

Daily report of staying in Florence for the program of Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation, a weekly workshop under a slogan Life beyond Tourism "A Dictionary without Boundaries. Florence in the works of World Famous People (Writers, Artists, Musicians). Project of a Dictionary for Guides and Tourists".

The Purposes of the Dictionary

- To discover & promote Florentine value in the creativity of outstanding people all over the world, as Florence is a real treasure for mankind.
- To stimulate interest of Italian and foreign tourists to Florence through new research of national artists' and writers' works dealing with Florentine topic.
- To supply guides with new and original material about this outstanding city.

The Purposes of the Project

- To **raise the level of students' knowledge** of Italian and Florentine contribution into the world literary and art studies as described in encyclopedias on culture, art and literature.
- To **inspire students** and combine their efforts in studying Florentine architecture, art and literature through **visiting the main museums, palaces and churches**.
- To **propose new entries to a new encyclopedic dictionary** based on Florentine theme for students to gain profound knowledge and interpretation in European writers' and artists' creations.

Florence is situated in the region Toscana (Tuscany). Toscana is the heart of Italy (or maybe the knee?:)



Anyway, there is no other way to say it: **Tuscany** is spectacular.

Pastoral farmhouses, tiny villages sequestered in the hills, rustic city squares that have remained untouched by the technological advances of the twentieth century – this is the scenic Italian countryside that makes it onto all the postcards.



Italian Life Style

- They are able to enjoy the life
- Keep their culture and are fond of everything Italian
- Every day has a traditional timetable
- Numerous coffee-breaks during the day- the way to have a talk and relax

Typical European sandwich



The variety of pasta

Italian food

Find only Italian menu!

- Antipasti – snack
- Primi piatti – pasta, pizza
- Secondi piatti – meat
- Dolci – dessert

Coperto (bread) is included into the check.

Transport

We have needed bus №22 and could buy tickets (cost – 1,2 €): at the reception of the hotel, in tabacchi (a shop where you can buy tobacco and cigarettes); on board (cost – 2 €, the driver doesn't give charge). The ticket must be validated upon the board and the ticket is valid 95 minutes that means you can take as many buses as you can but in the period of 95 minutes.

Daily report/ Florence, April 2011
2011.04.10. First day



Lovely view of surroundings of Florence from the illuminator of the plane.

Finally we are in Florence! After a difficult way to Italy where I have had to pass through the cold wind, sticky snow and moist asphalt in Moscow, the sun and hot weather have met us in Florence. We have taken a taxi and gone to our hotel QuadroKey that is just in 10 minutes from airport by car.



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Florence International Airport Peretola through the illuminator, 3 minutes after arrival.

The hotel is very nice place but the price we have paid for it, unfortunately, is much bigger than the quality of service and the double bed where we have had to sleep is situated on the kitchen.. Oomph! Nevertheless, the place where we are staying is quite nice and very convenient regarding to the kitchen facility and bathroom. By the way, we are student of Tomsk Polytechnic University who have come to Florence for a weekly workshop "Dictionary without Boundaries: Florence in the influence of artists, musicians, writers, etc" by Romualdo del Bianco foundation. We are 4 students: Yulia Titaeva, Vladimir Abramichev, Yelena Kostyrya and me, Aysulu Ismailova, accompanied by tutor Svetlana Budkova, who has been in Florence already 2 times, and project leader Tamara Petrashova.

After arrival we have decided to walk a bit to see and explore the neighborhood and by the way we have dropped in a small restaurant-pizzeria and found there a very good and tasty pizza. Then we have come back to hotel and slept till the morning.

2011.04.11. Second day

Early morning we have woken up (at seven am) and went to Star Gates café to the breakfast. After it we have taken



the bus no. 22 to the downtown and went to the Palazzo Strozzi, where we should present our Tomsk Polytechnic University. On the meeting the president of the Romualdo del Bianco foundation have told us his greetings with other related persons and after it we have started to listen the presentations. It has taken about 3 hours and after it we have had the day rest as a free time, and we decided to explore Florence by feet. We have been strolling through very small and narrow streets in the city centre of Florence and I found that Florence is a very old city with modern lifestyle. All is sparkling and shining, the weather was hot and the sun was too bright. We have seen a lot of tourists walking on the streets holding city maps in their hands, a lot of Italian young people, so handsome, stylish and well-groomed. The life in Florence is seemed to be boiled as water over never died out flame. We were a bit tired and exhausted due to the way to Florence but nevertheless we were full of emotions and willing to watch as much as possible. The walking was not without shopping, and I bought some souvenirs for my relatives and friends. I should mention, the souvenirs in Florence are too expensive, but as very curious tourists we should explore a lot of souvenir boutiques and stalls in order to avoid a cheating.

