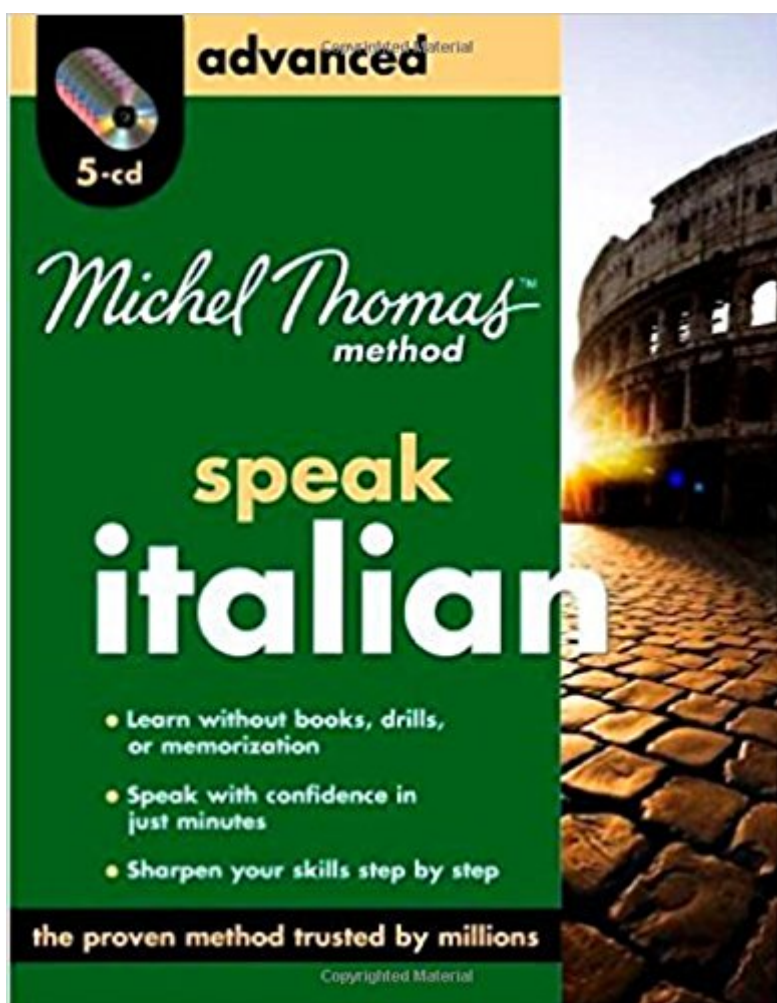




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Michel Thomas Method Italian Advanced, 5-CD Program (Michel Thomas Series)



Synopsis

Discover the language-learning method millions around the world have come to trust Unlike most language-learning systems, Michel Thomas Method Italian Advanced enables you to naturally and intuitively develop the building blocks for language comprehension. With this advanced course, you can strengthen your skills quickly and easily by listening, speaking, and thinking through Italian. Guided by a language instructor and native speakers, Michel Thomas Method Italian Advanced takes you through an interactive lesson with two other students. In less than five hours, you will have the ability to speak and understand advanced Italian confidently and easily.

Book Information

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Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Michel Thomas was head of the Michel Thomas Language Centers and taught languages for more than fifty years, primarily in New York, Beverly Hills, and London. Over a period of twenty-five years, he developed a unique and revolutionary learning system that made him the world's leading language teacher. He has taught celebrities, diplomats, dignitaries, academics, and business executives.

This course is relatively short compared to most Learn Italian levels. Because what he explains in the course is worth hours and hours and hours of time repeating phases other courses make you repeat with you understanding what is going on. If you prefer an iPod or mp3 version, I would recommend getting the audiobook version which helps you pick up exactly where you left off. This

will help in completing the course instead of hearing 1/2 hr or so until you realize that you've heard that part before. At first, it will take a while to get used to His accent and kind of quiet way of speaking, but your ear gets attuned to it quickly. I have tried other courses for years and this is the quickest progress I have been able to make. That is why I gave it 5 stars.

Although I am a big fan of Michel Thomas, there are unfortunately some errors in the Advanced Italian course that make it dangerous for people who seek to use the course to learn Italian. The first problem is that Michel Thomas' has a very heavy foreign accent in Italian, and since one of the most important ways to learn to speak a foreign language correctly is to imitate carefully the exact pronunciation of a native speaker, it can be downright counterproductive for a learner with a keen ear to be influenced by Thomas' poor pronunciation. However, this is not where the real danger lies. Thomas appears to have overlooked an important point of Italian grammar, one where it differs from French and German. Specifically, the verb "dovere" (to have to, must) uses the auxiliary "essere" (and not "avere") when the infinitive following dovere is conjugated with "essere." For example, they should have gone is not "avrebbero dovuto venire" (which is what Thomas teaches on this CD), but "sarebbero dovuti partire" (because 'partire' is conjugated with 'essere' rather than 'avere'). This is a point where Italian differs from French and German, i.e., in French you do say "ils auraient dû partir" (even though "partir" is conjugated with "être" in French) and German "sie hätten gehen sollen", and presumably Thomas erroneously assumed that Italian worked the same way. This strikes me as inexcusable, and it should be corrected in future releases of this CD course.

My wife & I tried Rosetta Stone & Tell me more Italian and made no headway at all. After spending hundreds of dollars on those programs we spent \$50 and tried Michel Thomas's 10 CD course for beginners. I couldn't believe it, but we were up and speaking some basic Italian in just a few weeks. I mean it! His approach to teaching really shows you the structure of the language and how to put the words together to make sentences. We just finished the basic course and are awaiting arrival of the advanced course.

I have only listened to the first CD, but I am already quite disappointed by this product. The product claims to be "advanced" Italian, designed for someone who is already past the beginner stage, but that is a stretch. Evidently, the people who recorded the CD assumed that an advanced Italian student wouldn't know the word "tu," because that is the first lesson on the disc. They also spend a

long time discussing present indicative plural verb endings (iamo, ate, ano, etc.), which any Italian student learns by the third or fourth week of class. Another problem is the format and narration. It is designed to sound as if they simply recorded a class with two somewhat dim-witted students who make plenty of annoying mistakes. I think this is meant to be reassuring to the learner, but I found it distracting. The teacher is not Italian, he spends way too much time speaking English (another reason this is not appropriate for an advanced student), he has a thick (non-Italian) accent, and he tends to mumble, which makes him difficult to understand. Finally, he has an odd way of explaining things that is at odds with the way I was always taught in my beginner classes. His explanation of verb endings is quite convoluted, and if I hadn't already known them I would've been confused.

In a league of its own compared to traditional language instruction, cannot recommend enough.

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