

## A concise guide to FIRENZE! And tips on living in ITALIA!



### MANGIARE!

- **Volume** in Piazza Santo-Spirito is a great coffee/hang out spot! Right next door you will find **Gusta Panino**, where you will find the best sandwiches EVER...Right around the corner from Gusta Panino, you will find the restaurant belonging to them. I would recommend getting a pizza to portare via and sitting in the square or down at the river to eat it.
- **Il Latini** is a lovely restaurant serving typical Tuscan dishes. via dei Palchetti 6/r (Palazzo Rucellai) – 50123 – Firenze
- There is an abundance of small pizza places, which are all good –but avoid places right on the river front. For the best pizza (in my opinion!) you should go to **VESUVIO**. On a side street between the Duomo and Piazza della Signorina –just ask! On the same street there is a take away sandwich shop, which is also worth checking out.
- **APERITIVO** is a wonderful invention. Technically, it's what you have before having dinner, but I usually made aperitivo my dinner and was full! Just off **Santa Croce** there are a couple of good places – **MOYO and OIBO**. You have to buy a drink and can then eat as much as you want from the buffet! Food usually starts around 8pm.
- Another Aperitivo place (less food, so wouldn't be dinner) is a place –**NATOLINOS**. It is shut on Mondays and also just off Santa Croce –towards the Duomo. Another one of my usual haunts was **PERSIO** which is on the corner of Piazza della Signorina. For a glass of proscocoe and nibbles it is only 5 euros. You can't sit here, but it's nice spot!
- **ICE CREAM!**
- **GROM** –just off Piazza del Duomo.
- **LA CARRAIA** –Santa Croce side of La Carraia bridge.

### GOING OUT!

- There are lots of great clubs and bars...to name a few:
- **Central** –In Summer it is open air and a lot better. Another Summer club is **Flo'** which can be found on the Piazzale Michaelangelo. **Yab**, in the centre, is good on Monday nights. **Twice** near Santa Croce has free entry. **Full-up**, on Via della Vigna Vecchia, doesn't look like a club from the outside, but is a lot of fun!
- **The Secret Bakery** is a must after a night out! It's not far from Full up –so ask some locals and they will point you in the right direction! You knock on the door wait outside after ordering your cometto, which will be freshly made and still warm.
- **Astor Café** in Piazza del Duomo is also nice for drinks.

### Surviving in Italy

#### Phone and Internet:

- ☐ I would recommend TIM or WIND pay as you go sim cards...I found them to be the cheapest when I was there. If you find yourself without WiFi (like me) I think a good option is an Internet dongle. I got one on a 12 month contract with TIM. Although you have limited hours per month, I found it to be more than adequate and not too expensive!

#### Doctors:

- ☐ Try not to get sick-registering with a doctor is near to impossible and takes such a long time: You don't need to be registered to see somebody if you are ill, so I would recommend just going to see one if you really need to. Technically, with your health

insurance card, you should be able to go to GP and register there with them. If that works out, great! If not –don't be ill.

### **Travelling:**

- I bought a 'carte verte' for the trains, which was fantastic if you plan to travel a lot by train! Since there are no student discounts on public transport, it's worth having a look at the different travel year long passes. I also had a monthly ticket for the tram, which was also worth it! Ask at the train station/ pick up the leaflets to see what discount cards are available.
- Travel, travel, travel! When you have time off at the weekend, during the week, the Easter holiday week: use it! It's the most amazing opportunity you have to discover the region you are in and the country as a whole!

### **Meeting people:**

- Join the Erasmus groups in your city/town. If there is a University, there will be plenty of Erasmus things going on! You can try finding them through facebook before you go and see what trips and socials they organise.
- For some extra money, advertising private English lessons is a good thing to do. Ask around for prices to charge...it will depend on which city you are in.
- You can also advertise for a Tandem partner –put a notice on any facebook groups/ a notice up in the University.

**Never turn down an invitation! 'Si' to everything (almost everything!) Is the best policy!**

**Travel and use your time wisely!**

### **Divertivi!**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at all to do with your year abroad and I will be happy to help! Email@ cm828

Bacino, Catriona