



SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

Paderno del Grappa, Italy



From the Editors

After a wonderful semester in Paderno del Grappa, we are excited to share a piece of our CIMBA journey with you. Although no words and pictures combined could even begin to convey the friendships forged, cultures experienced, and personal growth of the semester, we hope the following pages give you a nice glimpse into the CIMBA Spring 2015 class. In all, students traveled to 20 countries throughout Europe. We found a sense of home in the quiet, sleepy, but always friendly village of Paderno del Grappa. A juggernaut contingent, from Charlene Bunnell's travel writing class, leads off a series of exposes discussing our backyard in Paderno del Grappa. Following this, you will find a collection of some very select, and special stories compiled over the entire semester of travel all over Europe!

Enjoy!

Charlie Barkmeier & Megan Loney

Spring 2015 Newsletter Editors



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Paderno del Grappa's Backyard

One of the CIMBA program's many rewards is opportunity to travel to incredible European destinations: Milan, Florence, Rome, London, Dublin, Paris, Barcelona, Prague, Berlin. And though these and many other well-known places are high on a student's must-see list, quiet, unassuming Paderno del Grappa offers much to see and do in its own backyard. From paragliding off Mt. Grappa to hiking the Asolani hills to enjoying typical Veneto cuisine, American students can experience genuine Italian living in this small village at the foot of the Dolomiti. Below are a few backyard recommendations from the Spring 2015 Travel Writing class.

Enjoy the cuisine that ranges from San Marco Osteria to Pizza Billy!

Tired of cafeteria food and looking for a bite to eat close by? For an upscale "night on the town" and typical Veneto cuisine, try Osteria San Marco in Crespano's main piazza, a 20-minute walk from campus. No printed menus here; the chalkboard lists the antipasti, primi, and secondi for that evening – solo in italiano. If you are a pizza lover, Da Besse is only a quick walk down the road toward Castelluccio and features various delicious pizzas that will make you never want to eat another frozen pizza again.



Before you get on the bus for a travel weekend, make sure to pre-order a tabacchi sandwich from Diego and Bruna. Each sandwich is made with love and with all fresh ingredients. Throw some homemade bomba sauce on your sandwich to give it a little kick!

Too lazy to leave campus? Pizza Billy delivers! One of the only delivery places in Paderno, Pizza Billy is great for that late night study snack. Tired of pizza? Then try the mouthwatering kebabs; with a special spicy sauce, veggies, and pita bread, you can't go wrong with a kebab order.

Indulge in the Crespano Sunday Market!

Just a two-kilometer walk from the CIMBA campus you will find Crespano, a quaint town full of cafes, shops, and beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. Every Sunday, a market there runs from eight in the morning until noon. On the main street that is closed to traffic at this time, the market offers everything from hand knit scarfs to oranges brought up from Sicily. If you're looking for a delicious meal at a low price, try the prepared foods from the multitude of food carts scattered throughout the market.



Make sure you have touched up on your bartering skills to ensure that you get the lowest prices possible. Because let's face it, you're a college student, and a cheap scarf is the best scarf. Although Crespano is a bit of a trek from campus, it is well worth the walk, providing students with a fun and exciting place to go when they need to take a break from schoolwork, clear their minds, and get some good food or fun gifts for home.

Experience the caffés, pasticcerie, & gelaterie!

There is a caffè on virtually every street corner in Italy, and PdG is no exception. Our local one, centered on the round-about, is Alpina, where all the Cimbiangans hang out between classes. They have chess, newspapers, a bouncy ball machine, and best of all, one Euro homemade pastries. The fritelli, made only during Carnevale, are the best here. They have it all: quali-

ty coffee, bottled coke, chips, chocolate. Unlike everything else in PdG, it doesn't close during lunch!

Should we get bored of Alpina, we can enjoy a scenic 15-minute walk to Fietta and the caffè and specialty patisseries of Gambasin. In its elegant interior, every nook and cranny is filled to the brim with homemade chocolates and pastries. For all the tea lovers, Gambasin has not one but two menus dedicated to tea.



Want something sweet? Gaetano's has various delicious gelato flavors. Stracciatella, fragola, limone, cioccolato: you name it, Gaetano's has it!

Go back in time in Bassano del Grappa & Mt. Grappa

Paderno's backyard reads like a history book. In Bassano del Grappa, famous for photo ops on its Palladian bridge (first right), we are also reminded of the Italian Resistance's strength in World War II. The Trees of the Martyrs (second right) feature a name (and sometimes image) of the patriots hanged here during this dark time.



