia, throughout Italy and have never had any problems except if I'm somewhere really out of the way and in that situation we just go to the nearest village. I use the international roaming plan from my telecommunications company and it's around \$5 a day and it's similar across most operators globally. You just need to watch how much data you are using each day. But these days it's a pretty generous allowance, you know, at least a gigabyte. So unless you're downloading videos or doing a lot of social media or constantly having maps on, you're not going to use that data. You can also buy an international SIM if you're concerned about the cost and I would do that before you leave home. You can buy an eSIM online, as the process to get a physical SIM is a bit of a nightmare in Italy.

Katy Clarke:

We have a full breakdown of your options on our website article [How to use your Cell Phone in Italy](#) and the link will be in the show, not notes too. The next question is from Kathleen who is visiting Italy in September. She's worried about train strikes and alternatives if she runs into one as she has a very long train journey from Florence to Salerno. Kathleen, this is a great question because yes, one feature of traveling in Italy is that you may need to deal with train strikes. The good news is that these are announced well in advance and of course we keep our Untold Italy app users notified as they come up. Usually the main high-speed train routes are okay for travel, but should you need a backup plan, then the best and most effective option is Flixbus. This is not the old Greyhound services of your nightmares. These are really comfortable services with onboard WiFi that get you from A to B.

Katy Clarke:

In this case, you would likely need to go to Rome and change bus from Florence. So you go from Florence to Rome and then get off the bus and go from Rome to Salerno. But it is an option and it would be from €30. It's a pretty good deal actually. But you would need to keep an eye on it if you thought that there was going to be a strike, because there may be other people with this idea. The other is that you could use a private driving service to get you there, but you are looking at around €1200-€1500. And so, yeah, there's a bit of a price differential there, but it's worth knowing that there are multiple options. So we have more information on strikes and how to manage them on our website in an article that's called [Train Strikes in Italy](#).

Katy Clarke:

And the reason we have this article is it's quite common. Now we're coming to a question of pricing and the value of experiences, which I thought was really interesting and worth sharing. Annika asked about the pricing and value of private tours and group tours in Rome and other cities in Europe, and whether tipping was expected to. If you've done any research about experiences in Italy like Colosseum Tours, Vatican tours, Uffizi Tours, Vespa Tours and whatnot, and all over the major cities of Europe and Italy, you'll know that there are literally tens of thousands of options and it really can be quite overwhelming even before you get to the pricing and what's included. So here is a good general rule of thumb. If a tour or experience is around €50 to €70 per person, it's going to be a large group, which is say over 20 people, and you'll be walking around with headsets on. And it's largely a logistics exercise. You will get some information and things, but it won't be very personal.

Katy Clarke:

People may not like that, but don't underestimate how useful some logistics help is in a country where nothing is particularly well marked or signposted. The next pricing bracket takes you from around €80 to €120 per person and that will be a smaller group, perhaps as many as 12 to 15, but it can be smaller and therefore it's more personal and you can ask questions easily and engage with your guide. Next are private tours run by companies, which can start at around €150 per person. And a great example are our friends at LivTours. They they usually have a base price that's fixed for a minimum of two people and it becomes more cost-effective if you add more people to your tour. The advantage here is that they will have many guides that can deliver the tours to the standard that they expect and they can offer a broader range of times. Live tours are fantastic. They offer all sorts of options from Vespa and golf cart tours to art history tours of the Vatican and Borghese gallery.

Katy Clarke:

And you get 5% off with our code 'untolditaly too'. And we put the details in the show notes of course. Course. Lastly, you have private tours run by individual guides that you may have found on social media or elsewhere. And their prices will be or they should be higher. Why is that? Their prices reflect exclusivity and customization. There are only so many tours that they can run personally. And let me tell you, that job requires really high energy and commitment.

