



Greetings from Milan!

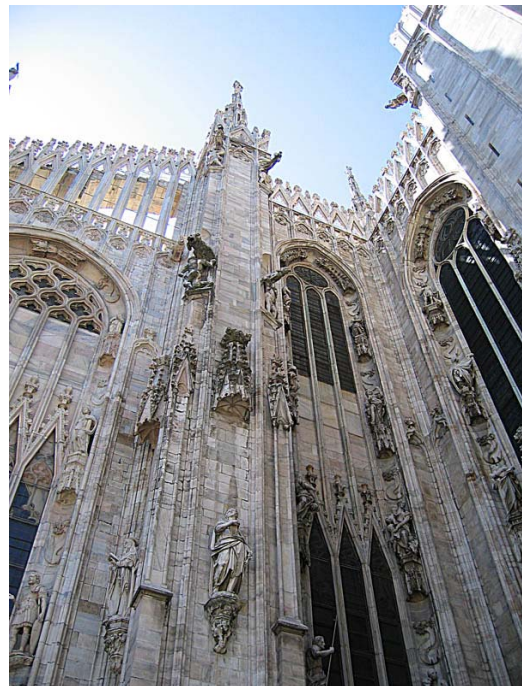
This is the first email from the Study Abroad from USC Upstate, May 9, 2005. As I figure out how best to do this, I hope they get better.

There are a dozen people, nine students and three "adults." We spent all day Saturday riding trains, trams, and subways trying to get our bearings and getting over jet lag. Sunday we went to Central Milan to go to the rooftop of the Piazza Duomo. I always thought "duomo" meant "the dome," but this Neo-Gothic Cathedral has no dome. The word comes from Latin meaning "house" or, in these cases, "the house of God." The façade (front) is covered in scaffolding for restoration. In this photo, you can see the Galleria Vittorio Emmanuelle II, a huge glass-domed arcade with some of most elegant shops in Europe.

The Duomo is the fourth largest cathedral in Europe. Built of pink marble, it is 525 by 300 ft, with 52 100-foot-tall, sequoia-sized pillars and more than 2,000 statues inside.

The Duomo was started in 1386 and not finished until the 16th century. The Dukes of Milan wanted to impress the rulers of France and Germany. Their goal was to earn respect from both the Vatican (Italy did not become a unified country until 1860) and the kings of northern Europe by building a massive and extremely ornamented cathedral. They loaded it with pointed arches and spires. I'll tell you more about the interior in a later email.

I wanted to tell you about the university where we study, listen to lectures, and use their labs and cafeteria and most importantly their bar! (Bar in Italy is where you go to get an espresso and to eat informally.) In the cafeteria today it was packed with students and faculty, above the bottled water were bottles of wine, students may drink it if they like!



The name of the University is “Libera Universita de Lingue e Comunicazione” meaning something like “Private University of Language and Communication.” It is a private school but the tuition is about eight thousand dollars per semester, a good deal. It is state of the art everything and the main building’s interior looks like a seven story Hyatt or Hilton Hotel. We have a “smart classroom,” a dedicated art historian and four graduate students majoring in arts administration and development. They will accompany us everyday to lecture on site in and around Milan.



(Left – part of campus; Right – interior of main building)



(Left – ILUM interior atrium; Right – our classroom)

I really have to stop now, it is five in the afternoon and I want to try to send this. Feel free to email me at this address and ask any questions. There is going to be a “journal blog” set up for the students so you could access that as well, as soon as I get the address.

On second thought, really ask me questions; we have this incredible art history professor who pleads for questions....

I will try to do this every few days; sometime it may be just photos with captions, who knows?!

Love and Ciao! Donna