



REPUBLIC DAY – JUNE 2nd

Republic Day is a national holiday in Italy and it is celebrated on June 2 each year. It reminds us the day when Italians voted to abolish the monarchy so that our country could become a republic.

Republic Day is celebrated on 2nd June. The day commemorates the institutional referendum held by universal suffrage in 1946, in which Italian people were called to the polls to decide on the form of government, following the Second World War and the fall of Fascism. With 12.717.923 votes for a republic and 10.719.284 for the monarchy, the male descendants of the House of Savoy were sent into exile. People were hostile to the monarchy, especially because it had supported Benito Mussolini's rule.

The official ceremony held in Rome consists of a solemn flag-rising on the "Altar of the Fatherland" and the homage to the Unknown Soldier with the deposition of a laurel wreath by the President of the Republic. Then the President goes to Via San Gregorio and reviews the deployed units. The Head of State then transfers to the presidential grandstand which is located in Via dei Fori Imperiali, where he assists to the military parade with the highest offices of the State. The ceremony ends in the afternoon with the opening to the public of the gardens of Quirinale Palace, residence of the Head of State.

The Italian armed forces, the Republic police forces, the National Fire Brigade, members of the Civil Defense and the Italian Red Cross take part in the military parade. The military parade was included for the first time in the protocol of the official celebrations in 1950.

Statewide there are other official ceremonies. Among them there are the traditional events organized by each prefecture for local authorities, which are preceded by solemn public events with military parades in reduced form which are reviewed by the prefect in his capacity as the highest governmental authority in the province. Worldwide Italian embassies organize ceremonies to which they invite the Heads of State of the host country. From all over the world other Heads of State give their wishes to the President of the Italian Republic.

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