People and Culture
The population of Italy is about 60 million people. Most people live in large cities. Each region of Italy has its own customs. However, Italians share many things, including language, religion, and many values.

Families Come First
Families are important to Italians. City families are usually small. Rural families are usually bigger. Children in rural areas may live with both their parents and grandparents. Family gatherings are important in Italy. Many people come home from work or school to eat lunch with their families.

Italian Culture
Italy has a rich culture that includes dance, literature, and music. Italians invented a form of music called opera. Italians are proud of their accomplishments in the arts. They celebrate the arts with festivals.

Sports in Italy
Many Italians enjoy sports such as soccer. Another popular sport is bocce. Bocce is a bowling game played outdoors. Many Italians also take a week of vacation in winter to ski.