THE WELCOME MAGAZINE

FLORENCE

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APRIL 2023 #58

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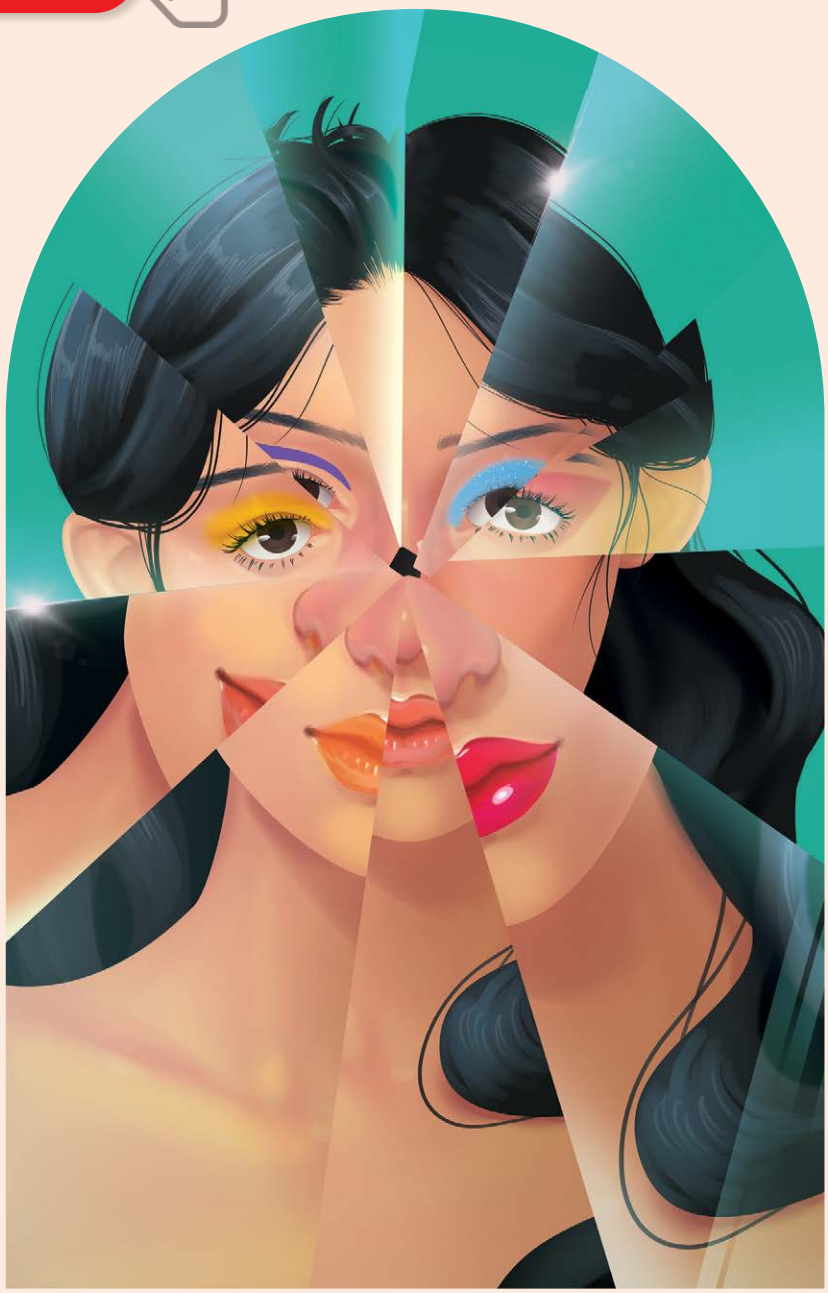

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Florence | April 2023

Andrea Jarach
Publisher
Welcome
Smart Network

"I am **Andrea Jarach, editor of the Welcome Magazines**, periodicals that we have been publishing for 13 years for international visitors in some of the most important cities for tourism in Italy. To keep up with the upward trend in tourism, last year we added **Verona** to the traditional editions of **Venice, Florence, Turin** and have expanded our **Milan** magazine to the **Lombardy** region.

Welcome Magazine is here to accompany visitors in their discovery of Italy's attractions. As you can see in the following pages, the Welcome Magazine offers useful information **about events, shopping, food and wine**, everything that can interest the visitor answering the question: "**what can I do, what can I discover during my stay?**". Our aim is to create **memorable experiences of the visit**, also by linking together the different opportunities offered by the area. Our mission is to provide **essential tourist information** for the benefit of visitors who choose wonderful Italy as their destination.

