

# Italy

What are the effects of Italy's geographical location? Which regions have volcanoes and earthquakes?

What is an earthquake?

*Watch* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJpIU1rSOFY>

What is a volcano?

*Watch* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAmqsMQG3RM>

# Italy's geographical location

Italy sits on top of where two large tectonic plates. The Eurasian plate, in the north, covers all of Europe and most of Asia. The African plate to the south covers Africa all the way to Antarctica.

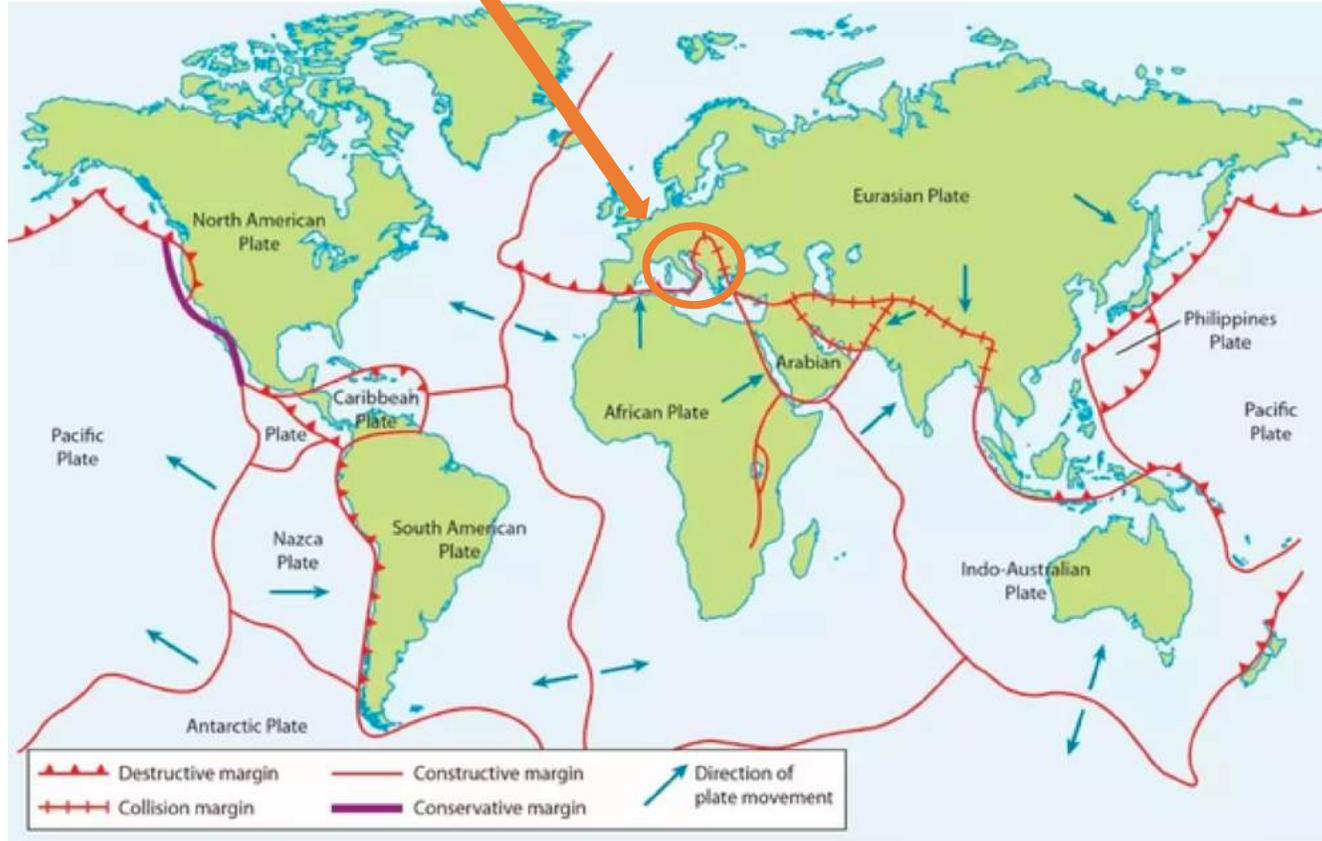
About 30 million years ago, the African plate bumped into the European one, and created the Alps. This movement hasn't stopped since. It's why the Alps keep growing every year: the plates keep pushing against one another and forcing the mountain peaks higher and higher. It's also the a main reason why large earthquakes are so common in Italy.

