



**The Honorable  
Mauro Battocchi  
Consul General of Italy  
In San Francisco**

Mauro Battocchi has been Italy's Consul General in San Francisco since September 2012. A Foreign

Service officer specialized in economic issues, he worked in the private sector from 2008 to 2012 at Enel, a multinational power company, as Vice-President for international governmental affairs.

Previously he headed the desk for trade and investment promotion at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome (2003-2008), supporting the internationalization of Italian firms abroad. He was also the head of the economic section of the Italian Embassy in Tel-Aviv (1999-2002) and served at the financial section of the Italian Embassy in Bonn, Germany (1995-1999), taking part in the negotiations for the start of the European Monetary Union.

He graduated in economics at Bocconi University, Milan, and received a Master's degree in public policy at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. His specialties include: international public affairs, international relations, energy policy, trade promotion, and policy analysis. Born in the Alpine region of Trentino, he likes hiking and skiing.

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**WHO WE ARE**

The Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy actively supports UVU's global engagement efforts by advancing UVU's presence and prestige in the International community; helping UVU students become globally competent graduates; promoting cultural literacy and diversity both on campus and in the community.

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# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ITALY



## Italian Flag History:

In its current form, the Italian flag has been in use since 1946, but variants of the flag were first used by the Cispadane Republic in 1797, after Napoleon's victorious army crossed Italy. The colors chosen by the Republic were red and white, the colors of the flag of Milan, and green, the color of the uniform of the Milanese civic guard.

## Italian Flag Meaning:

There are a number of interpretations which attribute particular values to the colors. In one interpretation the green represents the country's plains and hills; white, the snow-capped Alps; and red, blood spilt in the Wars of Italian Independence. A more religious interpretation attributes green to hope, white to faith, and the red to charity.

*Information taken from wikipedia.org and the CIA World factbook*

- Italy is the third oldest country in the world behind Japan and Germany, however, it did not become a unified country, until 1863.
- The oldest European university in continuous operation is the University of Bologna, which was founded in 1088. 13 other universities in Italy are over 500 years old.
- Europe's only three active volcanoes are all in Southern Italy, one of which, the Etna, is the world's most active volcano.
- Italy is the fourth most visited country in the world, with some 40 million foreign visitors annually.



- The Colosseum in Rome (pictured left) is the largest ancient building dedicated to entertainment.
- The ice cream cone is reported to be an Italian invention.
- It is estimated that Italy has the largest "black market" economy in Western Europe.
- Italians invented the viol, violin, cello, and piano.
- There are over 140 types of pasta in Italy, and it is estimated that each Italian consumes an average of 55 lbs of pasta each year.
- Romans are known for their love of cats. A new law in Rome condemns any person killing a cat by fining them up to 10,000 euros, and up to 3 years in jail. There are an estimated 300,000 cats in Rome, and they are the only inhabitants allowed on the ruins.
- Italy has more hotel rooms than any other nation in Europe.
- Italy also has the highest number of cultural sites recognized by UNESCO World Heritage.



*Information gathered from eupedia.com, www.lifeinitaly.com, and www.knowledgebase-script.com*