Near the Gold Gates of the Baptistery of Santa Maria del Fiore

The Baptistery or Battistero di San Giovanni is a religious building which has the status of a minor basilica. The Baptistry is renowned for its three sets of artistically important bronze doors with relief sculptures. The south doors were done by Andrea Pisano and the north and east doors by Lorenzo Ghiberti. The east pair of doors was dubbed by Michelangelo "the Gates of Paradise".

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The Italian poet Dante Alighieri and many other notable Renaissance figures, including members of the Medici family, were baptized in this baptistery. In fact, until the end of the nineteenth century, all Catholic Florentines were baptized here.



Baptistery of Santa Maria del Fiore with a gold entrance

At the evening we have gathered at the meeting room where we divided for the 4 mixed groups and started to work together.



My group. From left to right: me, Yana Shikalova, Perm State University; Olesya Pervushina, South Ural State University; Ekaterina Lukyanova, Vladimir State University for the Humanities; Regina Valiullina, Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University; Svetlana Arzhantseva, Yaroslavl State University; Ksenia Kochetkova, Ivanovo State University

2011.04.12. Third day

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We've woken up at 7 am and by 7:45 we were at the breakfast. The weather was quite cold and we thought it would be better to have umbrellas with us, but this idea came to us only when we were at the street going to the café. Anyway after the breakfast we returned to take the umbrellas. Our way was directed to Academia della Crusca and it took about 1,5 hours to achieve the destination. There we've had a guide tour during which I got to know a lot of new and interesting information. For example, Academia della Crusca translates to English as the Academy of Bran. This name has a short story: at that time academicians that were involved into the working out of the Italian dictionary and development of the linguistic aspects of Italian language associated their work as grain processing, when during the process the grain was being separated from the bran. That was meant that bad was separated from the good, and in this case, the bran was meant bad lexicon of the language and, in contrary, the grain was the good one. And the union of academicians decided to name this academy as Academy of the Bran instead of Grain, because, as they had guessed, there is no difference for the linguist, because linguist must be interested in all parts of the language.



Decorative backer's shovels are main symbols of Academia della Crusca

By the way, our guide was Italian women whose name is Vera. She clarified that her name was given by her father, because he had worked a lot with Russian culture.

Another interesting thing I found there is that the building of the academy was belonged to the family Medici and after their time it was a school for children and nowadays the academy is located in this building, that is named as Castello (Castel), but this name is given due to big water tanks that were situated in the Medici's house. Nowadays, the academy rents the "castel" by the government.



In the garden of Accademia della Crusca – Julia, Lilya from Ivanovo, Lena and I

We have seen the garden of the academy, it was quite nice to have a walk there, because the air there is so clean and fresh, and it seems that Florence is some kind of stone jungles. So the walking in the garden was great, but... the best garden in Florence is the Boboli Garden beyond the Palazzo Pitti, where we have come after a short walking after visiting Accademia della Crusca.



Group of students from all the universities participating in the workshop sitting at the square close to Palazzo Pitti



Grand view to the Palazzo Pitti from Boboli Garden

Walking in the garden and exciting a lovely view being opened to the eyes I remembered the Belvedere in Vienna, this awesome and splendid garden with many green and ordered bushes. The Boboli Garden is build and structured like Belvedere, but today, in April, I haven't found any flowers and flowering trees. Palazzo Pitti is also a very outstanding and grand place. I have been passing through the rooms in the gallery as slowly as a snail, because I was impressed by the paintings and I have been watching every painting until that time when even the background becomes live. The gallery contains images of the painters of 15-16 century and I was impressed at most by the painting "Storia di Lucrecia" by Filippino Lippi (Firenze 1457-1504), because when I have been standing in front of this picture I felt some feelings regarding to the background of the painting. I was seemed the air became dry, I felt a warm atmosphere shown at the scene and remembered the same feeling from my childhood, I think I have already seen a picture like this. One more picture is "Ritretto del Principe Leopoldo de Medici" by Tiberto Titti (Firenze 1575-1627) with a child with wide opened eyes and when you see at this drawing it seems the child is looking at you and he explores you, he is looking so deep into you and he wants to say something. Other paintings were portraits and fights, but there is one more thing I'd like to mention, this is royal rooms inside the Pitti Palace. I was a bit upset that I couldn't find an exact place where my personality, a famous Russian-Italian designer Irene Galitzine, who created an outstanding outfit "Palazzo Pyjama", which was presented for the first time in Florence. But nevertheless, I have visited the grand Pitti Palazzo, one of the most famous palaces in Italy.