You will find the Welcome Magazines in the approximately **500 hotels belonging to the Welcome Magazine circuit in Italy**. You can therefore use the **traditional paper editions**, but don't miss the chance to browse through the pages of the **digital and interactive editions** also on your computers and smartphones.

And for all of you who love shopping and have a **non-EU passport**: since October 2022, **Welcome Smart Network has become a partner of Global Blue**, the leading service company for obtaining **tax refunds**. Keep an eye on our pages and our website **www.welcomemagazine.it** to enjoy the important benefits offered by Global Blue. Welcome to Italy, discover and enjoy!"

COVER IMAGE
"Reaching for the Stars" exhibition at Palazzo Strozzi.
Photo © ElaBialkowskaOKNOstudio

Contents

3 TOP IN TOWN
The most famous attractions to visit in Florence: monuments, churches, gardens and hidden treasures.

8 ABOUT PONTE VECCHIO
One of the undisputed symbols of Florence and one of the most photographed sites in the world.

10 DISCOVER AND ENJOY
This month's round-up of events and art exhibitions in Florence and its surroundings.

28 TOP BRANDS
The best fashion designers for your high-end shopping.

30 FASHION OUTLETS
Several of the best shopping destinations not far from Florence, offering discounts year-round.

37 HISTORIC CELLARS FOR FOODIES
Florence's *cantine*, where in the past the well to do kept their wine, salumi and meats, haven't lost their vocation as custodians of fine taste.

Editor tips

22 SHOPPING
Fashion & Design
At Brandimarte, the historic Florentine silverware brand, you can purchase engravings, glasses, decanters, bracelets, pendants and much more besides.

32 TASTING
Food & Wine
Foody Farm, high-quality ingredients from small Tuscan farms and an elegant, welcoming environment.

38 LEISURE
Entertainment & Tours
Since 1846, quality and tradition have been combined at the Caffè Concerto Paszkovski, an unmissable destination with a Florentine spirit.

40 ITINERARIES
Landmarks & Museums
Lorenzo the Magnificent lived in Palazzo Medici Riccardi and the greatest artists worked there.

44 ESSENTIALS
Maps & Info
Information and tips to get around the city.

MAP PAGE 46

STAY IN TOUCH

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

ANGELA CAPUTI GIUGGIÙ

In the centre of Florence, a few steps from the Ponte Vecchio, are the boutique and the creative heart of Florentine designer **Angela Caputi's brand Giuggiù**. Her imaginative **plastic jewellery** items, much loved by internationl customers, are genuinely unique pieces of **fine craftsmanship**. In the Borgo SS. Apostoli boutique it is also possible to purchase a selection of clothing items and accessories that complete the brand's collections. **www.angelacaputi.com**

RINASCENTE

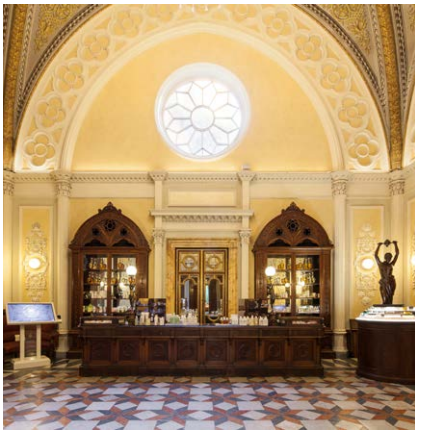
In the heart of the city, in **Piazza della Repubblica**, Rinascente offers the best of **cosmetics, fashion, food and design**, with the addition of a new "store of craft" (ground floor) with a focus on hand-made products following the tradition, in perfect harmony with Florentine's identity. And there's also the opportunity to enjoy typical tasty dishes while looking at a breathtaking **panorama**: Rinascente will offer you a priceless experience. **www.rinascente.it**

L'IPPOGRIFO STAMPE D'ARTE

An **artisan workshop** where you can purchase a memory of your trip to Italy. In this laboratory shop, the Raffaellis create their works with mastery and passion, **manually engraving** them on copper plates, then printing them on **precious limited edition paper**. The prints are then handcoloured, signed and numbered by the author. The works can be completed by placing them in hand-made frames. **www.ippogrifostampedarte.com**

OFFICINA FARMACEUTICA SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

Under a nineteenth-century vault, an abundance of **perfumes, soaps and cosmetics** are to be found. Those wishing to immerse themselves in an experience of yesteryear can find **ancient preparations, herbal teas** and herbalist products, typical **specialties and liqueurs** alongside antique scientific materials and **unusual gifts** such as perfume diffusers for the home, wax products, accessories and decorative items. **www.smnovella.com**