Katy Clarke:

So when it is someone's own brand and business, they will go above and beyond. And so you get can expect higher prices from these people because there's only a limited number of days that they can actually offer these tours themselves. It is worth noting and some of you might be surprised about this, but most guides in Italy do a combination of the above and they work for several companies as well of themselves so they can maximize their income. I've had a few messages from people saying that they don't want to book through companies and all I can say is that if you want to guarantee that you will have a guide and tour in the major cities especially, then go for a reputable company like LivTours or Walks of Italy as they choose and train their teams carefully picking from a pool of guides that are out there and they make

sure that they're delivering their services to a standard that they want. And it's a different maybe approach to some other companies that just pick guides from, you know, from a scheduling point of view. They really do make sure that they're working with the people that can represent Italy in the way that they want to. If you're particularly concerned about choosing an Italian company, LivTours are an Italian company. They are owned by Angelo Carotenuto and he's been on the podcast several times.

Katy Clarke:

He's originally from Rome, but he does speak with a little American accent twang because he lived in Los Angeles for a while. But both of those two companies are really worth looking at. It's a bit different outside the major tourist areas, of course, as tour companies don't really operate there, but that is where local contacts come into play and they're like finding hen's teeth, to be honest. You really need to have really good contacts there. We do feature some of these guides on our podcast and so if you're interested in a particular town, you can go through our podcast listing and you should find some people there. But a lot of people keep those details very close to their chest because if it's really difficult to find amazing guides in some of the smaller cities. In summary, what you are prepared to pay for your experiences is completely up to you, but hopefully this gives you an idea of what you can expect for the price that you are wanting to pay. Next we're headed to Venice and Tamara, or Tamara, I don't know, we say Tamara in Australia, so if it's Tamara, I'm sorry about that.

Katy Clarke:

So she asked how she could get from the cruise terminal to her hotel near Piazza San Marco, noting that Tamara is on a Windstar cruise, which is a small boat trip that's able to dock in the Venice Cruise Terminal, which is quite rare these days, and that's because the bigger ships are no longer able to go there. Arriving in Venice is something you do really want to have a think about, as it is a city built on water. Of course, if you're arriving at the cruise terminal, it's about a 10-minute walk to the Vaporetto stops at Piazzale Roma or the cruise company may put on a shuttle. Vaporetto 1 is the slow ride and Vaporetto 2 is the express down the Grand Canal and the right stop for Piazza San Marco is San Zaccaria. You could also splurge on a water taxi straight to your hotel if it has a private dock. And if you want more information about arriving in Venice, so it can be a little bit complicated, it's definitely worth looking into. You can check the Untold Italy app, the premium version where we have arrival for many places in Italy like Venice.

Katy Clarke:

Or there is an article on our website specifically for Venice that I will link to in the show notes. Okay, next up we have some questions about Untold Italy and I'm going to start off with a question that comes from some of our Australian listeners who often ask Katy why, as an Australian - why do you often address American listeners and why are your services and tour pricing in US dollars? Well, dear friends, over 85% of our listeners and followers are from North America, so it's nice to include their logistical challenges and cultural differences in our discussions. Actually, we cover so many countries in the world, everywhere from Chile to places in Africa to Egypt, I think, and South Africa. Definitely hello to everyone listening

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there. Thailand, Japan, I love it. Everyone is here and it's a big world, but it's also a small world and I like to think everyone joining us here is united by a love for Italy. With respect to pricing, we do mainly post primarily USD for the reason that so many of our listeners are in North America and it's also for technical reasons. So honestly, in these days of globalization you would think it would be quite easy to quote in multiple currencies up front, but it's actually easier said than done. Especially if you are like us and do not want the platform added fees and charges passed on to our clients.

Katy Clarke:

Back in a flash right after these messages. For on-the-go curated travel tips, restaurant recommendations and fun things to do in classic and hidden spots across Italy. Download the Untold Italy app link in the show notes.

Katy Clarke:

But of course I am Australian. I love being an Aussie and we support many Australian clients and we're always happy to give you a quote in Australian dollars using the mid-market rate, no commission applied. Just reach out and we will help. And that also goes for our Canadian, British, European and Kiwi friends too.

Katy Clarke:

Katy Clarke:

If you are from somewhere else, I'm very sorry. Unfortunately, my accountant will not let us any more currency accounts. He's already furious with me and says I have the most amount of accounts of anyone he knows. The next question a lot of our listeners and customers ask is why can't I book my trip planning directly with Katy? Why doesn't Katy lead the small group tours? And here's the honest truth and it's something of a philosophical and I guess values based answer, I would say, because I never wanted Untold Italy to be about me. I know I'm the voice and the face of this podcast and our company and I'm going to say something now that's really very unfashionable in this age of personal branding. But I built the Untold Italy podcast and our company out of a love for traveling in Italy and I want our company to be about Italy and Italians, not about Katy Clarke. And so it's no accident that I love to include my team and you know, so many different people, colleagues, partners - on everything that I do. And it's no accident that we have Italian voices, mostly female, on this podcast as much as possible.

