



LEC
TRIP TO ITALY 2024
ALBUM

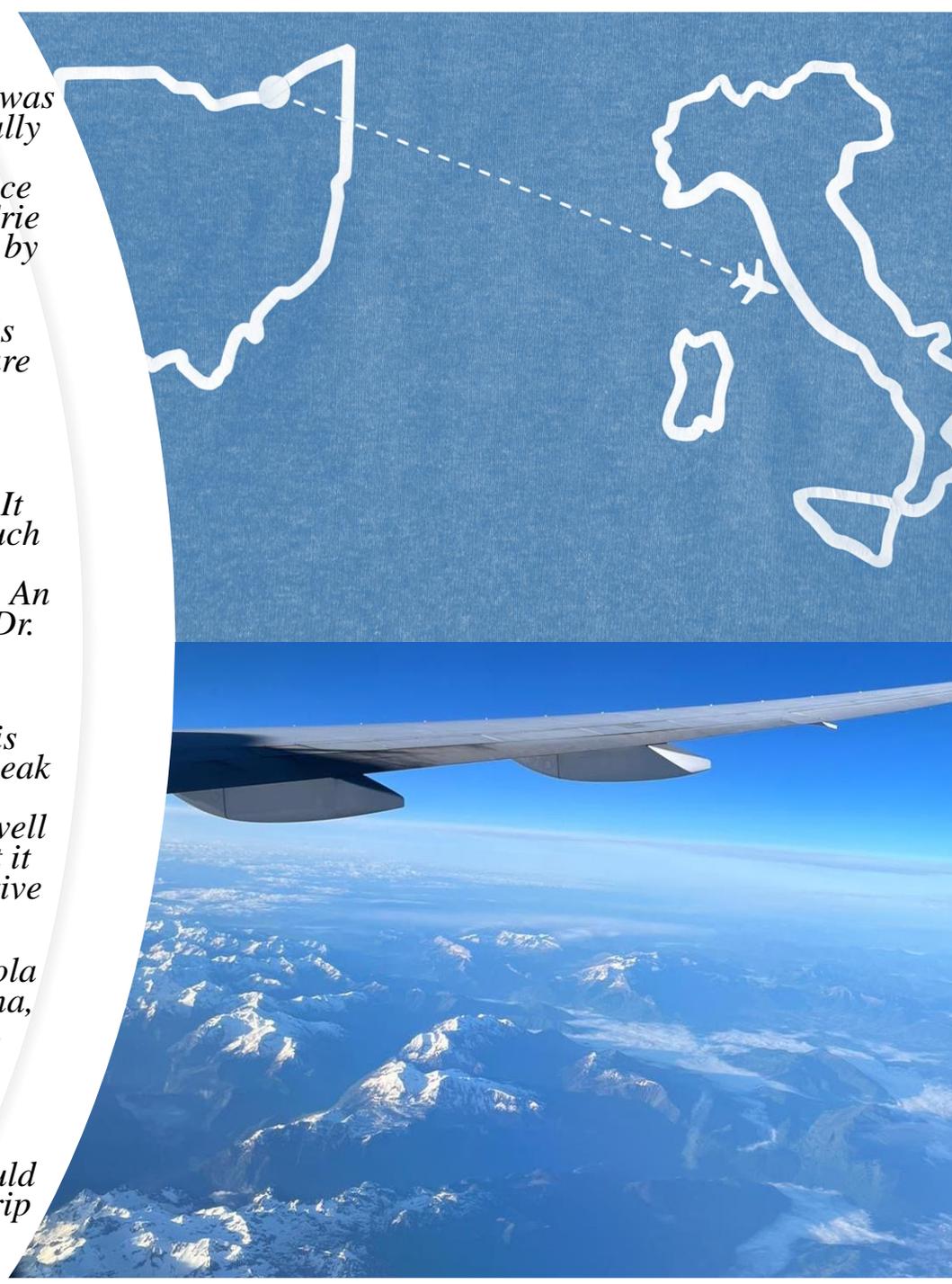
BY DR. BASILE, PAOLA

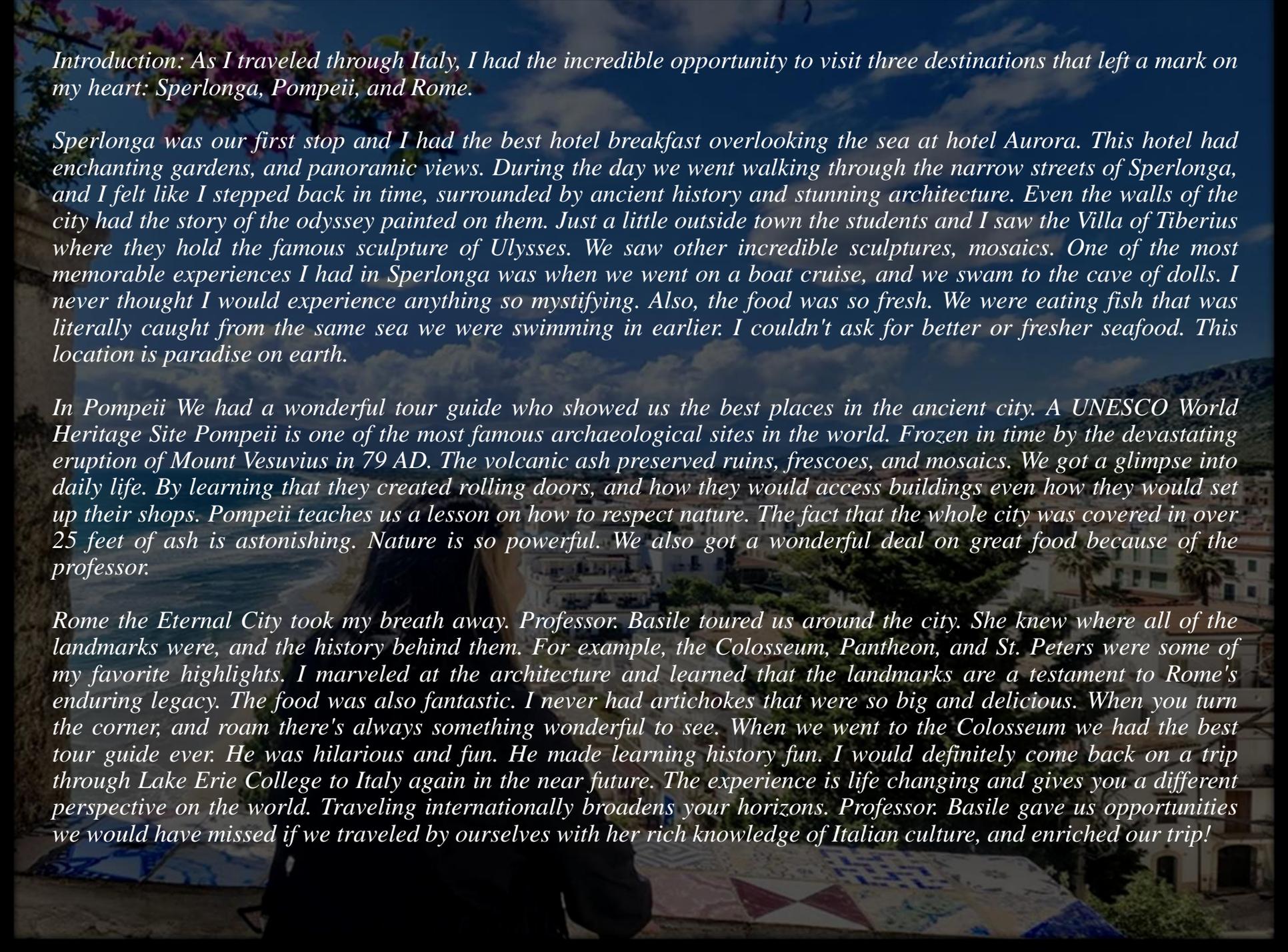


LAKE ERIE
COLLEGE



- *This was the trip of a lifetime, and I could not encourage enough all LEC students to go on it. It was an absolute culture shock in a good way, and I really got to see how other places in the world are that I probably would have never visited on my own. Once again, I would like to thank Dr. Basile and Lake Erie College for an amazing time with amazing people by my side.*
- *I really enjoyed my experience, and I would do this trip a hundred times over again if I could. These are memories and experiences that I will never forget.*
- *It was my second time going to Italy and I cannot thank Dr. Basile enough for all she does for her students and alumni. She is an incredible woman. It was an incredible trip and experience. I feel so much more connected to the culture and felt that I had a better understanding of the culture/language. (...) An incredible experience that I will never forget and Dr. Basile makes the most out of trips in which I love!*
- *First, I would like to start this off by thanking Dr. Basile as well as Lake Erie College for making this trip absolutely perfect. Of course, her ability to speak fluent Italian and her knowledge of Italy was necessary to make this trip as great as it was. As well as this, she carried such positivity and energy that it spread around the group every day in such a positive way.*
- *My recent trip with Lake Erie College and Dr. Paola Basile, particularly to the coastal gem of Sperlgona, left a clear mark on my soul. I felt very thankful, a profound sense of gratitude....*
- *The aesthetics, sites, and food were something everyone should experience. Italy will always be remembered as one of my fondest memories. I would 100% go back again and I recommend the class trip to anyone at Lake Erie College.*



A scenic view of a coastal town with a blue sky and a person sitting on a balcony in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

Introduction: As I traveled through Italy, I had the incredible opportunity to visit three destinations that left a mark on my heart: Sperlonga, Pompeii, and Rome.

Sperlonga was our first stop and I had the best hotel breakfast overlooking the sea at hotel Aurora. This hotel had enchanting gardens, and panoramic views. During the day we went walking through the narrow streets of Sperlonga, and I felt like I stepped back in time, surrounded by ancient history and stunning architecture. Even the walls of the city had the story of the odyssey painted on them. Just a little outside town the students and I saw the Villa of Tiberius where they hold the famous sculpture of Ulysses. We saw other incredible sculptures, mosaics. One of the most memorable experiences I had in Sperlonga was when we went on a boat cruise, and we swam to the cave of dolls. I never thought I would experience anything so mystifying. Also, the food was so fresh. We were eating fish that was literally caught from the same sea we were swimming in earlier. I couldn't ask for better or fresher seafood. This location is paradise on earth.

