

Wednesdays 11.15 - 13.15

This course is aimed at students with a good grounding in Italian plus lots of enthusiasm who would like to develop their language skills through a better knowledge of the diverse regions and rich culture of Italy. Italian will be the principal means of communication most of the time. Each two hour session will consist of Language Study (30 min.) Cultural Topics (40 min.) and Cinema (40 min.) with a 15 minute break. This is a suggested programme:

LANGUAGE STUDY You will have plenty of opportunity to hear, speak and read the language while improving your grip of grammar and ability to understand and converse. We shall revisit and expand on aspects of grammar such as verb tenses and moods, nouns and articles, pronouns and prepositions, adjectives and adverbs plus some of the common idioms used in conversation. We'll work through practice exercises in class and on line.

FILM & TV We'll take excerpts from such classics as *The Leopard*, *Cinema Paradiso*, *La Vita è Bella*, *il Postino* - maybe an episode of *Montalbano* too - and use the dialogues to provide a dramatic context for language learning and a chance for you to act the parts yourselves.

STORIES, PLAYS, POEMS & NEWSPAPERS Reading in print, on line and aloud or acting out a part are good ways of improving your skills through becoming absorbed in a plot or character, getting a glimpse of life or an insight into the mind of an author who is a master of the language. Newspapers are also a good way of learning the language of current affairs.

TIMES, PLACES & PEOPLE This is the chance for you to enlarge on your own knowledge and experience of the regions or places in Italy which interest you as well as any period or figure from the past to the present. So it could be Palladian villas in Veneto, the landscape of Tuscany, a favourite city, Ancient Rome or the Etruscans, the Renaissance or the 20th Century, or any figure from Mussolini to the Mafia, Caesar to Caruso or Berlusconi.

ART, ARCHITECTURE & SCULPTURE Learn the language of painting, architecture and sculpture so as to be able to read, hear and speak about some of the world's greatest art. It could be about just one work of art, artist or a special place you love. It's your choice.

FOOD, FASHION, FAST CARS & FOOTBALLand if all the rest doesn't grab you, how about some of those other icons of Italian art? - food & drink, fashion, fast cars and football- Italians are always talking about them, so why not you? Luventus, Prada, Ferrari or whatever

RESOURCES & CLASSES You will need a copy of *Spazio Civiltà* (Loescher £15) for cultural topics and we ask for a contribution of £5 a term towards the cost of printing. You may also wish to buy reference books of your own. There is a class limit of 12 students so please enrol early. Home study and preparation for classes is not required but will help you make more progress if you can manage it.

Any questions? contact the tutor at: aghilton@hotmail.co.uk

