

Into Italy

Beginning in 1989 I've been fortunate enough to travel to Italy five times to absorb the sights and culture -- and to enjoy the wonderful food too, of course! These have been working trips for me as staff for Ohio University's Art History in Italy program. Taking anywhere from 20-30 students to Italy and overseeing their welfare demanded considerable time and effort, but there was still ample opportunity to photograph.

For me, this collection of traditional darkroom-made photographic prints represents a cross-section of sights that are uniquely Italian. I enjoy seeing the difference between our modern American existence and the quaint "lost-in-time" Italian landscape and lifestyle. In this show, there are pictures of rural Italian scenes, ancient artifacts, and characteristically Italian people.

I hope you compare your own experiences with what is pictured here. In one example, a photograph of a Roman neighborhood on a warm summer evening shows people of all ages gathered outdoors talking over the days' events. While I remember this kind of neighborhood gathering from my childhood, it seldom happens today in modern suburban life. I won't judge whether this is ultimately a good or a bad thing -- I'll leave that to the sociologists and historians of the future -- but it does make me ponder about where we are headed.

As it is with any photographic exhibition, the photographs here represent a small slice of the Italian experience. Even still, it is my hope that these pictures of Italian life, country, and culture afford the viewer a chance to travel vicariously into the heart of Italy.

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