



5 *Italian Words* I'LL NEVER FORGET

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CIAO, SONO *Jacquelyn*

Hi, my name is Jacquelyn! Last semester, Spring 2025, I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Florence, Italy at the Syracuse University Florence Center.

While living and studying abroad, I had the opportunity to deeply immerse myself in Italian and Florentine culture, which included learning the Italian language (shoutout ITA 101)!

Coming from speaking Italian on a daily basis to hardly speaking it all back home, I'll admit that there's been some significant language loss. But, here are 5 Italian words that I will *never* forget!

CIAO

hello, goodbye



While it's silly to think that anyone could forget how to say "hello" in the language they spoke for nearly straight, "Ciao" will always resonate with me because it speaks to the kindness and community-oriented culture in Florence. Whether it preceded a request for directions, or a quick acknowledgment of someone passing by, I almost always found that a quick and cute little "hello" went a long way.

Equally as fascinating to me was the fact that "Ciao" means both "hello" and "goodbye"; it was almost as if leaving Florence at the end of the semester wasn't truly a goodbye.

GRAZIE

thank you

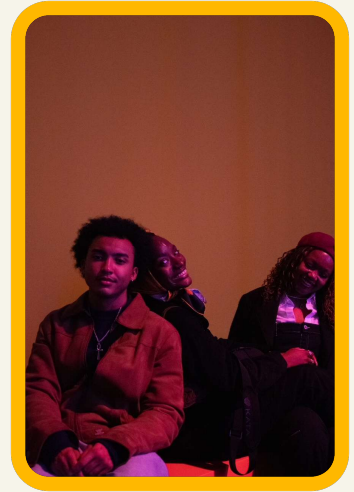


"Grazie" was one of the first words that my roommate and I learned when we finally arrived in Florence. When Italian lessons began, it was also the first word that I learned I had been pronouncing incorrectly. "Grazie" in the Italian language, each and every letter that appears in the word gets pronounced.

While the word taught me a lot about the conventions of the Italian language, it also taught me the value of being lucky I am to have been able to say "thank you" so often during my study abroad experience. Even now, I spend time in Florence with an immense amount of gratitude, and so much of that is owed to the word "Grazie".

CUGINI

cousins



"Cugini" was, and still is, such an important word to my study abroad experience. I came to Florence with no connections. A lot of students are lucky enough to study abroad with a large group of friends; this was not the case for me though.

Studying abroad brought me to a new group of friends that I clicked with almost instantly. I remember not knowing each other for so long within weeks of the semester starting. And so, they became much more than just friends; they were my cugini. I am so grateful that Florence brought me such amazing new connections.

RAGAZZI

youth, children

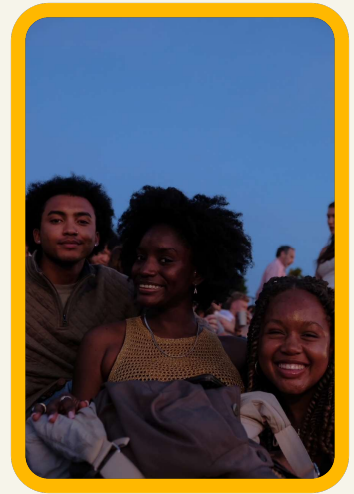


"Ragazzi" has a few meanings depending on the context, but I will forever associate it as the way that Florence professor, Simone, addressed us as a class. I even read the word in his voice, which was always full of life.

"Ragazzi" can probably best be translated to mean "children" or "young people". For me? It was almost endearment, like a way of showing that he cared for us as students. And for that, I will never forget it.

PIAZZA

town square



As part of our "Mapping Italy" course at SU Florence, we learned about the historical and cultural significance of the piazza, which is a town square or plaza. The idea of the piazza was specifically created to foster community and to make sure that no one ever felt alone.

Some of the piazzas that became my favorites over the course of the semester were Piazza Santa Maria del Santo Spirito, Piazzale Michelangelo and Piazza del Duomo. Being so far from home and what I considered home, I always appreciated that Florence's piazzas would always be there to make me feel more at home.

