



## PERSONAL SERVICES

For US Citizens the best source of help in dealing with emergencies is the US Consulate, on the corner of Via Veneto and Via Boncompagni. Tel (06) 46741. In case of death, serious illness, lost or stolen documents, call there and ask for the Special Consular Services. This has been a valuable asset over the years, but in the new millenium, the tone at the Consulate has turned distinctly hostile. It's hard to get into the building, and for most things you can't. They're dealt with in a little encampment in the back yard. Fees have gone up faster than Ivy League tuition, and services such income tax advice, have been severely cut back.

Lost documents and valuables- If your passport is lost or stolen, immediately notify the Consulate, your hotel, and the police. (Tel. 06 46861). Stolen articles should also be reported to both Consulate and police. Lost articles should be reported to Ufficio Oggetti Smaritti, Via Nicolò Bettoni 1. Lost and Found offices in Rome are as follows:

- Municipal- Via F. Negri 11 (near via Ostiense)
- ATAC (buses)- Via Volturmo 65
- Trains- Servizio Movimento delle Ferrovie dello Stato- in the Termini Station.

However, before you lose something, be careful! Rome has a fair number of pickpockets and purse snatchers. Be especially wary of youths riding around on motorscooters. They'll grab a loosely held bag, or even jewelry, and be off in an instant. Also watch out for swarming groups of gypsy children.

The emergency police (Carabinieri) number is 112.

Lost cars- If stolen, follow the above procedures, but if it was parked illegally your car may have been towed away by the police. Have a friend or your hotel call the Vigili Urbani (traffic police) at (06) 67691 and they'll tell you where your car is if you tell them where it was parked. Ask them how much it will cost you. From most of the city, cars are taken to a big lot on a hill south of the Colosseum. Another lot is on the north side of town, west of Via Nomentana. You'll need your passport, the car registration and

certificate of insurance, plus a significant amount of money, to get it back. Incidentally, never leave anything visible inside a parked car. That includes the car radio. Most of them are retractable and portable in Italy. You take them out and carry them around with you, or at least hide them in the trunk.

ACI- Automobile Club Italiano- For assistance on the road (breakdowns, accidents, etc., call 803-116 on the telephone. ACI can also help with car registrations, etc.

Limosine Services- Cars can be hired at the airport or through most hotels., or you can find them in the phone book under "autoservizi".

Taxis- You can call for a radio dispatched taxi or ask your hotel to do it. There are also taxi stands in each zone of the city. By law, they are not allowed to cruise for passengers. Licensed cabs in Rome are now white. If they're another color, they're generally "gypsy cabs."

Telephones- Everybody in Italy uses a cell phone. If yours doesn't work here, there are still public pay phones in a number of places. Don't bother with coins. You can purchase magnetic phone cards in any tobacco shop and many newsstands. They come in various denominations. The same places also sell cards with a "pin" with which, from any phone, you call a number, then enter the pin number, and then the number you want to call. These are particularly useful for calling overseas or elsewhere in Europe. Having to enter three long numbers is a nuisance, but a worthwhile one money-wise. As everywhere else in the world, avoid telephone bill shock by not making calls from your hotel, except with one of those cards.

Mail- Mail has improved rather dramatically since we first started compiling this guide. Just remember that to send anything out of the country, always send it "prioritario" and not "ordinario". We sent some Christmas cards out a couple of years ago, several weeks before Christmas, and we made that mistake. Most of them arrived well after Valentines Day, but before Easter. If you're in Rome, and have important mail to send, it might be worth the trouble (as well as the pleasure) of going over to St. Peter's and sending it out via Vatican mail. Cheaper, faster, and the stamps are interesting.

Health Services- If you think you might become sick while here, you might consider putting off your trip till you feel better. Actually, that's unfair. Italy has plenty of qualified doctors and you can get good medical care, although it helps to know somebody. While the doctors are often good, the hospital facilities are hardly luxurious. If confined in one for a while, you'll need a friend or a relative to bring you such essentials as silverware, drinking glass, towels, toilet paper, drinking water, etc. and to stay with you overnight if you need continuous care. The public hospitals in the big cities tend to be rather squalid, but on the positive side, if you find yourself in need of emergency care, your recovery will not be compromised by fear of possible bankruptcy resulting from your stay. Italy doesn't regard medical care as a luxury. In Rome, should you require hospital care, we suggest you go to Salvador Mundi International Hospital, a private clinic on the Gianiculum Hill, run by English speaking nuns and catering to

Rome's large international community. As for doctors, the American Consulate used to provide a list of English speaking doctors. In their new Guantanamo mode, we're not sure if they will provide anything any more, but you can try.

Lawyers- Again, the Consulate used to provide a list of English-speaking lawyers, but who knows, they might be afraid of helping potential terrorists. If you need an American lawyer licensed to practice in Italy, look up Peter Alegi. He's mostly retired but if he doesn't want to help, he probably could suggest somebody else.

Companionship- Rome has its share of hostess services. Two of the most advertised were Hostess Tourist Europa at via Ippolito Nievo 62, and International Hostess Agency at via Francesco Crispi 70. We cannot vouch for the extent, economy, efficacy or legality of their services, or whether or not they've been closed down.

Baby-sitting- This is a difficult problem. You can try asking at your hotel. Alternatively try calling one of the American colleges, such as Loyola, Notre Dame or Marymount to see if there are students willing to babysit.

Rome is no place to come to diet or dry out, but if you stay here long enough you may need the services of one of the following:

- Weight Watchers; Corso Vittorio Emanuele 18
- Alcoholics Anonymous; Via Napoli 58 Tel. 06 663 6620.

Religious services in English-

- Roman Catholic
  - Santa Susanna; via Venti Settembre 14
  - St. Patrick, Via Boncompagni 33
  - San Silvestro; Piazza San Silvestro
- Anglican; All Saints; Via del Babuino 153
- Episcopal; St. Paul's ; Via Nazionale at via Napoli
- Methodist; Piazza Ponte sant'Angelo
- Baptist; Piazza San Lorenzo iun Lucina 35
- Christian Science; 1<sup>st</sup> Church of Christ Scientist, Via Quattro Fontane 143
- Jewish; Synagogue; Lungotevere dei Cenci

For the depressed- If your wife or husband has run off with an Italian waiter and your car was towed away and you can't get it back because your passport was stolen, and you're too broke to get help from a lawyer or a hostess club, or even to go out and get drunk, you can call (06) 7045 4444 evenings between 19:30 and 22:30. The Samaritans staff this line with volunteers to talk to potential suicides and the generally depressed.

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