The royal rooms in the palace are magnificent. In every room there are a lot of paintings, mostly portraits of the members of Medici family with gold-plated frames, giant crystal chandeliers with candles. In Camera della Regina all the walls were coated by a blue matter, there is a blue royal bed and light blue chairs. Initially this room was a part of quarters of the Grand Prince Ferdinando de Medici (1663-1713) and was used for the game trucca, some kind of billiard. In the azure room there are portraits of Medici family's members among which are 3 portraits of the prince Mattias dei Medici: when he was young, then in middle-age and the last one was painted in his old years.

After visiting Palazzo Pitti we have had a free time and I decided to go to the hotel, but I mixed up the right way and I have had to make a big circle until I have reached the bus stop. Then, at 8 pm we have met with our groups at the meeting room in our hotel and talked about our material.

2011.04.13. Fourth day

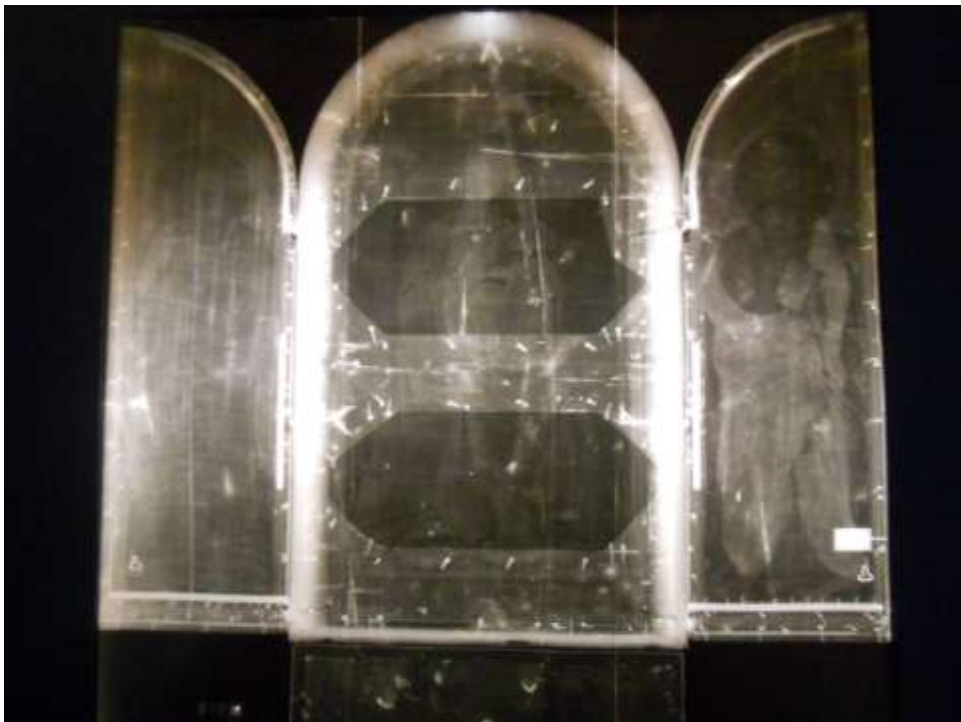
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The weather today was a bit cold with a strong breeze, but lots of girls from our group have dressed lightly in summer dresses with silk scarves and on the feet there were summer sandals instead of spring boots that are so popular in Italy now. After the breakfast that was today an hour later we have gone to San Marco Museum. Unfortunately, the piece of paper where I have been writing all my impressions and names of the art units is lost, however, I can say San Marco Museum was a monastery and we have had a good opportunity to see all the cells. Each monastic cell has one-two wall paintings related to the religion and dated 16 century. When you are in such a monastic cell in this museum you feel a specific atmosphere that was very long ago when there were no TV, computers and even telephones. Moreover, you feel something quiet and saint in this museum-monastery.

The most interesting thing I've found in this museum was X-ray photography of one exhibit! This is Linaiuoli Tabernacle.