Katy Clarke:

This is quite unique, as you might notice on most social and other media that you come across talking about Italy, even if it's in English, it's mostly native English speakers that are talking about Italy and Italian culture. So call me crazy, but I want to hear from locals about their own country. And yes, I absolutely enjoy hearing from expats and migrants and travelers, but I really think to get to the heart of a place, it's also very important to hear from people who grew up there. So I'm always searching for Italians to talk to here on the pod, but they are very shy. If you know any Italians who would make a great guest, please let me know. I'd love

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to hear from them. As for leading the tours, well, one day I would really love to and you will be the first to know. But for now, as I have a young family who needs their mum at home most of the year, I leave it to the experts and the hosts whose energy, passion and care for our guests is absolutely incredible to me and I'm so very, very proud of them.

Katy Clarke:

They are truly special people and if you've spent any time with them, you will know that. And it's reflected in the feedback and the reviews that we get each season that we travel on tour. Lastly, the only way Untold Italy is able to help you with this podcast, our website, and cover the whole of Italy is because of our team. Take it from me, they know so much more about many parts of Italy than I could ever know. Sarah is the oracle on Umbria. Olivia knows Piedmont and Rome like the back of her hand. Cassandra is the expert on Abruzzo, Puglia, the Dolomites and Southern Italy, and Henna bond of all knowledge on Sicily, Liguria and the Cinque Terre. Each of our team have deep knowledge and contacts from living in Italy or traveling there many, many times.

Katy Clarke:

They are the glue, the library and your access path to Italy. And honestly, Untold Italy would not exist without them. And the last question that we have about Untold Italy is with regard to the pricing of our small group tools. And I'll be upfront. We're definitely not a budget option, so we may not be the best fit for everyone. But what you might not know is that absolutely everything is included in our trip price - beautiful family-run hotels, all the activities that we do on tour, almost every meal, including hand-selected local wines and even tips for local guides as well as the transport. Everything is included. And this is quite different from many other small group tour companies where activities and other items are used as an upsell opportunity or you're left to sort out meals on your own.

Katy Clarke:

Our philosophy is that you join us and we take care of everything so you can just relax into feeling part of Italy. That's not to say that you have no flexibility. It's quite the opposite. Our tour hosts make sure that you have plenty of free time and suitable options for meals. And the beauty of small groups is that we can be very adaptable and often guests will ask to sit at an afternoon or a meal for whatever reason. And that's great.

Katy Clarke:

It's completely up to them as it's their vacation. And that concludes our questions on Untold Italy. I hope you got some insight into our company and why it is the way that it is. Now onto some questions from our more frequent travelers. Nancy wrote that 'we're going to Sicily in mid December with our daughter over her winter break' and they're hoping to take advantage of fewer crowds and walkable weather. Very smart, Nancy. She's listened to our previous Christmas episode but would love some tips on traditional Sicilian Christmas events in smaller towns. Their current plans include staying in Palermo, Ortigia and Taormina with various day trips.

Katy Clarke:

Ciao, Nancy. That sounds wonderful. Sicily is always a good idea, especially around major festivals and definitely Christmas. It's great you're arriving in mid-December as things really kick off on the 8th of December, which is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is traditionally the time when the Christmas decorations go up and everything starts looking spectacular. Italy does a superb job of Christmas, but they really don't advertise it very well or sometimes even plan it very well. One of our team told me that in her village they had the Christmas events meeting on 7 December last year, which, as I just mentioned, 8 December is when things kick off. So I'm going to tell you about some things to look out for, but we can't be precise on dates because this is Italy and Sicily is a little extra on all of that chaos.

