

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDY ABROAD CONSORTIUM

NEWSLETTER

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Ciao from Florence!

As we move into spring, students have been soaking up all that Florence and Italy have to offer —from cultural outings and scenic day trips to hands-on experiences that bring their studies to life.

Over the past week, they've explored the roots of Italian fashion with a lecture for ILC and a visit to Leonardo Gold & Leather, toured the historic newsroom of La Nazione with Professor Brian, and shared dinner and conversation with local Italians for a night of cultural exchange. Some enjoyed a beautiful day in Chianti, complete with wine, cheese, and a traditional Italian lunch, while others ventured off to the colorful coastal towns of Cinque Terre.

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ITALIAN LIFE & CULTURE LECTURE

Last Tuesday, students attended a lecture with Emily Maloney on the history of Italy's iconic fashion industry and the significance of "Made in Italy."

Then on Thursday, they visited Leonardo Gold & Leather here in Florence, where they heard a brief presentation on leather and had the chance to ask questions. Afterward, they were free to browse—getting familiar with real Italian leather is key while living here.



LA NAZIONE

Last Tuesday, Professor Brian took his Journalism 5 class to La Nazione, a daily newspaper based in Florence. Founded in 1859 during the time of Italian unification, it's one of the oldest newspapers in the country. La Nazione was originally created to support the idea of a unified Italy—which is how it got its name, meaning "The Nation."

DINNER WITH ITALIANS

Last Wednesday, students had the opportunity to share dinner with local Italians! It was a fun evening of language exchange, cultural connection, and storytelling. A great chance for students to build meaningful connections with the local community.



CHIANTI DAYTRIP 1

Last Friday, the first group of students traveled to Chianti by private bus to visit two local wineries. The day included a cheese tasting, a three-course Italian lunch, and—of course—wine! It's always a favorite day trip, and they lucked out with beautiful weather.



CINQUE TERRE

This past Saturday, AIFS staff took a group of students to Cinque Terre—the stunning “Five Lands” along Italy’s northwestern coast.

Students were free to explore all five villages, connected by scenic hiking trails and trains. With a 24-hour unlimited train pass, they could travel between the towns at their own pace. Some students stayed for the weekend, while others returned to Florence with the AIFS group.

PLANS FOR THIS WEEK...

Students are staying busy this week with a long Easter weekend ahead and the end of the semester in sight!

On the calendar: an ILC lecture on Cinema, an Easter Egg Hunt in the study center, an Opera night, film screenings as part of the ILC activities, and the second Chianti Daytrip.

Even with the full schedule, students have really settled into their routine here in Florence.

We'll catch up again next week!