The original Tabernacle, Angelico Fra, 1433. San Marco Museum, Florence



The X-ray photography of Linaiuoli Tabernacle located on the back side of the original exhibit. San Marco Museum, Florence

And you can see that the appearance of the icons are really visible though the X-ray photography!

After this journey into the 16th century of Renaissance we have decided to go to eat a pizza, we have been looking for a pizzeria, where pizza is cooked when you order it only. And we have found it! For the first glance it was a very lovely house with a nice owner and we have ordered 2 pizza and ravioli but for our disappointment we have had to wait for an hour and the pizza was not very much good, just like that one that you can do by yourself and, All the pictures besides the map have been taken by the author. All rights reserved©

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moreover, the owners have cheated – we have had to overpay about 5 euro and they have found a lot of causes for it!

At 2 pm we were at Academia Gallery – a museum, where every exhibit is natural as it was created by the origin author and never was changed (besides restoration). This museum is the museum of a peculiar meaning, because it contains 3 independent museums: museum of instrument, museum of sculpture and general hall and each of the parts has an exhibit of an extra importance for the history. For example, in the museum of instrument there are a number of violins and violas of Antonio Stradivari made of spruce and marble wood.



Violas in the Museum of Instruments at Academia Gallery, Florence.

There is also a tenor-violola of the Medici dated 1690 and made by Stradivari. By the way, in the museum there are a lot of paintings of Medici family on the walls among which is the portrait of Grand Prince Ferdinando with his musicians (~1685). Many kinds of musical instruments have found a place in the museum of instruments. There are besides violins also horns with crooks (19 cent), guitars and even first keyboard instruments, prototypes of modern pianos. A very original instrument, as I find, is salterio. It was made especially for the Grand Duke Cosimo III dei Medici, father of the Grand Prince Ferdinando. In the museum of sculpture there were, in majority, the works of Lorenzo Bartolini (the most interesting sculptures, I feel, are the sculpture of Niccolò Machiavelli and Monument of Soria Zannoyska), Luigi Pampuloni, Francesco Pozzi. In the general hall there is... it's so unexpected, the origin David of Michelangelo! David is a masterpiece of Renaissance sculpture created between 1501 and 1504, by the Italian artist Michelangelo. It is a 5.17 meter (17 foot) marble statue of a standing male nude. The statue represents the Biblical hero David, a favored subject in the art of Florence.



Michelangelo. David, 1501-1504, Academia Gallery, Florence

There were also a lot of other works of Michelangelo, but this is the most popular. As a matter of fact, and I still cannot understand it, the most attractive part of David's sculpture is its reproductive organs. They decorate many souvenirs and even shorts and aprons which must be dressed directly on body, and look very horrible and disgusting.

At 6 pm we have had a meeting in Università degli Studi di Firenze with professor and lecturer of the Facoltà di Lettere e' Filosofia Marchello Gorzaniti and Irina Dvizova respectively. They have been talking about Russian-Italian culture in Florence and studying Russian language in the university. They also have told there is a school of Russian language for children in Florence and in Rome and as for the statistics; there are only 2 lyceums in the Toscana region, where Italian students can learn Russian.

After the meeting me, Vladimir and my groupmates have gone to the street of Demidoff, a famous Russian person who had made many things for Florence. This is situated close to our hotel and there we have found his Villa, a house where he had lived during his staying in Florence.



The direction indicator to the street of Demidoff.

Then we have had a mini dinner in McDonalds and to 9 pm we have come to the hotel and gathered in the meeting room to share our information and make a final presentation.

2011.14.04. Fifth day

Ok, now we have visited museum Bargello where are a lot of works of Italian sculptors such as Giambologna Jacopo Sansovino, Iacopo Tatti etc. of 14-16 century. The first sculpture I have noticed is the bust of Cosimo Medici, the first of Medici family. This bust was made by Benvenuto Cellini in 1545. Another attractive creation is a door of the safe of Cosimo made of bronze with gilding by Vincenzo Danti in 1559. The central scene on the door shows a monarch identified as Numa Pompilius: burning prophetic books and scene is flanked by two allegorical figures while Peace is represented burning weapons in the oval at the bottom. When you go through the rooms of museum you feel so specific atmospheres and you cannot just pass without any stops. Every exhibit is so attractive and magnificent so it can take hours and hours to watch everything there. But we have had limited time to explore everything. Nevertheless the most important and interesting exhibits couldn't avoid our attention. They are the sculpture of Bacchus, the god of winemaking, made by Tatti, various interpretations of paintings and sculptures of Madonna and Child by different authors, dated 15 century, works of Donatello, for example, the outstanding one is marble statue of David (1408), another one that has a very significant meaning is Marzocco.