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PROEDI COMUNICAZIONE SRL
Via Ezio Biondi, 1. 20154 Milano.
T: +39 02 25063100
info@proedimedia.com
florence.welcomemagazine.it

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Andrea Jarach
andrea.jarach@proedimedia.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Alessandra Finzi
redazione@proedimedia.com

ART DIRECTION
Joy Lacanlale
joy.lacanlale@proedimedia.com

CONTRIBUTORS
Carey Bernitz, Floriana di Maio, Cornelia G. Hassmüller, Fabio Lancini, Language Consulting Congressi, Elena Peverata, Chiara Zaccarelli

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COO
Pierfrancesco Coreno
pierfrancesco.coreno@proedimedia.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING
Sieva Carolo, Daniele Misrachi, Silvia Mosconi, Rachele Renna
advertising@proedimedia.com

ADMINISTRATION
amministrazione@proedi.it

PRODUCTION & CIRCULATION, SALES SUPPORT MANAGER
Paola Grilli
paola.grilli@proedimedia.com

HOTEL RELATIONS MANAGER
Marta Mailhac
hotel.relations@proedimedia.com

INFORMATION SERVICES
Cristina Garbini
hotel.relations@proedimedia.com

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www.proedi.it/hotel-partner

[UNMISSABLE]

Top in town

MORE AT PAGE 40
MAP PAGE 46

1 DUOMO AND CUPOLA

Completed in 1436, at the time the Duomo in Florence was the largest Christian church in the world. Today the religious building, the official name of which is "Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore", is third in terms of dimensions after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Brunelleschi's Dome, still the tallest construction in the city, is a symbol known all over the world.

2 BATTISTERO

The Baptistery of St. John the Baptist is characterised by an octagonal plan, lined with a dome of eight segments, covered by a pyramid roof. The outside is decorated with white marble from Carrara and green marble from Prato, characteristics of the Florentine architecture of the Romanesque period.

3 CAMPANILE DI GIOTTO

84.70 metres high and around 15 wide, the Giotto's bell tower is one of the four main components of the complex of Santa Maria del Fiore. Lined with white, red and green marble, the majestic square-based bell tower, designed by Giotto in 1334, can be visited by climbing no less than 414 stairs up to the top, from where you can enjoy extraordinary views of Brunelleschi's Dome.

4 PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA AND PALAZZO VECCHIO

This is the central square of Florence, the seat of civil power and social heart of the city. Facing onto it are Palazzo Vecchio (the seat of the Municipal Council of Florence), the splendid Loggia della Signoria, the Tribunale della Mercanzia, Palazzo Uguccioni and Palazzo delle Assicurazioni Generali. Also prominent in the square are the Fountain of Neptune and a series of statues of Renaissance origin, representing one of the most important sculptural cycles in the world. The most famous is certainly Michelangelo's *David* (this is a copy, whereas the original is conserved in the Galleria dell'Accademia).

5 GALLERIA DEGLI UFFIZI

One of the most famous museums in the world on account of its extraordinary collections of ancient sculptures and paintings (from the Middle Ages to the modern age). The Gallery occupies the first and second floors of the large building erected between 1560 and 1580 based on a project by Giorgio Vasari.

Top in Town

6 PONTE VECCHIO

The official date of foundation of the current Ponte Vecchio is given as 1345. For the entire Middle Ages the bridge hosted greengrocers', fishmongers' and butchers' shops, who used the river to dispose of their waste in a hurry. At the end of the 16th century, however, when it became the "noble" zone of the city, the goldsmiths and jewellers started to arrive, and they have been there uninterruptedly to this day.

7 CORRIDOIO VASARIANO

The Vasari Corridor is a raised walkway connecting Ponte Vecchio with Palazzo Pitti. It is a rather narrow passage the entrance to which is at the beginning of the second corridor of the Uffizi Gallery; it then stretches along the Arno, over the Ponte Vecchio, finally arriving at Palazzo Pitti. It was built in 1565 by the great Florentine architect Giorgio Vasari. On display along the Corridor are over 1000 paintings.

8 PALAZZO PITTI AND GIARDINO DI BOBOLI

The symbol of wealth and power, the building was inhabited by the Medici, then by the Habsburg-Lorraines and, after the Unity of Italy, by the Savoy family. The original architecture dates back to the 15th century and "Pitti" is the surname of its first owner. The building is located Oltrarno, at the foot of Boboli Hill. The Boboli Gardens are one of the most important examples of Italian-style gardens in the world.

