



## Beds, Breakfasts And Other Matters

Even in modern times the sanctity of the family permeates Italian life to the extent that, in hotels, a room called a *matrimoniale* is one with a double bed (i.e., a marriage bed), while a *doppia* has twin beds, presumably for the unhitched and chaste.

And what about those optional-at-extra-cost breakfasts? Unless otherwise noted, they're Italian breakfasts, which are seldom more than espresso and a sweet roll; even when bread and *marmellata* (which is jam, not marmalade) or a few other touches are provided, they're no bargain. Veteran travelers breakfast at the nearest *caffè bar* instead, saving money and rubbing elbows with the local population.

Hotels accept most major credit cards; most *affittacamere* accept cash only. To call Montalcino from the U.S., dial 011 (international code) followed by 39 (country code), 0577 (area code) before adding the local phone number. *Important:* a recent change in the Italian telephone system requires use of the "0" with the area code for both international and domestic calls.