

Dispatches from Italy: The End

June 25, 2015

By John Miller

"A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it." – George A. Moore

Wow, my time in Italy is almost over. I fly out tomorrow (Friday) and, with any luck, I'll be landing in Syracuse around midnight that night. It seemed like this day would never come but here it is. Italy has really taught me a lot about myself (I know it's such a huge cliché but it's true). Like a lot of SUNY Broome students, I still live at home. This trip has certainly taught me how to take care of myself as well as what I need to do in order to succeed. So, to put my thoughts in a somewhat coherent manner, I've conducted a little interview with myself.



The Arno river in Florence

Wow that beard certainly looks good. So, how long have you been abroad?

Oh, why thank you. I left home on May 27 which makes this day 29.



What are some of the most memorable moments of the trip?

I had an excellent time in Nice and the south of France; it's truly a wonderful place. Saint Paul de Vance was simply incredible. And driving that Ferrari will probably stay with me for a while.



Any from Florence?

Oh yes, I don't think I'll ever forget the vistas. The views here are breathtaking no matter where you look. Between the green hills and the beautiful buildings it is, as I've said before, just like a fairytale landscape. I'll always remember seeing some of the most famous works of art in the world. And getting hit by a car. It's tough to forget that.

Monte Carlo

What were the least memorable or disappointing moments?

Nothing bad happened to me (knock on wood). I didn't get robbed, kidnapped or arrested, so my trip went pretty smoothly. As I wrote above, this was my first time living away from home, so that brought its own challenges, the most difficult of which was being away from loved ones for so long. But isn't that why we travel? So we can return home and look upon it and ourselves in a new light? Oh, and I've found anchovies to be terrible. They're so salty and bitter it's frankly offensive.

The beach in Nice

Are you sad to leave?

Not at all. I have a lot to go home to and I'm very excited to set foot on American soil again.

Would you do it again?

Not under these same circumstances. A month in an Italian city is a lot. I will definitely continue to travel in the

future, but I think I'd like to bring someone along to keep me company. After all, Ernest Hemmingway said, "Never travel with anyone you don't love." And my bike...definitely my bike.

Do you have any final thoughts on the school, Lorenzo de Medici Institute, or your class?

I have no complaints about the school; the faculty I spoke with were all very helpful. My professor was very passionate and intelligent. However, his class was rough. I found the lectures to be very boring and the homework considerable. I mean, we're a bunch of American students in Italy for a month; do we really need a seven-page paper and a two-hour long final exam? But if you like sculptures or architecture, I'd recommend this class to you. Or if you're looking for a completely different way to spend your summer, I'd recommend this program to you; sure, the price tag may be a little hefty, but you'll never forget your time in Florence.

Do you have any tips for future students or things you wish you'd known before you left?

It's very safe here; you've got nothing to worry about. I didn't find the locals to be particularly friendly, but you might have a different experience...especially if you're a girl. Based on what I've seen through June, the weather here is beautiful (read: very hot and sunny). So don't waste precious suitcase space with rain coats or warm clothing. Trust me, you won't need it. Also you don't need a hat or, unless you have very fair skin, sunscreen. Travel as much as you want to. Who knows when you'll be Europe next? Don't use the Florence airport for weekend travel; it's stupidly expensive. But I would certainly recommend it for when you arrive and depart; it'll make your life immeasurably easier. I know a lot of students are staying after the semester ends, maybe a week or two, and if you're going to do that, make sure you have a plan. Two of my roommates are doing that and they don't know what to do with themselves.

Do you expect any culture shock going home?

None. I really can't wait to be home.

But are you glad you did it?

Yes. 100% satisfied.

John Miller is a SUNY Broome student. Follow him on Instagram as [john_nicholas_miller](#) for photos from his Study Abroad experience.

Filed Under: [Uncategorized](#)