Katy Clarke:

Apart from December 8, the other big dates are the 13th, which is the feast of Santa Lucia, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and then the period through to January 6th, which is the Epiphany. Palermo, I'm going to talk about Palermo because it's really worth digging into some of the neighborhoods there, not just some of the more obvious stuff, but Palermo has a lovely Christmas market and the main ones are usually at Piazza Castelnovo. But it's also worth visiting the main market at Capo and Ballarò as they get into the Christmas spirit. So there's a lot of fun there. It might not be 100% tasteful, but you're gonna have the Christmas foods and gaudy decorations and things like that, if you like to time things right. And you love music and theatre. Some of the best shows that are played throughout the year are on at Teatro Massimo, which is a stunning building in itself.

Katy Clarke:

A date to look out for in particular is the 13th. In Palermo, they don't celebrate Santa Lucia so much, although they do traditionally abstain from bread and pasta. Shock, horror. But instead they celebrate Arancine, those delicious stuffed rice balls, by eating lots of them. Ortigia is the old town of Syracuse. It's one of my favorite places in Italy, and its patron saint is Santa Lucia. So hopefully you are there on the 13th. This is one of the most important days on their calendar, where they pay respects to the saint with processions throughout the day and at night by candlelight.

Katy Clarke:

And the celebrations continue through into until December 21, which is known as the Octave. Santa Lucia is said to have ended a famine. So the best way to celebrate is eating the cuccia cake that represents this miracle. It's made with farro and dried fruits. It's very rich and very delicious. From there, you can probably visit a town called Caltagirone, and I'm going to tell you a little bit more about that later. And that one is a place that's really famous for ceramics. So in Taormina, where you're going, Piazza Duomo is the focal point of the activities.

Katy Clarke:

And this is the same for a lot of little towns throughout Italy and Sicily. So you'll find the main activities happening outside the front of the churches. So I think with some of these smaller

towns, it's going to pay just to take things as they come. If you can't find out specific dates of when things are on, because usually there will be a bonfire, which is known as zuccata. And they also have often Sicilian bagpipe players. And who knew that Sicily had bagpipe players? But they do, and they also have them on the mainland, or actually not the mainland, but Capri. And we have another episode about Capri at Christmas time, which listeners might be interested in. In Tamina, they have this concept of the living Nativity, which is where real people play the parts of the characters of the Christmas story.

Katy Clarke:

And it can be really quite moving. I think in Taormina, it's usually put up between Christmas and New Year, so you might miss that one. But yeah, it's worthwhile looking for these Living Nativity, which are known as Presepe, because yeah, they can be really lovely and they put a lot of effort into building the displays and obviously it's an important touchpoint, touchstone for the communities of those towns. I did mention Caltagirone first. This is also a town that's known for lovely Christmas displays and it's known for ceramics. So you know, you can expect that to be part of the focal point because it is part of their public artworks. So when you're there, we always update the Untold Italy app with local events as soon as the dates and details are known. Hopefully not on the 7th of December, but you never know. Have a fabulous time in Sicily, Nancy. I just think you're going to have a wonderful time.

Katy Clarke:

The next question is from Michelle who said that they love their recent trip to Venice and she really loved to return and she would like some suggestions on two-week trips that include Venice. Maybe the Dolomites or Lake Garda or La Marche or Bologna. Oh Michelle, so many options. I would say you could make a great argument for spending more time in Venice and heading to Verona and Lake Garda for a few days, plus then adding on the Dolomites, which needs at least a week and is really a huge area, especially if you go as far west as Murano. You could easily spend the two weeks just in the Dolomites. Another option is to travel west, do a road trip west and stop at all the beautiful lakes along the way to Turin.

Katy Clarke:

My favorite is Lago d'Orta with the Island of Silence in the middle. But obviously you also have Garda, Como, Maggiore, Iseo. There's so many. They're all beautiful, they're all different and the countryside is absolutely stunning. But there are also some wonderful cities along the way too. People would think of Milan, but you could also stop at Verona, Padua, Vicenza, Brescia, Bergamo. There's a lot of things you can do in two weeks if you're heading west. You could also head south and do a loop through Emilia Romagna, down the coast to Ravenna, maybe drop into San Marino, as it is another country and that's always fun.

