



# STUDENT NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTIONS

*Areas in the Bologna city center and outside the medieval city walls reviewed by BCSP students.*

## “CENTRO STORICO”

### **IRNERIO** (*Università*)

Via Righi  
Via delle Moline  
Via Zamboni  
Via Marsala

### **GALVANI** (*Santo Stefano/Murri*)

Via Santo Stefano  
Via Farini  
Via Broccaindosso  
Via Murri

### **MARCONI**

Via Galliera  
Via Marconi  
Via del Porto

### **MALPIGHI** (*Sant’Isaia/Saragozza*)

Via Sant’Isaia  
Via Tagliapietre

### **FUORI MURA** (*outside the city center*)

Via Mazzini  
Via Tibaldi  
Via Zoccoli





“CENTRO STORICO” 

 IRNERIO UNIVERSITA'

- Via Righi

*Tree-lined via Righi*



The first thing I loved about this street were the trees! They are not necessarily easy to find in Bologna, so I felt really lucky to live on a tree-lined street. I love living on Via Righi because it is close enough to the university zone where I would never have a long walk home from going out at night, but also far enough where it is not too crazy and loud every night on my street (much easier to fall asleep!). My apartment is close to basically everything I need or anywhere I want to go - no more

than a 10 minute walk for groceries, the "Mercato delle Erbe," the BCSP office, classes, and Piazza Maggiore. There are tons of bus stops nearby, though I honestly just walk everywhere because the location is so convenient and so *in centro*. I would live here again in a heartbeat - to me, you get the best of all parts of Bologna.



*Rachel  
Columbia University*

-Via delle Moline

*Street view of Via delle Moline*

Via delle Moline is perfect for student living because at night there are always a lot of people and it feels like my house is in the middle of the *festa*. I like coming home and seeing all of the people in the bars, or at Bombocrep- a pastry, crêpe place open all night. (When I haven't done grocery shopping, coming home from the library in the evening, I buy a take-away crêpe. It's also perfect when you are coming home late, other places are closed, and you would like a snack before going to bed.) The street has a perfect location in that it is near other university streets,



such as: via Belle Arti, via Zamboni, via Oberdan, via Indipendenza, and you can get to the train station by foot. I like that via delle Moline is pedestrian (with just a few exceptions: some residents' cars and public buses can pass through). It's true that via delle Moline is not protected by Bologna's famous porticoes, which I miss when it rains!

*Olivia  
Columbia University*



### - Via Zamboni



*View from kitchen window*

Via Zamboni is the heart of the Bologna student life. It is lined with bookstores, hair salons, academic departments, pubs, and restaurants. Living there may feel a bit noisy at times, but the street is often closed to traffic in order to let people congregate and socialize in the street on nights and weekends. Via Zamboni is probably the most convenient place to live: you will never have to walk more than 20 minutes to get anywhere within the walls!

*Mayrav  
Cornell University*

### - Via Marsala



*Medieval architecture*

I live on via Marsala, which is very central and I love it. I wasn't even concerned with location when I was searching, but this apartment was perfect in every other way so it just worked out. I like the fact that my street isn't too busy but has places to grab a bite to eat or some coffee. I would definitely suggest to anyone to live in the central area as long as they aren't sacrificing other priorities to be here (roommates come first).

*Tiffany  
Indiana University*



## GALVANI SANTO STEFANO / MURRI

### - Via Santo Stefano

I couldn't be happier with this area. It's located on the eastern side of the city near the university. All of my classes are within a short walk. This also means that it's not far from most of the other places where people go at night, but it feels safe to walk home late. The street is residential with small shops, cafes and occasional restaurants. It's pretty quiet as far as a well trafficked street goes. It is well lit, with porticos running along both sides of the street, and close to major bus lines. I take the 11 or the *circolare* to the train station, and the 13 to Piazza Malpighi, all within 5 minutes from my house. On one end is the Piazza Santo Stefano, a favorite hang out on warm evenings, and at the other are the Giardini Margherita, a perfect place to get some nature in a city that has almost zero parks in *centro*. I live somewhat in the middle, close to Via Dante and Via Fondazza, where there is the Visual Art Department, for those of you taking art history classes, and the Giardini di Palazzo Carducci, a good place for frisbee.