There's also a a smaller fault line (a break or fracture in the ground that occurs when the Earth's tectonic plates move or shift) along the Apennine range, which starts northwest in Liguria where the Alps end and runs in a column down the centre of the country for 1,200 km all the way to Calabria, in the very south.

These two fault lines put most of Italy at high risk of large seismic events, such as earthquakes and volcanoes.

# Tectonic Plates

Italy



# Where are the volcanoes in Italy?

Italy has three main hotspots for volcanoes: a chain of volcanoes in and around the Bay of Naples in Campania; another cluster in north-east Sicily; and a third near Pantelleria, the island between Sicily and Tunisia.

# Map showing the location of volcanoes in Italy



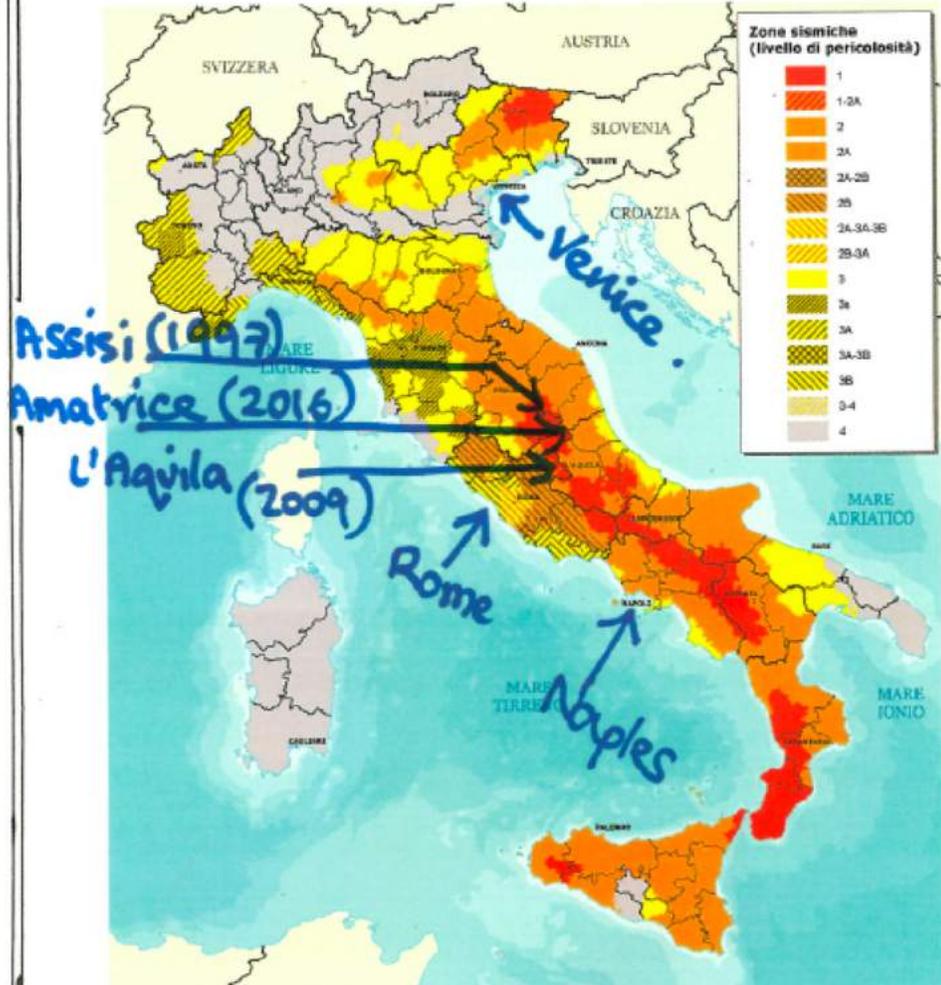
A volcano eruption in Italy

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2lKZh\\_Rw3M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2lKZh_Rw3M)

