

THE MAIN ITALIAN DRINK (ГОЛОВНИЙ ІТАЛІЙСЬКИЙ НАПІЙ)

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Aperitivo – це одна з головних традицій Флоренції і Північної Італії. На aperitivo збираються, коли не хочуть іти на вечерю одразу після роботи. Це така перерва, час для себе між роботою і домом, можливість зустрітись з друзями і перекусити.

Aperitivo is a social pre meal drink that you'll find in bars throughout Italy. It's a great way to restore a few calories after a long day of sightseeing, and also to get chatting to locals and perhaps even brushing up on your Italian skills. However, if that's not for you, you can just sit and people watch with your drink and some finger food – you might still learn some Italian hand gestures watching from afar!

Today, the simple drink has evolved and spread south to encompass those glorious couple of hours all over Italy – generally between 7 pm and 9 pm – when Italians meet to relax over a glass of wine or a light cocktail and finger foods. Since most people eat lunch around 1 or 2 pm, and dinner around 8 or 9 pm, it's also a good way to kick start metabolisms and work up an appetite for dinner.

For visitors, hitting up an aperitivo bar can be just as useful. It's a great way to experience local culture, to people-watch, to unwind with a drink after a long day of sightseeing ... and to take the edge off your hunger while waiting for that 9 pm meal!

The biggest cities like Rome, Florence, and Naples all have growing scenes, where you can find the perfect places especially in bars with outdoors seating, perhaps during spring or summer. Aperitivo is very popular also in locations by the sea, where you will find many bars offering deals to enjoy a glass of wine or a cocktail on the beach or with a panoramic view on the sea. Wherever you go, it's a pretty special way to watch the sunset!

Aperitivo is not the same as a happy hour, however during this time drinks are usually discounted, especially when you take into account that you'll get some food too! For the most part, you'll find that aperitivo prices are fixed.

Taking your time with every aspect of aperitivo is sure to mean that you'll end up enjoying yourself more.