In Pompeii We had a wonderful tour guide who showed us the best places in the ancient city. A UNESCO World Heritage Site Pompeii is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world. Frozen in time by the devastating eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The volcanic ash preserved ruins, frescoes, and mosaics. We got a glimpse into daily life. By learning that they created rolling doors, and how they would access buildings even how they would set up their shops. Pompeii teaches us a lesson on how to respect nature. The fact that the whole city was covered in over 25 feet of ash is astonishing. Nature is so powerful. We also got a wonderful deal on great food because of the professor.

Rome the Eternal City took my breath away. Professor. Basile toured us around the city. She knew where all of the landmarks were, and the history behind them. For example, the Colosseum, Pantheon, and St. Peters were some of my favorite highlights. I marveled at the architecture and learned that the landmarks are a testament to Rome's enduring legacy. The food was also fantastic. I never had artichokes that were so big and delicious. When you turn the corner, and roam there's always something wonderful to see. When we went to the Colosseum we had the best tour guide ever. He was hilarious and fun. He made learning history fun. I would definitely come back on a trip through Lake Erie College to Italy again in the near future. The experience is life changing and gives you a different perspective on the world. Traveling internationally broadens your horizons. Professor. Basile gave us opportunities we would have missed if we traveled by ourselves with her rich knowledge of Italian culture, and enriched our trip!



May 19, departure day!

At our arrival in Rome, students take photos of sandwiches and pizzas of a café in the airport of Rome... 😊

Our bus driver is waiting for us at Arrivals to take us to Sperlonga.





Our private bus takes us to our first hotel, in Sperlonga. Wow!







Our hotel, in front of the sea, with our private beach and gorgeous gardens. This must be heaven!





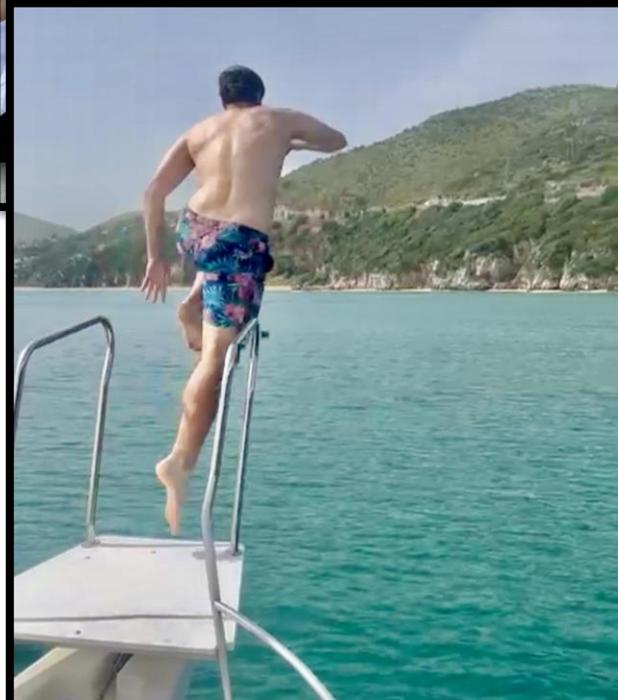
Private guided boat tour along the beautiful Ulysses Riviera, 4 hours and 30 minutes! It is time for diving, swimming, snorkeling, and then pizza and prosecco on board! What an incredible day!



L'orizzonte è la linea che sottolinea l'infinito







Happy Hour and
Dinner
by the sea followed by a
night walk, a night
swim.....





