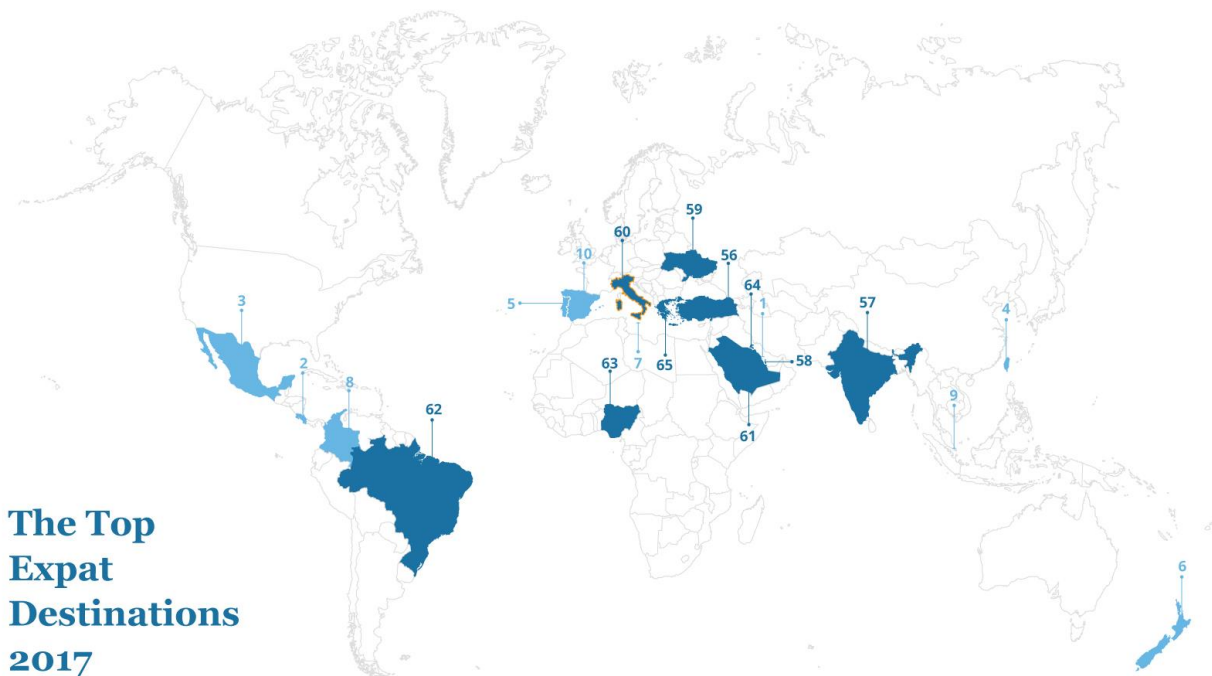


## ***Expats Insider 2017 Survey Reveals: Not Quite *La Dolce Vita* for Expats in Italy***

Expats go to Italy for sun and love, but end up with low incomes and a lack of career prospects.

- More than half the expats in Italy (51%) are unsatisfied with their career prospects, mainly due to the poor economy and low incomes that do not cover all daily expenses.
- Nearly three in five expatriates (57%) are in a relationship with an Italian — compared to only 35 percent of expats globally who are in a relationship with a local resident.
- Italians themselves go abroad to for a better economic and financial situation, but have no one to spend their higher income with, as 43 percent are single.

Munich, 06 September 2017 — Italy disappoints expats with a lack of economic stability and career prospects while political corruption continues. However, three-quarters of expatriates are nevertheless satisfied with their life in Italy — one of the reasons could be the lure of romance, as nearly three in five expats (57%) are in a relationship with a local resident. Italians abroad, on the other hand, are mostly single and in search of a better economy, as the [Expats Insider 2017](#) survey reveals. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, it is one of the most extensive expat studies, conducted yearly by [InterNations](#), the largest expat community worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of life abroad, the survey ranks 65 countries by a variety of factors such as quality of life, working abroad, and settling in. While Italy merely lands on a poor 60th place, this year's top 10 destinations for expats are Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, Portugal, New Zealand, Malta, Colombia, Singapore, and Spain.