Donatello. Marzocco, 1420. Bargello Museum

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This figure is made of sandstone and inlaid marble in 1420 for the apartment which housed Pope Martin 5 and is a heraldic symbol of Florence dominion. From latin Martius or Mars, god of war, Marzocco is an emblem of force and generosity. Lion holds shield which bears a lily, the coat of arms of Florence.

Florence is a magnificent place for those who enjoy not only to learn the history, but also to watch the significant history monuments by their own. Besides exhibits described above Bargese has got significant for the history goods of 13-16 century such as dishes, Persian carpets, clothes of warriors, Venetian chests of 14 century, Italian statuettes, old-french and german clocks, locks and keys, gold and silver, crystal and coral, jewelry, earrings, rings, bracelets, chains, giant rings with a size of half-hand. Other outstanding things are first musical instruments, goods of church interior, ivory chess and hammers, souvenirs of red and white coral, tableware made of porcelain and earthenware.

Palazzo Vecchio

At 12 o'clock we have gone to Palazzo Vecchio. We have attended the meeting where the vice-mayor of Krakow and Paolo del Bianco, president of the Romualdo del Bianco Foundation, have signed the Memorandum of Understanding which enlarges the cultural cooperation and mutual understanding between Poland and Italian cultures. And the most important thing for us as representatives of National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University was the fact that Paolo Del Bianco has introduced our group to the mayor of Krakow and he shook our hands twice!



The memorandum is going



Students and leaders together with the vice-mayor of Krakow Tadeusz Trzmiel (third from left) and President of Romualdo del Bianco Foundation Paolo del Bianco (in the middle)

There are News regarding to this Memorandum from the site <http://www.agi.it> Italian News

(AGI) - Firenze 14 apr

Cultura, territorio e turismo. Ma anche imprese, istituzioni ed economia. Elementi, questi, al centro della collaborazione siglata oggi da Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco e citta' di Cracovia per lo sviluppo del portale Life Beyond Tourism sul territorio polacco. Il portale offre la possibilita' di utilizzare una piattaforma interattiva per comunicare un patrimonio intangibile di motivazioni ed aspirazioni da salvaguardare al pari di opere d'arte e monumenti, che danno vita e linfa al patrimonio tangibile di un luogo. La volonta' e' quella di favorire la conoscenza fra culture e di trasformare il turismo, anche e soprattutto quello di massa, da minaccia per il patrimonio ad opportunita' strategica di dialogo interculturale. L'obiettivo e' quello anche di far divenire i luoghi - in particolare i siti Patrimonio Mondiale dell Umanita' come Firenze e Cracovia - laboratori di conoscenza e di crescita nel campo del turismo e della conservazione. Alla firma dell'accordo erano presenti Eugenio Giani, presidente del consiglio comunale di Firenze, la delegazione di Cracovia composta dal vicesindaco, Tadeusz Trzmiel, insieme al preside della Facolta' di Architettura, Tadeusz Kozlowski, ed al Progettista del Museo Sukiennice, Andrzej Kadluczka - ed il presidente della fondazione Romualdo del Bianco, Paolo Del Bianco.

Dome of Santa Maria Del Fiore

Afternoon was free and we have decided to go to the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral!



Panorama of the San Marco Museum from the Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral



How to feel yourself giant...

We also have seen the cathedral inside

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Uffizi

At 4 pm we have met near the entrance to Uffizi Gallery. This is the main gallery in Italy, the most attractive place for tourist in Florence and is highly important to the European history of culture and art. Uffizi Gallery is a real treasure house of Florentine culture and heritage.



Magnificent view to the gold bridge Ponte Vecchio from Uffizi Gallery.

In Uffizi there are some works of Leonardo Da Vinci and we have had the honour to watch this works in live as well as works of other painters. The drawings of Leonardo Da Vinci exhibited in Uffizi are "The Baptism of Christ" (that was made together with Andrea Del Verrocchio, 1470-1475) and "Adoration of the Magi". We have found the works of Alessandro Botticelli, a famous Italian painter of 15 century, "The Birth of Venus" (1484) where is painted a beautiful girl going up from a pearl shell, "Madonna and Child" and "Spring" which had been painted for Medici family. Uffizi Gallery has got works of Italian painters of 14-15 century such as Pietro Lorenzetti, Jacopo del Casentino, Lorenzo Monaco, Van der Goes Hugo.

