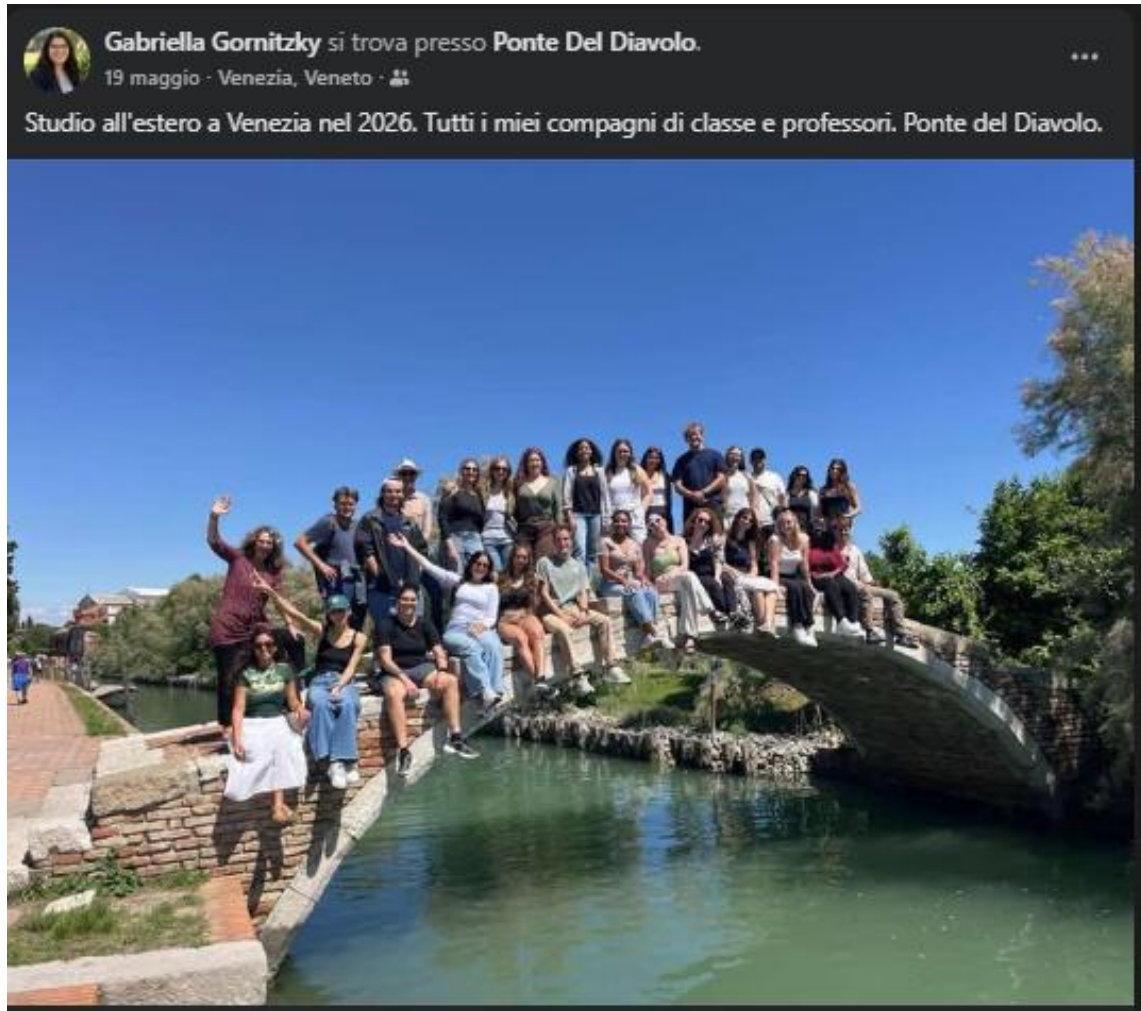


Gabriella Gornitzky's Colorful and Grateful Facebook Journal of her 6 weeks in Venice with FAU Italian Program

Summer 2026





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova a **Lido, Venice.**

16 maggio · 🧑🏻

...

Home for the next 6 weeks..

[Vedi traduzione](#)





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova a Venezia, Veneto.

17 maggio · 🧑🏻

...

Roommates and Doctor Ilaria Serra!

So grateful to have the opportunity to be with likeminded individuals on the search for a global education! Doctor Serra & Doctor Pettener, thank you for making this a dream come true!