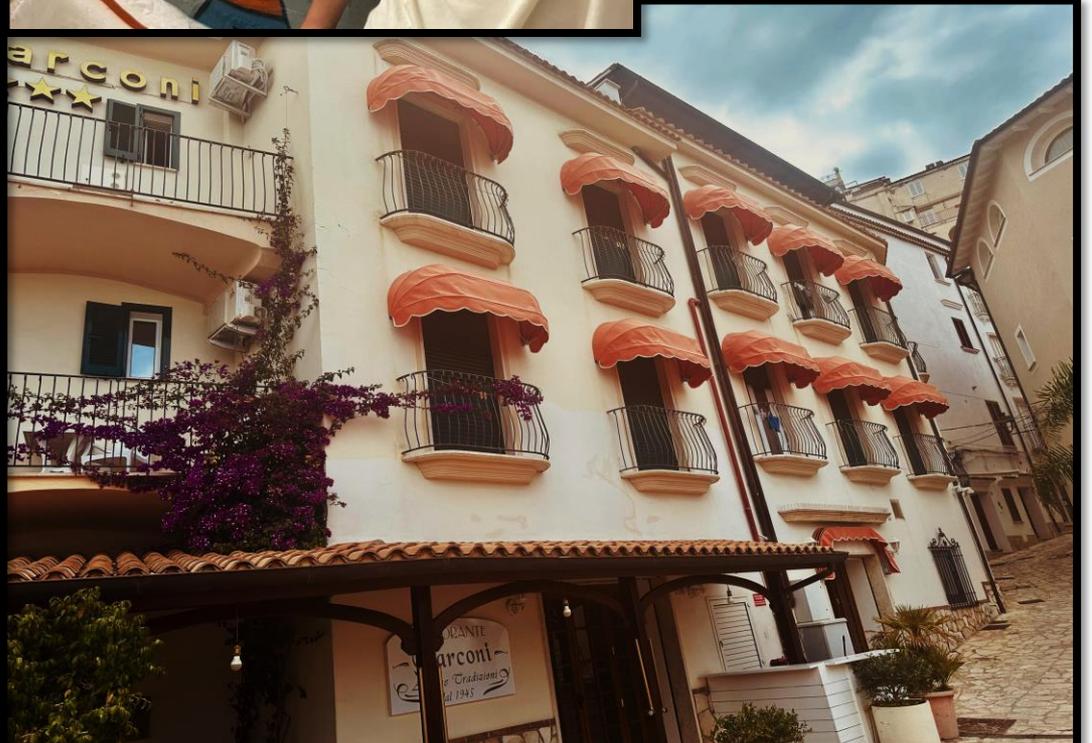
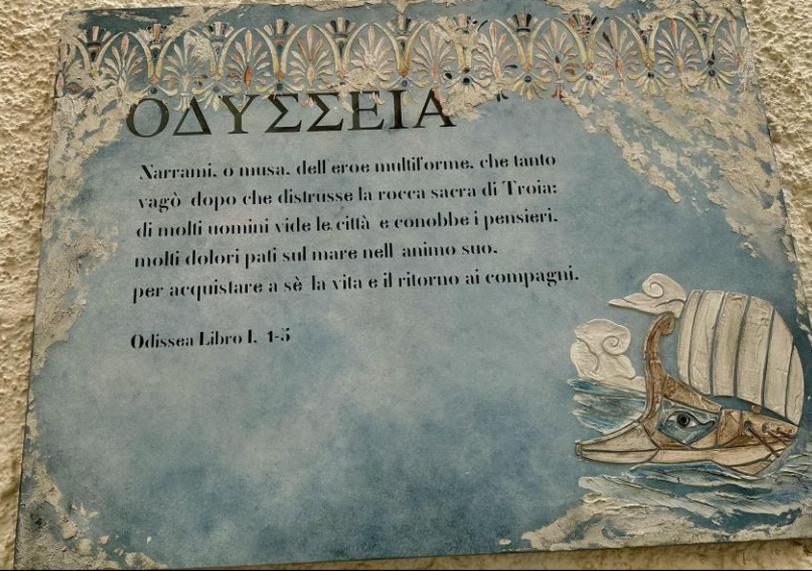


And then.... breakfast
in front of the sea!



Discovering Sperlonga, its beautiful streets and squares, with paintings and verses of the “Odyssey“ everywhere. **Sperlonga** is often called “La perla del Tirreno” (= the pearl of the Tyrrhenian Sea). It is a picturesque town that stands out with its whiteness extending into the sea halfway between the Gulf of Circeo and Gaeta. Its crystal-clear waters are home to a unique variety of fish and marine landscapes appreciated by artists for thousands of years. The town is known for the ancient Roman sea grotto discovered in the grounds of emperor Tiberius villa containing spectacular sculptures, which are displayed in a museum on the site, and for the Truglia tower that was built in 1532 on the remains of an earlier Roman-era watchtower on the tip of the promontory. On top of the rocky hill, you find a picturesque, whitewashed village with meandering alleys, cute cafes and restaurants, and stunning sea views.

















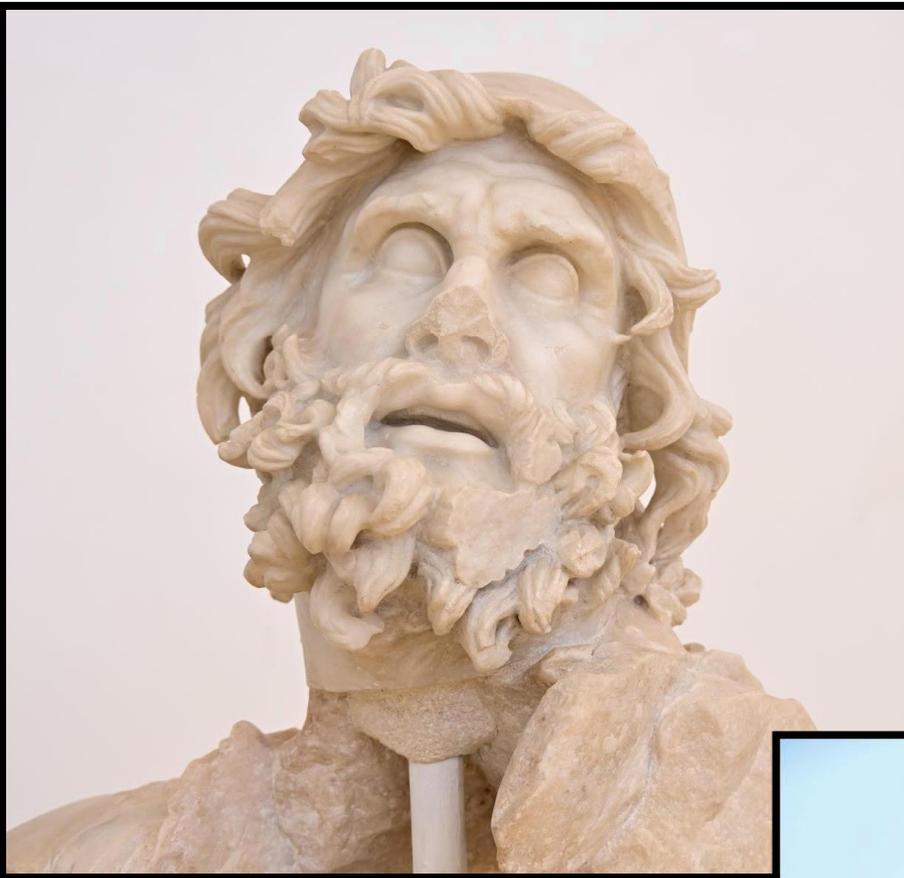


Another beautiful day. It is time to go to the archeological museum.



