



# Tipping Guide for Italy

Tipping customs in Italy differ from those in the United States, and understanding local norms can help you navigate social interactions and show appreciation for good service without inadvertently causing confusion. Here's a tipping guide tailored for Americans traveling to Italy:

## 1. Restaurants, Cafes and Bars:

- **Service Charge:** In Italy, a service charge (*coperto*) is often included in the bill, especially in restaurants. This fee covers the service provided, so additional tipping is not required.
- **Optional Tip:** If exceptional service is provided or you wish to round up the bill as a gesture of appreciation, leaving a small amount (a couple of extra Euros) in cash on the table is acceptable but not expected.
- **Cafes & Bars:** Tipping in cafes and bars is not customary, especially for quick orders like espresso or aperitivo. However, if you receive table service, rounding up the bill or leaving a small amount, like a few Euros is appreciated but not obligatory.

## 2. Taxis:

- Tipping taxi drivers in Italy is not expected, but rounding up the fare to the nearest euro or leaving a small tip (2-3 Euros) for exceptional service is appreciated. For example, if a fare comes to 12 Euro, you might give the driver 15 Euro.

## 3. Hotels:

- **Porters:** If a porter assists you with your luggage, it's customary to tip a few euros per bag.
- **Housekeeping:** When tipping housekeeping, it's customary to leave about 1-2 Euros per day, especially for longer stays.
- **Concierge:** If providing a basic service, a tip is not necessary. However, if he goes out of his way to offer directions, makes multiple reservations for you or overall provides you with great customer service, a tip of 5-10 Euros is satisfactory.
- **Room service:** Delivery service to your room does not have to be tipped, but giving a couple of Euros will go a long way.
- Keep in mind that in more expensive or exclusive hotels, the tip is usually doubled.

## 4. Tour Guides:

- For guided tours, tipping the tour guide is appreciated. A good rule of thumb is to tip 5 Euro per person for a half-day tour and 10 Euro per person for a full-day tour.

## 5. Other Services:

- **Cloakroom and washroom attendants:** It is customary to tip each of these attendants about 1 Euro per person.
- **Spa technician:** Tips are not required or expected, however about a 10 Euro gratuity would be appreciated.
- **Stylist:** If you happen to visit a stylist while in Italy, a tip is not expected, but if you wish to leave something, rounding up to the nearest 10 Euro is satisfactory.

## Additional thoughts:

- While tipping is appreciated for exceptional service, it's not obligatory in Italy. Use your discretion based on the quality of service received and the local customs.
- Regardless of tipping customs, always be respectful and courteous to service staff. A sincere "grazie" (thank you) goes a long way in showing appreciation for good service.
- When tipping CASH IS KING. Most credit card slips do not have a place for a tip, so always be sure to carry a few coins or small denominations with you for gratuities.