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova presso **Ponte di Rialto**.

17 maggio · Venezia, Veneto · 🌐

...

Rialto bridge, where some of my classes will be.

[Vedi traduzione](#)





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova presso **Università Ca' Foscari Venezia**.

19 maggio · Venezia, Veneto · 🌍

...

After class limoncello spritz! A view from the university. Next, Torcello!

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova presso **Burano**.

19 maggio · Venezia, Veneto · 🇮🇹

...

Burano. Fishermen painted their houses in vivid shades so they could find their way home through the thick lagoon fog.

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova presso **Torcello, Veneto, Italy.**

19 maggio · 🌐

...

legend says Attila the Hun destroyed the original city of Altino, sending refugees fleeing to these lagoon islands.. the beginning of Venice itself.

Local legend says a black cat prowls Torcello at night near the Devil's Bridge, carrying the souls of the dead across the lagoon.

Visited Torcello today a tiny island, huge history. They say the eerie Ponte del Diavolo ("Devil's Bridge") was once where witches met the devil under the moonlight. Stay tuned for the class pic on the bridge!

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova presso **Basilica di San Marco.**

20 maggio · Venezia, Veneto · 🌐



St. Mark's Basilica has watched over Venice for nearly 1,000 years.. the current church was begun in 1063, back when William the Conqueror was still alive.

[Vedi traduzione](#)





Gabriella Gornitzky è con **Ilaria Serra** presso **San Pietro di Castello**.

21 maggio · Venezia, Veneto · 🧑🏻🧑🏻

...

Class today in Castello.

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky è con Emanuele Pettener e Ilaria Serra a Verona, Veneto.

22 maggio · 🌍

...

Verona feels like a city built for stories. Shakespeare never even visited, yet he made it the home of Romeo & Juliet, and today people still leave love letters beneath Juliet's balcony.. which, fun fact, was actually added centuries after the play was written.

Meanwhile, the Roman Arena in the center of the city is nearly 2,000 years old and still hosts concerts today. Somehow the whole place feels suspended between history and fiction.

Different time, same love, same laughter, same need to connect with each other. For a little while, the gap between past and present disappears. Verona, you were a pleasure. Vedi meno

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky

28 maggio · 🌐



Giornata divertente!

🌐 · [Vedi l'originale](#) · [Valuta questa traduzione](#)





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova presso **Lazzaretto nuovo.**

28 maggio · 🌐

...

Standing on Lazzaretto Nuovo, it's hard not to imagine the fear people must have felt arriving here during the plague, waiting 40 days in isolation before they were allowed into Venice. The word "quarantine" actually comes from this practice.. quaranta giorni, "forty days" in Italian. Centuries later, the island is quiet and beautiful, but you can still feel the weight of all the lives that passed through it.

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky è con Ilaria Serra presso Ghetto Vecchio, Venezia.

28 maggio · 🌍

...

Walking through the Venetian Ghetto, it's impossible not to feel the weight of history here. This was the world's first "ghetto," established in 1516, but some of its darkest days came centuries later during WWII, when more than 400 Jewish residents were deported by the Nazis. Only 7 ever returned. Today the square is quiet, filled with cafés, conversations, and children playing.. which to me is a reminder of both how fragile and resilient humanity can be.

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky è con **Ilaria Serra** presso **Venezia Ghetto**.

28 maggio · Venezia, Veneto · 🌍

...

Yesterday felt less like tourism and more like being welcomed into someone's living history. After wandering through the Venetian Ghetto and learning of stories that still weigh heavily on the soul, we spent time in the private garden of the Jewish community surrounded by warmth, conversation, and homemade sweets prepared by the ADEI (Associazione Donne Ebreiche Italiane) women. Everything was handmade and deeply rooted in tradition. Impade, mandorle, and azzime dolci. Simple recipes carrying generations of memory, fortitude, and culture in every bite.

