Erasmus+ "Ready4Europe"

Italian stereotypes: how do other European countries perceive us?

Italian stereotypes

Italians are "Mummy's boys" — False

It is true that our concept of "family" is stronger than in other cultures, and we have strong support from our families. However, it is not accurate to call us "Mummy's boys": we stay at our parent's home just until we have the money to pay our own flat or house. A "Mummy's boy", for Italians, is actually a grown up man that cannot do anything without the help of his parents.

Italians always eat spaghetti with meatballs — False

We don't eat spaghetti with meatballs, maybe with other sauces.

Italians are always so loud! — True

We are actually really loud when we speak, but not because we are angry or deaf, it's just our voice tone.

Italians are only "Pizza, Pasta, Maccheroni" — False

Of course, we love eating our pasta and pizza, but it isn't true that we only eat them. We constantly try to change our menus during the week, and we usually follow the Mediterranean diet.

Italians talk with their hands — True

Italians do actually use their hands when they talk; a gesture is a part of concept, and even if we try not to move our hands while talking, we cannot resist.

Italians always have tanned skin — False

Italians are not always tanned, especially if they are from the north of Italy. Usually, people from the south have tanned skin and darker hair but not all the people from the north are blond, and not all those from the south have olive skin.

Italians are obsessed by fashion and they are sharp dressers — False

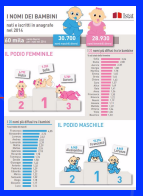
Even if it's actually true that most of Italians think they dress up better than people from other nationalities, it is not true to say that we are obsessed by fashion: if we do look good we are not working hard on it.

Italian families are numerous! — True/False

Our families are very large, especially families from the south of Italy. Until the previous generation it was common to have more than 6 children. Nowadays, things have changed, and every family unit usually has just one or two children.

All Italians have the same name — False

This stereotype comes from the fact that, especially in the south, is custom to give children their Grandparents' or a Saint's name. That's why we have so many Maria's or Giuseppe's. But we do actually have lots of different names.



Italians love football! — True

The majority of Italians are obsessed with football. Absolutely! Even if you are not watching the match on TV, you can hear your neighborhood cheering when their team scores a goal.

All Italians use the phrase "Mamma Mia" — False

"Mamma Mia!" is not such a common expression.

Italians love coffee — True

We do actually love coffee, or at least the majority of Italian people love coffee. But it's not true that all Italians love it.

Italy the extraordinary commonplace:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxXqKUYUBmo4

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