

29 - Ferragosto is nice when you AVOID traffic - Easy Italian Vlog [Free Transcripts] A1/B2

Good morning, and welcome, everyone, to this new video. Today is a bit of a special day in Italy—it's Ferragosto—and in fact, the place is packed with people; you practically can't find a parking spot, not even here in Idro, a small mountain village on Lake Idro: this beautiful lake you see here,

Ferragosto—that is, August 15—is a holiday, let's say, of Christian origin, though it has lost some of its religious significance. In Italy, almost everyone who can—those who aren't working—goes on picnics, heads to the lake, or often takes motorcycle trips. People don't tend to go into town or to restaurants as much, but it's still possible. In fact, look here—everyone's all set up with chairs, umbrellas, and food. See?

I'll pause for a moment to show you this Canadair—this plane carrying water—because there's probably a fire somewhere.

And as I was saying, on this day, a huge number of Italians go on trips, and in fact, my friend and I decided to leave early to avoid traffic. Let's just say this plan worked for a short while because a ton of people have already arrived.

These are the so-called “autine” or bumper cars. When I was little, they were very, very popular. My friends and I would go there in the evenings, often on weekends, but also on school days. These people travel to various towns in the valley and the province—and even further afield—with vans where they live and sleep, and trucks to transport all these small vehicles—let's call them “autine,” or little cars.

Here's a brass knuckles game that I don't think I've ever played—maybe when I was very little. I wonder how many points I'd score. Have you guys ever played it? Are these attractions popular where you live, and are the prices reasonable? One shot is 20 cents; 14 shots are €2. Who'd want to take 14 shots? I don't know, but there's definitely someone out there.

Now I'll take you on a tour of the flea market where there's this very '80s-style music playing—I honestly didn't expect it; I'd never seen anything like it on Ferragosto. At this flea market, people are selling all sorts of things, like these slightly creepy dolls, these used clothes, these Mokes—a huge collection of Mokes. Do you use them to make coffee, or do you have other ways of brewing it? Let me know in the comments.

I have somewhat mixed feelings about these places because, on the one hand, I always feel like buying things and get lost browsing the stalls—maybe there are interesting finds—but on the other hand, the idea of spending a lot of money on things I might never use scares me.

Are you fans of secondhand items? Do you often go to flea markets, shop online, or sell your own items on online platforms? For example, Vinted is all the rage right now, but back in the day, people used eBay, Subito in Italy, or Le Bon Coin in France. Let me know—write in the comments if you like these platforms and if you buy or sell secondhand items.

Today won't be a completely free day for me—I'll actually have a conversation class with two students from Kazakhstan, and I'm running a speed test to check my internet speed. From my experience, the most important factor for these video calls is the upload speed. The upload speed needs to be at least 17 Mbps, so the test was a success.

I'll also show you the website I used to check coverage for my carrier, which is Iliad. It doesn't say so explicitly, but it mentions Iliad. This way, I'm sure the connection will be good enough to let me teach the class. You can see my Bluetooth headphones with noise cancellation—and, most importantly, voice isolation—so external noise is filtered out.

I'm not worried about background noise because my headphones isolate sound quite well, and plus, the program I use—Google Meet—blurs the background so it doesn't distract anyone, and the students can stay focused.

While I'm teaching, my friend—who came with me to the lake—will be on the beach reading. And now I'll show you the things we brought, starting with the beach towel—or whatever you want to call it—because depending on where you are, it has a different name.

Then there's the ball for playing; maybe we'll run into some other kids and play with more than two people—let's hope so. Then he brought—even though he's a man of culture—an American novel that I highly recommend if you haven't read it yet, because it's wonderful.

Then, of course, a cooler to keep the inside cool enough using these frozen packs, plus some beers, water, fruit, and my friend's meal—which I don't know what it is. Maybe couscous with lamb and various spices, since he's a fan of Middle Eastern cuisine. Then we brought various games—card games, a set of Mikado, and **The Mind** again—which, if you haven't tried it, I highly recommend; it's a game where you have to be very focused.

It's time for my lesson. I found a spot where my internet speed test app showed that the download speed was good, but the upload speed was especially fast. In fact, the upload speed was much better than what I have at home on Wi-Fi, so I'm really happy. I also found a spot with a neutral background—see? No bright lights, no noise, in a quiet area—and during this conversation lesson, I'll talk about the Ferragosto holiday; I'll discuss some related expressions like “getting stuck in traffic,” and I think it's helpful in lessons to combine a, let's say, thematic topic like Ferragosto with a vocabulary topic. Like the verb “rimanere” used with adjectives or past participles—for example, “rimane bello” or “rimanerci male” or “rimanere deluso”—and even if we want to cover grammar topics, such as the conjugation of the verb “rimanere,” which is irregular.

So I'm really excited to teach this lesson, especially since the two students are very talented. Now I'll also show you my screen and how I use it to teach lessons where I share my screen—that is, I show and present my screen to the students so that they can see me but also see what we're discussing, the notes I take during class, and my explanations. I don't know if you can see it, but the name of my hotspot is a Kazakh word—it was the name of the street where I used to live in the capital of Kazakhstan.

See? This is my screen and how I share it. The screen stays bright even when it's very sunny, and it's big enough for me to write on. I'm taking notes, writing down new words, and here I see the students who are about to connect.

“What was that? Maybe cedrata, which is a kind of Italian drink made with citron. Citron is like a lemon—a bit similar—but it's not very well known. When I get stuck in traffic, I do what all Italians do: I talk to the taxi driver.”

And with this view of the mountains, this video comes to a close, in which I've told you about a typical day in my valley on Ferragosto. I hope you found it helpful, and as usual, you'll find the transcript of this episode in Italian, English, and Russian on my website via the link in the description, along with exercises to help you practice Italian. Have a great day.