Near my house there is an EXCELLENT gelateria - Cremeria Santo Stefano. I rarely go anywhere else for gelato because the *pistacchio* and *cioccolato fondente* are like heaven. They make all the ice cream and chocolates with great ingredients there in the shop. It's my neighborhood place. I'd feel a little guilty getting gelato at other *gelaterie* since I know the staff and walk past it every day.



There are 3 grocery stores near Via Santo Stefano: the Plenty Market in Piazza Santo Stefano, Conad on Via Orfeo, and Metà just outside Porta Santo Stefano.

There are several cafes on my street, but I like Café della Via which is not only adorable, but makes good coffee.



There are several *piadinerie* near Via Santo Stefano, and the best one is La Tua Piadina (Via Borgonuovo 17).

The best pizza on Via Santo Stefano is at Ristorante Regina Margherita (corner of Via Rialto and Via Guerazzi) and they make thicker Neopolitan pizza. For a little cheaper I get pizza from Pizzeria Kri Kri on Via Fondazza, but hey, this is Italy, and just about anywhere it's going to be better than the States.

The best *pasticceria* in Bologna is on Santo Stefano at the corner of Via Dante - Lagana. Cakes and larger items can be expensive, but a pastry is just 1€

Teatro Duse is not far away on Via Cartoleria, which is also where you'll find the *Facoltà di Lingue e Lettere Straniere* and a cute jazz bar Take Five. On Via Rialto and Via Fondazza there are movie theaters.

There is a good *forno* also near my house where I buy bread when it's open, but that is still a guessing game because they don't seem to adhere to any normal hours. You can find it on the west side of the street near the corner of Via Dante/Fondazza.

For those looking for Catholic Churches we have at least 3 on my street. SS. Trinità is across the street from my house and might be the most beautiful small parish church I've ever seen. There is another church right inside the *Porta* and possibly another one heading north from there - not sure if it is still in use - and very close to Via Santo Stefano is San Giovanni in Monte.

There is a *Scuola Media* on Santo Stefano, so watch out for the very trendy Italian kids smoking on the street or the nearby cafe at certain times during the day. There is a post office on the eastern side of the street verso the *Porta* after Via Dante, but it is usually only open in the morning. The *tabaccheria* Santo Stefano is staffed by very friendly people who are very helpful when you need to purchase postage and the post office is closed, or just to recharge your cell phone.

Pamela  
University of Notre Dame



*Street view of Via Farini*



### - Via Farini

I have found Via Farini to be a great place to live in Bologna. It is inside the walls, close to Piazza Maggiore, Piazza Santo Stefano, the Two Towers, Via Zamboni, multiple bus stops, the post office and pretty much anything else you could need to reach in 10 minutes by foot. There is the best place to get a gelato in all of Italy (as stated in the Serious Eats food blog), la Cremeria Funivia, which is in Piazza Cavour and only a 5 minute walk from my door. This street is considered to be the most "chic" street of the city as it is home to all of the high-end retail stores, which make for a very nice walk home because the store fronts are beautiful! The only negative thing I have found that the traffic can be loud, especially when it is hot out and the windows are open. Other than that, it's been quite perfect!

*Cassandra  
University of Illinois*

### - Via Broccaindosso

I live on Via Broccaindosso, in between via San Vitale and Strada Maggiore. The street can get a little bit noisy at night, but it's a very nice, safe neighborhood. I would definitely recommend living around there because it's only a 10 minute walk to the Due Torri and there are a lot of nice shops and restaurants in the area. For example, I live right above trattoria Al Moro as well as an Indian restaurant that I hear has very good food. It's also a two minute walk from Gelatauro (which is one of the better, but not the best gelateria in Bologna). Via Broccaindosso also has a party in the street itself in the middle of September as well as a *cinema all'aperto* where they show various films through the warmer months.



