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«Le donne , i cavalier, l'armi e l'amor» Orlando Furioso by Torquato Tasso (1516-1532)

Cultural and Historical Heritage_Italy
Liceo G.Lombardo Radice-Catania





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The Vittoriale (1885-1911), Rome Symbol of the Unification of Italy





ART and Italian Cultures

Ancient Art Tradition and Cultural Development

Italy's artistic tradition is almost as old as the country itself. The inhabitants of the peninsula made precious objects as early as the Neolithic era, and the strong artistic tradition as well as many important artistic treasures were the result of the influx of numerous Mediterranean cultures, especially the Greeks and Etruscans. Today, it is the culture and lifestyle of the Italians, along with the many artistic treasures and historical legacies, that fascinate those who visit Italy. The Mediterranean atmosphere, the excellent cuisine and a calm and friendly lifestyle make this country so enchanting.



From advanced civilization to the European Union
Few other European countries have experienced such a recurring up and down in history as Italy. The Roman Empire was the first world power and the first advanced civilization to develop early enough in this Mediterranean state. For centuries the Ancient Romans dominated history with their culture, progress and military strategy and created the basis for today's Europe. Although the country was characterized by a long period of ups and downs after the fall of the Roman Empire, it was the powerful Italian city states and the Italian Renaissance that contributed considerably to the progress of our civilization. However, it was only after the unification of Italy and the two world wars that the peninsula regained its proper place among the countries of Europe.



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Unification of Italy ,1861

Italian Unification Explained as Short as Possible



Art

- Romanesque and Gothic art were more inspired by nature until the **Renaissance** with its revaluation of antiquity conquered Italy. With Florence as its birthplace, the Renaissance spread as a new artistic style throughout Italy and was vehemently supported primarily by the church, but also by wealthy cities. **Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1520)- Fig.1; Fig.2, Michelangelo (1475-1564), Raphael (1483-1520) and Titian (1488/90-1576)** became the symbol of the Italian Renaissance and left us with many fantastic works that make the hearts of all Italian art lovers beat faster. The transition to Baroque was then marked by two artists with equally important works: **Michelangelo Merisi nicknamed Caravaggio (1573-1610)**, whose works can be admired in Rome and Naples.



Fig.1-Last Supper, 1490,
Milan

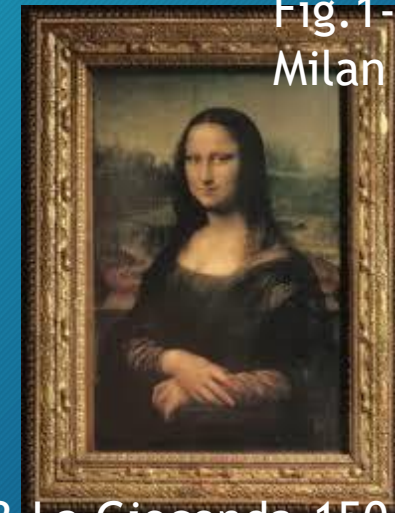


Fig.2-La Gioconda, 1504, Louvre, Paris

Michelangelo Merisi, Caravaggio



Medusa-1598,Uffizi, Florence



The Entombment of Christ, (1602-1603), Pinacoteca Vaticana, Rome

Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)





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The Baroque Legacy

- With the expansion of Protestantism, the Catholic Church began to deliberately use art to strengthen its faith in God, which is why the Baroque can also be seen as an instrument of propagation with which the Church sought to emphasize its importance. Speaking of the Italian Baroque, we cannot omit the city of Rome and the legacy of two important artists: Gianlorenzo Bernini (1598-1680) and Francesco Borromini (1599-1667). Rome owes its exterior appearance that has survived to this day to these two artists - if it weren't for the grand architectural works of Borromini and the magnificent sculptures of Bernini, Rome would certainly not emanate so much charm that remains to this day.



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Bernini and Borromini



The Four Rivers Fountain by Lorenzo Bernini,
1651, Rome



Borromini redesigned the courtyard of Giacomo della Porta's **Palazzo della Sapienza** between 1632 and 1667, surrounding three sides with porticoes and the back with the magnificent curved facade and glowing white drum, dome, and lantern of **Sant'Ivo church**.



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Population and Towns

Italy today has about 60 million inhabitants. Most of them live in or around the large Italian cities. Particularly in northern Italy, more people live around the cities of Milan, Venice, Florence, and Genoa than in the cities of Rome and Naples. Italian is the official language of Italy. However, there are a large number of dialects and minority languages such as Sardinian, German and Retro-Roman. Thanks to the healthy Mediterranean cuisine, Italians have a higher life expectancy than the world average. The Catholic religion is one of the pillars of the country.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

Fig.1 Milan cathedral

Fig.2 Florence's Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore

Fig.3 St.Marco Square, Venice

This and so much more

Nature :Mountains, lakes, rivers and The Mediterranean Sea

Landscape: Alps, Appenines, Islands

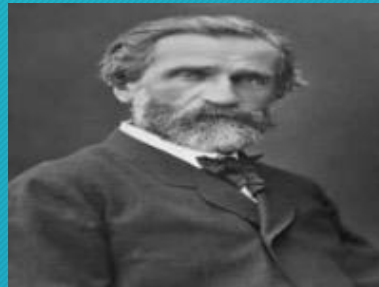
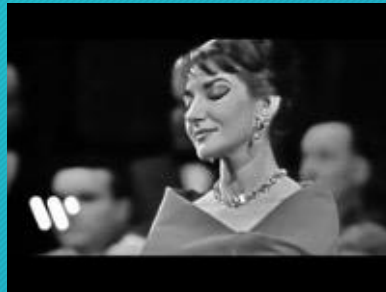
Traditions from so many dominations have shaped our land in terms of national cultures and intercultural heritage.

Food: The Mediterranean diet

Music :Vivaldi, Puccini, Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Puccini, Bellini

People have come to terms with unity and plurality. It's been increasingly difficult and yet rewarding to manage find a common ground so far.

Thank you for your attention!



Apennine Mountains

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Italia_fisica_appennini.png

