

# Kelowna Student Having a Time of His Life in Sardinia, Italy

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Nov 01, 2022

Tomas Faccini, the club's sponsored Rotary Youth Exchange Student, has begun an exciting adventure that few people have the opportunity to enjoy, particularly young people of his age. On September 03, Tomas departed for Italy, and specifically to the city of Sassari situated on the island of Sardinia where he has now begun experiencing almost a yearlong adventure experiencing a new culture, language and lifestyle that will change his life. Until his return home to Kelowna at the end of June 2023, Tomas will be hosted by a number of Italian families under the guidance and care of the Host Rotary Club, Sassari Nord.

In a recent communique with the website editor, Tomas explained that his experience has so far been a very relaxing experience as he has been settling in, getting to know his new host family, meeting members of his host Rotary club, spending some time exploring the city of Sassari and beyond, and joining other RYE students at an orientation on the mainland.

Tomas shared that *"upon arriving I went to the center of the city with my host sister and her friends to see an historic festival and to enjoy some pizza (as one should in Italy); and the next few days learning how my host family works and what their dynamics are,"* which he expressed functioned differently than his family back home, adding that *"but it is nothing I won't be able to get used to."*

It didn't take long for Tomas to experience how to pilot a boat on the ocean, because during the first weekend in Sardinia, he was out guiding the host family boat out on the sea. Tomas says that it was out on the coast where he met his YEO and some of his host parent's friends. From this first experience with Italians, he shared that *"I think that if there is one difference I would have to point out between Canadians and Italians, it's that Italians know how to relax."* (Yes, we should all take note! What is wrong with our Canadian way of life?)

Since his adventure on the seas, Tomas shared that *"I have gone to the mainland for a Rotary orientation with all of the exchange students being hosted in Italy, which was a fun experience; and I felt some relief knowing that there were many more people going through the same adaptation process I am."*

Tomas expressed his adventure through photographs as well which are here for your viewing.



Check out Tomas's Profile on the Rotary Youth Exchange site to the left of this page by first clicking on to "Service Areas and Committees", followed by "New Generations Committee (Youth Programs)" and then finally opening the "Rotary Youth Exchange Program" site.

We will all be waiting for another communique from Tomas in the months to come, with more photos of his adventures.