

Centro Culturale Giacomo Puccini

Viareggio



CENTRO CULTURALE GIACOMO PUCCINI

Officially authorized by the Italian Ministry of Education

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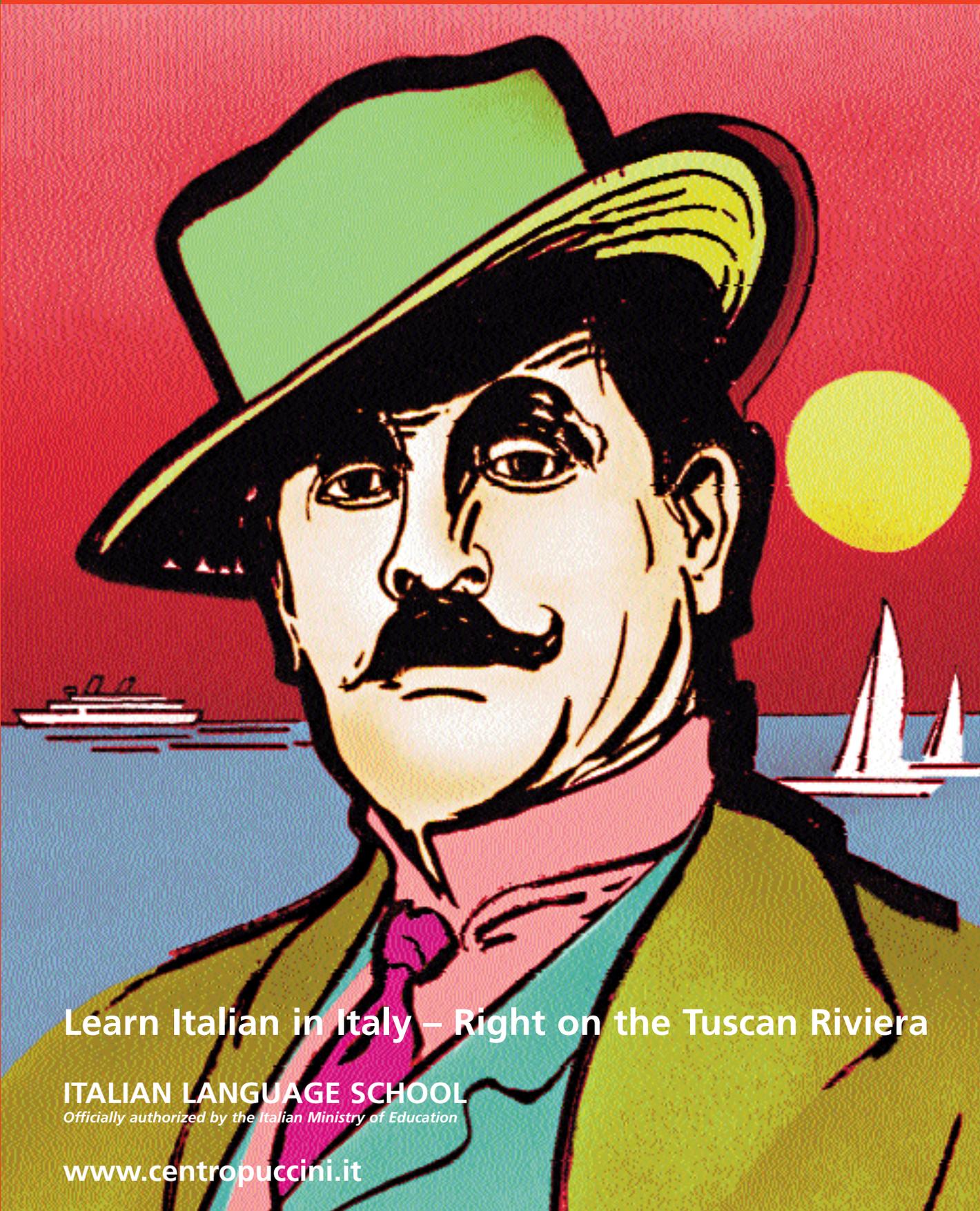
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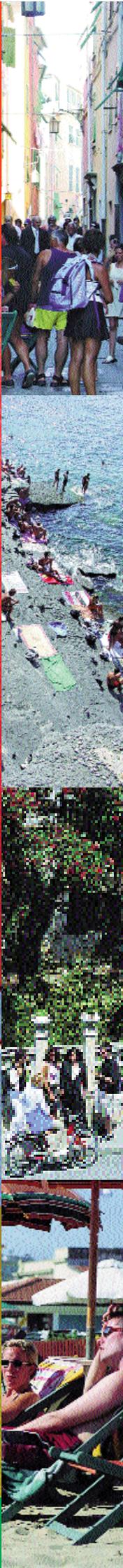


Learn Italian in Italy – Right on the Tuscan Riviera

ITALIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

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VIAREGGIO



Viareggio lies in the heart of the Tuscan Riviera, just 30 km (20 miles) north of Pisa. Its central location makes it an ideal starting point for a great variety of excursions. For those wanting to take advantage of the region's cultural treasures, a great infrastructure makes it easy to reach Pisa, Lucca and even Florence by train or car for example. But the region also offers beautiful nature such as the Alpi Apuani and the Garfagnana for trekking hiking and Mountain biking. The famous marble quarries from which Michelangelo obtained most of his base materials are also close by and well worth a trip.