What stayed with me most was not just the food, but the feeling of humanity and continuity. After everything this community has endured over centuries, there was still laughter, hospitality, and pride in sharing traditions with strangers. Moments like this make history feel alive instead of distant. Venice gave me beauty, but yesterday gave me something far more personal. Vedi meno

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova presso **Doge's Palace.**

3 giugno · Venezia, Veneto · 🇮🇹

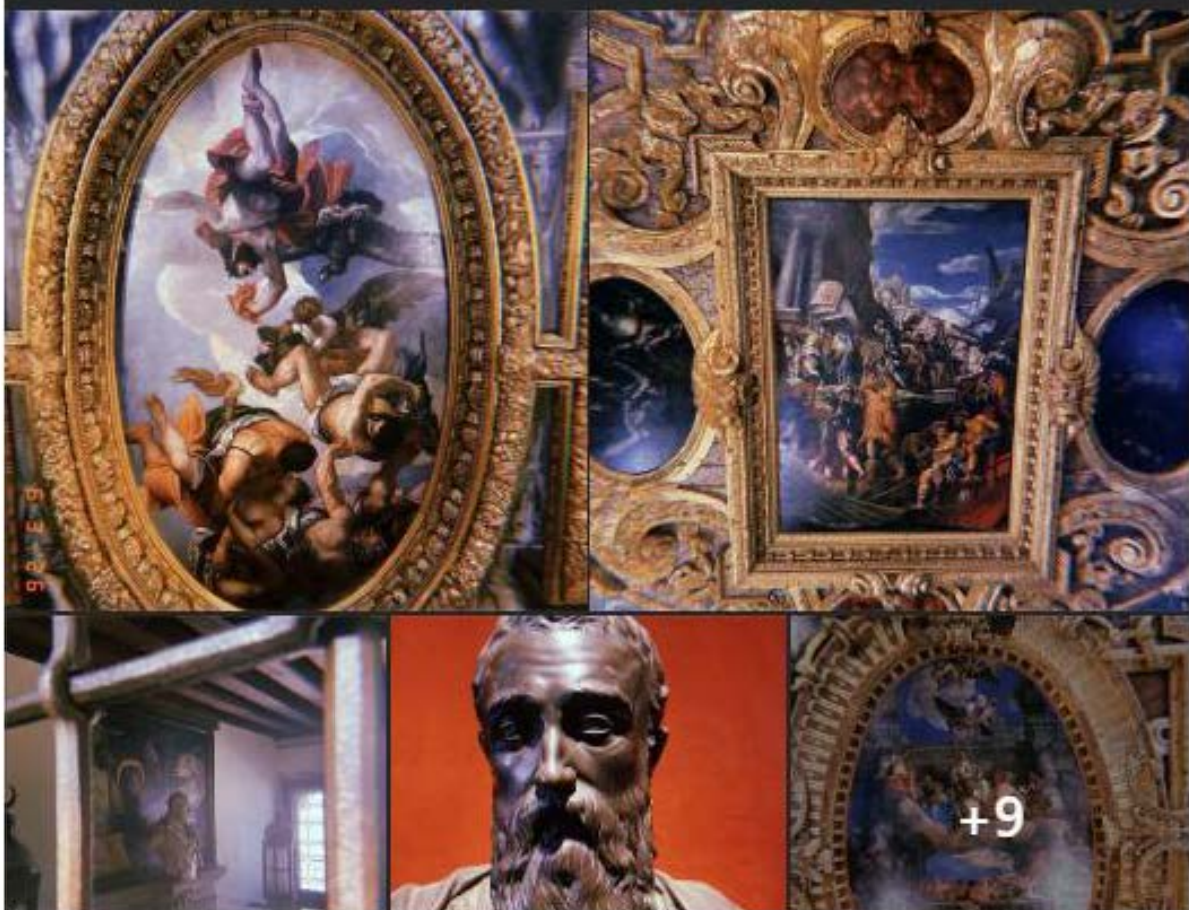
...

The Doge's Palace is breathtaking, but what stayed with me was the contrast. Above, magnificent chambers covered in gold leaf where senators debated laws, negotiated alliances, and governed one of the longest lasting republics in history. Below, dark prison cells where those who challenged the state could disappear from public view. Power and accountability. Grandeur and control. Freedom and fear. All existing within the same walls.

What makes it even more fascinating is how familiar some of those ideas feel. Long before the United States existed, the Venetian Republic experimented with representative government, checks on executive power, and institutions designed to prevent authority from resting in the hands of a single ruler. It was far from a modern democracy, but it was one of the political experiments that helped shape the Western tradition from which our own republic emerged.

Walking through those halls and then down into the dungeons, I was reminded that every government is ultimately a reflection of human nature. Our highest ideals and our deepest flaws often exist side by side. The Doge's Palace is more than just a regular monument to Venice. It is a monument to the complicated story of power itself. Vedi meno

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky è con Emanuele Pettener e Ilaria Serra.

