

# BENVENUTI A ITALIA!

Are you ready for an adventure? Italian trains are an adventure, and all part of the Italian experience. The majority of Italy uses trains to get around so they've become pretty dang efficient over the years, but not without their quirks.

A few things to note: Italy trains use 24 hour clocks (2:30 PM = 14:30). A good trick is to subtract 12 from the time in the afternoon to convert it (14-12=2). Dates are also listed with the day first, then month (June 12, 2019 becomes 12-06-2019, or 12 Giugno, 2019). And, since we're in Italy...they use the Italian spelling for cities and stations! Florence is now *Firenze*, Rome is *Roma*, etc...Lucca is still Lucca!

You can download the TrenItalia app if you'd like, or just use the TrenItalia web page in your phone or laptop browser. There's an English version, available here: <http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>

Let's get started! *Andiamo!*

## BUYING YOUR TICKET:

When at the train stations, look for these self serve ticket kiosks. Watch your bags while at these, there will be gypsies at some larger stations looking to "help" you select trains on the screen...and expect money in return...shady, so just be polite or ignore them.



You can also go to the ticket counter (**BIGLIETTERIA**) if you wish to talk to a person instead. The ticket kiosks are very simple to use (much better than they used to be)! There's an English setting right on the first screen. After you select English, you'll be prompted to type in your destination...



When traveling to our town from either Rome (**Roma Termini**), the Rome airport (**Fiumicino**) or Florence (**Firenze Santa Maria Novella** or **Firenze S.M.N.**), be sure to search for Castiglion Fiorentino. There are other towns with 'Castiglion' in the name but we are **CASTIGLION FIORENTINO**.

Same goes for Lucca. There's another town close to Lucca, named Bagni di Lucca. Cute town, but we'll be staying in **LUCCA** proper.

From there, you'll pick which time you'd like to leave at...

<b>13:00</b> Roma Termini	<b>15:30</b> Castiglion Fiorentino	02:30	Regionale Veloce 2312	Ordinaria	starting from <b>12.65 €</b> >
<b>14:58</b> Roma Termini	<b>17:30</b> Castiglion Fiorentino	02:32	Regionale Veloce 2314	Ordinaria	starting from <b>12.65 €</b> >
<b>15:40</b> Roma Termini	<b>18:26</b> Castiglion Fiorentino	02:46 Changes: 1 Show ▲	Intercity 592	Base	starting from <b>30.10 €</b> >
			Regionale Veloce 2315	Ordinaria	
<b>15:40</b> Roma Termini	<b>17:53</b> Arezzo	02:13	Intercity 592		Close ✕
<b>18:16</b> Arezzo	<b>18:26</b> Castiglion Fiorentino	00:10	Regionale Veloce 2315		

On the screen you'll have different options from your train station to your town.

On this schedule, you could catch the 1:00 PM train (13:00) and arrive at 3:30 PM (15:30) just in time for happy hour! In the third column is how long the train ride should be...sometimes there are delays (or train strikes...**sciopero**...EW) but most of the time they're on schedule.

Should you encounter a **sciopero** (train strike) at any time during your trip, please don't hesitate to contact us! Florence and Rome train stations have free WIFI so you can text or WhatsApp us if needed.

The *Base* and/or *Ordinaria* prices are usually cheapest for regional trains. Express trains will be more expensive, but often don't stop in Castiglion Fiorentino or Lucca.

If there's a connecting train (see the the third train option at 15:40) it will tell you how many changes there are (in this case, there's 1), where the change is (Arezzo), the time you arrive (17:53) and catch the next train (18:16). You can also see how much time you have to get to your next train (if it arrives at 17:53/5:53, you have 23 minutes to locate your next train/platform before it departs at 18:16/6:16).

As much as possible, try to get direct trains. When in doubt, just ask a friendly local! Most everyone in Italy is very willing to help you figure out which platform you need or where the validating boxes are.