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2011.15.04. Sixth day

Today we have finished our work on presentations and furthermore we've had one more visit in the Capella Medicea. It is really outstanding place where a lot of members of the family Medici entomb.



Capella Medicea from outside looks like totally different to compare with its inner beauty. However, inside any pictures are forbidden.

Then in the evening we have had the final part of our work – presentations. After that we have had a funny Pasta Party.



On the pasta party all together cut the torte.

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2011.16.04. Seventh day

Pisa

This day is free for groups to visit all places what they want. That is why we have visited Pisa and the main square where the Tower of Pisa is situated. Before we have come to the square we have had a nice walk from the main train station to the destination point - Leaning Tower of Pisa. Once everyone has felt a hunger we had to make a stop in a local café which name is Piccolo Bar. Near the entrance there was a street band consisting of two guys who, it was got to known afterwards, were from Germany. The vocalist who's name is Jacob has been singing in English, however. Both guys also are very fluent in Italian language. Here it's so obvious to say, European youth are very keen on languages, they speak not only their native and English, but also else one-two other European languages. Here, comparing with Russia, you can see total difference between our mentality and lifestyle.

Another cultural difference we have noticed is in situation that has happened with Lena in this café. When we have been making an order to the guy behind the counter (it was self-service café), Lena has told she wanted to drink Latte. As everyone knows, Latte is a type of coffee that is poured into the cap mixed with milk and every menu of any café in Russia contains the name of this delicious drink. But who knows that name "latte" came from Italian language, m? The waiter has given to Lena a glass of hot milk. Why so? In Italy, be aware, as well as in the whole Europe, if you want to order a cup of coffee with milk, you should say "café latte". I've been passing by when I've seen how Lena was arguing with the guy: "No, I don't want to drink milk, a want Latte!", "This is Latte!" – answered the waiter. This seemed to be funny from the side but not so funny from the view of Lena's tracks, because when the waiter has understood that she wanted to drink coffee, he said: "Ok, take your milk. Next time, when you want to drink coffee, say café latte".



Singing with a street musician



The most well-known photo with Leaning Tower of Pisa that tourist love to make



Our cool team!

We have walked up its stairs and then observed Pisa from the Tower.



Julia and I. A photo made from the front point on the tower circle



2011.17.04. Eights day

This is our last day staying at Quadra Key Hotel and we have moved to another place, this is a small apartment in the heart of Florence, close to train station.



The outside view. Entrance door to the house.

And while we have been "climbed" the hill, a splendid vision has opened to our eyes

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After the lunch we have decided to go to observing square Piazza Michelangelo. Today is a Palm Sunday and there are branches of the oil tree near the church on the piazza Michelangelo. While we have been walking to the square we have meet some interesting things! OMG, what is it? This is electro-car! It looks like a parody of a car. So funny!



Electromobile vs Automobile



And this is our photo on the top of the world!



As love is for all ages as the friendship is for all nations.

This picture has its own story. We have been walking down on the road. Left of us there was a lovely view of Florence. No one else was on the road. The sun has been going down and we have noticed that our shadows have appeared on the asphalt and they were very sharp and long. We have stopped to make a photo. It has taken about 3-4 minutes to achieve this effect of the picture as you can see. When we have finished, I've turned my head back. There were a crowd of people looking at us. We have understood: they have been waiting for us! We were too much impressed by the politeness of people and we have told them in chorus "Grazie molto!" that means "Thank you very much!"



2011.18.04. Ninth day

Livorno, Ligurian Sea

We visited Livorno (Leghorn) which is situated nearby Pisa but has a walk to the Ligurian Sea. We spent all day long on the shore.

When we have arrived to the train station, we didn't know where to go, but an old man on the bus stop has helped us. He has advised to take the bus no.1 and ride till the end stop watching sea from the right side and leave the bus going back. The man has also told to me and Julia that Livorno is a well-known city due to its personalities. Here were born famous Italian composer Pietro Mascagni most noted of his operas (1863-1945) and famous Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920).

Vova is giving his «hand of help» for us to overcome the «underwater stones»



Julia has found a new house plant for herself that seem to be a giant aloe tree



Walking to the shore and looking like a mermaid of the deep-water Ligurian see

2011.19.04. Tenth day

Today we have visited Università degli Studi di Firenze, Facoltà di Ingegneria. We have had a nice meeting with the professor of this faculty, C. Borri and Dr. E. Guberti.



