

Protect the rite of espresso, Italy urges Unesco

Italy

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Italy is seeking recognition from Unesco for its daily ritual of drinking espresso up and down the country.

The population of 59 million consumes 30 million espressos a day, a rite that helps kick-start the morning and lubricates the rest of the day with moments of conviviality, according to fans.

On national espresso day last week signatures were gathered in support of the bid, and tomorrow the country's Unesco commission will decide whether to submit the application to the headquarters of the United Nations Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation in Paris.

"People talk about politics and sport over coffee in the bar in the morning," said Sergio Paolantoni, president of Rome's bar operators. "It's not just a habit of consumption but a cultural phenomenon, a daily rite that is appreciated as an expression of our lifestyle."

Gianmarco Centinaio, deputy agriculture minister, described the ritual as "an integral part of our national identity", that united north and south.

If approved by Unesco, espresso would join around a dozen Italian cultural practices on the organisation's cultural heritage list, alongside pizzas, puppet theatre and truffle hunting.



Proteggiamo il rito dell'espresso, l'Italia esorta l'Unesco

