



Dialoghi romani

Conversations for a Roman evening — 20 everyday Italian dialogues, with English translations

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Twenty short conversations, all built from what we met in class — *un tavolo, per favore*, the water question, *vorrei... per favore, che cos'è?, buonissimo!*, and the check you must summon yourself. Read each one out loud — twice. The lines marked **YOU** are yours. *Buon appetito!*

I *L'arrivo — un tavolo, per favore* arriving at the trattoria

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Buonasera! Benvenuti!

Good evening! Welcome!

YOU

Buonasera! Un tavolo, per favore.

Good evening! A table, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Certo! Prego.

Of course! This way.

YOU

Grazie mille!

Thank you so much!

2 *L'acqua — naturale o frizzante?* the first question at every table

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Acqua naturale o frizzante?

Still or sparkling water?

YOU

Acqua naturale, per favore.

Still water, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Subito!

Right away!

YOU

Grazie!

Thank you!

3 *Il vino della casa* the house wine — the choice of someone who knows

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Da bere?

To drink?

YOU

Un bicchiere di vino della casa, per favore.

A glass of the house wine, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Ottima scelta!

Excellent choice!

YOU

E acqua frizzante, per favore.

And sparkling water, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Va bene! Subito.

All right! Right away.

4 *Ho fame!* the silent H, at work

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Ecco il menù.

Here is the menu.

YOU

Grazie mille! Ho fame!

Thank you so much! I'm hungry!

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Perfetto — è il posto giusto!

Perfect — this is the right place!

YOU

E ho sete! Acqua naturale, per favore.

And I'm thirsty! Still water, please.

5 Vorrei la carbonara the dish of Rome

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Prego?

What would you like?

YOU

Vorrei la carbonara, per favore.

I would like the carbonara, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Ottima scelta! La carbonara — il piatto di Roma!

Excellent choice! Carbonara — the dish of Rome!

YOU

Grazie mille!

Thank you so much!



6 *La cacio e pepe* cheese and pepper — cucina povera at its finest

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Prego?

What would you like?

YOU

Vorrei la cacio e pepe, per favore.

I would like the cacio e pepe, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Certo! E da bere?

Of course! And to drink?

YOU

Un bicchiere di vino della casa, per favore.

A glass of the house wine, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Vino e cacio e pepe — perfetto!

Wine and cacio e pepe — perfect!

7 *Le penne all'arrabbiata* double N — linger on that first E!

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Prego?

What would you like?

YOU

Vorrei le pen-ne all'arrabbiata, per favore.

I would like the penne all'arrabbiata, please. (PEN-neh — the double N is the difference between dinner and a story your waiter tells for years!)

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Ottima scelta! Le penne — perfette!

Excellent choice! The penne — perfect!

YOU

Grazie mille!

Thank you so much!

8 *Che cos'è?* the traveler's best friend — point at the menu!

YOU

Che cos'è?

What is it? (pointing at the menu)

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Sono i carciofi alla giudia — buonissimi!

They are Jewish-style artichokes — delicious!

YOU

Vorrei i carciofi, per favore!

I would like the artichokes, please!

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Ottima scelta! Subito!

Excellent choice! Right away!



i carciofi alla giudia — the oldest recipe in Rome

9 *Il contorno* the side dish — remember the sacred order

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Un contorno?

A side dish?

YOU

Sì! I carciofi, per favore.

Yes! The artichokes, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Certo! Ecco a lei.

Of course! Here you are.

YOU

Grazie mille!

Thank you so much!

10 *Tutto bene?* when the food is glorious — and it will be

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Tutto bene?

Everything good?

YOU

Buonissimo! Che buono!

Delicious! So good!

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Che bello! Grazie!

How lovely! Thank you!

YOU

Grazie a lei!

Thank you!

II *Un dolce? — il tiramisù* tirami-sù — literally “pull me up”

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Un dolce?

A dessert?

YOU

Che cos'è... il tiramisù?

What is... tiramisù?

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Il dolce che ti tira su — buonissimo!

The dessert that pulls you up — delicious!

YOU

Vorrei il tiramisù, per favore!

I would like the tiramisù, please!

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Subito!

Right away!

12 *Dopo cena — un caffè* it is 9 pm, and you know the rule: espresso only

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Un caffè?

A coffee?

YOU

Sì, un caffè, per favore.

Yes, an espresso, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Certo! Ecco a lei il caffè.

Of course! Here is your coffee.

YOU

Grazie mille!

Thank you so much!

13 *Il conto, per favore* the check will never come — until you ask

YOU

Il conto, per favore.

The check, please. (catch the waiter's eye — the table is yours until you say this)

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Subito! Ecco a lei.

Right away! Here you are.

YOU

Grazie mille!

Thank you so much!

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Prego!

You're welcome!

14 *Pago con la carta* paying by card — always fine, by law

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Ecco il conto.

Here is the check.

YOU

Grazie! Pago con la carta.

Thank you! I'll pay by card.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Va bene! Grazie mille — e buonasera!

All right! Thank you so much — and good evening!

YOU

Grazie, arrivederci!

Thank you, goodbye!

15 *Che cos'è... il coperto?* two or three euros per person — bread, table, linen. Not a scam!

YOU

Che cos'è... il coperto?

