

# ITALIA!™

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## ITALIAN TAX CODE

**Q** As UK citizens, we are about to embark on the process of buying property in Italy. We have been advised that we are going to need to open an Italian bank account, and that to do that we will need to obtain a 'codice fiscale'. Could you explain what a 'codice fiscale' is and how we can go about obtaining one? Do we need to apply for one in person in Italy, or is there a way in which we can apply online or in the UK?

**A** In Italy, the fiscal code, or 'codice fiscale' (CF), is a unique identifier used for individuals for fiscal and administrative purposes. Comprising 16 characters, it encodes specific information about the individual it represents. The first three letters of the CF correspond to the surname, while the following three represent the first name. The subsequent two numbers indicate the last two digits of the year of birth, followed by a letter representing the month of birth. The next two numbers signify the day of birth, with an additional 40 added for women. Characters 12 to 15 denote the Italian municipality or foreign state of birth. Finally, the last character is automatically calculated by the system.

The CF is essential for various transactions, for example opening bank accounts, entering into employment contracts, purchasing real estate, and fulfilling tax obligations. Additionally, it is necessary for accessing healthcare services and some other administrative procedures. The CF simplifies interactions with public institutions and Italian tax authorities, facilitating the monitoring of individuals' financial and tax activities. To obtain the CF, individuals can approach the Italian consulate or seek assistance from professionals such as tax consultants or specialised Italian lawyers.



**Laura Protti** is the founder of LEP Law. She is dual-qualified as an Italian *avvocato* and English solicitor, and specialises in assisting British and Italian clients with matters relating to Italian law. Visit her website at [www.leplaw.co.uk](http://www.leplaw.co.uk)

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EMAIL US WITH YOUR QUESTIONS: [italia@anthem.co.uk](mailto:italia@anthem.co.uk), or write to us at our usual address on page 6.

## Italia! recommends

Celebrate not one but two summer festivals in Lucca, relax and restore by Lake Orta, plus a green hideaway in Venice



**GRAND UNIVERSE HOTEL, LUCCA**  
[www.granduniverselucca.com](http://www.granduniverselucca.com)

With a fabulous view of Saint Martino's Cathedral, historic Grand Universe hotel is preparing for a summer packed with music, with guests set to enjoy Tuscany's array of world-class festivals, including the Lucca Summer Festival and the 70th annual Puccini Festival.



**VILLA CRESPI**  
[www.villacrespi.it](http://www.villacrespi.it)

Overlooking tranquil Lake Orta in Piedmont and against the backdrop of the Alps, Villa Crespi is offering two relaxation and wellness experiences for the new season. This five-star luxury hotel has 14 elegant rooms as well as a three-Michelin-starred restaurant.



**A BIENNALE STAY**  
[www.madamavenice.it](http://www.madamavenice.it)

If you're planning to visit the Biennale this year, Madama Garden Retreat in Cannaregio has nine elegantly appointed suites – and a precious garden in which to relax. A true oasis of calm and comfort, it's the ideal base to make your stay really memorable.

## Eustachio-ed heroes

Parents-to-be in Matera can benefit from a new initiative that will pay them money on the birth of their baby. However, the cash comes with a very specific condition: to receive it, they have to name the child Eustachio (the name of the town's patron saint). The unusual



Matera cathedral is dedicated to Sant' Eustachio and La Madonna della Bruna

reward has been offered by the area's Maria Santissima della Bruna Association in an attempt to boost the name, which has fallen out of fashion in recent decades, though the exact figure on offer hasn't been specified. According to the organisation, the offer is 'a small gesture to thank [parents] for their desire to perpetuate the name of our patron saint.' The UNESCO-listed town in Basilicata has a cathedral that's jointly dedicated to Sant' Eustachio and La Madonna della Bruna, and some have argued that the reward should also be offered to parents of girls who are willing to name their child Bruna. Others have described the plan as old-fashioned, but only time will tell whether it will work – perhaps in five years' time a crowd of little Eustachios will be entering the local primary schools...