

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDY ABROAD CONSORTIUM

## NEWSLETTER

Vol: 7

Florence, Italy  
2 April 2025



### THE PAST FEW WEEKS...

We're back! After a well-deserved Spring Break, students have returned feeling refreshed and inspired—ready to take on the second half of the semester. They've been engaging deeply both in and out of the classroom, making the most of their time abroad. It's been a whirlwind of a week, and we're excited to share all the incredible experiences they've had!

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## ACADEMIC VISITS

Last Monday, students from the English 110 course with Prof. Evan visited the synagogue in Florence. During a guided tour, they had the opportunity to learn about the rich history of Florence's Jewish community.

Last Wednesday, students in the Art courses with Prof. Hopi, visited the Bargello Museum in Florence, having the opportunity to experience the Renaissance sculpture and decorative arts that are presented.

On Monday afternoon, students carefully walked their clay projects to an art studio near by to have them fired!



## ITALIAN LIFE & CULTURE

Last week, the lecture for Italian Life & Culture (ILC) was focused on Italian politics. This then brought students, in small groups to the Museum of Innocents - a unique museum housed in a historic building designed by Brunelleschi in the early 15th century. Originally built as a founding hospital, it was one of the first institutions in Europe dedicated to the care of abandoned and orphaned children.



## SIENA & SAN GIMIGNANO

On Friday, students embarked on a day trip to Siena and San Gimignano! Traveling by private bus from Florence, they arrived in Siena, where they enjoyed a guided tour exploring the city's history. The tour concluded in Piazza del Campo (pictured above), after which students had free time to explore the city at their own pace. Next, they headed to San Gimignano, where they took in breathtaking views of the Tuscan countryside and indulged in what is said to be the best gelato in the world!



## CULTURAL CALENDAR

Saturday morning, some students woke up early to take a hike to Fiesole! An exclusive suburb of Florence surrounded by greenery. They were then given the opportunity to spend the afternoon there with a return bus ticket. Such a beautiful place to escape the chaos of the city - and its only a 20 minute bus ride away!

This week, students had the chance to participate in a gelato scavenger hunt. They were given 5 clues about gelaterias in Florence and were to find the location, a fun fact and then take some pictures! Pictured are the winners - gifted with the biggest gelato from their favorite gelateria!

## WHAT IS TO COME?

This weekend, students are taking their last weekend trip with AIFS staff to Sorrento, Capri and Pompeii. We cannot wait to show the students the beautiful southern coast!

Time is flying by - and we are excited to report next week with tons of pictures from this weekend!

A presto --

