Andrea Knowles

FLORENCE, ITALY

Andrea’s Major: Art, Graphic Design Emphasis

Program: Santa Reparata International School of Art

Academics: I took two classes while at SRISA: Italian I and Drawing Florence. Both classes were extremely small (seven and three students per class respectively) allowing for close relationships to be made with my instructors, whom I will never forget. The other students in my class were fellow American study abroad students, and the teachers were local, Florentine residents who spoke impeccable English.

Advice for Someone Considering Florence: Florence is the perfect city to study abroad in. Florence is very manageable in terms of size and transportation. It is large enough to feel like a big city but small enough so that you can learn your way around. SRISA did an incredible job of making students feel comfortable and at home from the first day of arrival to the sad day of departure. The planned trips, activities, and extra culture classes provided the perfect amount of optional structure.

Travel: It was extremely easy and efficient to travel in Italy. Over the six weeks, we traveled to Siena, Rome, Greve in Chianti, Cinque Terre, Bologna, and Venice. Because we only had six short weeks, we decided to experience all Italy has to offer, rather than try to see all of Europe.

Most Memorable Experience: Everyday in Florence was a memorable experience. However, the most memorable was on our trip to Cinque Terre: five small fishing villages along the Ligurian Sea. After hiking through the mountains, we watched the sun set from Via Del’Amore, “The Love Path.”

Tips for Studying Abroad: Take too many pictures, don’t hold back on eating out, and keep a journal!

“After the trip was over, I felt a million times more independent and fearless!”

Andrea spent the summer studying at the Santa Reparata International School of Art in Florence, Italy.