7 giugno · 🌐

...

What an honor to be part of this incredible program in Venice! A huge thank you to Dr. Emanuele Pettener and Dr. Ilaria Serra for creating such a unique opportunity to learn, explore, and experience Italian culture in a meaningful way.

It was especially exciting to see Dr. Pettener share his story with the Italian public and to read about the impact this program has had on so many students over the years. I'm incredibly grateful for the chance to be here, meet amazing people, and deepen my understanding of Italy beyond the classroom.

And now I have a pretty good "Two Truths and a Lie":

🇮🇹 I studied Italian in Venice.

📰 My professor & class were featured in an Italian newspaper.

👑 I was elected Doge of Venice for a day.

Thank you again for making this unforgettable experience possible! Vedi meno

Vedi traduzione



i

ENORDEST.IT

In viaggio con Pettener, lo scrittore mestrino-americano, e i suoi studenti a Venezia - éNordEst



113



14



3





Gabriella Gornitzky si trova presso **Cooperativa Realtà Marghera**.

9 giugno · Venezia, Veneto · 🇮🇹

...

Today we had the privilege of spending time at Cooperativa Realtà in Marghera, where we learned how to make shirts and masks from the very people who create them every day. The experience was made even more special because our teachers were Venetians with special needs who welcomed us with incredible warmth, patience, and pride in their craft.

As I worked alongside them, I found myself thinking of my brother, who has autism. Seeing the passion, skill, and joy these adults brought to their work was deeply moving. Their talent was evident in every step, but what touched me most was the generosity with which they shared it. They welcomed us into their community with open arms.

One of the most meaningful parts of the day was receiving our own custom stencils to use on our shirts, created to commemorate our time together. It's a keepsake I'll treasure, but the memories and connections made today will stay with me far longer than any souvenir ever could.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your kindness, your patience, and for sharing your gifts with us. This was truly an unforgettable experience that I will carry with me forever. ❤️ **Vedi meno**

Vedi traduzione





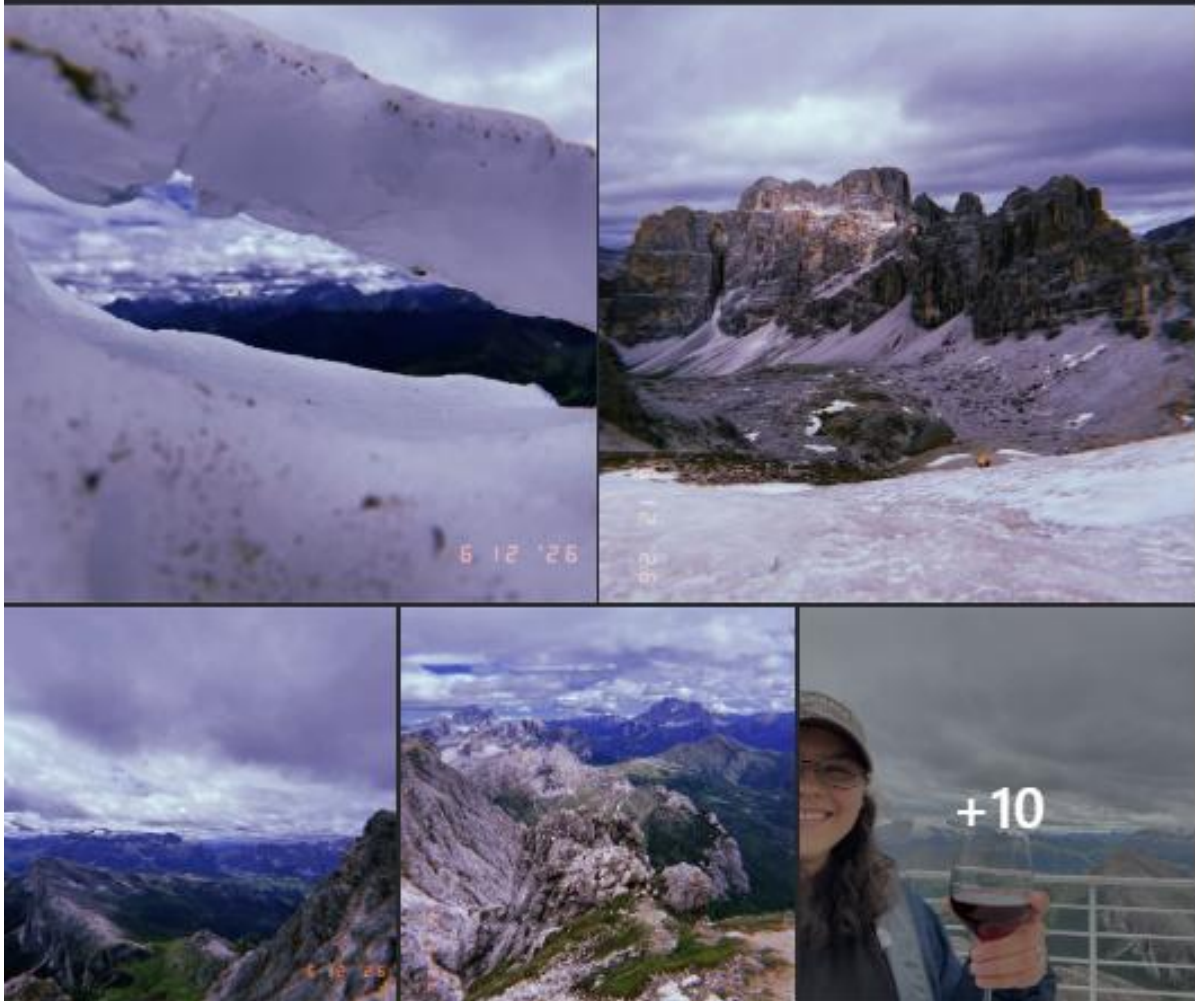
Gabriella Gornitzky è con **Emanuele Pettener** e **Ilaria Serra** presso **Dolomites, Italia...** ...