The Archaeological National Museum and Site is located on the site of **Tiberius's villa and grotto**, the museum was built in the 1950s to house the ancient sculptures at the site. The villa and sea grotto belonged to Emperor Tiberius in the first century (2,000 years ago!). The sculptures were found in monumental pieces to adorn the natural sea grotto that was a favored banquet spot for the emperor. They are Homeric-themed (particularly from the *Odyssey*) and quite impressive! There are also ornamental sculptures, carved divinities, a bust of emperor Trajan, theatrical masks, ancient costumes, and more.









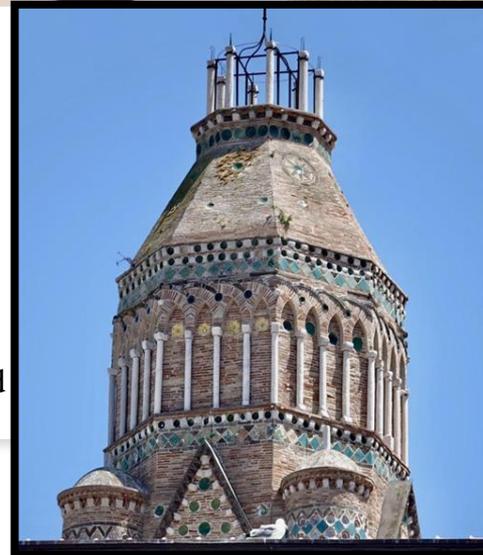


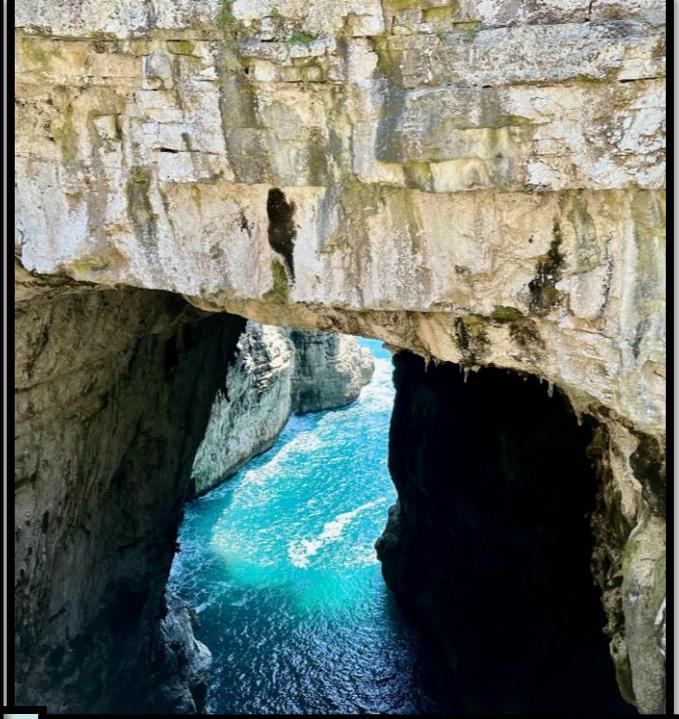
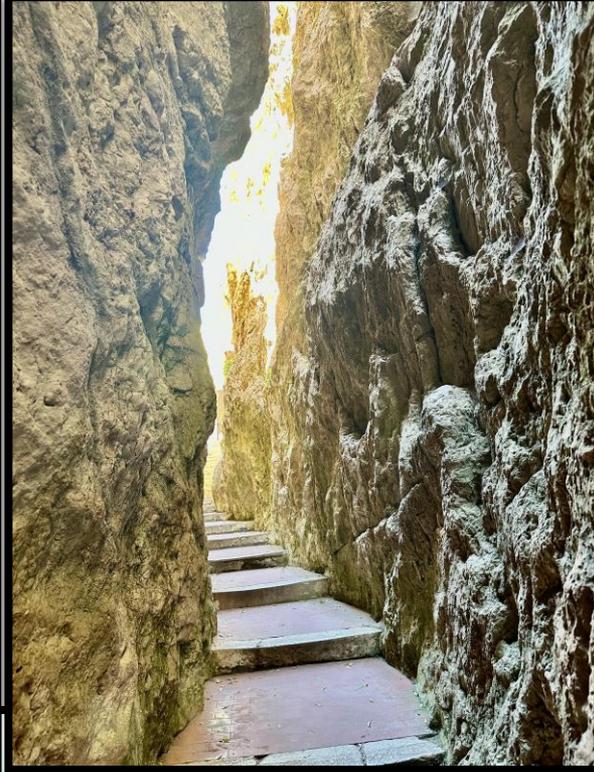


Trip to Gaeta, stop for lunch & drink, then we went to see the *Montagna Spaccata* and *La Grotta del Turco*.

Set between Rome and Naples amid the so-called Ulysses Riviera, Gaeta overlooks the Tyrrhenian sea. Its history as a resort, dates to ancient Rome. Nearby sites include the first-century BC mausoleum of general Lucius Munatius Plancus. Its old town is mostly medieval, showcased by narrow alleys, the massive 13th-century castle, and the 12th-century Cathedral of *Assunta e Sant'Erasmus*.

The mysterious sea grotto of *Montagna Spaccata*, or Split Mountain, is a natural wonder found on Monte Orlando, a protected natural park in Gaeta. *La Grotta del Turco*, or The Cave of the Turk, near the *Montagna Spaccata*, is another magical place where the Saracens used to hide out many centuries ago...







Back to Sperlonga,
dinner time!



- **Trip to Pompeii.** Our guide tour, Francesca, is at the parking lot waiting for us. 2 hours and 30 minutes guided tour in the ancient times...