Our group is in front of main building of Engineering Faculty of University of Florence

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As far from home you go as more sure you become that the world is a small place. Dr Guberti is a good friend of Prof.Chuchalin, due to whom the meeting has been organized. But moreover, Dr Guberti in 2010 has visited the main Italian centre in Kazakhstan which is situated in Almaty and where I had attending and completed Italian language courses for 3 years. Unfortunately, after leaving the school I stopped to improve my language skills for years due to leaving of Prof.Nembrini back to Italy, to his home in Milan and my entrance to the Tomsk Polytechnic University. Nevertheless, a significant part of high knowledge of Italian given by Prof.Eugenio Nembrini is still in my head and it helped me a lot to understand Italian people and to read easy any text. Last year I visited Milan as a tourist but I decided to find my teacher. It took a lot of time to find his contacts and it was unsuccessfully, but I got to know he became a rector of Liceo di Sacro Coure in Milan and I just came to visit him. Fortunately, he was sitting in the garden near the college and he noticed me. The story has happy end and I decided to include it in this diary because it shows, anyway, firstly, the world is a small place and secondly, if you are open mind person interested not only in your field of study, but also in the culture, you achieve everything you want because this things come and happen so suddenly and unexpected as rain in Sahara.

After the meeting everyone could go whenever he or she wanted. Vova and I have gone to other university to collect information about his personality and then near to main train station we have found a place of rent a bicycle and... what do you think? Certainly, we have rent! For 2 hours. And we have been riding on the roads through other cars and busses. Thanks god, I know the rules and I can drive a car! Otherwise this journey could have a bad end. By the way, due to a very good democracy, people in Italy are allowed to do many things that are forbidden in Russia. For example, to draw the road signs...



The sign "around obstacles on the left" has got traces of creativity of Florentine residents

...or even drag and drop them to the ground

The parking is forbidden here.... All day long...



All the pictures besides the map have been tak

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2011.20.04. Eleventh day

*I can feel the end is near;
it all has come as we have feared.
And if our final day has come
let's pretend to carry on
and when the end has now begun live on...
Live on...*

Florence Airport. Back to Russia. Flight Florence-Munich, Alps

What was the most attractive thing of this day is the flight Florence-Munich-Moscow. We have been flying through the Alps



Alps through the window of the plane



Munich, Germany.

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As for conclusion it is willing to say that the trip has given a lot of positive emotions and we like sponges have absorbed all the information and atmosphere of modern Italy and Florence of the Renaissance time. It's time to go back to Russia, but the trip will live in our heart as memories, pictures, diaries, movies. And I hope that in the life of every one of us and everyone who hasn't been yet abroad a lot of positive moments will be happened frequently and they should be very vivid and memorable. During the staying in Florence we have had to do a lot of things and not only visiting museums and galleries, we have been making daily reports, taking interesting pictures to participate in the contest of photoblog and, mainly, working out with the heart of the project – the article. My personality was Irene Galitzine , a famous Italian designer, who was born in Russia in a family of Duke Gallitzin. She created a well-known nowadays outfit “Palazzo Pyjama” which was for the first time presented in Palazzo Pitti in Florence, where we have been few days ago. The main Florentine influence to Irene Galitzine is in a fact that after her presentation in Palazzo Pitti she became famous in started her carrier with a big success.

Thereby, as I think, the trip was very useful for us, we have visited a lot of interesting places – Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, Palazzo Strozzi, Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Pitti, Piazza del Michelangelo, San Marco Museum, Accademia della Crusca, Accademia Gallery, Boboli Garden, Bargello Museum, have seen the original works of famous sculptors, painters, artists such as Donatello, Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Botticelli, Stradivari etc and have got to know with Florentine royal family Medici. We have met the mayor of the city Krakow and he shook our hands, we have walked through the Demidoff street, where was situated his Italian house and we were at the square of Dante Alighieri near to his own house which is now became museum. We have visited Pisa, walked up to the Leaning Tower and Livorno, where famous Italian Mascagni and Modigliani were born; we have walked on the Ligurian seashore enjoying cool weather (I have never been on the sea before!) and, finally, we have worked out our articles that as we hope will be very useful for the tourists in the future and for the next students attending the project.

Aysulu Ismailova,

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