*Street festival*

*Alexandra  
Mt. Holyoke College*

### - Via Murri

I live at the beginning of Via Murri, right outside Porta Santo Stefano. It is an absolutely fantastic location, with the *Giardini Margherita* RIGHT next door, the Meta' grocery store across the street, and a bus stop literally right beneath my house. Being on the 4th floor of my apartment, I am lucky to also have a gorgeous view of the southern Bologna hills from my balcony! There is also a really awesome gelateria, Capo Nord, a little bit further down on Via Murri. It takes about 45 seconds to get inside the *Centro*, and is about a 20-25 minute walk to get to Piazza Maggiore. The area is so peaceful, (the only thing is that sometimes if I leave my

*Giardini Margherita*





balcony door open, the traffic noise that comes from the *viale* can get kind of loud) and I've never felt threatened or unsafe walking around by myself, even at night. But I think one of the best things, especially during the Spring and the Fall, is having the *Giardini* so close! They are so beautiful with the colors in the Fall, and all the green in the Spring!! It is nice to be able to see some grass and trees after walking around all day in the city.

Michelle  
University of Notre Dame

## MARCONI

### - Via Galliera

I knew next to nothing about Via Galliera before I moved into number 64, one of the last complexes before the street runs into Piazza XX Settembre and culminates in the imposing Baroque Porta Galliera. My apartment, however, turned out to be located on one of the most historic streets in Bologna. It wasn't until weeks, and sometimes months later that I discovered the stately past of my neighborhood. The street itself was one of the major thoroughfares used by the Romans and was the starting point for a procession during the visit of Regina Margherita (the namesake of true Italian pizza). Perhaps more importantly, Via Galliera is the site of (according to me) THE best *gelateria* in Bologna, Stefino. It's difficult to resist stopping under the porticoes to sit for a while with their *cioccolato al peperoncino sorbetto* or their famous *caribe* flavor. The street also runs parallel to Via Indipendenza, the city's busiest and most important street. It's an easy and beautiful walk to the university district, but there are also buses running just around the corner. Despite its location *in centro*, the neighborhood is quaint and fairly quiet. It's been a great Bolognese base!

Fountain in via Galliera



Maureen  
Mt. Holyoke College

### - Via Marconi

Kelly's room in Via Marconi



Via Marconi is one of the biggest streets in Bologna. Many buses service it, and the train station is only two bus stops away or 7-10 minutes by foot; from the train station it is easy to get to the airport using the BLQ bus. Other great things about the street are the wealth of coffee shops (Italian style) found on the street and the relatively cheap PAM (a supermarket) nearby. Furthermore, there are several cinemas in the area including the *Cineteca* where free movies are screened, sometimes even in the original language, just a five minute walk away. As for Via Zamboni and Piazza Maggiore, those are both a 10-15 minute walk from Piazza dei Martiri. If you are into clubs the Millenium is nearby as well as Chez Baker, where you can eat typical *bolognese* food and listen



to jazz music (a la Frank Sinatra on Thursdays). In addition, there are several nice restaurants in the area such as Re Enzo for *bolognese* fair or the Pizzeria Pirata del Porto. On the downside, the street itself is quiet dead at night but well lit and has buses even at night.

It is far from classes on Strada Maggiore, but the bus line 25 will take you there directly within 10 minutes. Finally, as a result of the allied bombing of Bologna, the architecture in the area is, in my opinion, hideous and lacks the charm of some of the older areas of the city.

*Kelly  
University of Wisconsin*

**- Via del Porto**

I live at the end of via del Porto, a block down from Mambo, Bologna’s Museum of Modern Art. Not being from a city I love my location – from my kitchen window all I see are trees from a nearby park. The area is very calm and pretty, although it’s much newer and lacks the traditional porticos. Though I’m near the walls, it’s not a long walk to get anywhere, which was important to me. Being more a residential area and less ‘studenty’, my apartment is really nice, with a rational floorplan (something that’s rare in the university district). It can be a little quiet at night walking home, but there’s a popular pizzeria under my building so it’s rarely completely deserted. I’d definitely recommend my area, especially to someone who wants to be near the center but in a quieter, greener area.



