

SYA ITALY

The Gift that Keeps on Giving (<https://www.sya.org/life-at-sya/campusreporters/~board/campus-reporters/post/the-gift-that-keeps-on-giving>)

Elizabeth is a current junior at SYA Italy and a Campus Reporter. She comes to SYA from The Hill School.

Having been here since August, I thought that I knew Viterbo as well as I ever would. Whenever I walked around, I would always seem to end up in the same places. Wandering with my friends, I only ever saw the same few cafes and restaurants. **Still, this past Wednesday, when we took the spring semester students out for a day in Viterbo as our fieldwork, I found myself going down streets and turning corners I had never noticed before.** I probably had gone to all those places before, but I was always so focused on my destination that I was unable to appreciate my immediate surroundings.



People always reevaluate their life during the first month of the year. I've had a lot of time for reflection since coming here and one of the most important things that I've learned is that there is so much beauty in the little things. Whether it be the tiny salamanders that scurry across the road or the slight difference in each cafe's cornetto, now that I think about it, not a day has gone by where I haven't experienced something new. Each time I think I've seen it all, we visit a new street, a new town, a new city.

With rapidly advancing technology ever-present in our lives, we now have the ability to reach anyone in the world, anytime, anywhere. Everything is moving faster and further than ever before—and the result of that is that our lives are moving quicker.

Still, in this little pocket of the world, I find that I am able to enjoy slow afternoons sipping cappuccinos in a coffee shop. Just this past week I've eaten at three new restaurants, all within a five minute walk of the school. All of them were incredible and left me wondering why I hadn't gone there sooner.

So what is my point, precisely? Don't be scared to change things up a bit. Don't stick to your routine day in and day out. It's okay to not know where you're going sometimes. **It's okay to just wander a bit and look at the flowers growing in the cracks on the side of the road. Life is everywhere,**

especially in the places where you least expect it. Don't be afraid.

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