

# Preface

**T**he book *Mondo Italia – Livello superiore* is the result of experiences in the teaching of the Italian language since 1978. This volume is a contribution to the valuation of the Italian culture in a world, where not only markets but also languages are being globalized.

The present volume is based on the completion of publications used by the Centro di Lingua e Cultura Italiana Pier Paolo Pasolini, by a number of adult education schools and private language schools.

Up to now the following books have been published: *Conoscersi* (vols. I and II, 1981), *L'italiano moderno* (1990), *Corso superiore* (1993) and *Materiali per corsi superiori* (2000). The book *Mondo Italia – Livello superiore* resulted from these works. It is a course for foreign language students willing to consolidate their Italian language skills. It is based on the book *Mondo Italia – Livello base e intermedio* (December 2001) and consolidates grammar, syntax and vocabulary.

*Mondo Italia – Livello superiore* contains the numerous teaching experiences matured over the years and offers the students the possibility to get to know more exactly the complex syntactic structures of the Italian language.

It offers the teachers material, suggestions, original and up-to-date ideas for the conduction of the courses. *Mondo Italia – Livello superiore*, just as the previous volume, contains a number of grammatical examples, exercises and texts indispensable for the discussion and knowledge of the Italian society and culture.

Both volumes of the book *Mondo Italia* are indispensable for all those who wish to learn Italian: Autodidacts, adult education institutions and private as well as public language schools. We additionally recommend the use of both volumes to all teachers regardless of their level in the teaching of Italian as a foreign language. They contain fundamental didactic and pedagogic instruments whose structure is based on easily understandable grammatical explanations, conversation about current topics, oral and written exercises (The second volume contains equally a audio CD). Moreover the students will find at the end of the volume the answers to the exercises meant to enable them to examine their progress.

The present volume came about thank the precious and indispensable help of Dr. Michela Gualtieri, Dr. Valentina Mannari, Dr. Alessandra Potenti, Dr. Marzia Tani, Dr. Mario Carrozzo and all the teachers at Centro di Lingua e Cultura Italiana Pier Paolo Pasolini.

We thank Dr. Simona Provinciali for the design of the cover and finally the publishing companies for the following texts: Editori Riuniti for the text by Gianni Rodari *Tante storie per giocare* (2000), *Venti storie più una* (2000), *Gelsomino nel paese dei bugiardi* (2000); thanks to Rizzoli Publishers for the extracts from the book by Cesare Marchi *In punta di lingua* (1992) and special thanks to this author's heirs; thanks to Longanesi & C. for extracts from the book by Pietro Ottone *Vizi e virtù. Gl'italiani come sono nel bene e nel male* (1998); to Editori Laterza for extracts from *L'identità degli italiani* edited by G. Calcagno.

THE AUTHOR



# Introduction

The reasons why people from all around the world get interested in learning the Italian language are various: study, work, culture, arts, fashion, cuisine, vacation, the Italian way of life etc. The volume ***Mondo Italia – Livello superiore*** refers to all these areas.

This volume's didactics considers the learning of the language as process within the bounds of a portrayal of the peculiarity of our country: it emphasizes culture, history, arts, film, politics, tradition, cuisine and music.

***Mondo Italia – Livello superiore*** provides the appropriate linguistic means for all needs and contexts of both oral and written communication. This volume reserves a large area for the spoken language respecting grammatical structures.

***Mondo Italia – Livello superiore*** is divided in 17 units with slowly increasing degrees of difficulty.

The present work will help the students master complex grammatical structures such as the passive voice, the various forms of the subjunctive mood, the perfect tense and the pronouns proceeding from the intermediate language skills acquired from the previous volume *Mondo Italia – Livello base e intermedio*.

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This volume is built up on four different learning phases:

1. Units one to four repeat and consolidate the knowledge acquired during the intermediate level. The goal of this section is to fixate grammatical structures already learned and to guarantee their natural use in a conversation.
2. Units five to thirteen, or the second level, impart new grammatical structures and deal with the verbal forms of the conditional and subjunctive tenses.
3. Units fourteen to sixteen, or the third level, comprehend the highest degree in linguistic competence as imparted by both volumes of the series ***Mondo Italia*** that concerns especially complex syntactic structures as well as the passive voice, the gerund and the perfect tense.
4. Unit seventeen contains texts that complete the numerous texts included in the previous lessons. All these texts are didactic tools for repetition, consolidation and re-learning of verbal forms and can be employed as an incentive to conversations about current topics. Each text contains questions that will help the student understand its content.

Each unit contains a grammatical overview that makes the learning easier and helps fixate what has been learned. Each unit includes numerous exercises that can be solved in class as well as at home.

## Note to course students

1. The dots in the exercises mark only the space destined to the answers. There is no relationship between the number of dots and the number of letters, syllables or words to be in-

serted. We recommend the use of a notebook for the solution of the exercises so that these can be effortlessly repeated. Writing the solutions down will complement the work with grammar and orthography. The student can check his/her answers in class along with the teacher as well as alone with the key to the exercises at the end of the book.

2. Some sentences, idioms and grammatical expressions have been literally translated for it is often very difficult or impossible to find an exact correspondence in the other language.
3. We are constantly working on improvements of our teaching materials for the sake of future editions and will be glad to receive critics from our readers.