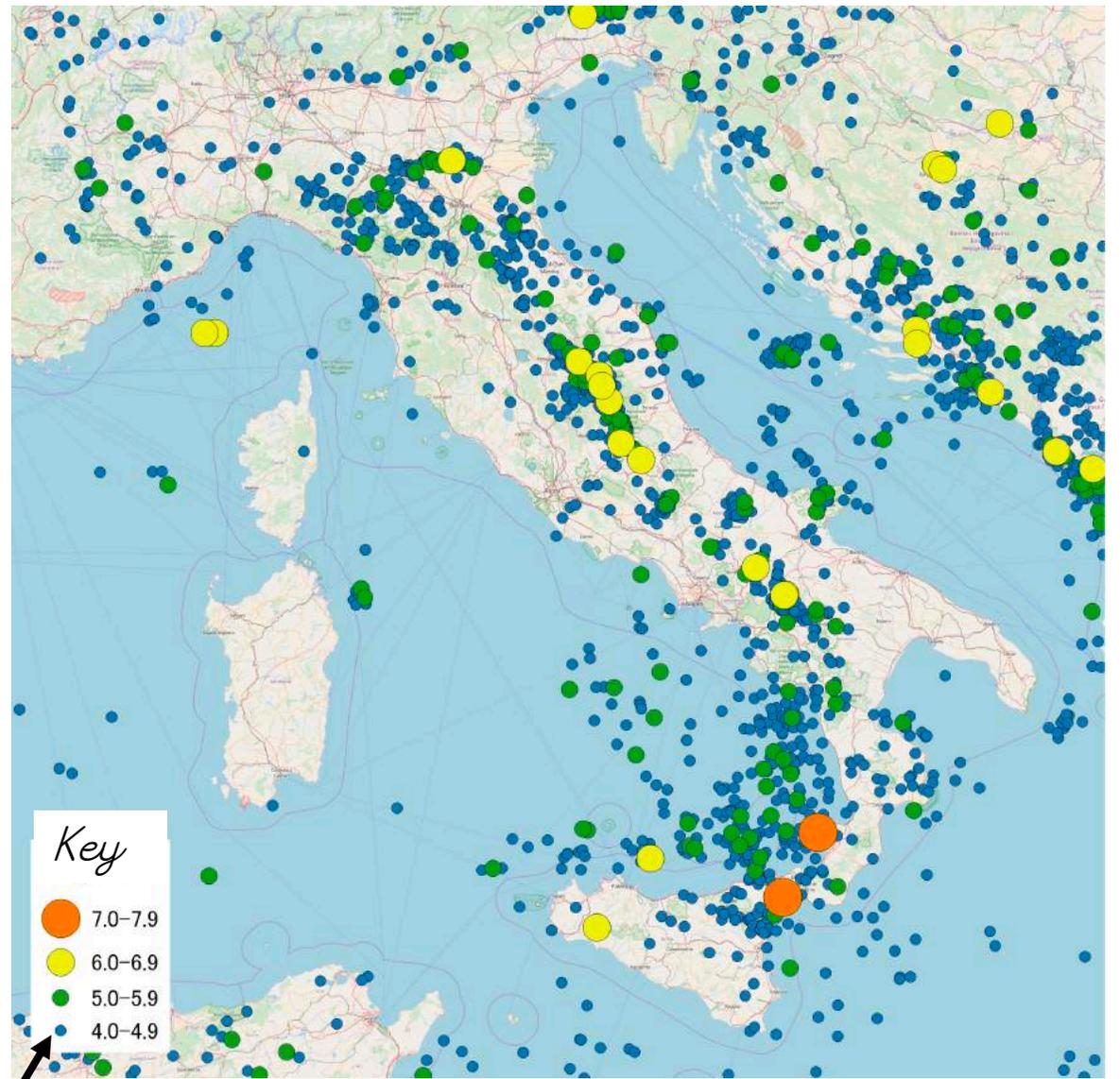
# Where are the earthquakes in Italy?

- Sardinia is the only part of Italy not affected by seismic events, according to Italy's Civil Protection Agency, however there are areas which have a lot higher risk than others. These include:
- Calabria and Sicily as well as some northern areas, like Friuli, part of Veneto and western Liguria.
- The Apennine mountain range is also well known as a seismic hotspot and has seen numerous earthquakes over the years - even though it isn't on a tectonic plate boundary.

# ITALY - seismic activity



Earthquakes regularly affect Central Italy



This is the Richter scale used to measure earthquakes. The higher the number, the worse the quake.

An earthquake in Italy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8VjK0VI4d0>