- *Pompeii rises on a plateau at about 30 meters above sea level, formed by a flow of Vesuvian lava, overlooking the valley of the River Sarno at the mouth of which there was a busy port. The origins of the city remain uncertain.*

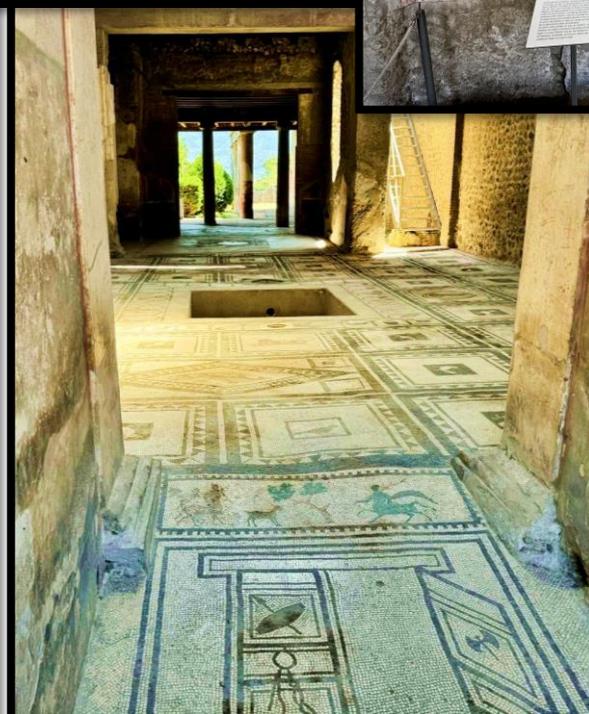
- *A mixed population of Etruscans, Greeks and other local people led to the development of the city and the construction of a fortified limestone wall. Towards the end of the 5th century BC, the Samnites descended from the mountains of Irpinia and Sannio, swarmed into the plains of what is today called the Campania and conquered the cities near Mount Vesuvius. Pompeii was highly urbanized during the Samnite period. Pompeii then joined the political organization of the Roman res publica. It was besieged by the troops of Lucius Cornelius Sulla and the city surrendered and became a Roman colony by the name of Cornelia Veneria Pompeianorum (80 BC). Once the colony was founded, Pompeii was enriched with private and public buildings and further embellished particularly under the ruling of Emperor Augustus (27 BC - 14 AD) and Emperor Tiberius (14-37 AD). The sudden eruption of Vesuvius, on August 24, 79 AD, buried Pompeii under ash and lapilli, creating what seemed to be an open construction site. The city was rediscovered at the end of the 16th century, but explorations only began in 1748. The archaeological site of Pompeii spreads over 66 hectares, 49 of which have already been excavated.*

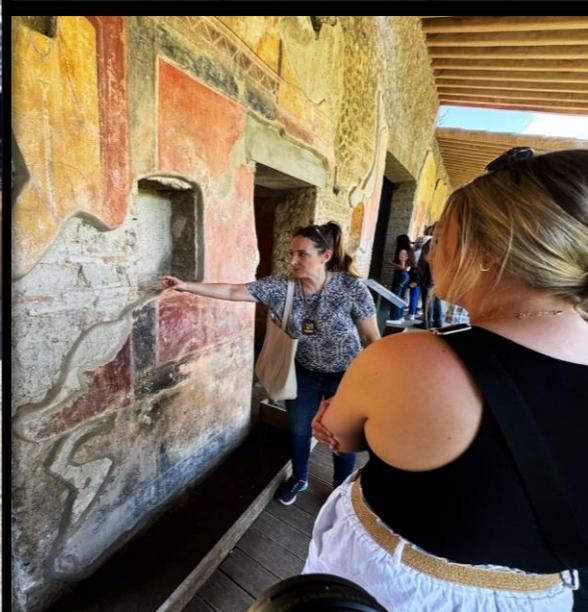
- *They say that Mount Vesuvius violently spewed forth a cloud of super-heated tephra and gases to a height of 33 km (21 mi), ejecting molten rock, pulverized pumice and hot ash at 1.5 million tons per second, ultimately releasing 100,000 times the thermal energy of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The event gives its name to the Vesuvian type of volcanic eruption, characterized by columns of hot gases and ash reaching the stratosphere, although the event also included pyroclastic flows associated with Pelean eruptions.*











Back to Sperlonga, great dinner at this restaurant, Altro`



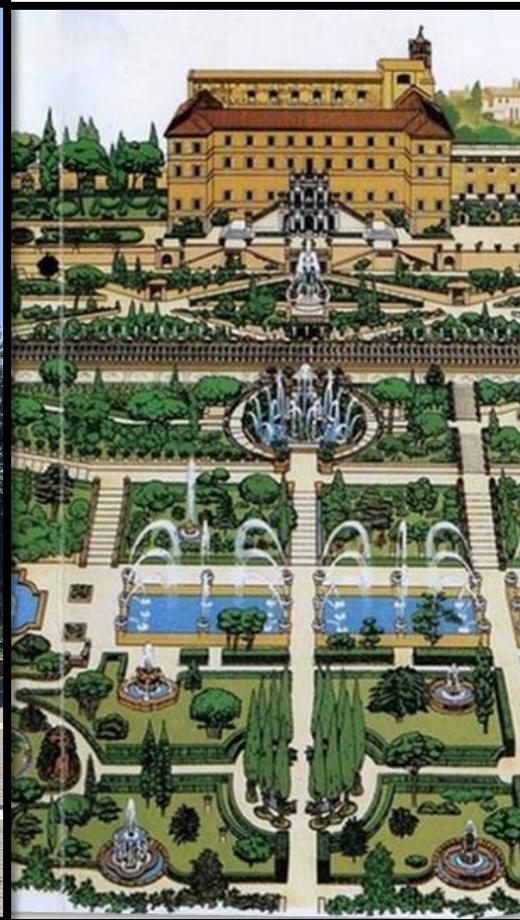
Arrivederci Sperlonga!





After breakfast, trip to **Tivoli** to see **Villa d'Este**, and then to Rome.

The gardens of the Villa d'Este are among the earliest and finest of the Italian *giardini delle meraviglie* and symbolize the flowering of Renaissance culture. With its impressive concentration of fountains (500!), nymphs, grottoes, troughs and pools, cascades, plays of water, and music, it constitutes a much-copied model for European gardens. A magic place filled with beauty, myths, genius, and peace. One fountain periodically surges to splash unsuspecting visitors; a water organ fountain plays music at set times; a long row of 100 different “face” fountains offers an intimate place to take a stroll... The rooms of the Palace d'Este built on the ruins of an ancient Roman villa (stunning!) were ambitiously decorated under the tutelage of the stars of the late Roman Mannerism, such as Livio Agresti, Federico Zuccari, Durante Alberti, Girolamo Muziano, Cesare Nebbia and Antonio Tempesta.













We arrived in the eternal city, **Rome**! Our hotel is in the heart of Rome, beside the majestic Trevi Fountain; every morning for breakfast, and in the evening for a drink, we have a rooftop view of the fountain, WOW!



