

## ***Mona Lisa***

Italian: *La Gioconda*, French: *La Joconde*



<b>Artist</b>	<a href="#">Leonardo da Vinci</a>
<b>Year</b>	c. 1503–1519
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Oil on poplar</a>
<b>Dimensions</b>	77 cm × 53 cm (30 in × 21 in)
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Musée du Louvre, Paris</a>

***Mona Lisa*** (also known as ***La Gioconda*** or ***La Joconde***) is a 16th-century [portrait painted](#) in [oil](#) by

Leonardo da Vinci during the Renaissance in Florence, Italy. Many people think Mona Lisa's smile is mysterious.<sup>[1]</sup> It is so often studied, recognized, and copied that it is the most famous painting in the world.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> The Louvre says that about 80 percent of its visitors come to see the painting of Mona Lisa.<sup>[4]</sup>

The painting is owned by the Government of France and is shown at the Musée du Louvre in Paris under the title *Portrait of Lisa Gherardini, wife of Francesco del Giocondo*.<sup>[5]</sup>

Giorgio Vasari, who was Leonardo's first biographer (a person who writes about the life of another person), thought the painting was of a person named Lisa Gherardini. Speculation over the painting's model was solved in 2008 by Dr Armin Schlechter, a manuscript expert. Notes discovered in Heidelberg University Library which were written by Agostino Vespucci, a Florentine city official, reinforced Vasari's earlier identification of the model. Lisa was the wife of Francesco del Giocondo a rich silk merchant, who lived in Florence.



Perhaps Mona Lisa (1499-1500)

Although the sitter has traditionally been identified as Lisa del Giocondo, a lack of definitive evidence has long fueled alternative theories, including Leonardo's mother Caterina in a distant memory as the painting's subject<sup>[6]</sup> and the possibility that Leonardo used his own likeness.

Leonardo began painting the *Mona Lisa* in 1503 or 1504 in [Florence, Italy](#).<sup>[7]</sup> According to Da Vinci's contemporary, [Giorgio Vasari](#), "...after he had lingered over it four years, left it unfinished...". The painting was brought to [France](#) by Leonardo in [1516](#) and it was bought by [Francis I of France](#).

The *Mona Lisa* used to hang in the [Chateau Fontainebleau](#) and was then moved to the [Palace of](#)