

► *not many English speakers here! The people are amazing, from the architect who helped us obtain the codice fiscale, open a bank account and plan a kitchen, to the partner of the local jeweller who took us shopping for furniture, and the locals who brought a basket of fruit and filled up the log store.*

For financial reasons we must run this property as a business and intend on weekly holiday lets to begin at Easter next year. Do you have any information that would help us find a management agency? I've spent hours trawling the internet and sending emails to no avail. I appreciate the best option is usually local, but this is proving difficult. Do we need to look further afield and, if so, where? We have furnished the apartment to a very high standard and need a service to match. Our dream, like the aforementioned couple, is to continue to enjoy, love and learn more about this magical country for the next 40 years.
Julie Moffitt, email

*Below: If you'd like to improve your Italian, tune in to one of the many Italian radio stations and listen in to the authentic voice of Italy
Right: Enjoy some of the best chocolate in the world from Italian producers, Amedei*

A Your question raises a number of issues. Firstly, are you planning to use your apartment as a B&B, which means by law you must provide not just

breakfast but also daily cleaning? Or, alternatively, are you planning to rent it out on a completely self-catering basis, called *affittacamere* or *casa vacanze*? It is important to decide this before starting as there are different rules and paperwork that you will need to complete. You are right to say the best option is usually local. At The Property Organiser, when clients ask us for assistance, we always get local carpenters or other professionals to carry out work for them. Local businesses are usually part of associations (similar to English Chambers of Commerce), which offer invaluable advice on management and other practicalities and it is worthwhile your contacting them. For Bergamo and surrounding regions I recommend you contact Il Mondo in Casa (see www.bebilmondoincasa.com), which is an organisation of all local B&Bs, self-catering hotels and holiday homes. The website is also available in English. It provides assistance on everything from tax and legal issues to advertising and managing your business. Il Mondo in

Casa also hosts networking events at which you can meet and get further advice from other owners of holiday homes, most of whom speak English.
Stefania Russo, The Property Organiser