On top of Mt. Grappa, views of the Venetian plains and the



Italian and Austrian Alps are indeed breathtakingly stunning (first right), and the mountain is world-famous for paragliding. However, the war memorial (second right) is a sobering remembrance that pays homage to the thousands who died here during both horrific wars.

Do NOT miss Asolo!

Only a few kilometers from PdG is Asolo, situated in the beautiful hills of the Veneto region. With its classic Italian architecture and quaint stores, Asolo is a hidden jewel of a town full of historical background and exploration opportunities. In 1509, Queen of Cyprus Caterina Cornaro ruled as Signoria of Asolo, bringing in artists and poets from all over Italy to enjoy Asolo's beauty and culture. Other famous residents have included the English poets, Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Italian actress, Eleanora Duse; and the English travel writer, Freya Stark.



Aptly nicknamed "the city of a hundred horizons," Asolo features a 12th century Rocco (fortress) that stands tall above the town and valley. On the piazza, Caffé Centrale is the place for a great macchiato, panino, or gelato as well as a talk with locals. Just off the piazza at Pizzeria Cornaro, CIMBA students have enjoyed learning the art of pizza-making with Saverio, the pizzeria's animated owner.



So, while enjoying a wonderful semester at CIMBA, we encourage you to explore Italy and the rest of Europe. Don't forget, however, just how much there is to see and do in Paderno's backyard.

Veni, Vidi, Vici: How to survive Monte Grappa.

°Veni, vidi, vici,° translates to: I came, I saw, I conquered. Conquered Mount Grappa, that is. One of the more adventurous things to do in the Veneto region is to hike Mount Grappa. Trust me when I use the word adventurous. Bruce Kline, an economics professor at CIMBA, escorted me and Charlie to the base of Mount Grappa where we would begin the 13.5 mile, and 4,000 foot trek to the peak. Now that I have endured the climb, I thought it might be beneficial to leave you with some tips on how to survive the journey to the summit of this beast of a mountain:

1. **Reconsider your definition of the word "hike."**

This trip is no leisurely stroll. Think of a constant 10 degree incline for the duration of the way to the top with a few rocky and icy obstacles along the way.

There are, of course, more challenging routes up Mount Grappa, but we opted for an easier route since it was our inaugural trip. This mountain is unlike any kind of hike I have ever done before.

2. **Round up some good company.** You will be spending the majority of your day with these folks, so experiencing it with good natured people will make the challenge much more enjoyable. Be it your dog, best friend, or just the guy down the hall, it makes for a much more fun trip.



3. **Dress in layers.** When we hiked the mountain, I would say we experienced three different seasons throughout the change in elevation. I feel as though I made more costume changes than Carrie Underwood at the CMAs. You will get hot, then cold,

then begin sweating again just to soon be freezing 100 meters later.

1. **Snacks are always a good idea.**

This is a HIKE. This is another area where Bruce hooked us up with some homemade paninis.

Speaking of food, there is a refugio, or refuge, at the top which is comparable to a ski lodge, so there is the opportunity to stop at the top for not only a rest, but also for a scrumptious lunch.



5. **Stretch, stretch, stretch.** I cannot stress this enough.

Two days after the hike and I was still feeling some of the effects. As we marched down the mountain that afternoon, we stopped several times just to stretch and I am grateful we did. I am sure I would be in much worse shape if we skipped this crucial step.

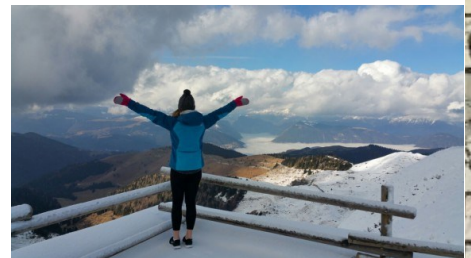
6. **Keep an open mind and a sense of adventure.** It is a long way to the top, so it is important to not get discouraged. There are some points along the way where you might have to improvise your route, especially when the terrain begins to get icy. You may or may not have to scale the side of the mountain around obstacles or a rough .

7. **Take it**

in. Everything. Just take the time to stop and smell the roses as they say.

This is an amazing trip, and worth it in every sense so be sure to take time, especially at the top

to simply observe the view.



A few other things to note:

- At the top, people tie up their dogs outside the restaurant like they did with horses back in the day. Here is one of my favorite furry friends outside Casa Armata del Grappa e Rifugio Bassano.
- Some of these more ambitious Italians bike up the mountain. I have no clue how they do it. I'm convinced they have legs of steal.
- People are incredibly friendly! Every person and pup that we encountered greeted our group and some even asked for directions, only to quickly realize...non parliamo italiano.
- Some people like to make the journey in a speedo...



