

Italian Republic



About Italy

Capital City:

- Rome

Monetary Unit:

- Euro (€)

Major Languages:

- Italian

Main Exports:

- Machinery
- Chemicals
- Clothing
- Wine

Our Immigration Services in Italy

Business & Temporary Residency Visas –

Guidance & assistance with short & long stay visa applications submitted with the Italian consulates abroad

Work & Residency for Highly Specialized Employees and Intracompany Assignees –

For foreign nationals, who are not members of the EEA and will transfer to Italy

Residence Permits – For foreign nationals who are not members of the EEA and will stay in Italy for more than 90 days

The Italian Economy

Home to over 60 million people, Italy has the fourth largest economy in Europe and the highest per capita income in Europe. Italy is a member of the European Union and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and belongs to the G-8. Its economy largely depends upon its manufacturing sector, particularly automobiles and machinery. Its main export trading partners include Germany, France, Spain, the UK and the U.S. Its main import partners are China, Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Russia.

Although much of Italy's topography is unsuitable for mass agricultural production, it has a very significant wine production sector. According to the European Commission in 2010 Italy has overtaken France to become the largest wine producer in the world. In addition to its fine wine, Italy's famous brands such as Armani, Valentino, Versace, Benetton, Prada, FIAT, Lancia, Alfa Romeo, Maserati and Lamborghini have created a niche in the global marketplace where there is a demand for high quality and superior goods. Italy is also the world's fifth most visited country in the world. Due to its rich history and culture, the country is a major tourist hub throughout the year.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/437g72e>; <http://tinyurl.com/2zud7w> For more information about foreign investment in Italy, visit the web site at: www.invitalia.it/invest

Business Travel to Italy

Italy is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) and party to the Schengen Agreements. Based upon the Schengen Agreements, individuals with passports issued by member states are currently

permitted to travel without passport and visa controls within Schengen territory (<http://tinyurl.com/3p8ol6e>). Foreign nationals who are not members of the Schengen territory must present a passport and may require a visa for entry to Italy. Further, there is a strict, cumulative limit of 90 days within a 180-day period that an individual may spend as a visitor within the Schengen Area.

Thus, foreign nationals who are not part of the Schengen area or otherwise exempt from presenting a passport for admission and wish to travel to Italy for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months beyond the intended dates of stay and contain at least two blank visa pages. Those wishing to enter Italy, or the Schengen Area in general, must have sufficient financial resources available to guarantee maintenance throughout the planned visit and the return trip. U.S. and Canadian citizens generally are not required to obtain a visa in advance of business travel within the 90 day limitation. Individuals who will require a visa to enter Italy, including Indian and Chinese nationals, should plan to apply well in advance of travel.

Permissible business activities as a visitor include attending business meetings, engaging in business negotiations, and participating in trade shows or conferences. Employment in Italy is strictly prohibited without prior work authorization. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains a foreign entry requirements tool at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3aw8fnq>

Living in Italy

Rome and Milan are the largest cities in Italy and have very different offerings in terms of

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professional and business opportunities. Milan is very popular for international travelers and expatriates and is considered the financial and industrial capital. Most multinational companies that have an Italian presence will have their offices in Milan, although some settle in Rome. In addition to Rome's cultural offerings, it also serves as the headquarters for the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization, which strives to end world hunger. Generally and relative to other European countries, the level of English proficiency amongst Italians is low. Thus, it is strongly advisable to learn Italian.

Source: <http://www.expatsinitaly.com/node/201>

Italian Business Culture

Because Italy is a highly individualistic society, one that emphasizes family ties and individual responsibility, Italians generally prefer doing business with someone they know or have been introduced to. It is advisable to use existing contacts and networks as an introduction before attempting to set up a meeting. Try to avoid scheduling meetings in August as this is a hectic time for businesses due to their employees taking time off for the summer holidays.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/3m8npqa>

Italian Work Permit Process

- 1 Work Permit application or clearance ("Nulla Osta") filed with local immigration office or Questura
- 2 Once the Work Permit or clearance is issued, the employee applies for visa at the Consulate in their country of residence
- 3 Highly Specialized employees and intracompany assignee enters Italy and regularizes the job position with the immigration authorities by signing the contract of stay ("Sportello Unico")
- 4 Application for the long term residence permit ("Permesso di Soggiorno")

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Italy

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Italy. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: work permit and visa application preparation and filing; visa

stamping and residence permit application processing; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Italian consulates abroad and local police stations may be available.

The Italian work and residency process is highly bureaucratic and can take several months to complete. Thus, if your company's Italian office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the documentary requirements and sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions, and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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