

## Italian Names and Terms with Pronunciation Hints

### Eyewitness Views

arsenalotti (dockyard workers)	AR-sen-ah-LOHT-tee
Bolagnos (in Saint Roch procession)	boh-LAHN-yos
bissona, bissonne (ceremonial barge, barges)	bee-SOH-nah, bee-SOH-nay
Brustolon	BROOH-stohl-ohn
Bucintoro	boo-chin-TOR-oh
Caracciolo (nuncio in Canaletto's <i>Bucintoro</i> )	car-ach-CHOH-loh
Carlevarijs	car-leh-VAR-eese
Doge Alvise IV Mocenigo (in <i>Corpus Christi</i> )	DOJ ahl-VEEZ-eh MOH-chen-ee-go
Doge Paolo Renier	POW-loh reh-NYAIR
Elisabeth Farnese	far-NAYZ-eh
Flangini	flan-JEE-nee
Ghezzi	GAYT-tsee
Giovedì Grasso	joh-veh-DEE GRAHS-so
Guidica (Canal)	JOOH-dee-cah
Giustiniani	JOOST-tee-nee-AH-nee
Joli	YOH-li
machina, machine (pavilion, sing, pl.)	MAH-kee-nah, MAH-kee-nay
Michele Marieschi	mee-KAY-leh mar-ee-ESK-ee
Pallavicini (archbishop in <i>Consecration</i> )	PAH-lah-veech-EEN-ee
pozzetto (hot tub Doge is carried in))	poh-TSET-toh
Pozzobonelli (new bishop in <i>Consecration</i> )	poh-tsoh-boh-NEL-lee
Procuratie (offices flanking Piazza San Marco)	proh-cur-AH-tee-ay
Simonini	sim-oh-NEEN-ee
Tanucci (PM who reads abdication)	tahn-OOCH-chee
Zocchi, Andrea	ZOHK-kee, ahn-DRAY-ah

### Mia

Dante Alighieri	DAHN-teh ah-LEE-ghee-AIR-ee
Bargello	Bar-JEL-loh
Giovanni Boccaccio	joh-VAHN-nee boh-KACH-chee-oh
Francesco Clemente	frahn-CHESS-koh deh-MENT-eh
Vincenzo Coaci	vin-CHEN-zo coh-AH-chee
Giovanni Battista Cima da Conegliano	CHEE-ma dah cohn-eel-YAN-oh
Giorgio de Chirico	JYOR-jee-oh deh KEER-ee-koh
Duccio di Buoninsegna	DOOCH-chio dee bwohn-een-SEN-yah
Pio Fedi	PEE-oh FAY-dee
Abduction of Polyxena	Poh-LIKS-ehn-ah

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Foggini	foh-JEE-nee
Gaulli (Baciccio)	GOWL-lee, bah-CHEECH-chee-oh
Pier Leone Ghezzi	PEER lay-OH-nay GAYT-zee
Giotto di Bondone	JOHT-toh or JYOT-toh dee bohn-DOH-neh
Guercino (Giovanni Francesco Barbieri)	gwair-CHI-noh
Cennino Cennini	chen-NEEN-oh chen-NEEN-ee
Andrea Mantegna	ahn-DRAY-ah mahn-TAYN-ya
Amedeo Modigliani	(ahm-ah-DAY-oh moh-dee-YAN-ee/ moh-deel-YAN-ee
Pollaiuolo	pohl-eye-WOE-loh
Jacopo Tintoretto	YAH-ko-poh tin-toh-RET-to
Uffizi	OOF-eez-ee

### Terms

capriccio, capricci (plural)	cah-PREECH-choh, cah-PREECH-chee
chiaroscuro	kee-AHR-oh-SKOO-roh
cassone	kahs-SOH-nay
Europa	aay-ooH-ROPE-ah
lapis lazuli	LAP-iss LAZ-oo-lee
maiolica, majolica	my-OH-lick-ah or mah-JOE-lick-ah
pentimento	pent-ee-MEN-toh
sfumato	sfoo-MAH-toh
sprezzatura	SPRET-tsa-TUR-ah
veduta, vedute(plural)	veh-DOO-tah, veh-DOO-tay

### Pronunciation Guidelines

1. Most of the time, the next-to-the-last syllable will be emphasized—but not all the time.  
Boboli Gardens: BOH-boh-lee                      de Chirico:    deh-KEER-ee-koh
2. Vowels are “European” rather than American:
  - no W after the O,
  - A is an AH sound,
  - U is ooh (like boo!)
  - I is EE, and
  - E is a combination of EH and long A

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3. Vowel combinations, such as **IA** and **IO** are often elided. Giorgio: JYOR-jee-oh  
Or not. Europa: Aay-ooH-ROPE-ah

4. Consonants have only one pronunciation; thus there's no **J** (\*technically) or **K** in Italian:

- when C or G is followed by A, O, or U, it will have the hard consonant sound like *can, good*  
examples: **casa, gondola**
- when C or G is followed by an H, it will retain the hard consonant sound like *chord, ghost*  
example: **spaghetti, radicchio**
- when C or G is followed by an I or an E, it will sound like *cheer, jeer*  
examples: **cello, focaccia, cappuccino; gesso, gelato, Giorgio, Giotto**

\*You will see a **J** in some names, notably *Jacopo*. The **J** is pronounced as a **Y**: YAH-co-po

5. So what happens when the letters pile up?

- double consonants should be sounded a little longer: **cappuccino** is cahp-pooch-CHEE-noh
- when S is doubled, it goes from S blended with a Z like *choose* to a hissing S, like *sassy*:  
example: **casa vs cassetta** (i.e., little case), **cassone** (i.e., great big case or chest)
- T is always pronounced clearly (not like a D) and TT is emphasized (Giot-toh)
- when Z is doubled, it goes from a simple Z, as in **plaza**, to a TZ, as in **piazza, pizza**
- SCH is always pronounced SK in Italian.  
Elsa Schiaparelli is Skee-AH-pa-REL-lee (I know, the French say Shahparelli)  
maraschino cherry is mahr-ah-SKEE-noh (even though we all say maraSHEEEno)  
bruschetta is broo-SKET-tah (not brush-etta, as the waiters always say)