

# *St. Francis Students Visiting Bella Italia*

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This past summer I traveled to Italy for 5 weeks. I began my experience in Rome, where I stayed for 5 days. Rome displayed some of the most breathtaking sights because of the size and age of their existence. Some of these sights included: The Coliseum, The Palatine, The Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Trevi Fountains, Spanish Steps, Castel San Angelo, and the Pantheon. From Rome I took an express train to Florence.

I stayed in Florence for four weeks where I studied at the school Lorenzo de' Medici. I took a super intensive Italian language class, which I attended five days a week three and a half hours a day. I lived with four other students in a Florentine apartment. Everyday on my way to school I walked over the Ponte Vecchio, through Piazza Signoria, and past the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. Every evening around five you can listen to an authentic Gregorian chant.

On the weekends I visited Verona, Mantova, Lake Garda, Siena, San Gimignano, Venice and the islands off of Venice, Murano, Burano, and Torcello. In the famous Arena in Verona I saw the Opera "Il Travatore" by Giuseppe Verdi.

In Venice I saw a beautiful fire work show in Piazza San Marco. On the island of Murano a master glass artisan demonstrated how Venetian glass is made.





