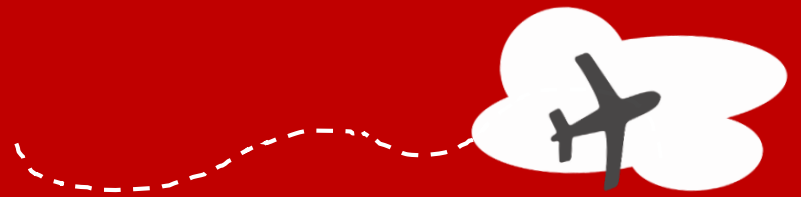




Holidays in ITALY



Christmas is a big celebration in Italy! Italians have traditions you won't find anywhere else. Some may eat turkey, but Italians serve seafood as their Christmas meal. The meal is known as the Feast of the Seven Fishes. Fish, clams, or oysters are usually the main course. There are many different sweets for desert. Italy is famous for its sweet bread called *panettone*. It is tradition for Italian families to enjoy panettone during the holidays.



Panettone, Italian Christmas bread

Another tradition you will only find in Italy are shepherds playing bagpipes. They travel in pairs down from the mountains to play music. People gather in town squares to hear them play at Christmas.

Just like in France, Italians also celebrate St. Nicholas Day. Instead of putting their shoes outside for him to fill they hang up a sock or leave a plate out for each child. The Christmas season doesn't end in Italy until January 6. That is when la Befana comes to visit. Legend has it that a friendly witch, called la Befana comes to bring presents to good children.

What foods are eaten for Christmas dinner? _____

What desert is Italy famous for? _____

What is a tradition you will only find in Italy? _____