Katy Clarke:

Then you can go across to Bologna, Modena and Parma and up to Ferrara. I could easily fit in two weeks here, but you could also have the option of adding Lake Garda and Verona into the loop for that one too. And this is what I love about Italy, there's so many options. Liz asked, what are your favorite museums and cultural sites in Genoa? And also for the most cultural or

art sites, what are your thoughts on Padua, Ferrara and Mantua? Thanks for this question, Liz. I love visiting cultural sites in these smaller secondary cities as they are rarely busy and, of course, full of the most magnificent things that you can spend your time over and really soak in instead of jostling with 200 arms waving iPhones. Genoa is really an up-and-coming destination. Well, I say that, but the city once ruled the waves and it has the palazzi to prove it. So I suggest visiting the Palazzi de Rolli UNESCO site.

Katy Clarke:

This is an open-air museum in the center of Genoa and it's a collection of 42 buildings and homes of the city's most powerful elite families built between the 16th and 17th century. On special days throughout the year, mainly spring and fall or autumn, they have these days known as Rolli days where the palaces are open free to the public. And what you can expect, there are ornate rooms, frescoes, sumptuous furnishing, artwork and is really quite spectacular. Genoa is one of those places that hides its treasures behind very robust walls and sort of like innocuous environment. You might think, oh yeah, I don't know what's going on in this city, but it's one of those places where you really need to go looking and you will definitely find a lot of things to excite you about this city and a lot of them are in these palazzi. And as with any Italian city, the churches are also worth a visit, especially with a guide who can explain their cultural significance as well as their religious importance. Being a port city, there are a lot of superstitions and stories about protecting the seafaring citizens. So it's really worth having a duck into at least, you know, a couple of churches to see what's going on.

Katy Clarke:

To answer your question on Padua, Ferrara and Mantua, I'll go with Padua for its 14th-century frescoes, including some by Giotto. It's a lovely city with so many architectural treasures and there's a beautiful, there's a couple of beautiful piazzas, actually and a very large covered market which is fun to visit. And if you're there in spring and summer, you also have the option of taking a river cruise to view the Veneto Palladian villas that are actually a little closer to Vicenza. But it's something nice to do. By the way, we do put all cultural sites like this into the Untold Italy app for as many small cities as we can. And we keep adding to it because. Because we want them there for ourselves. The last question is from Eric, who sent me an absolutely fantastic question and he wanted to know where does one find contemporary artists and craftspeople in Florence? Eric is a jeweler and sculptor himself and I just love when people lean into their own interests when planning their travels.

Katy Clarke:

Eric, what I would say is that many of the artists deploying traditional techniques will create more modern pieces using those techniques as well. So it's worth ducking into their studios to take a look. One that I absolutely love that is like an Aladdin's cave is jeweler Alessandro Dari. I always go there when I'm in Florence and often his workshop is open so you can see the creative process. But if you want to have a behind-the-scenes look, they do sometimes have tours and experiences to do that and it's really worth it. He's making a lot of historical inspired pieces, but also some really cool steampunk-type things, if you know what I mean.

And it is incredible. This studio... just the untapped creativity that's coming out of there is quite amazing.

Katy Clarke:

If you want to go see some other contemporary art spaces, Palazzo Strozzi is probably the best-known contemporary museum or gallery, but you can also take a look at Museo Nova Centro and an up-and-coming artisan hub and contemporary art space called Manifattura Tabacchi. And I also like the 'Female Arts in Florence hub'. Lastly, I also recently discovered an American woman doing a very cool project at the moment to document the artisans of Florence. The Instagram account is called 'The Content Atelier' and it's really worth a look if you are a nerd about beautifully handmade crafted things like Eric and I and hopefully I can get the creator on the podcast sooner or later because it's very interesting project. Well, that's all for this Q and A episode folks. We sure have covered a lot of ground here and I hope you have found it as interesting as I did. I think the main takeaway for me is something I've known for a very long time, but that continues to surprise me, but it's how diverse Italy is and and that if you have a passion for something that you can definitely follow that passion while you are there and make a trip as interesting and as varied and as detailed as you like.

Katy Clarke:

As always, we've put the transcript and detailed show notes on our website at undolditaly.com/333 for episode number 333. Make sure to share our pod with your Italy-loving friends and download our podcast guide if you don't quite know where to start or you're looking for something specific. Next week we are headed to the beautiful island of Sardinia, but until then, it's ciao for now.