

VIETRI®

An Italian Wedding

Rich in family values and traditions, the Italian Wedding is a joyous celebration of love, family and food. This lengthy celebration usually begins with a mass in the morning followed by dancing and feasting that can last well into the early morning hours of the next day.



Wedding Traditions

- ❖ *Italian tradition declares Sunday marriages to be the luckiest.*
- ❖ *On the day of the wedding, the bride is not to wear any gold, with the exception of the wedding bands. Wearing gold during or before the wedding is thought to bring bad luck.*
- ❖ *In the Veneto region of Italy, the groom walks to the bride's house and, together, he walks with the bride and the entire wedding party to church.*
- ❖ *In Northern Italy, the groom, rather than the bride, brings a bouquet of flowers to the wedding. Both color and style of the bouquet are a surprise to the bride. The bouquet is a present from the groom's family to the bride.*
- ❖ *The bride wears a veil to protect her from malignant spirits.*

❖ *In Southern Italy, the couple shatters a vase or glass into many pieces at the end of the wedding day. The number of pieces represents the number of years they will be happily married to one another.*

❖ *In traditional ceremonies, candy-covered almonds, bomboniera (confetti) tied in mesh bags are tossed at the couple to avoid childlessness. In the past, ornamental bags were filled with the candy-covered almonds and sent to guests to signify the marriage.*

The Reception

"Per cent'anni" (for a hundred years)

❖ *A tray of sweet liquors and strong drinks greets visitors at the reception. This gives everyone the opportunity to toast the bride and groom. A common toast is "Per cent'anni" (for a hundred years).*

❖ *Strongly linked with family life, food always had a strong presence at Italian weddings.*

❖ *A multi-course dinner follows the wedding ceremony and often has up to 14 different courses. Twists of fried dough with powdered sugar, called bow ties, and Italian wedding candy symbolize good luck for the bride and groom. Wedding cake is served after dinner with cups of coffee, espresso or other beverages.*