### **The Top Expats Destinations 2017**

#### **Top 10**

1 Bahrain	6 New Zealand
2 Costa Rica	7 Malta
3 Mexico	8 Colombia
4 Taiwan	9 Singapore
5 Portugal	10 Spain

#### **Bottom 10**

56 Turkey	61 Saudi Arabia
57 India	62 Brazil
58 Qatar	63 Nigeria
59 Ukraine	64 Kuwait
60 Italy	65 Greece

11 Czech Republic	18 Thailand	26 UAE	34 Australia	42 South Africa	50 Russia
12 Vietnam	19 Romania	27 Switzerland	35 Kazakhstan	43 USA	51 Chile
13 Netherlands	20 Norway	28 Austria	36 Panama	44 Israel	52 Argentina
14 Luxembourg	21 Finland	29 Philippines	37 Kenya	45 Ireland	53 Indonesia
15 Malaysia	22 Sweden	30 Denmark	38 France	46 Uganda	54 United Kingdom
16 Canada	23 Germany	31 South Korea	39 Hong Kong	47 Peru	55 China
17 Oman	24 Cambodia	32 Belgium	40 Japan	48 Myanmar	
	25 Ecuador	33 Cyprus	41 Hungary	49 Poland	

### Living from Hand to Mouth in Italy?

Italy's economy continues to be an issue, with poor career prospects and low incomes affecting expats. Most respondents in Italy (70%) only report a gross yearly household income of up to 50,000 USD, and 36 percent state that their income is not enough to cover their daily expenses. Moreover, there seems to be no room for improvement at work, with more than half the expats (51%) being unsatisfied with their career prospects. A high occurrence of political corruption, which even seems to be getting worse as Italian Supreme Court judge Piercamillo Davigo stated in a *Forbes* interview, does not make work life in Italy easier. One French respondent criticizes "the situation of the economy and the fact that it is hard to find a good job if you do not know someone highly placed". A majority of expats seem to agree at least with the first part of this assessment, as 61 percent rate the state of Italy's economy negatively. This does not come as a huge surprise, given the precarious situation Italy is in: the national debt is 1.3 times higher than the economic output, according to the *Financial Times*. Moreover, taxation and bureaucratic challenges also appear as frequent complaints. Nearly one-third of expats (32%) already expected the complex tax system to be a disadvantage before moving to Italy, compared to only 15 percent sharing these concerns globally.

### Happy Relationships and a Safe Environment for Children

Despite the economic issues, Italy's reputation as a beautiful, sunny place with delicious food still makes it a popular expat destination, with one in ten respondents (10%) primarily moving there simply to live in Italy. Romance also plays a large part, as 17 percent give moving for love as their main reason. Once arrived, expats seem to find even more romance under the Italian sun: nearly three in five among those respondents who are in a relationship are romantically involved with an Italian (57%). This is a lot more than the global average of expatriates in a relationship with a local resident in their respective country (35%). Maybe it is the happy and healthy relationships that lead to a high level of overall satisfaction among expats living in Italy: three-quarters (75%) are happy with their life in Italy. This does not only apply to personal happiness, but to family life as well: children growing up in Italy seem to have a safe childhood as nearly four in five expat parents (78%) are generally satisfied with their children's safety. Yet, family life in Italy can also be challenging in some respects: nearly half the respondents (48%) believe that education options are neither numerous enough nor easily available. Also, the childcare system seems to be lacking in resources, with 49 percent of parents being unhappy with the availability of options.

#### Life in Italy

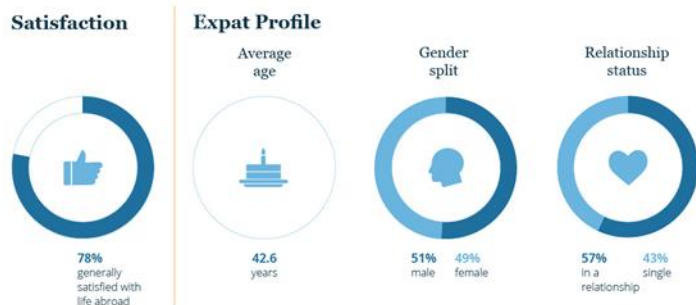
	2017*		2016**
Overall Rank	60	▼ 1	59
Quality of Life	34	▲ 2	36
Ease of Settling In	41	▲ 4	45
Working Abroad	64	▲ 2	66
Family Life (out of 45 countries)	38		38
Personal Finance	63	▲ 3	66
Cost of Living	34	▲ 8	42

