Unit 6. What was your best vacation ever?

I must be honest. To me, food is food, it all tastes great. And, people are people, they are all basically nice, and I think all people in the tourist industry are nice, or they would go out of business (unless they own a tourist trap). So, my favorite place to visit in the whole world is Italy, and it’s not because of the people or the food. I love cities. I love the famous cities, the coastal cities, and the hilltop cities. What do all the cities have in common? A big old church, surrounded by outdoor cafes, where you can sit and drink and soak up the view.

First, I love the big cities. I went to Rome, Venice, Milan and Florence. (I was advised not to go to Naples because of the Mafia, so I didn’t.) Anyway, Rome was awesome, with the Vatican, the Trevi Fountain, and the Spanish Steps. The cathedral in Milan is awesome. All white marble and not a nail used. If you go, be sure to go on the roof. That cathedral made me believe in God. Florence has the statue of David, and that wonderful street of shops across the bridge.

Second, the coastal cities are just drop dead gorgeous. There’s something about a city on a hillside that just, oh, that is my dream retirement place. To live on a hillside like that, with a view of the ocean every day, would be heaven on earth. My favorite coastal city is Amalfi, in the south. It’s not big, so everything is within walking distance, and the views are fantastic. Next, I liked Cinque Terre, which is actually five small towns in the north. I stayed in Vernazza and walked along the ocean to the other four towns.

Third, the hilltop cities are like going back in time. My favorite is Sienna. They filmed some of the first Daniel Craig James Bond movie there. The town square is just like a postcard. There are outdoor cafes, and at dusk the clouds in the blue sky look just like a Renaissance painting. Next is Orvietto. It sits on the top of a plateau and you can see vineyards for miles around. Urbino is the hometown of the artist Raphael. It has a medieval wall and four city gates.

The cities of Italy. That was my favorite vacation. The whole time I felt like I was in a movie, like Roman Holiday. Now that I think about it, you could say that all of Italy, all of Europe even, is one big tourist trap. Especially the big city centers, coastal cities and especially the hill cities (you’re on a hilltop). Anyway. I took tons of photos and bought little magnet souvenirs in each town. I stuck them on my refrigerator, so every time I go in the kitchen I’m reminded of that vacation. (479 words) diet

   