

To whoever this may concern,

This is Isabella and Elaina and we would like to share our experience at the 2026 Montesilvano World Youths Chess Championships. First of all, the tournament was truly incredible and unforgettable. From the chess to the friendships made, we must say that it was one that was special to its own. In this competition, 82 federations came together under the universal language of chess, players analysing together after games ended, chatting at dinner or even just asking for a quick game of transfer before the round started. Through our experience, we made so many international friendships, even though there was a language barrier, these people who share the same hobby as we do made the tournament as memorable as it was.

In our multiple games of losses, wins and countless draws by Elaina, we learnt how to enjoy the game to its fullest while improving our personal skills in the game. The competition gave us chances to learn new openings, different positions and even social skills. We were able to steer away from the results of the game, but instead focus on the positions themselves. The structure of the competition allowed us to fully enjoy Montesilvano as well as play to the best of our abilities.

Apart from the tournament, there was also a football match and blitz games. The football match was a night we can't forget. For those into football, it was even better than watching the FIFA World Cup in real life. Unfortunately, the night USA played AUS we couldn't get to play the USA team and get revenge. FYI, anyone who's looking to play the blitz anytime beware that they may just cancel after two rounds because of technical difficulties. Nevertheless, the two rounds were still really fun and gave us another chance to mingle with other players. At the closing ceremony, there was performances and even a DJ, so don't miss out on that.

Despite all the positives, there was two very important complaints. The food was atrocious and the venue was like a sauna. However, don't worry because it might just be this place as me, Elaina went twice before and the food was fine with fully air-conditioned playing halls. Even though the food at the hotel was not the greatest, the surroundings were surreal. The competition was located right next to the beach and we could take a walk and just enjoy the night life everyday. For anyone reading this, these international events will be a highlight of your youth. For us, we can't recommend these opportunities enough. We were very proud to represent Australia in this tournament and we hope we can be back again!

From,

Elaina and Isabella