Italian - Definition of native and heritage speakers

Native Speaker
Expanded and adapted from: http://english.stackexchange.com/questions/14582/meaning-of-native-speaker-of-english
Native speaker of Italian refers to someone who has learned and used Italian from early childhood. Italian does not have to be the speaker's only language, but the term implies that Italian is and has been a principal means of concept formation and communication. It means having lived in a truly Italian-speaking culture during one's formative years, so that English has been absorbed effortlessly as by osmosis.

Also based on: https://www.alsintl.com/blog/language-proficiency/
The term native speaker is equal to that of “mother tongue,” and it is generally safe to use these two terms interchangeably. A native speaker's language is his first language. This usually means that it dominated his youth and is therefore the language he does his thinking in. A native speaker is more than fluent — he correctly and easily uses his first language.

Addenda: A person who was not born and raised in Italy but who speaks fluent Italian from birth - such as the child of contemporary Italian immigrants living abroad where Italian is primarily spoken in the household- and who can therefore say that Italian is their "mother-tongue" can also be considered native-speakers.

Heritage Speaker
Expanded and adapted from: http://www.cal.org/heritage/pdfs/briefs/Who-is-a-Heritage-Language-Learner.pdf
Original definition by Guadalupe Valdés, reprinted in above article

“heritage language learner” is used to describe a person studying a language who has varied levels of proficiency in or a cultural connection to that language. However, just as there are different kinds of heritage languages (see What is a Heritage Language?), there are different types of heritage language learners. Some students will have a connection to the language of study through their family or schooling and some proficiency in it. These students are also heritage language learners.

Foreign language educators use the term [heritage language learners] to refer to a language student who is raised in a home where a non-English language is spoken, who speaks or at least understands the language, and who is to some degree bilingual in that language and in English (Valdés, 2000a, 2000b). For these educators, the heritage language student is also different in important ways from the traditional foreign language student. This difference, however, has to do with developed functional proficiencies in the heritage languages (Valdés, 2001, p. 38).

Addenda: With reference to foreign languages other than English (and not referring to the Native American community), specifically Italian, a heritage language learner will have had some continuous contact with Italian or have learned it at an international school offering offering dual diplomas or the advanced placement exam. These speakers do not necessarily have to be of more or less distant Italian origin, however they usually are.

Other sources
Also based on: "3.1. Native and non-native" in: http://www.sensiblemarks.info/native.html (I very much agree)
Also based on: https://www.alsintl.com/blog/language-proficiency/