

The Italian Game

Chess

The classical opening, and the ideas behind each move.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 — the oldest recorded opening still in regular play.

1

1.e4 e5

Both stake a claim in the centre.

2

2.Nf3

Develops and attacks e5. A threat and a developing move at once.

3

2...Nc6

Defends the pawn and develops.

4

3.Bc4

The bishop eyes f7 — the weakest square in Black's position.

5

3...Bc5 or Nf6

Giuoco Piano, or the sharper Two Knights Defence.

KEY IDEAS

Pressure on f7

c3 and d4 to build a big centre

Castle early

Avoid the premature Ng5 attack

The Fried Liver — 4.Ng5 against the Two Knights — is dangerous but unsound with best defence. Know it from both sides.