

Elisabetta Scaramelli

presents

7 easy, but essential, expressions you need to know when you are in an Italian restaurant!

Cos'è...? /koz-eh/ This means “*what is ...?*”, followed by the strange word you just managed to read from the menu. You'll find it easy to grasp their explanation if you know in which section of the menu you are.

Grazie /grah-tzee-eh/ ‘*Thank you*’. In any culture, it is always an advantage to know your manners. Even if this is the only word you will ever know, ‘*grazie*’ will take you far.

Il conto, per favore /eel kontoh pehr fah-voh-reh/. ‘*The bill, please.*’ Unfortunately, it's time to ask for the bill and leave the restaurant.

Scusi, (cameriere) /skoozee kameh-ree-eh-reh/ ‘*Excuse me, (waiter)*’ This will attract the waiter's attention. You can simply reduce it to ‘**Scusi**’. And remember, if you are looked after by a waitress, then use **scusi, cameriera!** (*excuse me, waitress*)

Cosa mi consiglia? /kozah mee kon-see-llee-ah/ ‘*What do you recommend?*’ I personally like asking this questions in every restaurant I go. Your **cameriere** or **cameriera** will want to impress you, so they'll recommend the best. It never failed me, so ... it's here for you.

Da bere? /dah beh-reh/ ‘*To drink?*’ yes, you will be asked this question and it's pretty easy to remember, as it sounds a little like ‘*beer*’. Look for the menu section with **vini** (wines) or **bevande** (drinks).

Senza glutine/senza lattosio /sehn-zah gloo-tee-neh/ / sehn-zah lat-to-zee-o/
It's becoming more common to ask for food that is ‘*gluten-free*’ (senza glutine) or ‘*lactose-free*’ (senza lattosio). The opposite is **con glutine** (with gluten), **con lattosio** (with lactose).

Buon appetito! ‘*Enjoy your meal!*’

(To this, simply answer **grazie!**)

Hope you enjoyed this appetizer. But if you want to make the most out of this trip, check out the [Crash Course for travellers](#).