

Fair Verona

By: *Maria Ríbas*

Nestled in the wine country between Milan and Venice lies Verona, home to Romeo and Juliet, a Roman arena, and a bustling college population. During your orientation week, peppy students from the Università degli Studi di Verona will take you on a tour of their city as well as arrange mixers with other students from all over the world. There is even a trip to Valpolicella, the vineyards that produce the world-renowned, deep wine called Barolo. Throughout your stay in Verona you'll be whirled away on osteria tours, wine tastings, and even trips to Venice and Rome with other international students.



The Università degli Studi di Verona is drastically different from Richmond—it values allowing the student maximum freedom. There is no class registration; instead, students select as many courses as they wish to take and frequent the lessons. There are not assignments due on a daily basis so students are taught to be independent and motivate

themselves to keep up with the reading. At the end of the semester, students register for exams, which are typically a 20-minute oral discussion with the professor about themes of the subject. A few classes are offered in English, but they are held at the satellite campus in nearby Vicenza. Italian language and culture classes are also offered at the Centro Linguistico Ateneo, which is a 5-minute walk from university buildings.



Most students are placed in the Millennium apartment complex, which is a 20-minute walk from university buildings, and where you'll be able to live with students from Germany, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hong Kong, and any other part of the world. The apartments are single sex and have a large common room with a dining table, kitchenette, and spacious balcony. There are two bedrooms and two bathrooms for four occupants and all the furniture is provided. It costs 175 euros per month, but there is a 6-month minimum contract, regardless of length of stay. Another option is to rent an apartment in the university area and the International Students Union is a great place to get recommendations.



The heart of the city of Verona is bordered by the serpentine Adige River, which has been witness to colonization since before Roman times. The city itself is older than Venice and has one of the best preserved arenas in Italy as well as innumerable columns, archways, and roads preserved from Roman times. The main piazza, Piazza Bra, is guarded on one side by the massive arena and on the other by the majestic municipal building; in between is a little park with benches, fluttering pigeons, and Italians on their daily "passeggiata." Piazza delle Erbe is one street away—it was once the Roman forum but now boasts cozy restaurants, an outdoor market, and modern shops. The university is a 15-minute walk from the historic center, just on the other side of the river.

