

Letter for the host family

Dear Host Family,

My name is Martina Colombano, I'm 14 years old, and I live in Novara, a city in Piedmont, Italy. 🇮🇹 In my family we are 4 people 👨👩👧👦: me, my sister, Veronica, and my parents. My sister is 16 years old, and we are participating in this project together. My mom's name is Rosanna, she was born in Campania, so she's from south Italy, and she is 56 years old. She works as an employee at Novara's hospital. My dad's name is Gianpaolo, he was born here in Novara, and he is 64 years old. He is now retired, but he worked and an employee at Novara's hospital too. 🏥

We live in the periphery, and we have lots of fields near our house. Our house is pretty big, so we live very comfortably. 🧑🌾

We have dog, Axel, who is a 3 years old Labrador Retriever. 🐕 He likes to play a lot with us and he absolutely loves going on walks. He sleeps all the time, but when he's awake, he runs a lot around the house and makes us laugh a lot. Sometimes he does things he shouldn't do, so we get a bit angry 😡, but he is so cute that we can't stay mad at him for long.

As I wrote earlier, we live in Novara, a quite big city in Piedmont. It has more than 100,000 inhabitants and it has lots and lots of shops you can go to 🛍️. It has more the one squares, but the most important one is called "Broletto". It's the most important because it symbolizes the exact centre of the city. All around there are lots of streets with original buildings built by the Romans, and many shops, like Zara, H&M and Primark. In front of the centre there is a castle, called simply "Castello di Novara" 🏰. It's now a museum, but it used to be a prison 🚓👮. There is a hospital, where my mom works, and different schools 🏫.

In school I have my friends Adelia, Ginevra, Matilde, Lucia, Elena and Giulia 🐱. We don't go out a lot together, because some of them live outside Novara, so for them it's harder to get here, because of the trains and buses, and because we are very busy with our school, a Linguistic High School, but when we go out together we have a lot of fun 😂. We go in the city centre and we go inside of shops even just to look at things but then buy nothing. Sometimes we eat something after school 🍕, and when it's someone's birthday, we do little parties where we hang out, talk and open presents 🎁. In my free time I like to sleep, especially after school, watch movies or series in my room, listen to a lot of music, and read lots of books. My favorite singers and artists are Harry Styles, and all the other members of the band

One Direction, and now that Liam Payne died I'm very sad 😭, Billie Eilish, Adele, Bruno Mars, Sabrina Carpenter and many others. My favorite genre of books I would say it's romance 📖, but I really like fantasy or thriller too. I love Greek Mythology 🏛️, in fact one of my favorite books is "The Song of Achilles" from Madeline Miller. But my absolute favorite book series is Harry Potter 🪄🧙. The Harry Potter movies are my favourite too, and I have a lot of gadgets, like Funko Pops, plushies, mini figures, Sirius Black and Remus Lupin's wands 🐶🐾, my two most favorite characters in the entire series, and many other things. I'm not really into sports, but I enjoy hiking and bicycling 🚲.

I attend Year 10 in a Linguistic High School in Novara, where I study English 🇬🇧, Spanish 🇪🇸 and French 🇫🇷 together with Italian, of course, Chemistry 🧪, Latin 🏺, Maths 🎲, History 🗿 and Geography 🌍, P.E. 🏃, and Religion 📖. I don't really like school, but I love languages, and that's why I chose that school. My favourite subject is English, even though I really like Spanish and French too.

I think that after I graduate High School, I will go to University, here in Italy or in another state. My dream job is to be a flight attendant ✈️, because I love traveling and visiting other countries, so I think I will continue my languages studies in University, but I might change my mind and do something completely different, we'll see.

Now, talking about why I would love to do this project and experience. I've always wanted to come to the US, because I think it's so beautiful and seeing New York, Los Angeles and many other cities, made me love it so much that when my sister talked about this project in California, I asked my parents to make me participate in this experience too with my sister. I've never had such an experience, and I've never stayed with a host family before, but I'm very curious to know how it feels living with a family from a different country, to know their culture and style of life. I've seen many videos about exchange students that spent a year in the US and living the American life everyone wants to live. I would love to know how the schools work there, what you do in your free time and to visit cities I've only seen from a screen 🏙️.

I think and I hope that this experience leaves me a lot of good memories that I can share with my family and friends. This would be a life experience.

Thank you so much for reading my letter,
Martina [REDACTED]



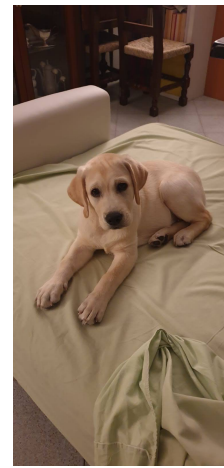
This is me at the Harry Potter Studios in London this year



My parents and my sister in London.



This is me trying my sister's sunglasses



my dog when he was younger



my godfather taking a picture in a weird position



These are two of my friends at the party of the last day of school



me, my sister and my godfather taking funny pictures



me, my sister and a guy in Spain that gave us cute balloons



This is my mom who came with me at the Studios



my dog Axel



me and my sister near the Tower Bridge in London



me as Harry Potter



me and my sister at The "Reggia di Caserta", Caserta, Naples, Campania



me, my sister and one of our friends together with an author we met at the "Salone del Libro" in Turin



me playing with my cuteeeee dog



my parents in London



my friend Lucia



my dog again. Isn't he so cute?



me and my sister



still my dog



ma after buying this plushie. His name is Kabubi



me inside of a telephone box in London



My dad in his raincoat



my mother with my my dog wearing Christmas hats