



# Cars

## Made in Italy

Italy is famous all over the world for its cars, with makes like Ferrari, Lamborghini, Alfa Romeo, Maserati, Fiat, and Lancia. Italian road cars are driven across the world, while the country's racing cars compete at the highest level. But before you continue to read about these cars, let's make sure you're saying their names correctly. [Click here](#) to check out your pronunciation.

Okay, now that that is over, here are a few interesting facts and trivia about each car:



### Ferrari

~ The logo—a black prancing horse on yellow background—was originally the symbol of Count Francesco Baracca, a legendary ace in the Italian air force during World War I who painted it on the side of his planes.

~ A 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO sold at auction in August, 2014 for \$38,115,000 breaking the record previously held by a 1954 Mercedes-Benz race car which sold for a record \$31 million at an auction in July, 2013.

~ There is a Ferrari theme park in Abu Dhabi. The world's largest indoor

theme park comes complete with thrill rides including an F1 inspired roller coaster.

## Lamborghini

~ The logo—a bull or Taurus—is Ferruccio Lamborghini's zodiac sign. He was extremely interested in Spanish bullfighting and named many of his car models after individual bulls.



~ On the list of the 10 Most Expensive Cars is the Lamborghini Veneno Roadster, which retailed for \$4.5 million when it was built in 2014. Lamborghini built only nine of them. You can get a “slightly used” one now for about \$7 million!

~ Before it made cars, Lamborghini manufactured tractors and still does to this day. So, when a farmer says he's buying a Lamborghini, unless he's wealthy, it's probably not a car he's purchasing!



## Alfa Romeo

~ The logo pays homage to Milan—the left side with the red cross is from the Milanese coat of arms; the right side, the snake, comes from the Visconti of Milan family crest.

~ The car seduced the world in

1967 when it was driven by Dustin Hoffman in the film, *The Graduate*.

~ Alfa is an acronym: Anonima Lombardia Fabbrica Automobili (Lombardy Auto Factory Company). During WWI, Nicola Romeo acquired the financially struggling company and re-branded it with the addition of his name.

## Maserati

~ The Maserati trident logo was inspired by the statue of

Neptune in the company's birthplace of Bologna.

~ Before it made cars, Maserati was best known for spark plugs.

~ Maserati won the Indy 500 twice, in 1939 and 1940.

~ By the 1980s, the Maserati name had become

synonymous with elegance and style. Through the eighties, the Maserati Quattroporte (four doors) had appeared in several films including *Rocky III*, *The Fly*, and *The Dead Zone*.



### Fiat

~ Fiat is an acronym: Fabbrica Italiana Automobili Torino (Italian Auto Factory of Turin).

~ The original Fiat 500 was the world's smallest car at the time of its production. Italians gave it the nickname "topolino," meaning

little mouse which, incidentally, they also call Mickey Mouse.

~ Fiat is the most popular car in Italy. No surprise there. But it's also Brazil's top-selling car.

Now that you know a little about each of these Italian cars, [click here](#) to watch a short film clip of some of these cars and more in a small village in Italy. Turn on the sound because these cars talk!

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