9 PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO

This is the most famous and appreciated panoramic point in Florence, with its views seen all over the world in million of postcards and reproductions. The design of the square dates back to 1869, when Florence was capital of Italy. Dedicated to the city's most famous artist, the square has bronze copies of some of Michelangelo's most famous sculptures.

10 SAN MINIATO AL MONTE

The Abbey of San Miniato al Monte is a medieval religious building situated at one of the highest panoramic points in Florence. The most spectacular access is gained via the monumental flight of steps. The outside of the church is decorated with green and white marble, typical of

SEE MAP PAGE 46

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Florentine Romanesque, while the interior, which is unusual and of great beauty, boasts one of the city's best conserved original floors.

11 MERCATO CENTRALE

Built at the end of the 19th century, the Central Market is a building of a certain architectural merit. The project was entrusted to Giuseppe Mengoni, the architect of the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in Milan, who was inspired by Les Halles in Paris. Today, a point of reference for informal but good quality cuisine for both Florentines and tourists.

12 SANTA CROCE

One of the "great basilicas" in Florence, a point of reference of the Franciscan order. Giotto painted some of his great masterpieces here and the French writer Stendhal experienced that profound artistic agitation that has been known since then as the "Stendhal syndrome". The basilica contains the monumental sepulchres of Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli.

13 SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

A point of reference of the Dominican order, the church, with its elegant façade by Leon Battista Alberti, is a harmonious synthesis of Gothic and Renaissance styles. It hosts exceptional works of art by Masaccio, Giotto, Brunelleschi, Filippino Lippi, Domenico Ghirlandaio and Paolo Uccello.

14 SANTO SPIRITO

A point of reference of the Augustinian order. The church has given its name to the entire surrounding neighbourhood, "Borgo Santo Spirito". A jewel of Renaissance architecture, the church was the last great project by Filippo Brunelleschi.

15 SAN LORENZO

One of the "great basilicas" of Florence, founded, according to the tradition, by Saint Ambrose, the first bishop of Milan, in the 4th century AD. Its current appearance, however, is the result of the last major reconstruction work that took place in the 15th century at the wishes of the Medici and under the direction of the great architect Filippo Brunelleschi.

PALAZZO PITTI MUSEUMS

A RENAISSANCE MASTERPIECE

A palace for three dynasties, this extraordinary building is located in the Oltrarno, at the foot of Boboli Hill. The famous Boboli Gardens, which are the park of the palace, a genuine open-air museum, take their name from this hill. Palazzo Pitti currently contains **four different museums**.

Treasures of the Grand Dukes
(ground floor and mezzanine)
Conserved in what were the summer apartments of the Medici family are the precious "Treasures of the Medici": vases made of semi-precious stones, rock crystals, ambers and ivories, the exceptional collection of Oriental porcelains; there is also the silverware of the so-called "Treasure of Salzburg", an important collection of jewels created between the 17th and 20th centuries, and a significant section dedicated to contemporary jewellery.

Palatine Gallery and Monumental Apartments
(noble floor)
The 14 sumptuously furnished rooms of the Royal Apartments offer a fascinating blend of styles telling of the daily lives and tastes of the various periods and families that lived there. The "Quadreria", the Picture Gallery, established between the 18th and 19th centuries by the Lorena family, includes the world's largest concentration of works by Raphael, as well as paintings by Titian, Tintoretto, Caravaggio and Rubens.

Gallery of Modern Art *(second floor)*
Today the sumptuous environments that were once the residence of the Lorena family house paintings and sculptures, mostly Italian, from Neoclassicism to the 1930s, with an important group of paintings by the Macchiaioli school.

Museum of Fashion and Costume
(Palazzina della Meridiana)
This museum possesses a stock of six thousand items, including ancient clothing, theatrical costumes and fashion accessories from the 18th century to today, in addition to underwear, jewels and costume jewellery. Included among the costumes are the 16th-century burial clothes of Cosimo I de' Medici, Eleonor of Toledo and their son.

Piazza de' Pitti, 1. www.uffizi.it/palazzo-pitti.it

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About Ponte Vecchio

It is one of the undisputed symbols of Florence and, as such, is one of the most photographed sites in the world. Here are some details so you can get to know it better.

