



SU ABROAD:
FLORENCE, ITALY
FALL 2024

EATS

FAVORITE SPOTS

TRAVEL

florence

Ananya Sayekumar





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INTRODUCTION

Hi, I'm Ananya and I studied abroad in Florence, Italy through Syracuse University's abroad program in Fall of 2024! My time there was unforgettable and I'm happy to share with you a recollection of my memories from my time there as well as a guide on my favorite places I went to while in Italy.

I decided to study abroad in Florence for a couple reasons. I did the Florence studio arts program where I got to take different studio classes such as fashion photography and drawing which ended up becoming some of my favorite classes I've taken so far during my time at Syracuse. Florence was also one of my dream vacation spots for the longest time and I love Italian food so this was a perfect place for me. Lastly, I liked that Syracuse had its own campus there.

I loved the independence I had while abroad and the opportunity to travel not only within Italy but also to other countries. This was such an incredible experience and I encourage everyone to study abroad if they have the opportunity!

Ananya Sayekumar



HOME BASE: FLORENCE, ITALY





I studied abroad in Florence, Italy during the Fall 2024 semester through the Syracuse University Florence Program. It was truly an unforgettable time filled with getting to explore so many new cities, try new foods, and discover many different cultures. I stayed in Florence for four months, from September to December, and had the opportunity to travel to over 25 different cities.

I'm going to be highlighting more about my favorite eats and sites in Florence.

Osteria Pastella

FLORENCE: BEST EATS

While I visited other cities in Italy, my favorite places to eat all came back to Florence. My most favorite restaurant was Osteria Pastella which is located in Via della Scala. During my semester abroad, I went here three times, and would have gone more if it weren't for its steep price point. Their most popular dish is the "Tagliatelle flambé al tartufo fresco in crosta di Grana Padano" which translates to "Flambé tagliatelle with fresh truffle in Grana Padano cheese wheel." This dish costs twenty eight euros, but is worth every buck spent. The whole dining process is an experience and it begins outside the restaurant. They are always booked out, so I highly recommend getting a reservation. With a reservation, they still have a reservation line, however this is much shorter and you will get seated relatively fast depending on the day. While waiting they serve you a glass of Prosecco, and once seated they serve you complementary fried cheese balls. I ordered their truffle cheese wheel pasta of course, and the dining experience was a 10/10. The servers roll a cart to your table, where they make the truffle cheese wheel pasta right in front of you. I also ordered their house white wine. To end the night, I ordered their signature tiramisu, and it was one of the best desserts I had during my time abroad. At the end of your meal, they also serve you a complimentary limonchello to help with digestion.

Some of my other favorites I had abroad was gelato of course. My top two places were Gelateria De' Medici, and Gelateria Badiani.

I'm going to give a quick bullet pointed list of other restaurants and cafes that I loved while I was in Florence, both a mix of Italian and International cuisines.

- Gusta Pizza*
- Gusta Osteria
- Satori
- Trattoria Zà Zà*
- Shake Cafe
- Brunch Republic
- 1950s American Diner
- Vivoli Gelateria*
- Trattoria I3 Gobbi
- All'Antico Vinaio
- Mama's Bakery
- Trattoria Garga*

Those marked with an asterisk are my must gos.



FLORENCE: BEST BARS AND WINERIES

I'm once again going to give you a bulleted list, including Enotecas (wine bars), and vineyard recommendations and my most favorite wine I had is listed at the end!

When in Florence, I highly recommend visiting a winery or going on a wine tour, if you're a wine lover.

Vineyards:

- Tenuta Torciano Winery in San Gimignano*
- Malenchini Wine Estate

Enotecas:

