



ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

The most common and important road signs you should know if you're planning to drive in Italy.

MOM IN ITALY

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SHAPES OF ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

SQUARES or RECTANGLES are informational signs.

→
This sign gives information about upcoming turn-offs, roads, where parking is, etc.



TRIANGLES are warning signs.

→
This sign warns drivers of wild animals crossing.



CIRCLES with red borders are 'not allowed' or 'do not' signs.

→
Do not exceed the speed limit of 50 km/hr.



CIRCLES that are blue are compulsory signs.

→
It's compulsory to stay to the right of the blue sign with white arrow and to move in a counter-clockwise direction in the traffic circle.



COLORS OF ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

GREEN signs are for the *Autostrade*, Italy's toll highways. You'll also see green signs for non-toll roads that connect you to the *Autostrade*, called *raccordi*.

→
This sign shows the FIRENZE Impruneta entrance/exit for the A1 Autostrada.



BLUE signs are for non-toll roads.

→
This sign shows a non-toll road coming up (SR68).



BROWN signs are for points of interest, which are places like national parks, museums, landmarks, and monuments.

→
This sign shows how to get a museum.



WHITE signs are for hotels and public services (hospitals, train stations, police stations, sports stadiums, etc) and urban roads.

→
These white signs show how to get to the soccer stadium and parking.



IMPORTANT ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

STOP: Red octagon with 'STOP' in white.

→ You'll probably recognize this one, because it's like stop signs in other parts of the world. It's even in English!

Heads Up: Italian drivers don't always come to a complete stop at stop signs.



YIELD: White inverted triangle with a red border.

→ You must yield to others at the intersection or traffic circle (like in this photo).



GIVE PRIORITY: White circle with a red border and two arrows - a black one on the left pointing down and a red one on the right pointing up.

→ You'll see this sign when the road narrows, there's construction work, or part of the road has been washed away. It means you need to yield to cars coming toward you in the narrow section.



TRAFFIC (coming toward you) GIVES PRIORITY: Blue square with two arrows - a red one on the left pointing down and a white one on the right pointing up.

→ Like the GIVE PRIORITY sign, you'll see this sign when the road narrows, there's construction work, or part of the road has been washed away. The traffic coming toward you should give you priority. Still, be cautious while you're driving in that section of the road.



IMPORTANT ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

MAXIMUM SPEED:

White circle with a red outline and the speed limit (in kilometers) in black numbers.

→ This is the maximum speed limit.

Heads Up: If it's raining, the speed limit automatically decreases by 20 km/hr on faster roads like the Autostrada.



END MAXIMUM

SPEED: White circle with black numbers and a black, almost-vertical slash.

→ The previous speed limit has ended (and is now back to the general speed or is the speed indicated on another sign).



DO NOT ENTER Type 1:

White circle with a red outline.

→ Restricted vehicular access. If you're driving a rental car, don't enter a road that has this sign. Sometimes you'll see this sign with a black silhouette of a vehicle inside the circle - it means that vehicle type can't enter the street.



DO NOT ENTER Type 2:

Red circle with a white horizontal bar.

→ No vehicles are allowed to enter. That means you! These Italian road signs are usually posted at the beginning of a pedestrian only street or to keep you from going the wrong way down a street. No vehicles are allowed to drive past the sign!



IMPORTANT ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

ONE WAY: Thin blue rectangular sign with an arrow pointing right or left.

→
The arrow indicates a one-way street in that direction. Sometimes it also has 'SENSO UNICO' (one direction/way) on the sign.



REQUIRED DIRECTION: Blue circular sign with a white arrow.

→
This sign indicates the required direction of travel.

At the intersection in the photo, after stopping at the stop sign, you must turn right. The street you're turning onto may be one-way or may have traffic moving in both directions.



ZTL: Varies.

ZTL signs take different forms, including:

- White circle with red border and details on restricted entry (times, days, vehicle types)
- White circle with red border and 'zona traffico limitato' (and possibly with details on restricted entry) - top sign
- Electronic sign, usually red when active (no entry allowed) and green when inactive (entry allowed) - bottom sign

→
When you see a ZTL sign, it means you're about to enter a limited traffic zone. It doesn't mean vehicles can't enter - it means don't enter the zone (if it's active/on) unless you have permission. Residents have permission, and you do as a visitor if:

- You're staying in a hotel in the ZTL.
- You're parking in a parking garage in the zone.

Make sure your license plate # is communicated to the authorities so it will be put on the *lista bianca* (white list) so you won't get fined!



IMPORTANT ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

NO PASSING: White sign with a red outline and two vehicles – red on the left and black on the right.

→ This means you cannot pass on that stretch of road (typically due to heavy traffic in the area, road work, or curvy roads).

Heads Up: If there is a red truck on the left instead of a red car, the sign indicates trucks aren't allowed to pass.



RIGHT OF WAY: Yellow diamond (square rotated 45°) with a white border.

→ This Italian road sign means you have the right of way and traffic entering from side streets is supposed to yield to you. When your right of way ends, you'll see the RIGHT OF WAY sign with a black slash through it (see below).



END RIGHT OF WAY: RIGHT OF WAY (see above) with a black slash through it.

→ Your right of way on this stretch of road ends.



TRAFFIC CIRCLE AHEAD: White triangle with red border, inside has three black arrows forming a circle and pointing in a counter-clockwise direction.

→ This sign indicates a traffic circle is coming up on the road. You must yield to enter it.

Italians (and Europeans) love traffic circles (aka roundabouts). You'll see them in big cities and small villages and everywhere in between.



IMPORTANT ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

TRAFFIC CIRCLE:

Round blue sign with three white arrows forming a circle and pointing in a counter-clockwise direction.

