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### My Spring Break

Last Thursday, the conclusion of Chinese class marked the beginning of my spring break. Because my flight leaves at 7pm, my girlfriend and I rushed to leave Columbia for Venice, Italy.

Although it was not very late in the evening by the time we had arrived in Venice, almost all the stores there were already closed. Since we were the only two in the streets, we both felt apprehensive. Fortunately, we ran into a kind person willing to direct us to the hotel that I had booked. In Venice, I didn't see a single car; regardless of where one travels, one either rides a boat or walks. Although cars are very convenient, their presence also brings noise and air pollution. Venice's air is always fresh; her nights are especially quiet.

After sightseeing in Venice for 2 days, we took a train to see Rome for three days. Although Venice is a beautiful city, the most interesting ancient artifacts and historical pieces in Italy are almost all found in Rome. In Vatican City's Sistine Chapel, we saw many pieces of artwork that we had previously only seen in textbooks. I was very happy to be able to see with my own eyes many pieces of work that greatly shaped and influenced Western philosophy.

With only 5 days allotted for Italy, there was no opportunity for me to relax, much like the situation when taking classes. Nevertheless, what I witnessed will be with me forever.