

**Rome** (Italian and Latin: *Roma* ['roːma] listen<sup>ⓘ</sup>) is the capital city of Italy. It is also the capital of the Lazio region, the centre of the Metropolitan City of Rome, and a special *comune* named *Comune di Roma Capitale*. With 2,860,009 residents in 1,285 km<sup>2</sup> (496.1 sq mi),<sup>[2]</sup> Rome is the country's most populated *comune* and the third most populous city in the European Union by population within city limits. The Metropolitan City of Rome, with a population of 4,355,725 residents, is the most populous metropolitan city in Italy.<sup>[3]</sup> Its metropolitan area is the third-most populous within Italy.<sup>[4]</sup> Rome is located in the central-western portion of the Italian Peninsula, within Lazio (*Latium*), along the shores of the Tiber. Vatican City (the smallest country in the world)<sup>[5]</sup> is an independent country inside the city boundaries of Rome, the only existing example of a country within a city. Rome is often referred to as the City of Seven Hills due to its geographic location, and also as the "Eternal City".<sup>[6]</sup> Rome is generally considered to be the "cradle of Western civilization and Christian culture", and the centre of the Catholic Church.<sup>[7][8][9]</sup>