

# Lilly Macksood

I walk to the backyard, and the breathtaking mountains go on for miles. I can smell the fresh air, and it feels as if this is where im supposed to be right now. Italy is my place.

The villa we stayed in was tall and big in size. The backyard had an infinity pool that overlooked the most beautiful mountains I've ever seen. Just looking out into the yard amazed me. During the sunset the pink colored sky spread across what looked like the tops of the mountains. The villa felt very unique from any place I've ever stayed at. Almost every wall was a different color and there were different rooms everywhere I looked.

My favorite cultural experience was pizza night. Our cooks made 30 different mini pizzas and they were delicious. We got to sit at the table and there were 30 pizzas arrayed on the table. The types seemed endless. There were a few pizzas that seemed odd to me, but very normal for the cooks because they live in Italy. To me that shows me how different cultures are. Everyone lives different lives and thinks different things. People across the world are constantly doing things different, that seems very cool to me.

I loved seeing Rome, there were more buildings every corner I turned. I got to go on a tour at St. Peter's Basilica. It was the most beautiful church I've ever seen. The ceilings were so tall and the designs around all the walls were so precise and you



could tell a lot of time and work was put into them. The colors and patterns on the stain glass windows drew me in, I stopped and just looked at them in awe. Just being in the church was an amazing feeling. I felt really close to God when we went to mass in the basilica. The mass was beautiful. I couldn't stop looking around because of all the effort that was put into everything around me. One of my favorite parts of the trip was seeing how happy mass made my dad. He had been wanting to go to Mass there for so long and we finally went as a family.