Endless beaches, palm tree lined shopping streets, a great variety of restaurants and an exciting night life with the famous clubs of the Versilia – all this makes Viareggio an incredibly popular holiday destination. Vacationing here will not just let you meet a great diversity of people but will also allow you to sample some of the best Tuscan seafood. During February and March Viareggio celebrates its world renowned Carnival with its famously designed bandwagons and neighborhood festivals. Viareggio is the ideal vacationing spot for all those who love the sun, beach and an exciting night life.

While the summer months lure most people to the beach for a relaxing day of sunbathing, the spring and fall are ideal for excursions. The winter months are temperate but for all those looking to go snow-skiing, the nearby Apennine Mountains offer excellent conditions from December to April.

School

The School Centro Culturale Giacomo Puccini is located in a two storey building right across from a traffic-free park. Its central location makes it easy to access the popular market place and the beach with all its shops and restaurants.

The School Centro Culturale Giacomo Puccini is officially authorized by the Italian Ministry of Education.



LANGUAGE COURSES



Standard Course

20 lessons (each 45 minutes) per week. This course is offered throughout the whole year for all levels. This course is held from Monday through Friday with four lessons of daily instruction, usually in the morning. This is the most popular course and for a majority of the students the best choice. The lessons cover all necessary requirements of the Italian language. The main aim of the courses is to improve the conversational skills of the students and create confidence in handling everyday situations.

Long-Term Standard Course

20 lessons (each 45 minutes) per week. This is the ideal option for all those who are planning for a longer stay in Italy. This 12 week course provides a great opportunity not just to learn the language but also get to know the land and its people. Many of our long-term students finish this course with the accredited ALL «Firenze» Exam – an intensive language program at a reduced price!

Long-Term Semester Course

The Long-Term Semester Course lasts 24 weeks and is an extended version of the Long-Term Standard Course. The general structure is similar, but the objectives are targeted on a long-term basis. Last but not least, the Long-Term Semester Course has a particularly attractive price!

Long-Term «CSN» Course

20 lessons (each 45 minutes) per week. This course lasts 13 weeks and is created for our Swedish students who can apply for study grants for our school, as it is recognized by CSN-Lund. The offer also includes accommodation at a very special price.

Intensive Plus Courses

Our Intensive Plus Courses offer a combination of group lessons and private tuition (one-to-one). During the private tuition potential difficulties can be addressed more directly and efficiently. The following courses are offered:

- Intensive Plus-5 Course:
20 lessons standard course and additional 5 private lessons per week
- Intensive Plus-10 Course:
20 lessons standard course and additional 10 private lessons per week

Examination Courses for the Italian Certificates «Firenze»

Our school is an accredited center for the examination of the Accademia Italiana di Lingua (AIL) and organizes preparation courses for the different Italian language exams. We offer different levels of courses from beginner to expert, which all start one month ahead of the exams (Standard Course combined with a special preparation course). These courses comprise of the daily Standard Course plus two lessons/day of special exam preparation training. If necessary we can send out an entry test to determine your language knowledge level and the corresponding time needed for preparation.

If you would like individual preparation for the «Firenze» Diploma examinations and to take the exam on a special date, please get in contact with our school for further information. Please check out the special course dates!

Italian Language and Culture Course for Seniors

This course is specifically designed for more mature students over the age of 50. Students will learn Italian in a pleasant and relaxing environment, accompanied by a wide variety of cultural activities.

Academic School Year - «Gap Year»

The “Academic School Year” is a 32 week language and culture course for students who wish to experience living and studying in Italy. The course combines not only language courses with Italian culture classes at the Centro Puccini, but the syllabus also incorporates the fundamental elements of level C2 of the European Language Portfolio. All in all, the course offers students the opportunity to see at first hand the various aspects of Italy’s rich history and culture.