12 giugno · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

Over the mountain, around a hill (or two), somewhere between the ice lies beauty. Narrow is the perspective, yet in beholding it, one finds the quiet life many dream to live... especially when taking a closer look.

What an awesome experience to have shared with you all!

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky è con Ilaria Serra.

10 giugno · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

...

Spent today cleaning the walls near Rialto with a local organization and helping make a positive difference in the community. It was amazing to see the support from locals, and even some tourists stopped to take photos with us after seeing our efforts. A rewarding experience and a reminder that small acts can make a big impact.

Photo courtesy of a local resident watching from the apartment above. 📷

Vedi traduzione



22



5



2





Gabriella Gornitzky è con Alberto Alberti e Ilaria Serra.

13 giugno · 🌐

...

What an unforgettable experience! 🇮🇹❤️

My classmates and I were honored to be featured on the local news for helping clean the walls here in Venice, Italy. It may have seemed like a small act, but seeing our efforts recognized means so much and reminds us that even the simplest gestures can make a difference.

A special thank you to Alberto for giving us the opportunity to leave a positive and lasting mark on this beautiful city. Venice has given us memories, lessons, and experiences that we will carry with us for a lifetime.

Sharing this moment with such an amazing group of classmates made it even more meaningful. We are grateful, proud, and incredibly happy to have been part of something that contributed to preserving the beauty of this remarkable place.

Thank you, Venice, for welcoming us and allowing us to give back in a small way. This is a memory we'll cherish forever. Vedi meno

Vedi traduzione



YOUTUBE.COM

GLI UNIVERSITARI DELLA FLORIDA PULISCONO I MURI DI RIALTO CON 'MASEGNI E NIZIOLETTI' | 13/06/2026



Emanuele Pettener

12 giugno · 🌐

Gli studenti, i professori, e il lago di Misurina.
[Photo by [Andrea Samuelli](#)].



1



Commenta come **Ilaria Serra**



Gabriella Gornitzky

13 giugno · 👤

We made it in the Italian paper again!

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky

14 giugno · 🌐

Once again recognized by the local Venetian news! in our third news paper appearance! This time I have a direct quote.

