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Like most countries, Italian culture is distinctive, but because of the vast scale of Italian immigration during the 19th and 20th centuries, it's also one of the most recognizable of all European cultures.

The term Italian culture would include family life, community life, festivals and celebrations, as well as creative, economic and political factors. Italian life is centered around the family unit, which includes a range of relatives from grandparents to aunts, uncles and cousins. Because of Italy's tumultuous history and relatively recent unification, there is less emotional connection to the concept of being 'Italian' and answering to a central government in Rome, and more identification with a home town and/or region.

The visual arts have always played a prominent role in Italian culture. The Italian peninsula has been the birthplace of some of the world's most renowned works of art, particularly the creations of its Renaissance painters. Another manifestation of the Italian preoccupation with beauty is its architecture. Whether it's the magnificence of Saint Peter's Square or the picturesque cliffside villages of the Amalfi coast, Italian architecture plays a huge role in giving Italy its distinctive 'look and feel'. As well as beautifying their homeland, Italian architects and artists have contributed to some of the world's finest buildings, from Moscow's Kremlin to the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Looking good is also a key aspect of Italian culture, especially in the more affluent levels of society. Milan is the fashion capital of Italy, reigning with Paris and New York as the top three fashion centers of the western world.

I want to see if you know the top 6 Italian fashion designers…and…where they were born.

1. Armani

Legendary Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani was born on 11 July 1934 in Piacenza. His career began as an assistant designer for Nino Cerruti, but he left in 1970 to work as a freelancer. With a partner, Sergio Galeotti, he established the Armani label four years later.

2. Dolce & Gabbana

Domenico Dolce, born in 1958, near Palermo, Sicily, and Stefano Gabbana, born in 1962 in Milan, began as a couple, but separated in 2005. Unlike others in a similar situation, they were able to continue their business partnership and achieve outstanding success with their sleek and stylish clothing designs.

3. Ferré

Born in Legnano on 15 August 1944, Gianfranco Ferré originally graduated as an architect in 1969 but began designing accessories a year later. He started his own company in 1974 and launched his first

women's collection in 1978, followed by his first men's collection in 1982, and his first couture collection in 1986. Ferré became Stylistic Director of Christian Dior in Paris from 1989 to 1997.

4. Prada

Prada was founded by Mario Prada as a leather goods shop in Milan, Italy. After his death in the mid-1950s, Mario's daughter-in-law ran the company for almost twenty years, succeeded by her daughter, Miuccia Prada, in 1970.

Miuccia, born Maria Bianchi on 10 May 1949, had a Ph.D. in Political Science but with her husband, Patrizio Bertelli, set about expanding Prada's product line. In 1979 she released a set of backpacks and totes, followed by a nylon tote. A shoe line was released in 1984, the classic Prada handbag in 1985, and a women's wear collection in 1989. Prada's popularity skyrocketed and it became identified with affluent working women who held demanding jobs. Men's ready-to-wear collections were launched in the mid-1990s. Prada's originality made it one of the most influential Italian fashion designers, and the brand became a premium status symbol in the 1990s.

5. Valentino

Valentino Clemente Ludovico Garavani, best known as Valentino, was born on 11 May 1932 in Voghera, Lombardy. Valentino became interested in fashion while in primary school when he apprenticed under

his aunt Rosa and local designer Ernestina Salvadeo. At 17, he moved to Paris where he studied. In 1959 he decided to return to Italy and set up in Rome.

6. Versace

Gianni Versace (December 2, 1946 – July 15, 1997) was an Italian fashion designer and founder of Versace, an international fashion house which produces accessories, fragrances, makeup and home furnishings as well as clothes. He also designed costumes for the theatre and films.

Giovanni (Gianni) Versace was born in Reggio di Calabria, Italy, on December 2, 1946, where he grew up with his older brother Santo and younger sister Donatella, along with their father and dressmaker mother, Francesca. Versace began his apprenticeship at a young age, helping his mother find precious stones and gold braid for embroidering dresses. He studied architecture before moving to Milan at the age of 26 to work in fashion design.

Versace was shot dead on July 15, 1997, aged 50, on the steps of his Miami Beach mansion as he returned from a morning walk.