SPECIAL COURSES



PROFESSIONAL ITALIAN COURSES

The professional courses consist of four lessons in a Standard language course plus two private tutorials on the selected professional field, each day. You have the choice between the following options:

- Business Correspondence
- Business Italian
- Italian for Banking
- Italian for Law
- Italian for the Hotel Industry
- The Language of Wine and Food
- The Language of Tourism
- Italian for Flight Attendants
- Italian for Healthcare
- The Language of Fashion
- The Language of Architecture
- Italian Literature
- Italian Cinema
- The Language of the "Libretti" (Opera)
- The History and Language of Theatre

PRIVATE TUITION

If you are looking for a custom tailored course to fit your specific needs and time frame, we recommend the private tutorial program. Constant exposure to the language and the possibility to address student specific shortcomings right away will give you the fastest way to success. The private lessons can be arranged to mutually agreed upon times and targets, which of course can be chosen freely.

The private lessons can start every Monday and may vary from 2 to 8 lessons per day, depending on the intensity the student is looking for.

Should you already have sufficient knowledge of Italian, you can also learn vocabulary orientated to certain professions, such as general business, banking, trading, import/export, law, insurance, marketing, medicine and so on.

CULTURAL COURSES

Carnival Week

Every year Viareggio celebrates its "Carnival of Italy and Europe", with splendid day and night celebrations, floats, parades, district celebrations, masked dances and shows of every kind. During this 2 weeks course you will attend the Standard Language Course in the morning and visit the "Citadel" (Carnival town), a structure that includes hangars for the creation of the floats, the papier-mâché school and the Carnival museum in the afternoon. You will also participate at the famous Carnival Parades.

Culinary Courses for professionals and amateurs

In close cooperation with a professional chef school we offer chefs the possibility to trade tips and tricks of the trade with their Italian counterparts, but also amateur cooks are welcome to join the courses and to learn something from the professionals. Every month we offer specific programs. Please contact us for more detailed information.

Courses for Musical Specialization

Are you a musician or do you just want to play your favorite instrument in a professional environment? Great, because our school offers you professional help and guidance. All music courses are for a minimum of 2 weeks but can be extended at will. We offer courses for the following instruments:

Piano, Violin and Viola, Cello, Flute and Piccolo, Oboe, Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone, Double bass, Horn, Guitar, Electric guitar, Electric bass and Drums. All participants have to bring their own instruments. Piano and a drum kit are provided by the school.

Alternatively we offer courses for vocalists and diction for singers, instrumental and vocal ensembles and a course to explain the language of Libretti.

These courses are offered on three different levels: Beginners (up to 2 years of experience), Advanced (2 - 5 years of experience) and Professional (more than 5 years of experience).

Please check the special course dates!



ACADEMICS AND DIPLOMAS

Our method of instruction uses the modern didactic findings as sanctioned by the 'concept for foreign languages of the European Council' and the guidelines of the AIL. Our school uses the direct teaching method, meaning from the first day, no matter which level, all teachers use exclusively the Italian language.

Main emphasis of all lessons is the spoken language. The constant encouragement to communicate provides a «natural» way of learning the language. Theory and practice soon become one and success is quick. In the advanced courses a higher emphasis is also placed on the written word.

All our teachers have completed university studies and have specifically been trained in teaching Italian as a foreign language.

Most of the course material has been developed by our partner school (Scuola Leonardo da Vinci) and is constantly revised and developed according to the changes as observed by the Institute of Foreign Languages. However, for us teaching Italian does not end with grammar and vocabulary. We want to help our students understand the heart and mind of the Italian people and their culture. This is why we offer many extra curricular activities for our students to choose from.



Our school offers the following diplomas:

Certificate of our School

Due to our international success over the years, many institutions and organizations worldwide accept this certificate. It is valid proof of the student's communicative skills.

- Certificato di frequenza: certificate of participation at the end of the course
- Certificato di conoscenza: at the end of the 3rd course level (every month)
- Diploma di lingua italiana: at the end of the 5th course level (every month)

Language Diploma «Firenze» of the Accademia Italiana di Lingua (AIL)

- **DELI-A2** - Diploma Elementare della Lingua Italiana «Firenze» AIL: elementary level
- **DILI-B1** - Diploma Intermedio I della Lingua Italiana «Firenze» AIL: intermediate level one
- **DILC-B1** - Diploma Intermedio della Lingua Italiana Commerciale: Business Diploma, intermediate level
- **DILI-B2** - Diploma Intermedio II della Lingua Italiana «Firenze» AIL: intermediate level two
- **DALI-C1** - Diploma Avanzato della Lingua Italiana «Firenze» AIL: advanced level
- **DALC-C1** - Diploma Avanzato della Lingua Italiana Commerciale: Business Diploma, advanced level

Ability Levels

A preliminary test to determine the knowledge level of each student is given during the first day of school and includes a written and oral exam. Groups are then formed accordingly. All learning materials are supplied by the school, however, we recommend that students bring their own dictionary.