What is... the coperto? (pointing at the check)

CAMERIERA
the waitress

È il pane e il tavolo — è normale in Italia!

It's the bread and the table — it's normal in Italy!

YOU

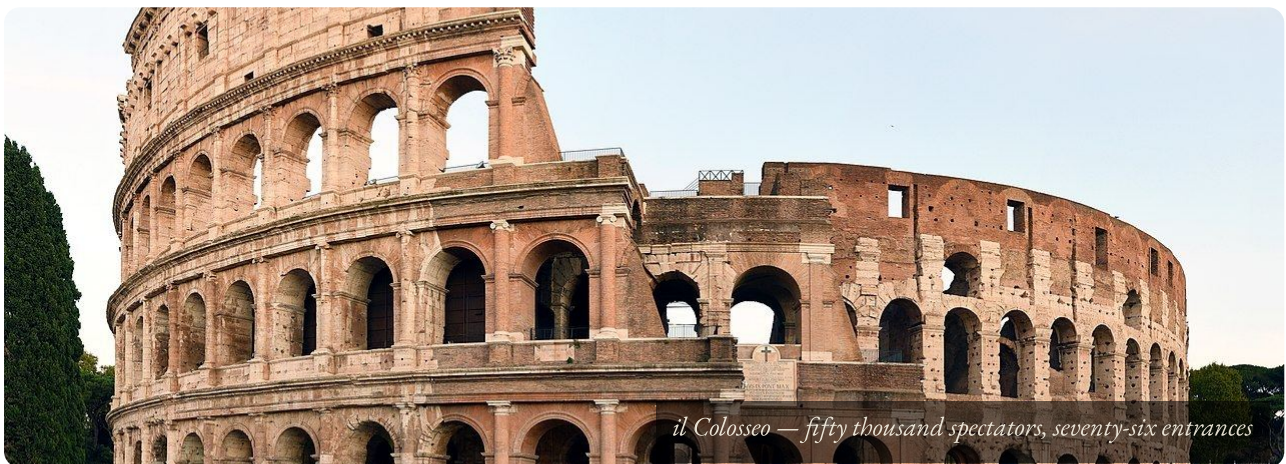
Ah, va bene! Grazie mille!

Ah, all right! Thank you so much!

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Prego!

You're welcome!



il Colosseo — fifty thousand spectators, seventy-six entrances

16 *Una cena romana — tutta insieme* the whole evening, beginning to end

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Buonasera! Benvenuti!

Good evening! Welcome!

YOU

Buonasera! Un tavolo, per favore.

Good evening! A table, please.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Certo! Acqua naturale o frizzante?

Of course! Still or sparkling water?

YOU

Frizzante, per favore. E vorrei la carbonara e un bicchiere di vino della casa.

Sparkling, please. And I would like the carbonara and a glass of the house wine.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Ottima scelta! (later) Tutto bene?

Excellent choice! (later) Everything good?

YOU

Buonissimo! Il conto, per favore — pago con la carta.

Delicious! The check, please — I'll pay by card.

CAMERIERA
the waitress

Va bene! Grazie, e arrivederci!

All right! Thank you, and goodbye!

17 *La mattina dopo — al bar* the morning after — cappuccino is allowed again!

BARISTA
the barman

Buongiorno! Prego?

Good morning! What can I get you?

YOU

Buongiorno! Vorrei un cappuccino e un cornetto, per favore.

Good morning! I would like a cappuccino and a croissant, please.

BARISTA
the barman

Certo! Ecco a lei.

Of course! Here you are.

YOU

Grazie mille!

Thank you so much!

18 *Un gelato davanti al Pantheon* an ice cream in front of the Pantheon

GELATAIO
the ice-cream maker

Buongiorno! Prego?

Good morning! What can I get you?

YOU

Vorrei un gelato, per favore.

I would like an ice cream, please.

GELATAIO
the ice-cream maker

Certo! Ecco a lei.

Of course! Here you are.

YOU

Buonissimo! Grazie mille — pago con la carta.

Delicious! Thank you so much — I'll pay by card.

GELATAIO
the ice-cream maker

Va bene! Buona giornata!

All right! Have a lovely day!

19 *Un nuovo amico a Roma* a new friend in Rome

PAOLO
a new friend

Buonasera! Piacere, mi chiamo Paolo.

Good evening! Pleased to meet you, my name is Paolo.

YOU

Buonasera! Piacere di conoscerla. Mi chiamo ...

Good evening! Pleased to meet you. My name is ...

PAOLO
a new friend

Le piace Roma?

Do you like Rome?

YOU

Sì! Mi piace molto Roma — e la carbonara è buonissima!

Yes! I really like Rome — and the carbonara is delicious!

PAOLO
a new friend

Fantastico! Benvenuto! / Benvenuta!

Fantastic! Welcome!

20 *Arrivederci, Roma!* saying goodbye to the Eternal City

PAOLO
a new friend

Allora, arrivederci — e buona giornata!

Well then, goodbye — and have a lovely day!

YOU

Grazie mille! Arrivederci, Roma!

Thank you so much! Goodbye, Rome!

PAOLO
a new friend

Arrivederci — e bentornato, sempre!

Goodbye — and welcome back, always!

Buon appetito — e a presto!

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