

Angela Isabella Scafidi – Age 10

This summer my grandmother and I traveled to Sicily to visit my great grandparents. I've been going every summer and I always look forward to returning. We left from the Airport in Newark Liberty International on Air One flight number AZ643 to Rome on June 29th. From Rome Fiumicino Airport we then took a connecting flight to Palermo P.M.O. on Alitalia Flight number AZ1785. In both flights, the flight attendants were very friendly and the food was delicious. We were very comfortable on the flight and we were both able to rest and sleep well. This is of course very important because that allows me to be rested when I see my family members at the airport. I also had the chance to see the movie Pink Panther 2 that was playing.

My uncle picked us up from the Palermo Airport and drove us to the wonderful town of Caronia. This is where my great grandparents live and where my grandparents were born and raised before coming to America in the year 1970. The town of Caronia is on the North coast of Sicily. It is a little town surrounded by mountains and the shore of Mar Tirreno. This panorama is called "Mare e Monte" because of its appearance. At the top of the Caronia hill is an old castle built in the 1100's AD. You are permitted to go to the castle garden and look around. It is a beautiful building that gave me an appreciation of history.

All our relatives welcomed us with delicious foods such as homemade pizza, eggplant, 'granita al limone' and local grown foods. Most of my days were spent going to camp in the morning. The camp was run by the local nuns and I learned how to crochet and do embroidery. In fact, I made two pieces for my family. In the afternoon I would go to the beach with my cousins who were visiting from Rome and Venice for a week. The beach was calm and the water was always a moderate temperature to swim in. The shore was full of different sized rocks. These rocks are from explosions of Mt.Etna, a volcano in Sicily that is still active.

During my stay, I traveled to other interesting cities in Sicily. We went to Messina and we saw "Il Duomo", a huge clock tower with the Ave Maria being sung by the disciples at exactly twelve o'clock sharp. Many pigeons kept flying around the tower in different directions. In Messina we also took the ferry boat (il traghetto) to Reggio, Calabria. The boat of Italy. The captain was so nice and he took me to see how they navigate the boat. He showed me the radars and how to tie the rope to the dock with only a long pole.

I also went to see Cefalu, a beautiful historic town between Caronia and Palermo. It is located on the seaside and a large steep mountain covers it from behind. There I saw the Temple of Diana and the ancient lavatoio. These ancient places show the many different cultures that belong to Sicily.

The second Sunday of August, happens an event that is always memorable. It's the feast of St.Biagio, the Patron Saint of Caronia. The festival offers people singing, dancing, shopping, and having fun. Many people lift up a statue of St. Biagio while the musicians and the long crowds follow the Patron Saint across the narrow streets of town. It all ends with the big bang from colorful fireworks, which is best to see from the elementary school playground.

Unfortunately, the vacation was over and we had to return to the United States. I was sad to leave my great grandparents and other relatives, but happy to see my parents and brother again. We returned on Alitalia Flight number AZ1776 from Palermo to Rome Fiumicino Airport and there took a connecting Alitalia flight from Rome to Newark, New Jersey. On this trip I learned more about my family history and new interesting facts about monumental places. I also learned about the rich and beautiful history that Sicily has to offer. I can't wait to return next year and this time I will bring my brother to see the wonderful sites and experiences that Sicily is full of.

