

Wayland Academy's Italian Trip, 2016

I want to thank both CAMWS and the Vergilian Society for granting us funds so that I could keep the cost of this trip as low as possible for my students. We did a lot of walking, were frugal on our meals, and basically did all we could to enjoy as much as possible while traveling on a student budget (the graduate student mindset stays with some of us for life). We read Latin together, the students helped each other learn the history of each site while I filled in and answered questions, and those eight students spent more times in museums than shopping by a factor of ten. It was a remarkable trip, and I have already delighted my younger students by committing to another trip in March 2018. Thank you again!

I thought more detail should come from the students themselves, so the three juniors from last spring's trip agreed to make the fall of their senior year even a little busier by contributing the memories below. Enjoy! ~ Keely Lake



One of my favorite memories from Italy is when we were walking around an ancient bath complex and we found an old, domed building with a hole at the top of the ceiling letting the sunlight in. There was a small path that extended from the entrance and water surrounded the little walkway. All of our words echoed when we spoke, and we had the idea to take advantage of the amazing acoustics and sing some of the songs that we sang in our a cappella group as we had a few members of that group together. We sang everything from ballads to Christmas songs in the dome and the echoing sounds of our voices were so beautiful that we never wanted to leave. We stayed there for a quite a while and just sang; it was so nice to have that secluded, special spot to ourselves.

Another one of my favorite memories was our last day in Naples when we went to visit Paestum. We walked around the perimeter of the site and Dr. Lake gave us a

personal tour. Eventually we sat on the wall outside the site and ate our amazing packed lunches from the Villa Vergiliana and just relaxed in the afternoon sun. It was so pleasant in the sun compared to some of the chillier and rainier days that we had experienced (we were there in March). We then got some gelato and played with a stray dog that we fondly referred to as Paestum. Our group relaxed outside on the patio of the café and looked around the shops all afternoon until we regrettably had to return to the Villa so we could get ready for our return home the next day. It was such a perfect way to end an incredible trip because we made it into one of the highlights of the trip just by being together. ~ Sarah Kallgren



The time I spent in Italy has already been, and will continue to be, instrumental in my life. Besides reaffirming the culture, myth, and language that I learned in class, my trip gave me experience with the current culture of Romans and Italians. The best part of the trip was the ability to visit as if it was our 8th trip rather than our first with the guidance and experience of Dr. Lake. She knew exactly what to visit, where the good restaurants were, and the perfect routes. We did not go into the Colosseum, but we had a far more intimate and valuable trip to an amphitheater outside of Rome. At that amphitheater we met a guard named Sergio who must have enjoyed listening to us appreciate *his* amphitheater because he decided to show us the hidden features and closed off areas. We skipped the massive lines in Rome and got so much more out of the smaller amphitheater just by being attentive students.

Another amazing choice Dr. Lake led us to was staying at the Villa Vergiliana. Firstly, this place was close to so many different places around the Naples area. Secondly, the food was incredible. I remember sitting down around the family style table, actually laughing out loud in disbelief because the food was so delicious. Thirdly, the aesthetics of the building were gorgeous. I will never forget sitting on the

balcony, laughing and telling jokes with my friends, watching the sunset over the water. Eventually we were stunned to silence by the sight, and then we let our voices ring back into the night after the sun had set. There was literally an amphitheater in their backyard in between the building and the sea! There are so many memories I can think back to now, and, as I do, I just feel happy. This opportunity has given me so many memories and experiences, and I will always be grateful for what was given to me. ~ Paul Derr

The Italy trip last Spring break with Dr. Lake and my Latin classmates was really exciting and memorable. I had the chance to visit Vatican City, Roman baths, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the port city of Ostia, Pompeii and Herculaneum, and many more sites. As a student from Vietnam, where my culture is different from Western culture, having a chance to visit the actual sites that I had previously read about is really helpful for me to understand and remember them. One of my favorite memories was climbing up about 550 steps to get close to Michelangelo's Dome in St. Peter's Basilica. I also liked it when I could recognize and translate the Latin in churches or on signs when we visited places like the Roman forum. In addition to visiting many historical and cultural sites, I also had the chance to try many new Italian dishes like risotto and gnocchi, and, of course, we stopped to have some coffee and gelato many times too! On this trip, I also had more time to get to know my friends. I learnt a lot of new things about Roman history and Latin from them too. This Italy trip was definitely my favorite travel trip as I could learn, experience a new culture first-hand, and get to spend time with great people at the same time. ~ Lan Chi Hoang