All roads lead to Rome, so they say. Or maybe it should be “all interests”. Food lovers can spend a lifetime sampling what Roman cuisine can offer. Art fanatics can tour masterpiece after masterpiece by the likes of Michelangelo, Bernini, and Raphael... And history buffs can explore an incredible number of ancient sites, from the Pantheon to the Colosseum to Via Appia Antica... But just when you think you have Rome figured out, it surprises you. Just look at its nightlife, with its up-all-night energy and legendary clubbing, restaurants, bars, musicians, etc. And here we are, walking in the crowded streets of Rome.







bacio
fior di latte
li
k

anguria
arancia
mango
cocco





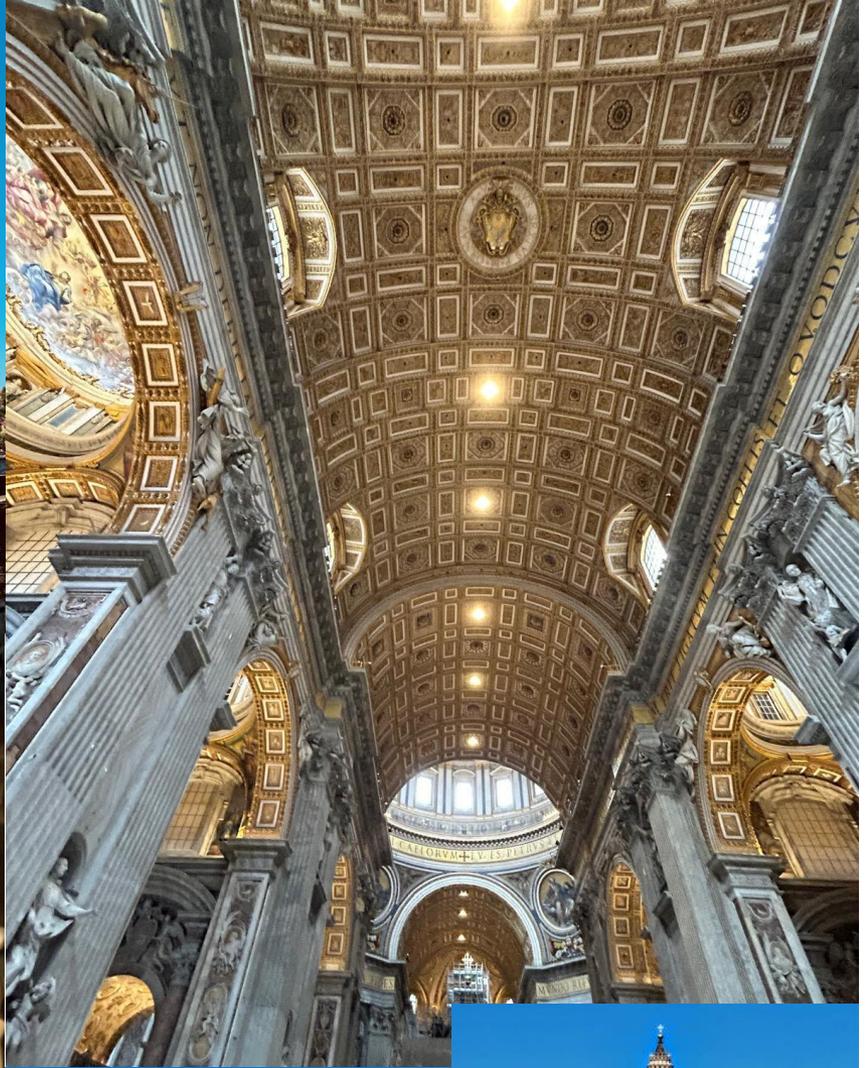






Morning walk to the Vatican City. **The Vatican City** is a city-state, and the smallest country (enclave). It is the center of Christianity since the foundation of Saint Peter's Basilica by emperor Constantine. It is the burial site of its namesake Saint Peter, who was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, the first Bishop of Antioch, and later first Bishop of Rome, and therefore first in the line of the papal succession (i.e., the first pope). As a work of architecture, it is regarded as the greatest building of its age, the fruit of the combined genius of Bramante, Raffaello, Michelangelo, Bernini, and Maderno.



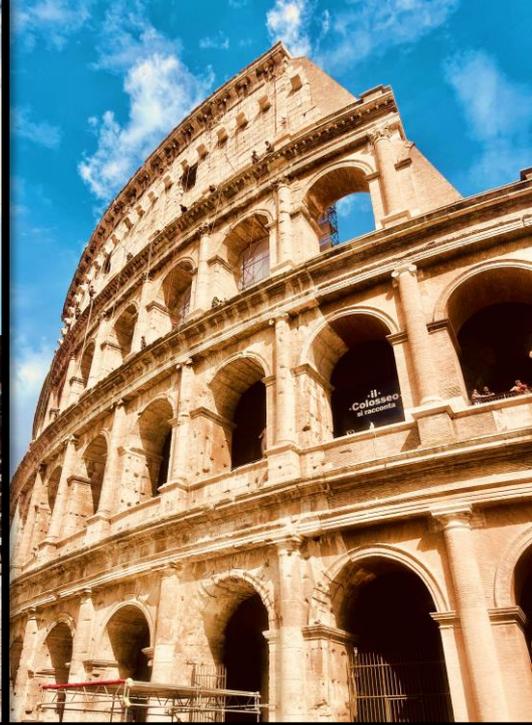
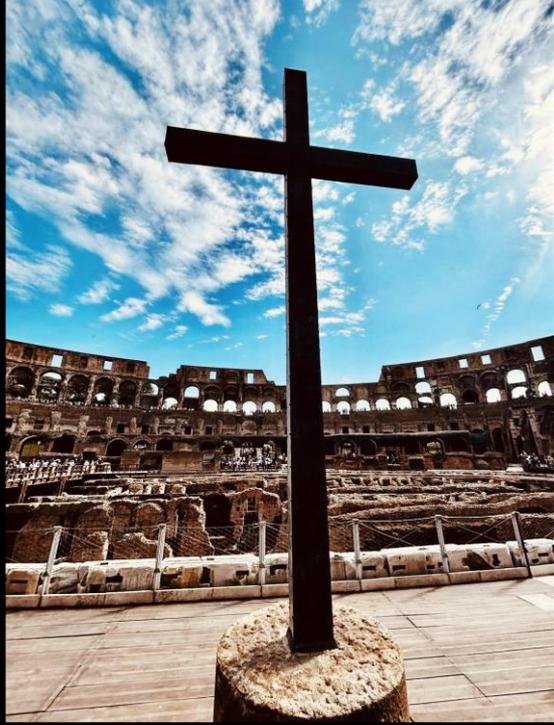