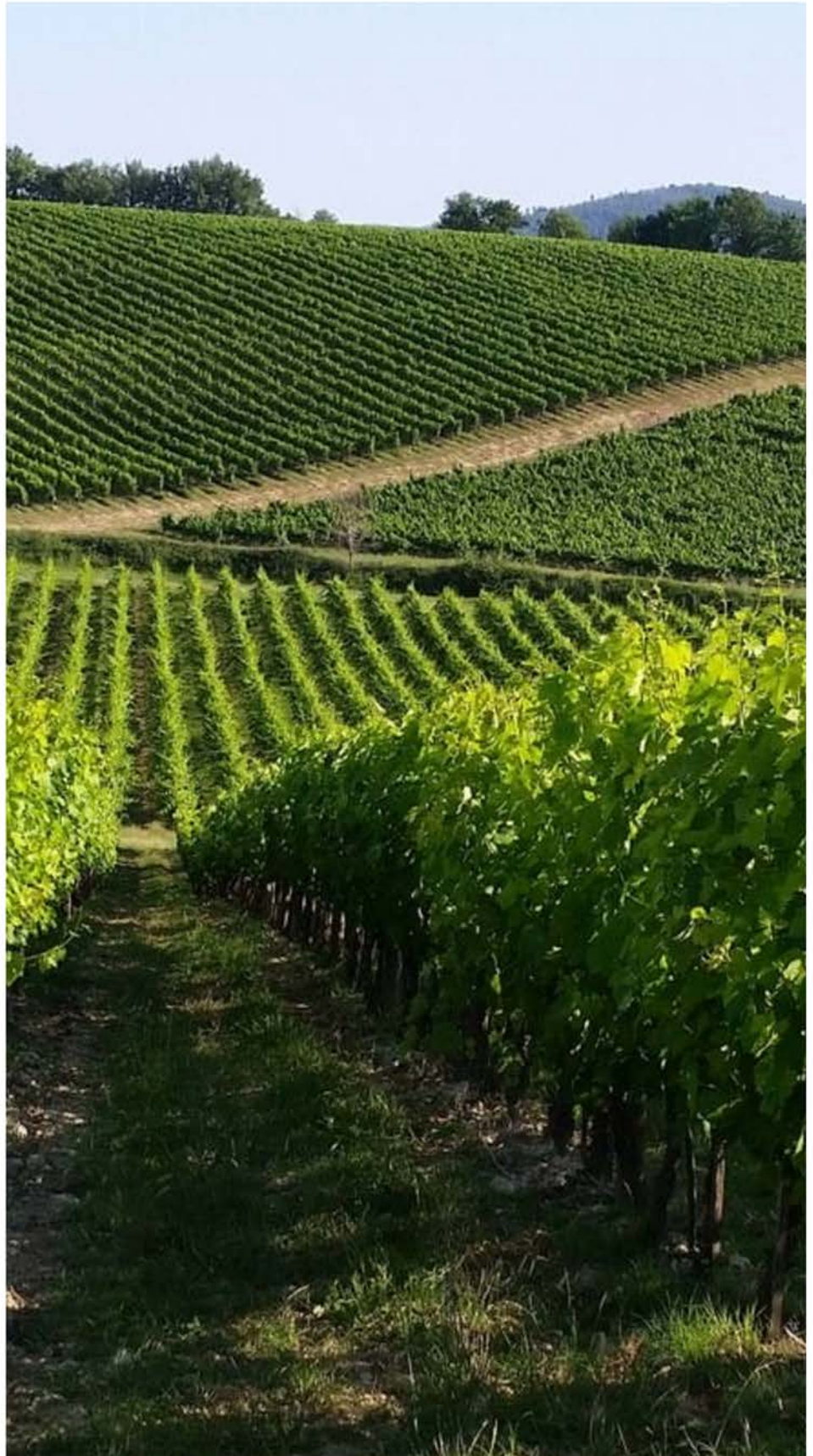
- Flli Zanobini
- Signorvino
- Tuscan Taste*

Bars:

- The Lion's Fountain Irish Pub
- Reverse (best for study abroad)
- Ristorante Pizzeria Dante (unlimited bottomless wine for students)
- Red Garter*
- Kikuya Pub

My favorite wine is the 2023 Vernaccia di San Gimignano Poggiaicieli

Those marked with an asterisk are my must gos.



COURTESY OF TENUTA TORCIANO



FLORENCE: BEST PLACES TO VISIT



PICTURED: THE DUOMO



FLORENCE: MUST VISIT PLACES



PICTURED: PALAZZO PITTÌ

Of course, there's the obvious spots to visit when going to Florence. This would include the Duomo, the Uffizi, and the Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze. To not visit these places when in Florence would make me ask you a lot of questions. My most favorite spots other than what I just mentioned, includes the Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Pitti and the Medici Chapel.

If you're into fashion and design, then I highly encourage you to visit the Gucci Garden and the Ferragamo Museum. As a fashion enthusiast myself, these two spots were on my Florence bucket list, and it was one hundred percent worth the visit.

Another activity I did was take a pasta making class. We did our class with Pasta Class Florence, and they were amazing.

I'm going to list off other spots in Florence that you should definitely visit if you have the time, including sites and shops.

I found myself shopping for a lot of jewelry and clothes during my time in Florence. For example, something I bought was the Florentine Puzzle Ring, which a ring that falls apart when taken off and needs to be put back together like a "puzzle" to wear it again. I recommend researching the history behind the ring because it's quite interesting.

Places:

- Boboli Gardens
- Santo Spirito Markets
- Basilica of Santa Croce
- Piazza Santa Croce Christmas Market
- Piazzale Michelangelo
- Piazza della Repubblica

Shops:

- Marlù Jewelry
- Giuliano Ricchi Jewelry
- Nomination Italy
- Humana Vintage
- Humana People
- Melrose Vintage
- Terranova
- Leonardo Leather & Gold (Florentine Puzzle Ring)



ITALY: ROME, AMALFI, NAPLES, TRIESTE, VENICE, AND MORE

While studying abroad, traveling was a must for me. I wanted to take complete advantage of living in Florence to explore different cities and countries as much as possible, and that started with exploring Italy. My favorite place overall in Italy was the Amalfi Coast. I believe it is truly worth the hype, and I could see myself visiting here time and time again. Laying on the beach while sipping on a Limoncello Spritz in Positano was just magical. Moving onwards from the Amalfi Coast, a close second was Rome.