→ This sign indicates you are entering a traffic circle and the direction the traffic moves.



AREA PEDONALE:

White sign with blue circle containing a white pedestrian.

→ This sign indicates a pedestrian only zone. You may not enter the zone unless you're one of the exceptions listed below the sign (usually for deliveries, emergency services, or transporting disabled passengers).



IMPORTANT ITALIAN PARKING SIGNS

PARKING: Blue square with a white 'P.'

→ This may indicate an outdoor parking lot or a parking garage.

Heads Up: In larger cities, you'll often see a digital sign with a number indicating the number of spaces remaining in that lot/garage.



NO PARKING: Blue circle with a red outline and red diagonal slash

→ No parking allowed. It may also have a small white rectangular sign below indicating when the no parking is valid. For example, in the photo you can't park from 0:00 to 24:00 (ever). And if you do, your car will be towed.



NO STOPPING: Blue circle with a red outline and red 'x'

→ You may not stop along the stretch of road. In the photo, the small white sign with the two black arrows indicates the sign applies to before and after the posted sign.

Heads Up: Don't confuse this with no parking (red slash). This sign means no stopping (and therefore, no parking).



PASSO CARRABILE: NO PARKING SIGN (blue circle with red outline and diagonal slash) with 'passo carrabile'

→ This sign means leave the passage free. You'll usually see it in front of garages or driveways – places that cars need to be able to move in and out of. So, don't park your car in front of it!



MORE ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

ENTERING URBAN

AREA: Rectangular white sign with black text of the town/city.

→
This sign indicates you're entering an urban area.

Other Colors: BLUE indicates you're entering a province (while driving on a non-Autostrada road), GREEN indicates you're entering a province (while driving on the Autostrada).



LEAVING URBAN

AREA: Rectangular white sign with black text of the town/city and a red slash through it.

→
This sign indicates you're leaving an urban area.



DIRECTIONAL SIGNS:

Thin blue rectangular signs with a point in either direction and a city/town name and number in white.

→
These signs tell you which direction the city/town is in and how far away it is (in kilometers).



CENTRO: Black and white bullseye.

→
This sign indicates the city center.



MORE ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

ELECTRONIC SPEED

CONTROL:

**Rectangular sign
(color varies
depending on the type
of road) with
'controllo elettronico
della velocità'**

These Italian road signs indicate there is electronic speed control ahead. Italian law requires warning, so pay extra attention here for the speed control.



AUTOVELOX: Varies.

**Examples: white sign
with the black
silhouette of a police
officer and
'autovelox'; blue sign
with the black
silhouette of a police
officer**

These Italian road signs mark electronic speed cameras. The machines measure your speed and if you're above the limit, it will take a photo of your license plate number as you pass and you'll receive a fine.



MORE ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

BUMPY ROAD:

Triangle with red border and black 'bumps.'

→ This sign indicates the road is bumpy ahead. The white sign below indicates the bumpy section is for one kilometer in the direction the arrows are pointing.



DEAD END:

Blue square with a T that has red for the horizontal part and white for the vertical part

→ This sign indicates the road isn't a through road. It either dead ends or leads to other roads that dead end.

Very helpful sign in small villages with narrow roads. Pay close attention because it's not fun to reverse out of a tight road!



ROAD NARROWS:

White triangle with red border and black road 'narrowing'

→ This sign warns that the road ahead narrows. In the photo, it narrows on both sides.

Sometimes the sign will only indicated narrowing on one side (if the right side is a straight line and the left shows narrowing, only the left side narrows).



SLIPPERY ROAD:

White triangle with red border and black car with wavy tire lines.

→ This sign warns that the road ahead may be slippery. In the photo, it warns of the slippery road if it's been raining or snowing. The vertical arrows below indicate it's a continuation of the warning.



MORE ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS

TUTTE LE DIREZIONI: A thin (usually white) rectangular sign with 'tutte le direzioni' and an arrow

→

This sign points you in the direction of where to get on major roads. The translation of tutte le direzioni is 'all directions.' You'll usually see it when you're in a city or a confusing part of a town. It's the traffic gods 'throwing you a bone' and helping you get out of town.



ITALIAN ROAD SIGNS VOCABULARY

entrata - entrance

uscita - exit

servizio - service station (gas)

passo carrabile - keep clear

pedaggio - toll

contanti - cash

carta di credito - credit card

corsia - lane

Autostrada - toll motorway/highway

Dogana - customs

alt stazione - stop to pay toll

deviazione - deviation

raccordo - connection

stazione - station

ospedale - hospital

centro - city center

area pedonale - pedestrian area

ZTL - limited traffic zone

aperto - open

chiuso - closed

solo - only

area successiva - next area

senso unico - one direction

eccetto - except for / excluding

lun/mar/mer/gio/ven/sab/dom - Monday, Tuesday... Sunday

DRIVING IN ITALY RESOURCES

Mom in Italy - Travel & Life in Italy

<https://mominitaly.com>

Driving in Italy

<https://mominitaly.com/driving-in-italy/>

Renting a Car in Italy

<https://mominitaly.com/renting-a-car-in-italy/>

Getting Gas in Italy

<https://mominitaly.com/italian-gas-stations/>

Parking in Italy

<https://mominitaly.com/parking-in-italy/>

ZTLs in Italy

<https://mominitaly.com/ztl-in-italy/>

International Driving Permit for Italy

<https://mominitaly.com/international-driving-permit-italy/>

How to Pay Tolls in Italy

<https://mominitaly.com/how-to-pay-tolls-in-italy-autostrada/>

BUON VIAGGIO!