



# ITALY

## LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT



~ A DOCU-TRIP BY GUSTAV HOFER & LUCA RAGAZZI \*



HIQ PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A GUSTAV HOFER & LUCA RAGAZZI FILM, IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH NDR/ARTE, WDR AND RAI 3, WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MICHELE PARADISI, EDITOR DESIDERIA RAYNER, ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY SANTI PULVIRENTI,  
SOUND DESIGN SILVIA MORAES, MOTION GRAPHICS AND TITLES BY STUDIO TESLA  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VANIA DEL BORGO, WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY GUSTAV HOFER & LUCA RAGAZZI

[www.italyloveitorleave.it](http://www.italyloveitorleave.it)



[www.italyloveitorleave.it](http://www.italyloveitorleave.it)

## **Italy: Love it, or Leave it**

by *Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi*

*Luca and Gustav are two young Italians who over the past few years have witnessed the exodus of many of their friends to Berlin, London or Barcelona. Creative, talented people who don't see a future in their country. They're fed up with the high cost of living, the lack of job security, the feudal university system, the generally reactionary attitudes and indifference to human rights, the clear sense that you don't get anywhere just on merit. Tired of a country that appears to be mired in quicksand.*

*Gustav believes the time has come for them to go abroad too while Luca wants to convince him that there are many good reasons to stay, that Italy is full of passionate and committed people who every day carry on a silent battle to change things for the better.*

*They agree to give themselves 6 months to see if they can fall in love with their country again. They will go on a journey across their boot-shaped land in an old Fiat 500, in search of emblematic stories, anecdotes, people. A road trip to try and understand what's left of their country, to unravel why it appears to still have the power to make people abroad dream, to make sense of its celebrated past and uncertain future. They'll discover a country much divided, run through with contradictions, but on the edge of significant change.*

*After their acclaimed documentary "Suddenly Last Winter" (winner of the Nastro d'Argento in 2009 and of a Special Jury Mention at the Berlinale in 2008, and featured in 200 festivals worldwide) Luca and Gustav are back to take stock of today's Italy, with their signature irony and sarcasm.*



### **THE PROTAGONISTS**

*Gustav and Luca are both Italian, but Gustav comes from Alto Adige and his mother tongue is German. While in their previous film "Suddenly Last Winter" they delved into the dark side of their country, this time they try and understand its mysterious allure. Why do*

*foreigners love Italy while Italians, including Gustav and Luca, can hardly find a good thing to say about it? Gustav, a northerner, has a very pragmatic approach, with a strong political sensibility. Luca, a typical indolent Roman, is lazy, sarcastic, fatalistic. They compensate each other perfectly.*

### **DECLARATION OF THE AUTHORS**

*After the unexpected success of our first documentary "Suddenly Last Winter" (Special Jury Mention Berlinale 2008, Nastro d'Argento 2009 and featured in more than 200 festivals*



worldwide) we knew that if we were ever to make another film together it would have to be about something that touched us personally and that we felt was urgent. At the end of 2009, when we wrote a treatment to take part in the Documentary Campus Master School (a European programme for the development of documentaries which

selects 15 projects a year from anywhere around the world and provides training and guidance towards making the projects a reality) our starting point was what was happening in our lives at that moment: we were moving out of our flat in Rome and thinking seriously about going abroad as so many of our friends have in recent years. The reasons to leave Italy, especially for people of our generation, are many, and this isn't the place to go into them. But it's also true that we have a tendency in Italy to complain bitterly about our country without ever rolling up our sleeves and trying to do something about changing it. When we took our first film to festivals around the country, and were hosted by art house cinemas and cultural associations, libraries and civic organisations, we became aware of what appeared to be a hidden or unknown Italy, that doesn't emerge on television or in newspapers. It seems to us that this is the best Italy, made up of people who fight daily to make this country a better place, despite the political class that misgoverns it. We wanted to render it justice by giving at least a part of it the chance to express itself with its own voice.

### **The filmmakers**

**Gustav Hofer**, born in 09.05.1976 in Sarnthein (South Tyrol, Italy). After his studies in Communication Science at the University of Vienna and Cinema at the Middlesex University in London, he moved to Rome.

He works as a free-lance journalist and independent filmmaker. For the French-German television „Arte” he presents the program “Artejournal” and for the same program he works as correspondent from Italy.

**Filmography:** *Suddenly, Last Winter* ( 2008 – over 200 festivals and 20 awards) - *Men for all Seasons*, 2005 (50') *Korea Prioritaria*, 2002, (45')

**Luca Ragazzi**, born in 20.02.1971 in Rome, graduated in Literature and Philosophy at the University La Sapienza of Rome. Journalist, film critic and photographer. *Suddenly, Last Winter*” was his first Film as a director.

## **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

*Shooting format: HD CAM*

*Producers: hiq productions / florian films / NDR – arte / WDR / RAI 3 with the support of the MEDIA Programme of the European Union*

*Executive Producer: Vania Del Borgo*

*Photography: Michele Paradisi*

*Editor: Desideria Rayner*

*Original Music: Santi Pulvirenti*

*Sound design: Silvia Moraes*

*Narration: Frank Dabell*

*Graphic design and 2D animation: Studio Tesla, Zaelia Bishop, Andrea Cerini, Fernanda Veron*

*Duration: 75' or 52*

*sales: hiq-productions*

*[gustavhofer@gmail.com](mailto:gustavhofer@gmail.com)*

*+39-348 8800 967*