I got incredibly lucky and got to attend the Rome Film Festival which is an international film festival where I had the opportunity to watch two film screenings. The first screening we watched was *The Dead Don't Hurt* which was written, directed, and starred in by Viggo Mortensen, who was at the screening with us. The second film we watched was *Querido Trópico*, which was a more recently released film.

I also got to see many stars walk the red carpet and it was overall such a surreal experience.

Moving forward, I'll quickly highlight some of my favorite things I did at the other cities I visited:

- Got to see how the traditional Cameo pendants were made in Naples, and visited the Pompeii ruins.
- Drank Prosecco in Prosecco (Trieste)
- Rode in a gondola in Venice
- Went on a party boat in Capri
- Went inside the Grotta Gigante





When I was abroad, I got to meet the most incredible people. Many who are now some of my best friends. When I was first considering the idea of going abroad, I was super hesitant and didn't know if it was the right decision for me. But ever since being back, I know now that not going would have become my biggest regret. So if you're hesitant on whether or not you should study abroad or just travel to Europe in general, I couldn't emphasize going there more.

What I will say though on the same note of regrets and travels, if you get the opportunity to visit the Dolomites I say just do it. Unfortunately I didn't have the time to make it a reality, but trust me when I say you'll find me there sometime in the next couple of years.









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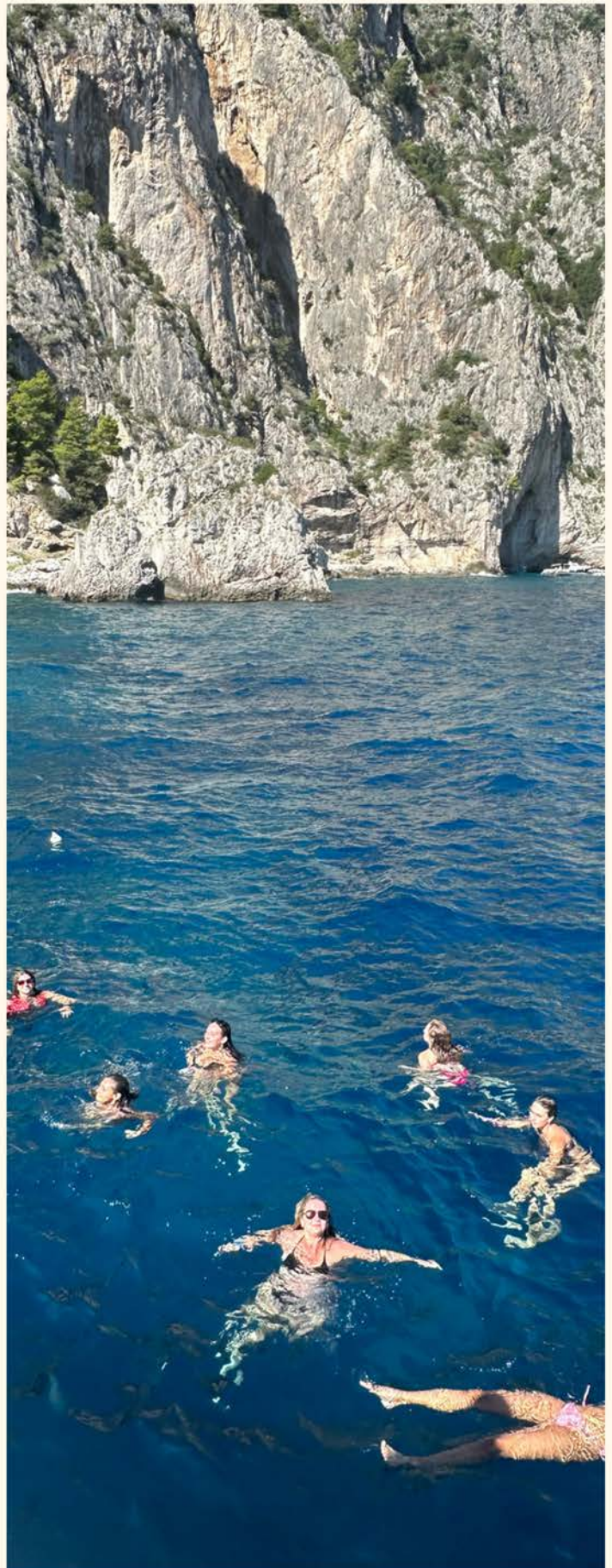
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