Vedi traduzione

tudenti americani scuola di venezianità c'è chi non se ne va pi

ria Serra, ex cafoscarina, insegna italianistica alla Florida Atlantic University. Nel 2009, salvo due anni di pausa causa Covid, fa conoscere ai suoi ragazzi Ven



A VENEZIA I RAGAZZI
SPERIMENTANO
UNO STILE DI VITA
CHE SOGNANO
PER SEMPRE
OVI LI VEDO FIORIRE

ADAR DOPO
IL VIAGGIO STUDIO
SI È TRASFERITA QUI
SI È SPOSATA,
HA UNA BAMBINA
E UNA BARCA



Flu via gli studenti in calle della Bieta dopo il lavoro di pulizia con Masègni & Nizioletti. Sotto, all'Arsenale

Among the activities that have left a mark on the kids is the cleaning, in collaboration with Masègni & Nizioletti, of the front door of the house of the famous architect Carlo Scarpa, in San Sebastiano. It was an important experience for them, they were happy to clean it, says the teacher. "Fun turismo is a tour operator that wants to leave a positive mark on the city, not taking but charging," adds Nicola Tognon, president of the Masègni & Nizioletti association. "I feel responsible for the place we are visiting and we are happy to leave it better than we found it," says Alex, one of the students. "Instead of leaving a scar on the city, we left a mark of cleanliness, even in our souls. A beautiful experience," asks Gabby. Renedetta Leardini

REGIONAL PRODUCTION



Gabriella Gornitzky 🇮🇹 grata con **Ilaria Serra** presso **Teatro Malibran**.

17 giugno - Venezia, Veneto - 🇮🇹

...

One of the most memorable experiences of my time in Italy was attending a performance of a nearly 200-year-old opera by Gaetano Donizetti at the historic Teatro Malibran. This opportunity was presented to our class through the encouragement of Dr. Serra, who introduced us not only to the performance itself but to the story behind its creator.

Donizetti's journey resonated with me. Born into a humble family in Bergamo, he faced significant obstacles early in life before his talent was recognized. Despite those challenges, he persevered, eventually becoming one of the most influential composers of the nineteenth century and producing dozens of operas that continue to be performed around the world today.

Art reveals itself in many forms, but for me, it has always spoken most clearly through music. As a musician, I once devoted much of my life to that passion. Over time, however, academic pursuits and the responsibilities of everyday life pulled me further away from it. Sitting in that theater, listening to the music unfold, reminded me of a part of myself that I had not connected with in a very long time.

Throughout the performance, I experienced a range of emotions. I was happy. I was sad. I reflected, I wondered, and I realized how much I missed music. The contrast between this style of classical opera and the modern music I am accustomed to initially created some distance, but as the evening progressed, I found myself connecting deeply with the joy, beauty, and humanity of the performance.

Many times throughout this past month, I have expressed my gratitude to Dr. Serra and Dr. Pettener for the opportunities they have provided. Yet for this experience, I do not think words can fully convey my appreciation. The evening brought back memories, both joyful and difficult, and reminded me of passions that had been buried beneath years of obligations and expectations.

It was a gift. A gift that rekindled something within me and returned a small piece of myself that I did not realize I had lost. It gave me back a part of my passion that otherwise might have remained forgotten.

What a beautiful experience. Truly unforgettable. Vedi meno

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky

19 giugno · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

Nice meeting you [Walter Berton!](#)

Vedi traduzione



Walter Berton

19 giugno · 🌐

Yesterday was a nice meeting with Ilaria Serra and her Florida Atlantic University students. Grazie Ilaria della bella sorpresa che mi hai fatto!

Vedi traduzione



Gabriella Gornitzky è con **Lucio Bisutto** e **Ilaria Serra** presso **Pellestrina**.

23 giugno · Venezia, Veneto · 🧑🏻🧑🏻

...

Still thinking about our incredible time in Pellestrina! A huge thank you to the wonderful Lucio for welcoming us with such open arms and treating us to the most authentic Venetian experience. Thank you, Lucio, for the gift of your music as it was the highlight of the trip.

I cannot wait to head back to the island and visit him again hopefully with much better Italian next time! Grazie mille, Lucio!

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky

28 giugno · 🌐

What an experience..



Emanuele Pettener

25 giugno · 🌐

Study Abroad Program 2026, Ristorante Galuppi in Burano, right now: The Last Supper.

Vedi traduzione



Gabriella Gornitzky

28 giugno · 🌍



Last night of the study abroad program. Out with a boom and beautiful sunset...

Vedi traduzione





Gabriella Gornitzky è con **Reese Gibson** e altri 2.

8 luglio · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻



Where do I even start? I never thought something like this would happen to me, but being awarded several scholarships made this experience even more amazing. It's proof that my hard work paid off. Thank you to all of my classmates that made this trip special.. I'll have these memories and new friendships forever. There's plenty I could say, but I don't think any of it encapsulates how I truly feel. 🇮🇹

Vedi traduzione

