

**The School** The Italian language school Il Sasso is recognized by the Ministry of Education and is ISO 9001 certified. It is a small to medium size school (about 700 students per year), with a high standard of quality. Students are of every age group and come from all parts of the globe. The school was founded in 1983 by a group of teachers who are still there, running it with professionalism and passion. The school is located in a historic building in the heart of the town. It has 8 large, airy classrooms, a conference hall, and a terrace with a lovely panoramic view - a favourite place for students to take their class breaks during the summer. There is also a free Internet point and WiFi access. The students can study or watch a film at the school at any time throughout the day. In addition, Il Sasso offers its students the chance to pass their afternoons together through a wide variety of excursions and activities - guided tours, wine, olive oil and cheese tastings, cooking lessons, walks in the country. The teachers are all university graduates, and are specialized in the teaching of Italian as a foreign or second language. They are particularly experienced in instructing adult students. The courses are geared to those who want a cultural vacation in Tuscany while learning how to get by in Italian in day-to-day situations, as well as to those who wish to learn Italian for their work or studies through a full immersion program. The communicative method and the friendly and personal atmosphere of the lessons make our courses a very special human and cultural experience that's different each time. The school's secretary offers constant and active support to students, advising them in their choice of lodgings or planning their trip.



**Accommodation** Given that you'll be spending a week or more in Montepulciano, it's essential that you feel at home here. Therefore, we take it as our responsibility to make sure you feel at home by finding you the lodging that best meets your needs. Each apartment has something that makes it unique and special - a panoramic view, a rustic Tuscan style, the beautiful light of sunset or a romantic balcony. You can choose from various options. **Independent apartments** for one or two persons, fully furnished and equipped with everything necessary for a comfortable stay. **Room in an apartment with other students** this option will give you the chance to meet people of other nationalities and begin experimenting with your Italian. The kitchen and bathroom will be shared. **Homestay** If you'd like to integrate your language studies with a wider social experience, you can choose a room with either breakfast or half board. **Hotel** If you prefer to stay in a hotel, we'll supply you with the names, addresses and phone numbers of the hotels in Montepulciano, and we'll help you to make your reservation.

**Afternoon activities** Our Italian language courses are supplemented by a program of excursions that allow participants to spend the afternoons together while exploring both the past and the present of the region. Here are some examples: tour of Montepulciano, **culinary evening**, wine tasting at a local wine cellar, cheese tasting at a dairy in the countryside, **excursions** to Montalcino and Cortona, **country walks**, a series of tutorials on history and the history of art. All these activities are of course in Italian. Participation in the excursions is optional and the cost is not included in the price of the course.



il Sasso  
School of Italian  
in Montepulciano



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**Montepulciano** For a great many reasons Montepulciano is the ideal place for an Italian language school. It is located on the top of a hill surrounded by vineyards and olive groves, with one of those views that has made Tuscany famous throughout the world over. The peace and quiet are ideal for a study holiday far from bustling town centres. The town's artistic wealth is also a major point of interest: the old town centre is full of churches and "palazzi" which date back to the medieval and Renaissance periods. However, the area also boasts many Etruscan and Roman remains, Baroque churches and the Teatro Poliziano, a miniature copy of La Scala theatre in Milan. Montepulciano, although a small historic town, is very active and lively - a place where the locals still stop to chat in bars or markets, and take an interest in foreign visitors. Montepulciano's cultural life is also quite varied. The **Cantere Internazionale d'Arte**, which takes place at the end of July and beginning of August, attracts music lovers from all over the world. The last Sunday of August the **Bravio delle Botte**, a traditional competition of strength and skill, is fought out between the town's "contrade" (historical neighbourhoods). On occasions such as these, the town comes to life and it is not uncommon to come across improvised concerts on street corners or to attend banquets that provide an opportunity to taste local gastronomic specialities. There is also a series of concerts organised by the **European Academy of Music and Art**. Palazzo Ricci. What makes Montepulciano particularly special, however, is its excellent **Vino Nobile**, a fine, quality wine whose producers have become true ambassadors of Tuscany throughout the world.



**Language Courses** The main objective of our courses is to get our students, even those in the beginner and elementary levels, to the point where they're able to communicate in Italian. How do we do this? We believe that knowledge of grammatical structure and vocabulary are important, yet we know that they aren't enough. That's why we develop proficiency in communication through activities such as games, role-playing, and problem solving. Immersing themselves in the language as it's used outside the school environment (for example in a bar, in a restaurant, at the post office...) allows students to put the strategies they've learned into practice. This is made much easier in a lively, small town such as Montepulciano. **Levels** Classes are divided into six levels based on the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" of the European Council, with an additional level for students who wish to concentrate on conversation. **Standard courses** are for those who wish to learn Italian in the mornings with other students in small groups. The courses consist of four hours - 45 minutes each - of group lessons (Monday to Friday, 5 to 9 participants, 20 hours per week). **The intensive courses** are a combination of the standard course plus 2 hours of private lessons in the afternoon, for a total of 30 hours of instruction per week. The courses are designed for those who wish to reinforce the knowledge of grammatical structure or engage in an in-depth study of a specific aspect of the culture. **Private lessons** are for those students who are looking for a custom program that meets their individual needs. For those who don't have the time to attend morning classes but don't want to miss the opportunity to learn or deepen their knowledge of Italian, we offer packages of 6 or 10 hours of private lessons. We also offer preparation for those who wish to sit the exam for either the **CILS** certificate at the Università per Stranieri di Siena or the **CELU** certificate at the Università per Stranieri di Perugia. Learning to use the language for work requires not only a different level of commitment on the part of the student, but also a different method of teaching. For these reasons, we offer courses that are geared to the specific language of different sectors (business, economy, law, medicine, singing etc.). Courses may be individual or group. Our course **Italiano da gustare** is designed for those who prefer to learn in a more relaxed way, taking their lessons over lunch at a restaurant with their teacher. It's an individual, one-week (5 days) course.



**Culture Courses** We believe that to know a language it's not enough to simply learn its grammatical structure and communicative function. To learn a language well, it's also necessary to study its history, its roots and evolution, as well as its literary and poetic works. Therefore, our language program is complemented by a program of cultural courses covering a range of topics from history and literature to art and wine. **Contemporary Italian Literature** This is a course dedicated to works of fiction and poetry of the great masters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, as well as to the study of contemporary authors. **Modern Italian History** This course is devoted to those who want to learn how modern Italy came to be. We'll discuss the course of events from the Risorgimento (the resurgence) to the period following World War II. **Italy Today** This course will help you gain a better understanding of the current political situation, the political parties and the leading figures of the last 30 years of Italian politics, including the period from 1970 to 1980. **The New Italian Cinema** In this course we'll seek to understand how Italian cinema evolved after the great films of Neorealism and the Fellini era. **The Renaissance** Art lovers can deepen their knowledge of the Italian Renaissance through theoretical lessons in specific terminology, viewing slides of artworks and architectural details, and taking guided walks among Renaissance churches and buildings. **Art Walks** For those who would rather skip the theory and talk about art while walking with their instructor among Renaissance churches and buildings. **Parler di Vino** We're proposing a course that combines theoretical lessons with wine tastings. We'll talk about the production of **Vino Nobile** in Montepulciano, the characteristics of wines, but also about Chianti and Brunello.



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