\*out of 65 countries      \*\*out of 67 countries

76% generally satisfied

### Italians Abroad: Lonely Romantics Looking for A Stable Economy

According to the *Expatriate Insider 2017* survey, more than three in ten Italian expats (31%) have lived in three or more foreign countries before their current stay abroad. The majority of Italians (72%) moves in order to earn more and to live in destination with higher economic and political stability. When moving abroad, they consider the local economy and labor market (66%), as well as the political situation (37%), to be a potential benefit of relocating. Therefore, it is not very surprising that Switzerland and Germany are the two most popular destinations for Italian expats (11% and 10%, respectively). Both countries have high rankings for working abroad, which might contribute to seven in ten Italians rating the state of the economy in their host country positively. In fact, 72 percent of Italian expats state that they make more money than they would



make in a similar position back home. However, despite potential improvements in their financial situation, Italians are not necessarily happy abroad: almost a third of respondents (32%) find it difficult to settle down in their host country, and 11 percent believe that they will never feel at home there. The dissatisfaction with their personal life might be one of the reasons for the following fact: while expats in Italy live the romance, over two-fifths of Italian expats (43%) are single. And among those in a relationship, over one in five (21%) are not living in the same country as their partner — considering this result, it is not all that surprising that 10 percent are dissatisfied with their relationship, three percentage points more than the average among all expats worldwide.

### **A Heartwarming Welcome Leads Bahrain, Costa Rica, and Mexico to the Top**

For the first time since the *Expatriate Insider* survey was introduced, none of the previous year's top 3 destinations lead the ranking: Surprise winner Bahrain even leaps from 19th position to 1st place, winning the overall ranking. The Gulf State makes it easy for expats to feel at home due to its friendly local residents — nearly nine out of ten expats (86%) rate the friendly attitude of Bahrainis towards expats positively. In addition, about three-quarters of expats in Bahrain (73%) are satisfied with their jobs, compared to a global average of 64 percent. Runner-up Costa Rica and Mexico on third place also rank among the top 20 in terms of working abroad, but are even more valued for their extremely friendly local population. In fact, nearly nine in ten expats (87%) rate the friendly attitude of locals towards foreign residents positively in both countries, compared to a global average of only 67 percent of expats feeling this way about their destination.

### **Greece, Kuwait, and Nigeria Are the Worst Destinations for Expats Again**

The countries featured in the bottom 3, on the other hand, have remained the same for the third year in a row: Greece has now hit rock bottom, ranking last overall, as well as in terms of working abroad, personal finance, and family life. Half of the respondents in Greece say that their household income is not enough to cover their daily expenses, which is more than twice the global average (23%). The main issue in Nigeria and Kuwait, 63rd and 64th out of 65 countries, remains the constant struggle with the quality of life: more than two in ten expats in Kuwait (23%) are unhappy with their life in general, compared to only 10 percent of expats worldwide. In Nigeria, safety and security cause additional problems, with nearly seven out of ten (68%) rating their personal safety negatively.

### **About the InterNations *Expatriate Insider* 2017 Survey**

For its annual [Expatriate Insider survey](#), InterNations asked about 13,000 expatriates representing 166 nationalities and living in 188 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. Participants were asked to rate 43 different aspects of life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized the respondents' personal satisfaction with these aspects and considered both emotional topics as well as more factual aspects with equal weight. The respondents' ratings of the individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 16 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up six topical indices: Quality of Life, Ease of Settling In, Working Abroad, Family Life, Personal Finance, and Cost of Living Index. Except for the latter, all indices were further averaged in order to rank 65 expatriate destinations around the world. In 2017 the top 10 were Bahrain, Costa Rica, Mexico, Taiwan, Portugal, New Zealand, Malta, Colombia, Singapore, and Spain.

For a country to be featured in the indices and consequently in the overall ranking, a sample size of at least 75 survey participants per country was necessary. The only exception to this is the Family Life Index, where a sample size of more than 40 respondents raising children abroad was required. In 2017, 65 and 45 countries respectively met these requirements. However, in most countries the sample size exceeded 100 participants.



### **About InterNations**

With 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, InterNations (<http://www.internations.org>) is the largest global network and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 6,000 monthly events and activities, expatriates have the opportunity to meet with other global minds. Online services include country and city guides created by a team of professional writers, guest contributions about life abroad, and discussion forums to help members with topics such as local housing and job searching. InterNations membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust.

The InterNations app is available for Android and iOS and can be downloaded for free on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#).

Find more information about InterNations on our [press pages](#), [company website](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or in our [Expat Magazine](#).

#### **Press Contact**

Vera Grossmann  
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH  
Schwanthalerstrasse 39  
80336 Munich, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)89 461 3324 79  
Fax: +49 (0)89 461 3324 99  
Email: [press@internations.org](mailto:press@internations.org)  
Homepage: [www.internations.org/press](http://www.internations.org/press)