

VERTO HOUSING IN FLORENCE

Welcome to your home away from home! Below is more information about what to expect in your Florence accommodation.

Your Apartment & Neighbors

You may notice some differences between apartments in Florence and American apartments. Keep in mind that your building was likely built in the 16th century, and many buildings have been converted from their original use. As such, the layout might look different than you are used to and no two apartments will look the same or be the exact same size!

Apartments typically have:

- 2-3 shared bedrooms with many bedrooms accommodating 2-3 students (occasionally four in case of large spaces)
- A shared living space
- A kitchen (at times combined with living space)
- 1-2 bathrooms depending on the size of the apartment (at least 1 restroom every 4 tenants)
- A washing machine and drying rack (dryers are not common!)

Please note that you will likely have less personal and storage space than you may be accustomed to at home.

Your building will likely be in a residential area, so it's important to understand that your neighbors will consist of regular Florentines who work every day, have families, and expect the neighborhood to be respected in regards to noise, trash outside, etc. You have to remember to be respectful of those non-students living in buildings around you.

Where are the apartments located?

Apartments are located all over the Florence historical city center, all within walking distance from one another, the Verto study center, and from the main sights Florence has to offer.

Is my housing location safe?

Yes. Verto chooses neighborhoods based on safety and practical commuting distance to the Verto study center. Verto housing meets our highest standards of health and safety, and is located in very desirable locations around Florence.

SECURITY: Because accommodations are regular apartments in different residential buildings, not dorm-style buildings or a hotel, please note that there are no security personnel in the apartment

buildings. Regardless of where your housing is located, you must follow basic safety best practices like locking doors behind you and not giving out front door entry codes to anyone.

Every apartment is inspected and sanitized prior to student move-in. As such, if bed bugs are confirmed in Verto housing after arrival, they would have been brought in by housemate(s) through travel, and the extermination will be at the expense of the members of the apartment. This is a rare occurrence but something to be informed of as bed bugs travel with luggage and are easily transferable. A good rule of thumb - don't place your luggage on your bed.

What will be different in my apartment that I might not expect?

DRYERS. Your apartment will come with a washing machine but not a dryer. You will hang your laundry on drying racks, which are provided. You might be thinking 'Gee, that must take a while to dry during the many days that it's rainy or cold outside' and you know what—you're right! We recommend students plan out their laundry days accordingly, as the drying time can be unpredictable.

BED LINENS AND BLANKETS. Bed Linens and blankets are included , but not towels due to rental regulations in Florence. Students can bring their towels from home or buy inexpensive ones during discovery week. Your Care Team Leader will help you locate the shop closest to your apartment.

COMPLIMENTARY BI-WEEKLY CLEANING. Basic cleaning service of common areas is included twice a month. Students are responsible to keep their room clean and tidy and take out the trash regularly.

MOLD. Florentine buildings are more likely than U.S. buildings to accumulate mold on the interior of windows and walls, because they are old buildings that were built with less ventilation. To avoid mold growth, you should crack the windows on laundry day or after a shower. Any mold growth can easily be wiped away, and the housing provider's bi-weekly cleaning of the apartment's common areas (included in your abroad tuition fee) will help prevent this.

WINDOW SCREENS. Another fact of Florence life that surprises many students is the lack of screens on the windows. That can mean flying bugs may make their way through when you have the window open. Bugs in your apartment aren't a representation of uncleanliness, it is simply due to open windows.

AIR CONDITIONING. Apartments and houses in Florence don't have air conditioning. That can mean some hot days, and less ventilation than you might be used to. You'll want to crack open your windows and you can also purchase inexpensive fans at nearby home goods stores.

HEATING. Heating isn't central heating like you might have at home – the heating comes from radiators on the wall in each room. Additionally, heating is controlled by the local government, it is not 24/7 and the activation hours are spread throughout the day and pre-set by the housing agency. So, bring an extra sweater and make sure to dress properly and warm when inside the apartment as well!

ROOM SIZE. Bedrooms, living areas, bathrooms, and kitchens may be different shapes and sizes than you are expecting, and may be smaller than you are used to. You may share your apartment with up to 6-8 students, though there will never be more than four people sharing a bathroom.

STAIRS. Elevators are not commonplace in housing in Florence. That means that on arrival day you may be carrying your luggage up flights of stairs on your journey to your apartment.

COOKING. Your apartment will come equipped with the basic necessities for cooking your meals at home. Verto staff are available for meal suggestions or advice on shopping and cooking in Florence. You will receive instructions on how to use the oven (if available in your housing) and stove top as these may be different from what you have at home.

GROCERY SHOPPING. Because food is fresh and has fewer preservatives, you'll find that items like produce spoil quickly. Additionally, with shared cabinet and fridge space in the kitchen, you'll find that buying in bulk is not very feasible. As such, you should plan for more frequent and smaller shopping trips throughout the week.

COMMUTING. Your apartment will be within the historical city center of Florence. Despite being a European capital, Florence is one of the "top walkable cities" in the world. Expect to walk a lot more than you are used to and to plan enough time to reach school and the different sites. Florence has a bus system which connects the city furthest distances, but the commute from your apartment to school will be much shorter by foot!

More resources

- [Apartment Tour](#) - Please Note: this is an example of a participant apartment in Florence. Apartments vary and are subject to change based on availability.

Your apartment will feel like home before you know it!

Please see below for example photos of what housing may look like. Note that these photos are general and do not represent the exact apartment or room you will personally be assigned.