Departure ↓		Length of Trip ↓		Price (not free) ☹️ ↓
Firenze S. M. Novella 10:28	Pisa Centrale 11:28	02:08	Regionale Veloce 3117 ⓘ	Price starting from <b>18.50 €</b> Select ▾
	Pisa Centrale 11:42	Travel with train change	Intercity 670 ⓘ	
	↑ Arrival	↑ Note of Train Change	↑ Type of Trains	
	↑ Where to change trains *note how much time you have, not much!			

Once you pay with either cash or credit card (some only take credit card though, and most won't give you large sums of change...ie. paying for one €9 ticket with a €50 or €100 bill) grab your ticket and head to the big schedule screens!



These TVs and screens keep track of all the arriving trains (**Arrivi**) and departing (**Partenze**) trains. Your train will be on the Partenze side. Find your departure time and the platform (**Binario**) that goes with your train.



You can also look for these large yellow pages, usually in a glass case around the station. White papers are arrivals (**Arrivi**), yellow is departures (**Partenze**).

On the page, look for your departure time. On the page, it will also indicate the platform number that train usually boards at (confirm with the TVs or big schedules too!) and a full list of all the stops on that route. Take note of the stop right before yours, that will come in handy later...

### Validating your ticket:

Once you have your ticket, be sure to validate your ticket before boarding the train. Train conductors will verify tickets during the ride and fine anyone with an unvalidated ticket. Yikes!



Look for one of these contraptions along the walls of the train station, usually at the start of the platforms or in the main center of the train station. Insert your ticket towards the left of the opening and it will make a 'click' sound, indicating it has timestamped your ticket.



If you forget to validate your ticket (or don't have time to before you catch a train), walk towards the front of the train and find a conductor to validate it immediately to avoid getting fined. They take their train fines very seriously in Italy so get in the habit of always validating!



Along the platforms, there will be TVs with updated schedules. These will tell you if the train is late (**Ritardo**) or if there's a platform change. They will also notify you of any time/platform changes over the intercom. These will first be in Italian and followed up with English. Yay!

### On the train:

Once you get to your platform (Binario), get on the train! Depending upon which price ticket you bought, you'll be in cabin (**Carozza**) 1 or 2 typically. Cheapest ticket = Carozza 2! Find the train cabin with your proper number and climb aboard! Once on the train, there will be storage above the seats or in between. Just make sure you can see your luggage. Be sure to NOT put your feet on the seats, Italian train conductors will fine you for that. There will be restrooms near the exit/entrance doors of the train but you may have to walk through a few cabins to find one.

For regional trains, there are no assigned seats. But if you're boarding an Express train, those require reservations and will have assigned cabins (**Carozza**) and seats (**Sedia**). If you're booking a train that goes straight from Rome → Florence or Florence → Venice, these will be assigned seats and usually book up so don't try to buy the ticket the day of, unless you want to leave 8 hours later.

When the train starts moving, the intercom will go through all the train stops on the route. On the newer trains, they sometimes list them on a tv screen and tell you what the next stop is. If there's no tv screen, listen for your

stop and take note of which stops are before it. If you know you'll fall asleep, set an alarm on your phone to wake you up before the arrival time on your ticket!

When you're cruising along, keep an eye on which station you're passing through.

- Heading to Castiglion Fiorentino from Rome, the last train station before Castiglion Fno will be Terontola-Cortona. From Florence, it will be Arezzo.
- Heading to Lucca from Florence, the last train station before Lucca will be Altopascio.

When you hear those, start gathering your bags and move towards the exits. When the train rolls in and comes to a stop, push the button or pull the handle (varies from train to train) to exit the train.

### Castiglion Fiorentino:



### Lucca:



And you've arrived! YAY!Chelsea will meet you at the train station and whisk you off to your lovely abode for the week!

If you'd like to watch a video in a train station of the adventure, here's one:

<http://www.amoretravelguides.com/blog/at-a-train-station-in-italy.php>