*Orange and yellow streets*

*Anne  
University of North Carolina*

 **MALPIGHI SANT’ISAIA / SARAGOZZA**

**- Via Sant’Isaia**



*Nearby via del Pratello*

I live in via Sant’Isaia and absolutely love it. It’s very close to the center and feels very safe. Via del Pratello, which runs parallel, is a very lively street with lots of *osterie*. On via Sant’Isaia there is everything you need- a Conad, post office, bank, cafés. It’s also very close to the Mercato delle Erbe on via Ugo Bassi, which is a great place to shop for food. The only problem is that it’s a little far away from the university. It’s a good 20-25 minute walk, so buying a bike could be very useful. There are a lot of buses that connect it to the university area as well. I would definitely recommend via Sant’Isaia to someone who wants a calm, convenient, beautiful area to live in.

*Elizabeth  
Hampshire College*

### - Via Tagliapietre

I lived on Via Tagliapietre for the year and it was awesome. The area is very calm and peaceful with everything nearby. The main piazza "Piazza Maggiore" is 2 minutes away walking distance, as well as two grocery stores, restaurants, gyms, and parks all within 5-10 minutes of walking. The area is also known for its shopping, but not the type that fits into a college student's budget 😊. As for the college crowd you won't find too many students just hanging around the neighborhood, but again the main university is just a hop-skip-and-a-jump away. The area is also very safe and you can always find a well lit street to take you home. I enjoyed every second!

*Looking down via Tagliapietre*



*Christine  
University of Minnesota*

### “FUORI MURA”

### - Via Mazzini

I am very content with my apartment location even though several of my friends *'mi prendono in giro'* since I live outside the walls. Yes, I do live outside the center, but it is not a horrible thing! I live on Via Mazzini on the western side of the city close to the university district and much of Bologna's nightlife. I can reach the center in a short amount of time by taking the many buses that run down Via Mazzini, by bike, or even by foot. Via Mazzini is a frequented street at all hours and well lit during the night. It lies on the historic Roman road, Via Emilia. A two minute walk from my house is a Conad supermarket, which has cheaper prices since it is outside the center, and the barbershop that I go to. I am happy to have chosen my location outside the walls since it is a bit quieter and still close to all the action of city.

*Medieval gate to the city*



*Dan  
University of Pennsylvania*

### - Via Tibaldi

My apartment was in Via Tibaldi, which is located in Bolognina, the neighborhood behind the train station. What makes Bolognina unique is that it is known as the immigrant neighborhood of the city, so, while being immersed in Italian life, you also have an equally great opportunity to learn about the experiences of other groups and individuals who have come to Italy from all over the world, which is what attracted me to this area of the city.



*View from Jessica's room*





Although it's a bit *fuori centro*, it's very easy to reach downtown, both by foot (from my apartment, about a 15-20 minute walk, just keep walking straight down via Matteotti, which turns into via Indipendenza) and by bus (the 27A, 27B, 11A, 11B, 25, and 21, just to name a few).

There are two supermarkets nearby, several stores, restaurants, and cafés surrounding Piazza dell'Unità, and my favorite part – three gelaterias all close (including the gelato stand right outside my apartment that stays open until 10pm, sometimes until 1am)! Where I live is calm, safe, and, best of all, offers a multitude of viewpoints on what it means to live in Italy.

*Jessica*  
*University of Pennsylvania*

### - Via Zoccoli



*Andrea's room and roommate*

I live on Via Zoccoli, which is a street off of Via Saragozza outside of the walls. The area is very beautiful and near San Luca and the stadium. Although the apartment is outside of the walls, I really like the neighborhood because it is much quieter than in the center. Also I feel more like I am a part of a real Italian neighborhood because I never hear any English.



*Via Saragozza*

My apartment is about a 20-25 minute walk from the city center and there are also two buses that run along Via Saragozza. The only problem with the location of my apartment is transportation after 1am when the buses stop running. If I stay out in the center past that time I either stay with a friend or take a cab home, which can get expensive. Other than this inconvenience I really love the Saragozza area and would recommend it to anyone who wants to live in a more relaxing environment.

*Andrea*  
*University of Wisconsin*