

Ciao to your Ancestors in Italian Civil Records

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☐ Jurisdictions in Italy:

- **Regione** – similar to our states. There are 20 in Italy
- **Provincia** – similar to our counties. 110 in Italy. Each has a state archive (archivio di stato)
- **Comune, Città** – town or city

☐ Records are divided into 3 different sets by time period:

- **Napoleonico** 1809–1815 only required in areas under Napoleon's rule but other areas followed suit. These contained much more information than church records.
- **Restaurazione** 1816–1865 birth records also included baptismal record; kept in southern Italy; northern regions began keeping records in 1840's and 1850's; Sicily's records begin in 1820.
- **Italiano** 1866–1910 baptismal info no longer included. Marriage records required in all of Italy

☐ Types of civil records:

- **Nati, Atti di Nascita** – birth records
- **Matrimonio** – civil marriage records only required after 1866 but marriage promises with church marriage exist from about 1809
- **Pubblicazione/Notificazione** – marriage banns
- **Processati, Allegati** – supplements to marriage includes copies of birth records of bride and groom, death records for deceased parents or spouses and sometimes grandparents
- **Morti, Atti di Morte** – death records

Naming Traditions in Italy

- Italian women didn't change their names when they married!
- First son named for father's father, second son for mother's father
- First daughter named for father's mother, second daughter for mother's mother
- If a child dies, the next child born of the same sex is given the same name
- If a man's first wife dies, one of his daughters with his second wife is often named after the first wife.

Italian/Latin Words to help you understand the records

figlio,figlia/filius,filia-son,daughter	fù,defunto/obiit - deceased
padre,madre/pater,mater-father,mother	padrini/patrini - godparents
sposo, sposa/sponsus, sponsa - spouse	lavatrice - midwife
marito/vir, conjux, maritus - husband	oggi, oggi stesso/hodie - today
moglie/uxor, marita, femina - wife	ieri/pridie - yesterday
vedovo/viduus, relictus - widower	sopra - above
vedova/vidua, relicta - widow	stesso/eodem - same
genitori/parentes, genitores - parents	giorno/dies,feria - day
celibe, nubile - single	mese/mensis,mense - month
neonato, bambino/infans,puer,proles-infant	anno/annus - year

Months

gennaio/Januarius - January	luglio/Julius - July
febbraio/Februarius - February	agosto/Augustus - August
marzo/Martius - March	settembre/7ber - September
aprile/Aprilis - April	ottobre/8ber - October
maggio/Maius - May	novembre/9ber - November
giugno/Junius - June	dicembre/10ber - December

Number

1 uno/unis, primus	20 venti/vinginti, vigesimus
2 due/duo, secundus	21 ventuno/viginti unus, vicesimus primus
3 tre/tres, tertius	22 ventidue/viginti duo, vicesimus secundus
4 quattro/quattuor, quartus	23 ventitre/viginti tres, vicesimus tertius
5 cinque/quinque, quintus	24 ventiquattro/viginti quattuor
6 sei/sex, sextus	25 venticinque/viginti quinque
7 sette/septum, septimus	26 ventisei/viginti sex, vicesimus sextus
8 otto/octo, octavus	27 ventisette/viginti septum
9 nove/novem, nonus	28 ventotto/viginti octo, vicesimus octavus
10 dieci/decem, decimus	29 ventinove/viginti novem, vicesimus nonus
11 undici/undecim, undecimus	30 trenta/triginta, tricesimus
12 dodici/duodecim, duodecimus	40 quaranta/quadraginta, quadragesimus
13 tredici/ tertius decimus	50 cinquanta/quinquaginta, quinquagesimus
14 quattordici/quartus decimus	60 sessanta/sexaginta, sexagesimus
15 quindici/quintus decimus	70 settanta/septuaginta, septuagesimus
16 sedici/sextus decimus	80 ottanta/octoginta, octogesimus
17 diciassette/septimus decimus	90 novanta/nonaginta, nonagesimus
18 diciotto/duodevicesimus	100 cento/centum, centesimus
19 diciannove/undevicesimus	1000 mille/mille

Most records start with the date, time and place where the record is created. The numbers are all spelled in words, so an understanding of Italian numbers is especially helpful. Remember that this is the date the event was recorded, not necessarily the date the event took place.

Example: L'anno milleottocentosettantasei, addi tredici di dicembre, a ore antemeridiane undici e minute trenta, nella Casa comunale. (In the year 1876, on day 13 of December, at the hour 11:30 AM in the town hall.)

Some helpful websites

<https://antenati.cultura.gov.it> – online state archive records for many provincia in Italy. See next page for how to use.

www.familysearch.org – as well as using the record search, look at catalog search for your ancestral town to find all the records for that locale that have not been indexed. And don't forget to check the Research Wiki
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Italy_Genealogy

www.comuni-italiani.it – useful if you know the name of ancestral town in Italy, but don't know where it is located.

www.italia.indettaglio.it – many different types of information on towns in Italy including parishes, surnames, weather, maps, etc.

www.cognomix.it – helpful in trying to determine if a surname is found in Italy and where it is found in Italy today.

www.conigliofamily.com/SicilianAndItalianOccupations.htm – a good list of historical occupations that translation apps don't always find

www.conigliofamily.com/SicilianAndItalianGivenNames.htm – Italian names and English equivalents

www.conigliofamily.com/LatinSicilianEnglishGivenNames.htm – if you need to translate names in Catholic church records

How to use Portale Antenati (<https://antenati.cultura.gov.it>)

On the Home page select the language you prefer in the top right corner.

On the Search Registries (Cerca nei registri) tab, type in the name of your town (comune) then select Search (Cerca)

Use the menu on the left side to make any choices needed (usually Typology/ Tipologia then Year/Anno). Be sure to click Expand/Espandi to see all choices. This will give you a pop-up menu. If it is a large menu, you can scroll to the right to see all the choices.

Click the red button on the left to view the register.

In the bar above the viewer window, click on the book symbol (third from the right) and choose Galleria to view the thumbnails in the main window instead of single pages, or choose view thumbnails Fondo (at bottom) or Right. Choose the page you want to view from the thumbnails.

When you have found the page you want to save, note the 7 digit alpha numeric string at the end of the address (or close to it).

Open a new tab and type in this address, replacing XXXXXXXX with the noted string.

<https://iiif-antenati.cultura.gov.it/iiif/2/XXXXXXX/full/full/0/default.jpg>

When you open the page, you should see a high resolution image of the page that you desire. You can now right-click or control-click on a Mac to save the image to your computer.

This website is totally new since November 2021 and they are still making changes to it and adding more records. This method works for now, but there is no guarantee that it won't change. The method for downloading has changed more than once since November. If you have a problem getting this to work, please feel free to email me.