Sustain News by Montmajour



Rome, a city of History

Rome, between past and present

Rome offers a lot of historic monuments which are splendid. The capital's visit on Wednesday permitted us to discover Rome and its history.

We started with the Piazza Navona a curious place because each side of the central fountain represents four rivers which were considered as the biggest in the world. Then we continued with the Fontana di Trevi and the Piazza Colonna, a beautiful monument which shows the Roman's life.









In the afternoon, we had two visits, the Colisee and to finish the Vatican. The Colisee could welcome 50000 to 70000 spectators. We learned that 3 shows used to be played : in the morning you could find animal fights or public executions and in the afternoon gladiator's games. The construction of this site took only 9 years, that's nothing !

Finally we discovered the Vatican. In the entrance we could see a bronze door which made an impression on us because only the pope opens it every 15 years for the jubilee. Inside the Saint Peter's Basilica of Rome, huge pillars hold the dome, it was very impressive. We saw the statue of Saint Helena who carries the Holy Cross, by the sculptor Andrea Bolgi. Above there is a balcony where the relic of the Real Holy Cross is. The walls are entirely decorated by cherubs that you can find everywhere on the basilica. In the apse, there is a stained glass window where a dove is represented, it's very theatrical with all the popes on the edge of the chair. This day was an instructive experience, particularly thanks to our young guide Tomaso.

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Ernest S. - T STL, Eloise V. et Léonie Lacroix - TS2

Conferences

Dangers of mass tourism by Luca Argenta

During a twenty-minute presentation, Luca Argenta, an Italian consultant, showed us the harmful effects of tourism which could impact the very attractive cities, such as Venice, Paris or London.

Indeed, the waste, mixed with an ephemeral overpopulation during the tourism seasons, but also the disruptive behaviour of foreigners, make the local inhabitants contemptuous, going so far as to hold « anti-tourism » demonstrations.



Comparing mass to sustainable tourism, he gave as a lot of advice to travel while respecting the environment and the local people and places. For instance, we could use more public transport, but also avoid packaging as much as possible.



However, he had to admit that as of now, we can't travel in a 100% sustainable way, but that doesn't prevent us from doing our best to travel as ecologically as possible !

The Great Pacific garbage patch

On Thursday afternoon, we attended a conference about "The Great Pacific garbage patch" also known as "The Pacific Trash Vortex", located in the north of the Pacific ocean. In reality, the vortex (also called the 7th or 8th continent) is divided into two large connected areas generated by tons of trash . The pictures we saw were really awful, the fact that this kind of place actually exist is very worrisome and scary for our future.





We met Mrs. Ada Mavi Santarelli, a creative woman who transforms garbage into jewellery, bags, clothes and many other things. With her help, we did a sustainable handcraft workshop. During this activity, we learnt a lot of things about what we can do with our trash : for example, we made flowers with the bottom of plastic bottles and some people also made necklaces. It was fun and interesting! If everyone were to recycle their garbage like this, it could be a serious improvement for the sake of the earth.

Check out her website: http://www.amavis.it/.

Mélanie B. - BTS2, Youssra L. et Athéna H. -TL1



Léa B. - T STL and Jeanne D. - 182

Visits and workshops.

Palazza Cesarini + Chigi

On Monday we visited the Cesarini Palace, which is in Genzano di Roma, near our host school. The palace has kept its style and ancient furniture, which allowed the guide to tell us its story and traditions. Then, on Tuesday, we went to another monument, called the Chigi Palace, which is nowadays used for exhibitions.





The visitor can appreciate the contrast between the ancient style of the building and the contemporary art pieces. It's quite interesting to see how Italy gave new use to their palaces, either in conserving the original style or in giving a newer aspect, while conserving the history and the art pieces in the palace.

Théo C-T STL, Thomas B. et Tanguy A. - TS2

To conclude !

To conclude, this trip in Italy has allowed us to strengthen the links with our partners and made us learn more about the customs and habits of Italian people. We have practised English during the moments we've spent with the families, in the high school, and during our free time with the Italian students, in the evenings at the bowling or the restaurant..

Corentin J. - 1S2, Léa B. - TSTL

Don't forget to be sustainable

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