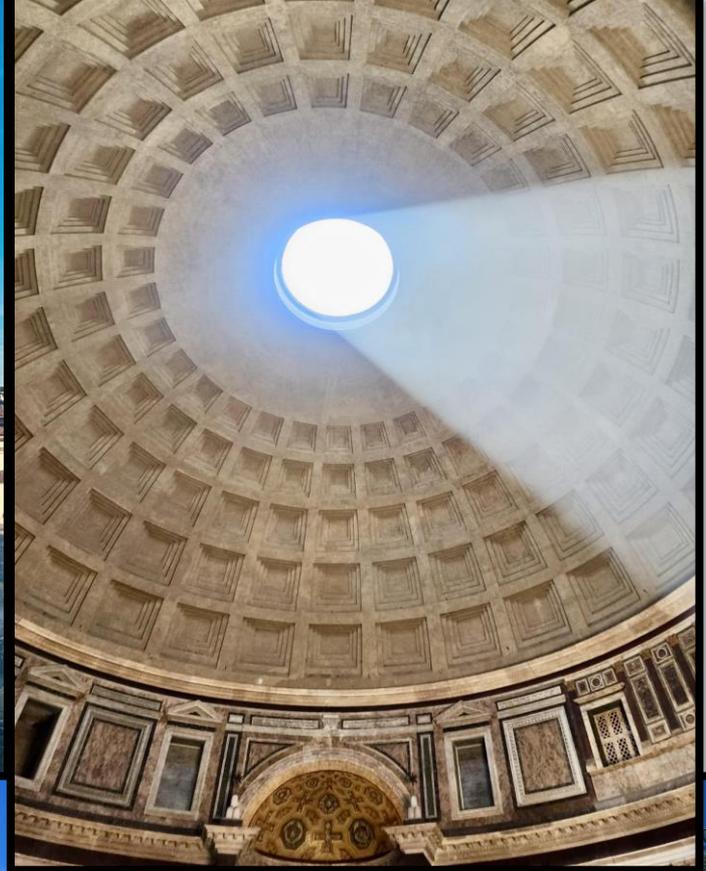
In the afternoon, **3 hours guided tour in the Colosseum, Roman Forum, and Palatino**. The Roman guide - Stefano - is really funny, and very knowledgeable. What an incredible experience for the students!

Located just east of the Roman Forum, the massive stone amphitheater known as the Colosseum was commissioned around A.D. 70-72 by Emperor Vespasian of the Flavian dynasty as a gift to the Roman people. In A.D. 80, Vespasian's son Titus opened the Colosseum—officially known as the **Flavian Amphitheater**—with 100 days of games, including gladiatorial combats. Contemporary estimates claimed the Colosseum could seat up to 85,000 people, though modern, more conservative estimates put that number closer to 50,000 people.











A few of us went to visit Palazzo Colonna and had the honor of meeting a descendant of the Colonna's family, il signor Colonna, owner of the palace! **Palazzo Colonna** is one of the oldest and largest private palaces of Rome. Its construction began in the fourteenth century by the Colonna family, who has been residing there for eight centuries. The Colonna family dates back to the twelfth century and comes from the town of Colonna, near Rome, from which it takes its name. Throughout the 1600s, the Palace took the form of a majestic Baroque palace at the will of three generations; the leading family members being Philip I, Cardinal Girolamo I, and Lorenzo Onofrio, sponsored architects and artists of great skill and reputation, such as Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Antonio del Grande, Carlo Fontana, Paolo Schor, and many others.





Spritz time at **Canova Tadolini cafe`**Housed in the former studio of the famous Neoclassical sculptor Antonio Canova and his best student Adamo Tadolini, this is a one-of-a-kind restaurant where you can dine surrounded by larger-than-life sculptures. Crimson walls and dark wood contrast with the white statues of patricians in togas and soldiers on horseback. In the late afternoon light, the sculptures seem to glow around the white-napped tables. This place is actually much larger than it appears, with a room in the back displaying Canova's tools and upstairs dining rooms providing a more intimate setting



Shopping time, and then **dinner** at “**Il Vero Alfredo**”. The popular dish *Fettucine all’Alfredo* was created by the cook and *restorateur* Alfredo di Lelio in Rome at the beginning of the 20th century. After his wife had given birth to their first son, she did not have an appetite. To help encourage her to eat, Alfredo created a dish of fettucine, butter, and Parmigiano. One bite and his wife’s appetite came immediately back! As a result, *fettucine all’Alfredo* was added on the menu of their restaurant. This simple & exquisite dish then became famous worldwide. As a matter of fact, world celebrities often dined there.

Di Lelio's restaurant still exists, and it is managed by his grandson Alfredo III and his granddaughter Ines di Lelio. Today it is called *Il Vero Alfredo* (= “the Real Alfredo”) and it is located in Piazza Augusto Imperatore, in Rome. In this historic establishment, therefore, you can enjoy the unique and original *fettucine all’Alfredo*.





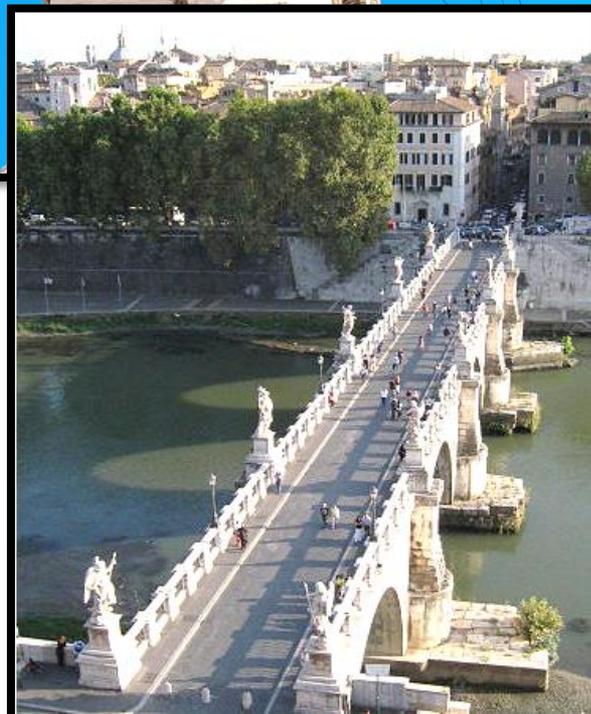
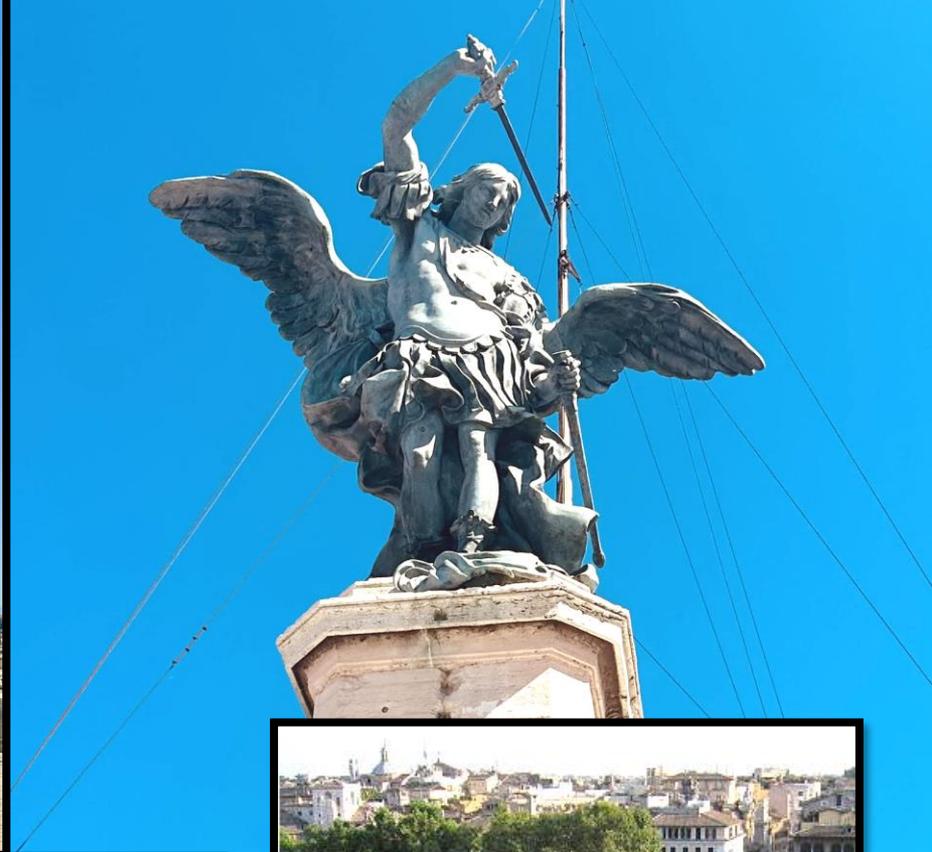
After breakfast, we stopped to visit **Castel Sant'Angelo** that was originally built as a mausoleum.

