

*Simple Pleasures*



## Youth Abroad

### An early launch to a lifelong adventure.

Florence, Italy. The Duomo bells are ringing, at 7:45 a.m. --an unusual alarm clock that follows a warm evening with family in a restaurant filled with vibrant students. Through her university in Florida, Leo's sister and brother-in-law offer summer programs of art history, photography and painting in France and Italy. They invited us to join in the farewell dinner celebration for the end of their studies.

The group of 15 young students glows with new experiences and the kind of relationships forged through sharing life-changing events, sights and people. Their enthusiasm is wonderful. Through dinner, they table hop to trade group photos and insider memories. They pose for photos, copy addresses, play the 'remember the day we saw...' card, as if to resurrect every moment before it all must end.

There's only one 'first time' to arrive in Italy or in Paris or in Manhattan, for that matter. These students may have an ever-so-small idea of the imprint they will carry with them from their sojourn in Italy. The seeds of imagination have been stimulated.

The students gathered from Maine and Ohio, West Virginia and Florida. They seem to recognize and appreciate the unique privilege of participating in this expansive summer program. Friends and families will welcome home students who are different, who are better equipped and more motivated to learn, to travel, to explore the new world they have discovered.



We are well beyond the clear-eyed face of youth, but our venture is similar. It's never too late to learn, to set aside old fears of the unknown and needs for security, to pursue new avenues of travel, learning, and culture.

Our 'older eyes' absorb the naked majesty of Alpine ridges against the sky and the fickle faces of sunflowers turned away from the sun. We exchange bonjours and ciao's with kind and interesting people. We see the pride entwined in each fine craft that has evolved from generations of artisan development.



Europe's menu is rich indeed. We've just begun, and we will continue to share our experiences if only to whet your appetite for discovery.



### **NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN --**

The Office of International Education at Jacksonville University promotes global learning by exposing students and faculty to other countries, cultures, and languages. JU offers a variety of study abroad opportunities to students and faculty with summer, semester, and academic year study abroad and travel study programs around the world. Find further information at: <http://www.internationaleducationprograms.org/>

For information about other programs, International Studies Abroad (ISA) supports the JU program as well as offering programs in England, Australia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile Peru and the Dominican Republic. Visit their site: <http://www.studiesabroad.com/>

[Return to home page](#)