

# TRAVEL TALK

## INBOX

### When in Rome...

Our July/August “Authentic Rome” issue unleashed a flood of memories from readers. One came from **Marcy Fried Weibgen**, of Los Angeles, California. “It was a delight to be reminded, once again, how little changes in the Eternal City,” she writes. “Nowhere else manages to be faithful to its traditions and endlessly thrilling at the same time. As someone who was lucky enough to have lived in Rome, it always comforts me to find that my favorite stomping ground still resists trendiness for its own sake. But that doesn’t mean it lacks creativity.” She also offered her own favorite authentic spot: “The **International Wine Academy** is home to one of the best restaurants in town, with an unparalleled view over the Spanish Steps to boot.”



### Building Notes

New Yorkers are never short on opinions, and neither were our readers when it came to our April cover subject, the Chrysler Building and other skyscrapers in the Manhattan skyline. **Richard Leche, Jr.**, of Sharpsburg, Georgia, noted his disdain for the “monstrous gargoyles” on the side of the Chrysler Building. “They offend my sense of smoothness and streamlining, like airfoils on automobiles,” he notes. (Walter P. Chrysler, the auto magnate who commissioned the building, might disagree.) **Robert Warstler** of Toledo, Ohio, reminded us that over a decade after it supplanted the Chrysler Building as the tallest in the world, the Empire State Building’s 79th floor was hit by a Flying Fortress



## GLOBAL EYE

Readers tell the stories behind their favorite travel photos.

PHOTOGRAPHER:

**Jenene Chesbrough**  
CONEY ISLAND, NEW YORK

● **Getting the Shot:** This photo was taken on opening day of Astroland in Coney Island, New York, in 2006. Every year my friends and I bike down to hang out, put our feet in

the sand, ride the Cyclone, and eat some Nathan’s Famous cheese fries. Organ grinders and lots of Coney Island regulars were hanging in front of the sideshow when suddenly the Pontani Sisters dance troupe ran by in matching outfits. They were shooting a video.

● **The Details:** The shot really captures the spirit of disappearing Coney Island. This year may be the last for Astroland and maybe the sideshow, too. I hope the freaks and fun stay in Coney and that the new wave of building “improvements” retains some of the original flavor.

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