9 Days, 4 Cities, 1 Minion



Meet Dave. Dave, is currently the world's most traveled minion. He is soon to be in the Guinness Book of World Records, so hurry up and get his autograph! Over travel week this semester, not only did 88 CIMBA students spread their wings and explore Europe but Dave the Minion did as well as he tagged along with four students.

Dave, along with his travel companions, Meg, Pat, Bridgette and Austin had the opportunity to explore 4 cities in two different countries. Along the way he enjoyed amazing food, warm sunshine and even met up with some of his long lost minion friends.

He enjoys long walks on the beaches of Lisbon and getting caught in the flash rains of Rome. Dave also speaks many languages including Banana Language (minion language), Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and a little bit of pig Latin. His language fluency made him an excellent travel companion! Check out these photos from Dave's worldly travels!



CIMBA Takes Florence By Storm

Following two grueling, but rewarding weeks of CAP training, it had finally arrived. The first chance to see Italy and Europe with our newly minted friends. We supported and grew together in LIFE training, and now were sitting on a long bus ride, anxiously anticipating our first experience in the wild as a roving pack. All said, more than 70 of us ventured to Florence ready to celebrate our CAP successes.

Not only did we caravan together to Florence as a unit, but we also had all booked the same hostel. This led the somewhat comical sight of a roaming hoard of CIMBA students, eagerly seeking a spot to set our bags down and explore Florence for the evening. Once it was finally located, the lobby quickly turned into a madhouse. Knowing that there was no possible way the lot of us could be served at the same restaurant, we spread out in every direction. Growing weary of pasta after 2+ weeks of nothing but, images of Chinese plum chicken danced in my pack's heads. We found an 'Authentic Chinese-Italian' restaurant and waltzed in, partially prepared for the worst. As we entered, it was relieving to see that we were the only tourists inside. At this point, I pondered which language would be

best suited to speak. Chinese was quickly removed from the list, because none of us speak or understand a word. Both Italian and English were second languages to the wait staff, and a few of us spoke a little bit of Italian. It was really quite impressive how easily they transitioned between an Italian/English mash-up and Chinese, and the service was excellent. We all enjoyed our meals, ordering off of a menu that had been twice translated, and took some level of comfort in food that reminded us a bit of home. Being in a small town like Paderno is great, because we find ourselves removed a bit from the universal prevalence of American culture.



In Florence, it was fairly clear that the city was used to welcoming English speakers and tourists. Even so, it is a quintessentially Italian city.

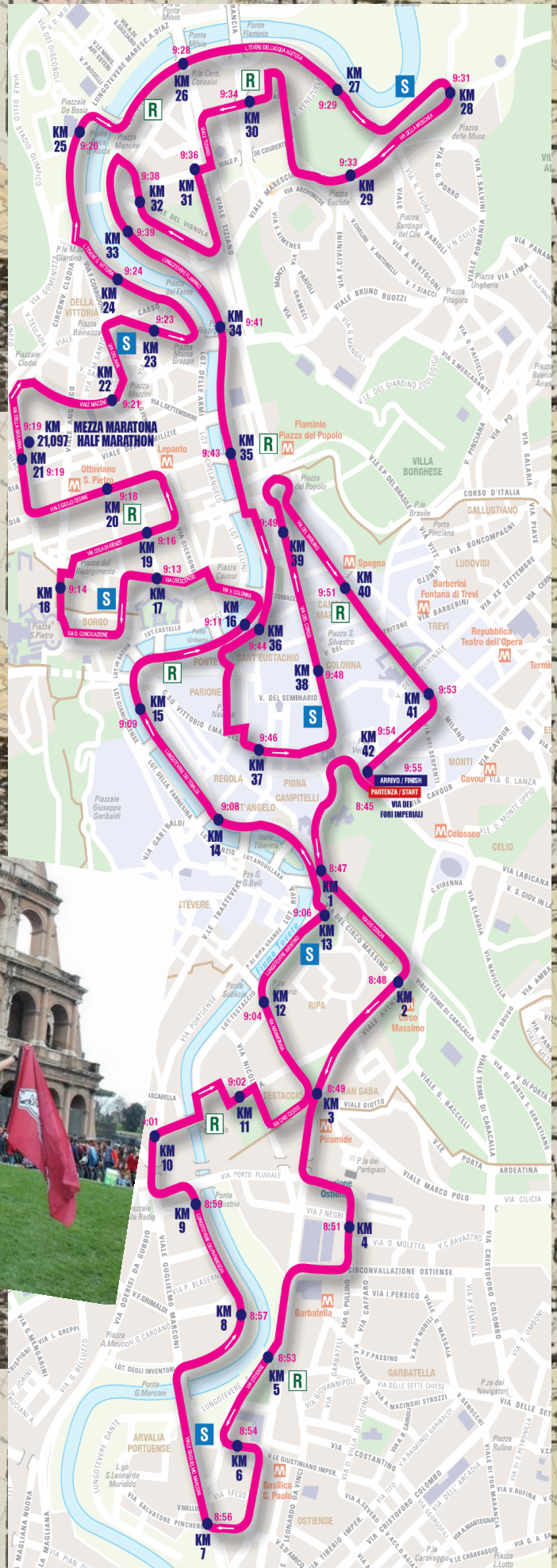
The next morning, we woke up early and grabbed breakfast before heading out. Departing in groups of five or six, with other CIMBA students. My group reached the top of Duomo Tower, only to shortly thereafter see some of our friends climbing the final steps. We took a few minutes, and then headed to the top of the dome. Here is where we once again found some of our friends. After ascending through impossibly small corridors (especially given my 6'7" height), we found ourselves looking out over Florence with 15 or so of our classmates. When we sought some lunch, price being a major concern, we found a great looking pizza place, Gusta Pizza. Upon entering, we noticed a

