

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDY ABROAD CONSORTIUM

## NEWSLETTER

Vol: 3

Florence, Italy  
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### WEEK 3 WHEN IN ROME...

#### THIS PAST WEEK...

Week 3, always filled with excitement as we end with a 3-day trip to Rome! Students began the week with their second chance to learn and taste wine from Chianti. They had their ILC lecture and site visit, focusing on Papacy and the church. Some students were chosen to give some feedback about the program thus far with one of the AIFS staff members. Lastly, about half of the students joined us in Rome this weekend along with two AIFS staff members.



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## WINE TASTING 2

Last Monday, we held another wine tasting in the AIFS study center with our sommelier of wine. As always, teaching students a bit about wine in Tuscany with a presentation and then offering a wine tasting following.



## ILC LECTURE

This past Tuesday, students listened to a lecture on Papacy and the Church. Students took a look at the role of the Catholic Church in Italian history, politics and culture, as well as the separation (or lack thereof) of church and state. Also paying close attention to the connection between the Medici family and the Catholic Church.

## STUDENT FOCUS GROUP

Last Wednesday, a group of students met with our Student Advisor here at AIFS to go over the program thus far. We do this once at the beginning and once at the end of our programs to have some feedback and evaluation. This also gives time for students to tell stories and ask questions as it is such a new and exciting experience for many of them,!



## ILC SANTA CROCE VISIT

Thursday, students were able to tour the Basilica of Santa Croce with our Florentine guides. The Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence is one of the most important Franciscan churches in Italy and holds a unique place in relation to the Catholic Church and the papacy. The Basilica also holds great religious and political influence. Santa Croce is also famous for housing the tombs of influential figures, including Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, and others. We are so fortunate to have this Basilica and square in our neighborhood where the study center is located.



## WHEN IN ROME...

This past weekend, students enjoyed a high speed train from Florence to Rome on Friday morning. We then checked into the centrally located hotel and made our way to Saint Peter's Church via metro. Students were split into 4 groups with professional English-speaking guides to tour the Church. Students were then given the remainder of the evening free. Saturday, we had another guided tour of the Roman Forums and the Colosseum, students then had the chance to join AIFS staff for lunch and a walk around Rome showcasing famous squares, churches, gelaterias and so much more! Sunday, students had a free morning and afternoon to enjoy their last day in Rome before we came back on the train to Florence in the early evening..

## MORE TO COME THIS WEEK...

NCSAC students this week will have the opportunity on Tuesday to listen to the ILC lecture on Food Culture in Italy. On Friday and Saturday, they will take a guided tour through the Market to buy fresh produce to then take to a professional cooking class with our partners at Chefactory. Thursday, the fourth activity for ILC will be guided by our professors here from NCSAC. They will each conduct a seminar with their students from their home university. Friday night, students will have the chance to watch the Fiorentina Soccer Match vs Lecce here in Florence. Lastly, students from the English 100 class will visit the European Union Historical Archives following an introductory lecture by Dr. Federica di Sarcina. Exciting week ahead – stay tuned!