The Mausoleum of Hadrian, today known as the **Castel Sant'Angelo**, is a towering cylindrical building, initially commissioned by the Roman Emperor Hadrian as a mausoleum. The building was later used as a fortress and castle, a prison, and is now a museum that houses art and history collections as well as relics of the Italian Army in a monumental setting. The mausoleum of the Roman emperor Hadrian was erected on the right bank of the Tiber river between 123 and 139.

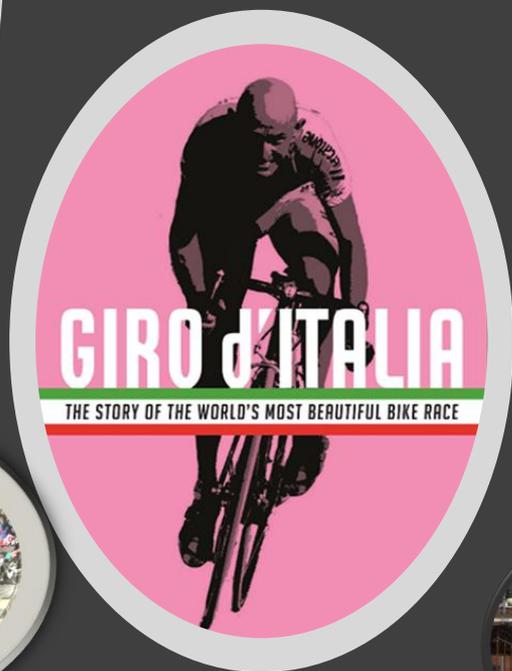
The castle acquired its current name in 590 AD when legend suggests that the Archangel Michael appeared atop the castle, ending a plague in Rome. The rooftop terrace with the angel statue showcases a wonderful panoramic view of Rome, while a coffee shop and another viewpoint provide different but equally fascinating perspectives. During the Renaissance, Castel Sant'Angelo underwent a complete transformation under Cardinal Della Rovere, who preferred to reside inside the Castle rather than in the Vatican Palace. The Papal residences were renovated during this time. A massive castle was built on the ancient ruins of the Hadrian Mausoleum and the majority of the original statues on the Ponte (bridge) Sant'Angelo were lost. The ten statues we see on the bridge today were designed by Bernini in 1668 and the two statues of St. Peter & St. Paul at the end of the bridge were erected in 1624.











May 26, 2024, we are super excited as the **Giro d'Italia** final stages are about to come in downtown Rome!

Giro d'Italia: <http://www.giroditalia.it/eng/> is an annual multiple-stage Grand Tour bicycle race primarily held in Italy, while also starting in, or passing through, other countries. The Giro d'Italia covers 3,408 kilometers (**2,118 miles**) over **21 stages**, altitude gain (m) 44.650. The Slovenian Tadej Pogačar won the 2024 Giro d'Italia race.

In Italy, the first road cycling race to be disputed was the Firenze-Pistoia, run on February 2, **1870**, organized by the newly formed fast club. 19 of the 23 registered competitors took part and competed on the route between the two cities, 33 kilometers on primordial bicycles. There are those who define it as the first road race ever, certainly it was the first international bicycle race.











*Arrivederci
Roma!*

May 27,
departure from
Rome for
Cleveland.

From the
students:

- *It was my second time going to Italy and I cannot thank Dr. Basile enough for all she does for her students and alumni. She is an incredible woman. It was an incredible trip and experience. I feel so much more connected to the culture and felt that I had a better understanding of the culture/language. (...) An incredible experience that I will never forget and Dr. Basile makes the most out of trips in which I love!*
- *First, I would like to start this off by thanking Dr. Basile as well as Lake Erie College for making this trip absolutely perfect. Of course, her ability to speak fluent Italian and her knowledge of Italy was necessary to make this trip as great as it was. As well as this, she carried such positivity and energy that it spread around the group every day in such a positive way. This trip simply wouldn't have been nearly the same without her and I really want to thank her for everything and for being such a great person no matter the circumstances of the trip.*
- *This was the trip of a lifetime, and I could not encourage enough all LEC students to go on it. The people, the food, the location, everything was absolutely too good to be true. It was an absolute culture shock in a good way, and I really got to see how other places in the world are that I probably would have never visited on my own. Once again, I would like to thank Dr. Basile and Lake Erie College for an amazing time with amazing people by my side.*
- *I wanted to thank you (Professor Basile) for putting on this trip and making it affordable and an incredible experience. Getting the experience of Italy was such a blessing, and I thank you for the opportunity to be able to join the trip (maybe me and Abby will join next year too)!*
- *I really enjoyed my experience, and I would do this trip a hundred times over again if I could. Our hotels were very nice, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to spend a few nights next to the Trevi Fountain. These are memories and experiences that I will never forget. I also made new friends on this trip which is so great. I'm so thankful for being able to go on this trip and be a part of a great Lake Erie College experience*
- *Italy, a land of rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and delicious food, attracts travelers from across the world. My recent trip to this country with Lake Erie College and Dr. Paola Basile, particularly to the coastal gem of Sperlgonia, left a clear mark on my soul. I felt very thankful, perhaps a profound sense of gratitude (...). As I depart from Italy, "until next time", I carry with me the memories...*
- *The dinners we had were astounding. I think my favorite spots were where we had the three large pizzas and the last restaurant in Sperlgonia we went to that was a bit fancier and had great seafood. I've never had seafood like it, and I eat a lot of seafood when I am in America. And then Rome... There was so much to do in Rome I think it would take a couple of years to be able to do it all. We got to eat at the famous "Il Vero Alfredo". The food and Alfredo was amazing there. Rome overall was an amazing experience. I got to meet and get to know many new people. The aesthetics, sites, and food were something everyone should experience. Italy will always be remembered as one of my fondest memories. I would 100% go back again and I recommend the class trip to anyone at Lake Erie College.*
- *We want to sincerely thank you for this opportunity to be on this trip. You are a treasure.*