corner table occupied by none other than some more of our classmates! They raved about the pizza, and this prompted us to grab a table and dig in. Throughout the trip this continued. We would be wandering off in some seemingly random street, only to bump into other Cimbiens. It was always nice to take a couple minutes and trade tips about where to eat, what to see, and how to get there.

After all scrambling to catch the last train, my first experience with actually clearing the train doors as they close to depart, we were heading back to Paderno del Grappa. At this point, the common trait throughout the group was exhaustion. Everyone packed as much fun and sightseeing into our two day excursion as possible, and we all had a great time. Throughout the weekend we made more friends, learned about each other, and discovered amazing pieces of Italian history. Strolling through Medici palaces and seeing the art of Michelangelo, Da Vinci, and other kings of the renaissance is awe inspiring and brilliant. It is during these moments that the experience of study abroad really hits you.



After 26.2 long miles through the windy streets of Rome and amongst some of the most famous monuments in the world, Connor Ketchum can now cross running a **MARATHON** off his bucket list! Motivated and strengthened by his faith, Connor was able to train and compete in 7 countries! We are all proud to call him a fellow Cimbrian.



Lessons Learned & Memories Made

It was the end of Week 4 and on Friday afternoon there was an air of excitement in the air around campus as, all the



Cimbians were preparing for the first travel weekend, myself included. There was packing to do, tabacchi sandwiches to be picked up and classes to attend. But, before I knew it, it was 5:20pm and the Greek Squad was loading the bus along with all of the other travelers to the train station. Look out Greece, here we come!

It didn't really hit me until we were about half way to the train station the I am actually going to GREECE, a destination that has sat at the top of my bucket list for quite some time. It's safe to say that I was rather excited. The squad made our way from the train station to our hostel in Milan and tucked in for the night so we could catch an early flight to Athens in the morning. This is where things started to get interesting.

Saturday morning after getting all eight of us out of bed and ready to roll to the airport we walked to the bus stop just outside our hostel. Unfortunately, the stop we needed was across the street. With slightly under three

hours before takeoff getting on the right bus, going in the wrong direction stole about 40 minutes out of our travel time that we didn't have to spare.

This mishap caused us to miss the earlier train we were

aiming for. After finally arriving at Milano Centrale Stazione, we hustled our way to the ticket booth and prayed that there was another train that would get us to the airport in time. Lucky for us, there was! After running through the station amidst confusion, we definitely got on the wrong train, although it was headed to the proper destination. With some luck we finally arrived at Milan Malpensa Airport, but at the wrong terminal.

Using some quick thinking from Dan, we took a taxi to our correct terminal and we were

finally in the right place, but not exactly at the right time. We had about 15 minutes to check a bag, get through security, and make our flight. After sprinting through the airport, we raced through security, excusing our way to the front of the line, we all made it through continuing the haul to the gate. Hearts pounding and sweating profusely, the scurry was at last over as we arrived at the gate without a minute to spare.

But all that matters is that we made it. Once we were wheels up, it

was gratifying to reflect on the micro-adventure we'd just experienced.



CIMBA Takes Europe!





CIMBA

ITALY

Find us online!

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A special thank you to
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Pat Cook

Connor Ketchum

Charlene Bunnell

Hayden Ball

MacKenzie Eck

Nikole Johnston

Shane Patel

CIMBA Stats

- 88 Students
- 23 Universities
- 20 Countries
- 49 Males
- 39 Females
- 18 Students from University of Kansas, the most from any other university!
- 11 Professors
- 1 CIMBA Family