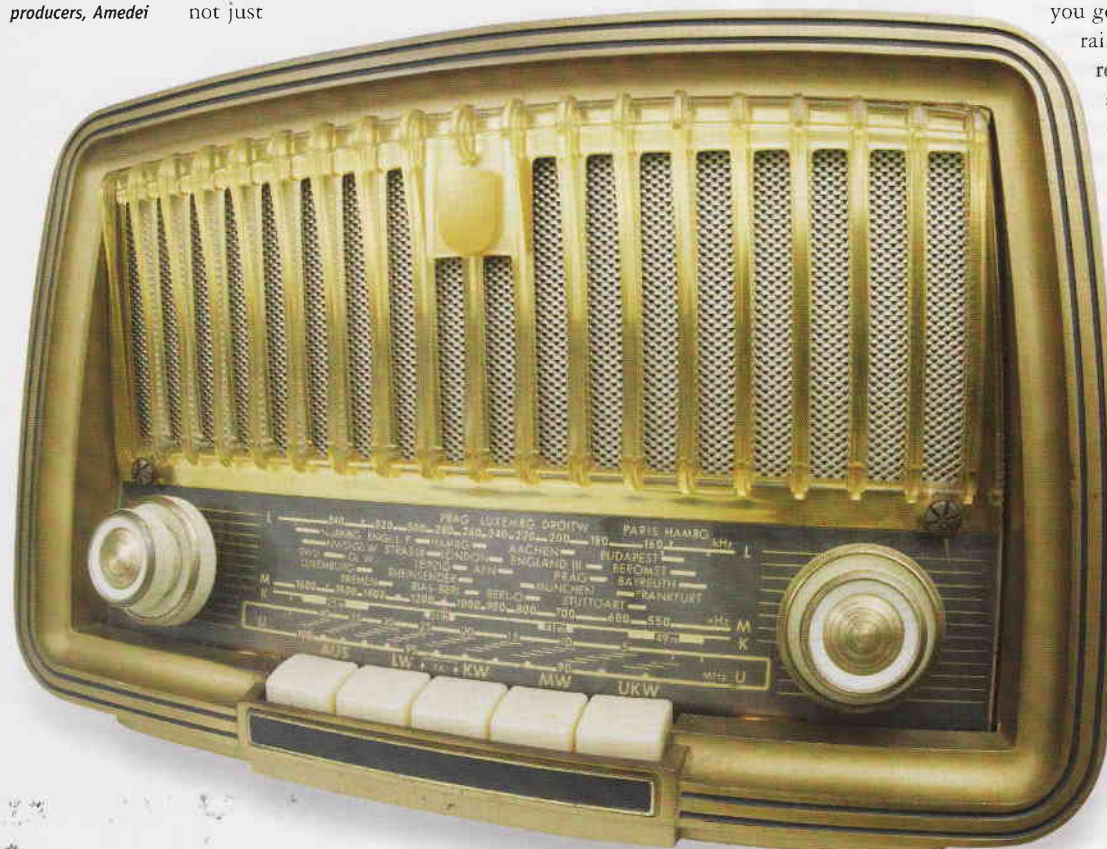
SURF THE AIRWAVES

Q *I have been learning Italian for a few years and would like to supplement my studies by listening to Italian radio broadcasts. I have been told that I would need a world radio capable of receiving shortwave bands. However, I do not know the names of any radio stations or the frequencies they broadcast on. Can you help me with any suggestions?*
John Walsh, email

A Listening to spoken Italian is one of the best ways to improve your language skills. I had a bit of a search around and I found these: a free online course run by Rai at www.italica.rai.it/lingua/corso.htm, which concentrates on situational dialogues and is a lot of fun, or if you already have a level of fluency, you can listen to news and current affairs programmes in Italian with Rai if you go to www.international.rai.it/engl/radio/. To listen to regional radio stations, there are plenty of options if you do a search online. For example, www.listenlive.eu/italy.html offers a comprehensive choice of local radio stations from all over Italy.
Francesca Unsworth, Travel editor, *Italia!* magazine

CHOC-TASTIC

Q *Being a confirmed chocoholic I enjoyed your first Italia! feature in issue 46, where you tested a variety of Italian chocolates. It seems that there's more to making a simple bar of chocolate than meets the eye. Can you explain a bit more about what 'beanito bar' chocolate is and why it is so valued?*
Mary Tyler, Swansea



THIS MONTH'S EXPERTS



SUZANNE CLAY is European business development manager, Barclays Buying Abroad, which operates a range of mortgage

services in Italy. For more details visit www.barclays.co.uk/buyingabroad/italy/buying/index.html



AMANDA ROBINSON, the editor of *Italia!*, has a wealth of experience in coping with preparing for and dealing with

travelling and holidaying abroad. Email Amanda at amanda.robinson@anthem-publishing.com with your queries.



STEFANIA RUSSO is director of The Property Organiser, a property-finding service for anywhere in Italy at no extra cost. It is also a one-stop

legal service. For further details visit www.propertyorganiser.co.uk, or ☎ 0870 411 0031



FRANCESCA UNSWORTH, *Italia!*'s travel editor, can offer you the best of advice on travelling just about anywhere in Italy, including

tips on the cheapest or most luxurious holidays. To get in touch email francesca.unsworth@anthem-publishing.com



PAUL PETTENGALE is the editor of our sister magazine for fans of all things delicious from Italy, *Taste Italia*. Formerly the editor of *Italia!*, he also writes our

regular wine feature, *Drink Italia!*. Go to www.tasteitaliamag.com or email paul.pettengale@anthem-publishing.com

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

For answers to all your queries, whether on buying property or travelling abroad with a pet, email our panel of experts at italia@anthem-publishing.com, or write to the usual address

MONEY IN THE BANK

Q *I am planning to move to Italy permanently and want to know what is the best way to go about getting an Italian bank account. Is there a minimum/maximum amount of money that foreigners can deposit in an Italian bank? Do they need special references from their UK bank? Do they need any other paperwork and, if so, do they need to get it translated? Can you answer any of my questions?*

Jenny Fuller, email

A If you become an Italian resident you will have no problem opening an Italian bank account. It is worth remembering, though, that not every Italian bank has English-speaking staff. If you remain non-resident, there are non-resident current accounts available in Italy. A minimum sum of money is not usually required to open a bank account. It can depend, though, on the

type of account you wish to open. It is not necessary to produce references. The only document necessary is the *codice fiscale* or fiscal ID number. This is obtained in Italy at the *agenzia delle entrate*, or, alternatively, is easily obtained quite easily from the nearest Italian consulate in the UK.

Suzanne Clay, Barclays Buying Abroad

HAVE PET WILL TRAVEL

Q *We are moving to Abruzzo and want to take our family pet with us. She is a gorgeous three-year-old golden retriever. How do we go about obtaining a pet passport – which I've often heard mentioned but don't really understand what it is – and is there anything else she needs. We've had all her vaccinations? Please help as we can't bear to leave without her!*

Todd Brody, Hereford

A According to the British Embassy in Rome, the following

If you want to travel abroad with your pet, make sure you get all the appropriate travel documentation

