

Cinema Italiano brought to you by HOOPLA and Kanopy. Italy is famous for several things, including its art, fashion, opera, literature, food and of course, film. Here are my top ten picks available to you in a single click. *Divertiti!*

Bicycle Thieves (1948) A masterpiece in Italian Neorealism and on every Cinema Studies syllabus, the Oscar winning film, directed by Vittorio De Sica, defined an era in cinema. In poverty-stricken postwar Rome, a workingman's bicycle is stolen – he and his son set out to find it. Simple in construction, yet profoundly rich in human insight and brutal honesty – this one packs a punch. (K)

Cinema Paradiso (1988) An Oscar winner – the charming film tells the story of filmmaker as he recalls his childhood in a quaint Italian village, where he falls in love with cinema (and experiences first love) and forms a deep friendship with the cinema's projectionist. (H)

The Conformist (1970) Bernardo Bertolucci's masterpiece, adapted from the Alberto Moravia novel. In Mussolini's Italy, repressed, closeted homosexual, Marcello joins the Fascists in a desperate attempt to fit in. Not only a riveting political thriller and character study, the film boasts an authentic Art Deco look, perfect period costumes and breathtaking color cinematography. (K)

The Dinner (2014) Based on the best selling novel of the same name: an ordinary meal among family into a taut morality play as the limits of polite society are tested and two brothers discover just how little they know about each other. (H&K)

A Five Star Life (2013) Forty-something Irene has a dream job – a luxury hotel inspector whose work takes her across the globe; but does a dream job necessarily mean a dream life? It's the story of Irene's quest for personal and professional fulfillment set against some of the most stunning cities and opulent hotels in the world. (H&K)

La Strada (1954) There has never been a face quite like that of Giulietta Masina. Her husband, the legendary Federico Fellini, directs her in this film that launched them both to international stardom. Fellini's first Oscar winner, the film tells the story of a care-free girl who is sold to a traveling entertainer, consequently enduring physical and emotional pain along the way; A poetic fable of love and cruelty, evoking brilliant performances and winning the hearts of audiences and critics worldwide. (K)

Marriage Italian Style (1964) One of the most famous and funniest, Italian comedies of all time; directed by the legendary Vittorio De Sica and starring the Italian legends, Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni, this film doesn't disappoint.

Seven Beauties (1975) In 1930s Italy, Pasqualino, a low-level Sicilian thug, kills a man who disgraced his sister; he pleads insanity and manages to escape imprisonment by joining the military, but then decides to go AWOL when things get too heavy. Unfortunately, he soon finds himself stuck in a concentration camp and vows to do anything in order to survive -- even if that means seducing an obese, female German camp commandant or ratting out his own pals. (K)

Swept Away (1974) - Lina Wertmuller's most famous and controversial film about sex, love and politics. Set against the backdrop of the beautiful Mediterranean - on an elegant yacht cruising off the coast of Sardinia, Raffaella, a rich and stunning capitalist, enjoys tormenting Gennarino, a Communist sailor. Fate weaves a different scenario and roles become reversed when the two find themselves stranded together on a deserted island. [Note: not to be mistaken with the disastrous 2002 remake starring Madonna and directed by her then husband, Guy Ritchie] (K)

Wondrous Boccaccio (2015) Ten young adults flee plague-stricken Florence, sharing bawdy tales of love and destiny in this evocative take on The Decameron. From the legendary Taviani brothers, this story about storytelling is a paean to Italian history, art, and imagination. (H&K)