



Italian Glossary Explained




General Terms		Notes
Restaurant	Ristorante	Typically, a ristorante is a formal restaurant that offers a full menu with a range of dishes including appetizers, mains and desserts. Ristoranti often provide table service and have a more upscale atmosphere.
N/A	Trattoria and Tavola calda	A trattoria is a casual, family-style restaurant that serves hearty, traditional Italian dishes. It is usually less formal than a ristorante . Tavola calda translates to “hot table” and refers to a casual eatery that usually serve quick meals focusing on simple local dishes.
Pizza restaurant	Pizzeria	
Cafe (& bar)	Bar	The term bar in Italian refers to both a coffee shop and a bar. An Italian bar serves coffees, snacks, pastries and alcoholic beverages. In the evenings, Italian bars transition to serving alcoholic drinks and aperitivi.
Bistro	Bistrò	
Pub	Pub	
N/A	Rosticceria	A type of eatery that specializes in roasted meat and other ready-made foods.

N/A	Salumeria	A salumeria is an Italian shop or deli that specializes in cured meats, such as salami, prosciutto, and pancetta, as well as other charcuterie products. In addition to meats, salumerie often sell cheeses, olives, and various Italian delicacies. Often they also make sandwiches on demand.
Wine bar	Enoteca	An enoteca is an Italian wine shop or wine bar that specializes in the sale and tasting of wines, particularly those from Italy. These establishments often offer a curated selection of wines, allowing customers to sample and purchase a variety of bottles. Enoteche may also serve small plates or snacks that pair well with the wines, creating a casual atmosphere for enjoying wine tasting.
Sandwich Shop	Paninoteca	
Take out	Da portare via	
Eating in	Mangio/ mangiamo qui	
Delivery	Consegna a domicilio	<i>Fate consegna a domicilio?</i> (do you do delivery?)

Menu Items		Notes
Main Course	Piatto principale or il primo	this includes dishes such as pasta, rice and polenta
Second course	Secondo	This course typically includes protein-based dishes - meat and fish.
Beef/ meat	Manzo or Carne	grilled - alla griglia ; roasted - arrosto ; baked - al forno ; fried - fritto
Steak	Bistecca	rare - al sangue ; medium - media ; well done - ben cotta
Meatballs	Polpette	
Pork	Maiale	
Sausage	Salsiccia	
Lamb	Agnello	
Chicken	Pollo	Coscia (leg), Petto (breast)
Uova	Eggs	
Soup	Zuppa	
Salad	Insalata	
Side dishes	Contorni	Contorni include potatoes (baked and fried), any greens and vegetable-based dishes.
Crisps or Chips	Patatine fritte	Patatine fritte refers to any type of fried potatoes
Sandwich	Panino	Panino and sandwich are often used interchangeably in Italy. Panino refers to one

		single sandwich. Panini refers
Toast	Toast	A toast is a type of sandwich grilled in a toaster and filled with ham and cheese. It's similar to a croque monsieur in French cuisine.
Cured meat	Insaccati	prosciutto (ham) salame (salami)
Seafood	Pesce e crostacei	Crostacei refers to any type of shellfish pesce fresco (fresh fish), congelato (frozen) crudo (raw), pulito senza spine (clean with no bones)
Shrimp	Gamberi	
Octopus	Polipo	
Calamari	Calamari	
Lobster	Aragosta or Astice	Aragosta is a type of lobster that does not have claws commonly found in warmer water like the Mediterranean sea. Astice features large prominent claws and a robust body.
Prawns	Large Shrimp	
Clams	Vongole	
Mussels	Cozze	
Fruit	Frutta	
Desserts	Dolci	The term dolci encompasses a wide range of sweets: torta,

		crostata, bignè, cannoli and so on
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Dining Action		Useful sentences
To order	Ordinare	Possiamo ordinare per piacere? Vorrei ordinare per piacere.
To recommend	Consigliare	Che cosa ci può consigliare?
To take, to get	Prendere	Che cosa prendete? Noi prendiamo una pizza e una carbonara.
To have	Avere	Avete un tavolo libero per quattro?
To add	Aggiungere	È possibile aggiungere una sedia al tavolo?
To reserve/ reservation	Prenotare/ prenotazione	Abbiamo una prenotazione per stasera.
To bring/take something to someone	Portare	Cameriere, ci può portare il conto, per piacere?
To pay	Pagare	Posso pagare con carta di credito? È possibile pagare in contanti
To tip	Dare/Lasciare la mancia	Non c'è bisogno di lasciare la mancia.
To eat out/inside	Mangiare fuori/dentro	È possibile mangiare fuori?
To toast	Fare un brindisi	Say chin chin or alla salute when you make a toast.
ask for the bill	Chiedere il conto	Possiamo avere il conto per

		piacere? Ci porta il conto per cortesia; il conto per favore
Share	Condividere	

Beverage		
Water	Acqua	Acqua naturale (still water), acqua gassata or frizzante (sparkling water)
Wine	Vino	Vino bianco (white wine), vino rosso (red wine) vino della casa (house wine)
Juice	Succo di frutta	Succhi di frutta are bottled juices made from fruits like orange (arancia), apple (mela), pear (pera), pineapple (ananas), apricot (albicocca), pesca (pesca)
Freshly-pressed fruit	Spremuta	Usually spremuta di arance , freshly-pressed orange juice
Soft drink	Bibita	Bibite can include carbonated drinks (like soda), fruit juices, flavoured waters, and other refreshing beverages.
Beer	Birra	Birra chiara (blond beer), birra scura (dark beer), birra alla spina (draft beer) birra in bottiglia (bottled beer)
Cocktail	Cocktail	
Herbal liqueur	Amaro	A herbal liqueur known for its bittersweet flavour profile. Amaro is made from a blend of herbs, roots, spices and citrus peels, which are infused into a base spirit often

		with added sugar or syrup for sweetness.
Coffee	Caffè	The Italian word caffè is by definition an espresso. An American coffee is a beverage more similar to what it is considered coffee in North America and beyond.
Tea	Té	Italians don't put milk in their tea, if anything they put lemon in their tea.

Staff and objects



Waiter	Cameriere	
Waitress	Cameriera	
Cook/chef	Cuoco/chef	
Kitchen	Cucina	
Wine list	Lista di vini	
Bill	Conto	
Cashier's desk, till	Cassa	
Receipt	Scontrino	
Specials	Piatti del giorno	
Fork	Forchetta	
Knife	Coltello	
Spoon and tea spoon	Cucchiaino e Cucchiaio	
Napkin	Tovagliolo	
Dish	Piatto	
Glass/cup	Bicchiere	
Cup, tea cup	Tazza, Tazzina	
Bottle	Bottiglia	
Olive oil, salt and pepper	Olio, Sale e Pepe	
Table and chair	Tavolo, Sedia	

Dietary preferences		Useful sentences
Gluten-free	Senza glutine	
Allergy	Allergia/intolleranza	I am allergic to seashell - Sono allergico ai frutti di mare or ho un'intolleranza ai frutti di mare
Organic	Biologico	
Low-fat	A basso contenuto di grassi	
Low-carb	A basso contenuto di carboidrati	
Vegetarian	Vegetariano	
Vegan	Vegano	
Celiac	Celiaco	
Spicy	Piccante	
Raw	Crudo	