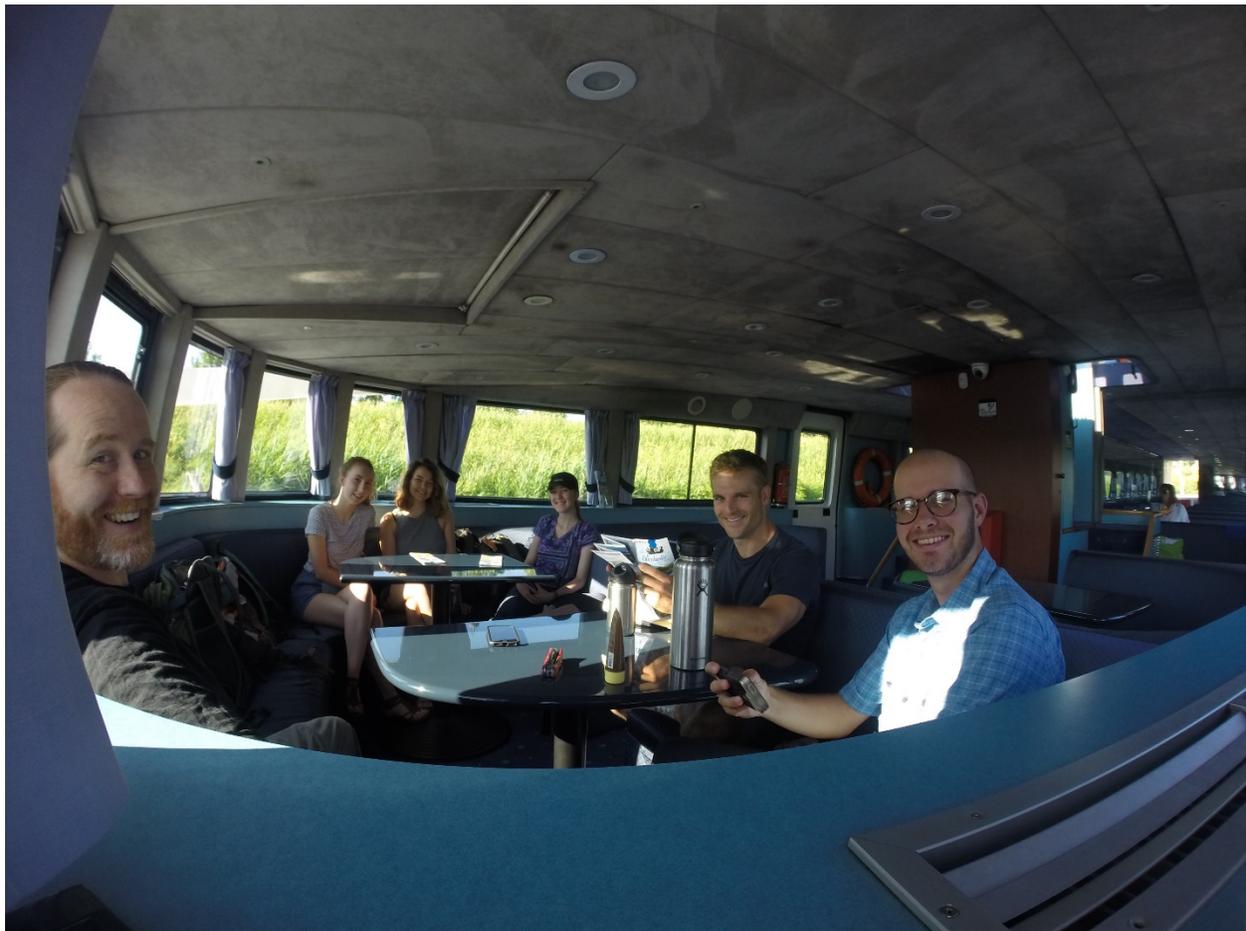


Il Burchiello

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When I heard we were going to be traveling 8 hours on a boat I was a little concerned mainly because that is a long time for a boat ride. However, it was a great experience, especially when you take a step back and look at it from a different perspective. When I thought about it more, I saw that while traveling slowly you see much more of the area. When you take a bullet train everything goes by too quickly, which causes you to miss certain things, much like when we took a train to Florence, it cut a two-hour trip to a half an hour one, but we missed the great views of the mountains and countryside. It was also fun to see how a grand tourist might have traveled to get to Venice.



While on the Burchiello trip we were able to stop along the canal that we were traveling and see many historic villas and places. It was pretty crazy to see these great big villas and imagining the original grand tourists staying in them. My favorite stop was the very last villa we stopped to see, apparently it is still in use for private events but we were still able to go inside as part of the tour. The villa itself was a little smaller than the others we stopped to see but the grounds were unbelievable. They had fields with fruit trees, easy access to the water, many gardens and even a small guest house.



The approach to Venice by boat was also really amazing. I felt like I was a grand tourist about to stay in Venice for a few weeks. The only part of the whole trip that was a little depressing was while on the approach to Venice we had this amazing view, you could literally see everything and then to our left there were great big cruise ships polluting the air and probably the water, it is really unfortunate that Venice has to suffer just so these ships can park right beside the city. It just makes me sad but that is one thing that the Italian government has to

control.



When you look at the Burchiello trip through a sustainability lens you see that slow travel has an upside and a downside. One of the downsides is how we saw some of the pollution experienced in Italy while passing a garbage burning facility. Also, the horrible cruise ship issues make Venice even more crowded and polluted. However, in my opinion the benefits of the trip outweigh the downsides. Some benefits are that we were able to see the part of the

countryside that brings us food while we travel through Italy, some of the local people that are not distracted by tourism, and the old way of travel, on a boat through the canals.