The time it takes to learn to use a foreign language varies from person to person. Therefore, regular progress tests at the end of each level enables us to measure your language development and evaluate your performance over a period of time.

Our schools offer courses on six ability levels, following the Assessment Grid of the European Language Portfolio (ELP/CEF: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) which is based on the assessment grid of Schneider/North:

Diplomas and Exams

On all levels, student progress is constantly monitored and examined. Potential difficulties are then addressed and confronted. At the end of the course the student's knowledge is again tested in a written exam.

Level	I Beginner		II Elementary		III Intermediate I		IV Intermediate II		V Advanced I		VI Advanced II	
ELP/CEF	A1		A2		B1		B2		C1		C2	
S/N	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	N6	N7	N8	N9	N10		
AIL EXAMS	DELI				DILI-B1 DILC		DILI-B2		DALI DALC			

ELP/CEF = Language ability scale according to the European Language Portfolio (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

S/N = Language ability scale according to Günther Schneider and Brian North

ACCOMMODATION



Additionally our school provides a free accommodation service. We help you find the type of lodgings you like for the period you are looking for. Also, we check all lodgings on a regular basis and collect students' feed back at the end of their stay to ensure the highest possible standard. All accommodations will be reserved for you from Sunday afternoon (2 pm) before the beginning of the course to Saturday morning (10 am) at the end of the course.

You can choose between the following types of lodgings:

Student apartment

You would share this apartment with international students and can cook on your own. You can book a single room or a place in a double room. These apartments are not luxurious but fitted with all necessary items in kitchen and bathroom.

Host Family

Choosing this type of accommodation is the ideal way to quickly integrate into Italian society and culture. Nowhere else are you this close to the actual Italian lifestyle and language. However, 'family' does not necessarily mean family in the traditional sense – also single person offer their hospitality to our students. This includes a room and breakfast or half board. Cooking is not permitted without the family's consent.

Hotels

This type of accommodation is ideally suited for all those who wish to have a room and breakfast and do not want to be bothered with cleaning and cooking.

Two-Stars-Hotels offer a friendly and familiar atmosphere. Every room is equipped with bathroom with shower, air conditioning, direct dial phone connection, 20" LCD Color TV, in-room digital safe, ADSL Internet connection. Included in the price for a room is breakfast.

You can book a single room or a place in a double room.

If you are looking for more comfort, you can book a Three-Stars-Hotel through our school. All rooms have their own bathrooms, TV and a phone. Double rooms can only be booked for two people together.

We can also offer a full service meal setup whereby breakfast is served in the Hotel and lunch or dinner are served in a nearby restaurant. All our Hotels are close to the school and not far from the markets and the beach.

Mini Residences

You can also book Mini Residences, equipped for two or three guests, through us. The Mini Residences consist of two bright rooms and a bathroom: there is a dining room which includes a small kitchen and a bedroom. Every Mini Residence is equipped with bathroom with shower, air conditioning, direct dial phone connection, 20" LCD Color TV, in-room digital safe, ADSL Internet connection. There is weekly cleaning and changing of linens.

Mini Residence should be booked one month in advance.

Camping Grounds

Additionally we also provide you with information about the nearest camping grounds which are located 20 minutes by car from Viareggio in Torre del Lago Puccini.

Transfer

The Centro Culturale Giacomo Puccini offers a transfer service from Pisa Airport "Galileo Galilei" (PSA) or from Viareggio Railway Station to your place of residence in Viareggio.



SPORT AND LEISURE TIME

During your stay you can choose between a varieties of activities: Fitness, Swimming, Jogging, Tennis, Squash, Golf, Horse riding, Mountain biking, etc.

The immediate vicinity of Viareggio offers many interesting and picturesque places. You can explore the mountains, valleys and lakes of the hinterland or check out the marble quarries of Michelangelo, or study a medieval town with all its museums and landmarks.

We also offer a guided activity program whose goal is also to use the newly gained knowledge in a natural setting, while soaking up the Italian Culture and lifestyle.

The activities also help the students to get to know each other a little better while together experiencing something new. Most of these activities are free of charge (entry fees to museums for example will have to be paid extra though).

Here's a list of regularly organized activities:

- dinner parties to give everyone the chance to get to know each other
- guided half day excursions
- spaghetti party on the beach
- movie nights at school

Weekends

We are happy to provide you with all necessary information to make your own plans of exploring the country or region. Florence, Pisa and Rome are just a few of the many possibilities at your disposal.

If you love nature, you have chosen the right spot. The nearby Alpi Apuani provide not only a spectacular backdrop for Viareggio but are also irresistible for mountain bikers, climbers and hikers. Also, the picturesque villages of the 'Cinque Terre' are easily reached by train in just under an hour. Plus the island of Elba is easily reached by train and boat in about 2 hours time.