First of all, it must be said that Ponte Vecchio (literally "Old Bridge") is indeed "old". The first to identify a ford in the Arno were the Etruscans. The Roman founders of the village of "Florentia" built a wood and stone bridge there, the forerunner of the current one, which dates back to around 1345. Since then, with all the various restorations and modifications, this passage across the Arno has remained in its place, actively participating in the history of the city.

ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURE

The bridge is characterised by a solution with **lowered arches**, never previously seen, which makes it particularly stable and its profile unmistakable. From the very beginning, it was understood to be a natural continuation of the road, and so it has **shops and porticos** along both sides facing towards the centre, each with a single shop window closed by strong wooden doors, and often with a picturesque backroom protruding over the river.
Then, grafted onto the high part of the bridge is the **Vasari Corridor**, the strategic passageway that was built at the wishes of Cosimo de' Medici in 1565 to connect the administrative buildings to his private residence, without exposing the sovereign to any danger.

A UNIQUE HISTORY

The change of identity of the zone during the Renaissance is due precisely to the Vasari Corridor. The traditional shops of greengrocers, butchers and fishmongers, who had a preference for the bridge on account of the ease with which they could throw their waste into the river, were evicted en bloc: it was preferred to offer the sovereign **goldsmiths' and jewellers' shops**, which were more appropriate for his gaze (and his nose), and they have continued their presence there ever since for the pleasure of tourists. Since then, Ponte Vecchio has been an assiduous witness – and sometimes a protagonist – of the history of the city:

considering it a source of great pride, Mussolini invited Hitler there in 1938, opening up new larger, more panoramic windows for his benefit. One rather romanticised version claims that Hitler himself, cherishing the memory of such beauty, would decide to save the bridge from the terrible bombing campaigns of 1944. Unfortunately, the historical reconstruction seems to prove that this merit cannot be ascribed to the German dictator.

LUXURY SHOPPING

For more than four hundred years, Ponte Vecchio has therefore been inhabited by artisans creating admirable gold and silver objects. Still today, this remains the commercial vocation of the neighbourhood, which is nevertheless not lacking in other luxury trades, starting with **artisan leather goods**. Obviously, the accesses and areas surrounding the Bridge, between via Por Santa Maria and Lungarno degli Archibusieri on one side, and between Borgo San Jacopo and via de' Guicciardini on the other, are also swarming with points of interest and high-quality shops. Bear in mind, however, that sometimes you need only turn into an unknown alley to get away from the bustling crowds and enjoy a carefree stroll.

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Finally, you should know that there is also life under the bridge: the historic **Società Canottieri Firenze**, as well as bringing together sporting rowers, is a point of reference for the activities that take place on the banks of the river. Today, the Circle also offers a stupendous location for aperitifs, lunches and dinners.

Vasari Corridor

© FEDERICO MADONIO/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

PH © RAMANA16 / 123RF.COM

INDEX >

DISCOVER AND ENJOY

Whether it's discovering the events celebrating Italian traditions, art and music or visiting an exhibition, we bring you this month's unmissable dates

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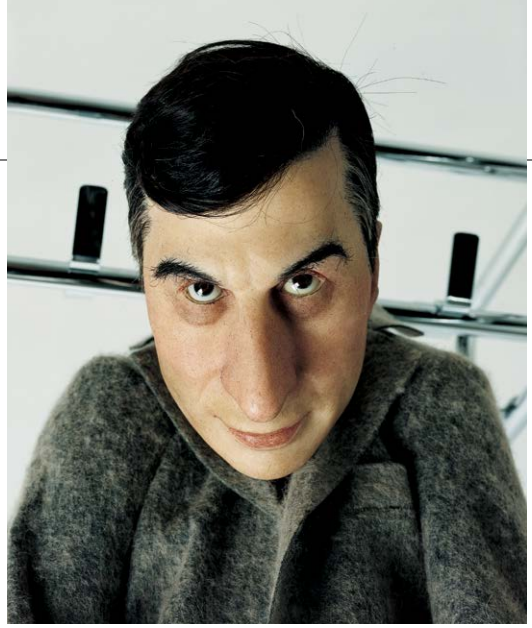

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PALAZZO STROZZI, 4 MARCH-18 JUNE

PALAZZO STROZZI DIALOGUES WITH CONTEMPORARY ART

EXHIBITION The spring event at Palazzo Strozzi offers a selection of works by leading international contemporary artists, exploring the main research of the last four decades through a constellation of works that will be displayed in all the spaces of Palazzo Strozzi, **from the Piano Nobile to the Strozzina**, with a special new installation for the Renaissance courtyard. Between **painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video and performance**, the project enhances the dialogue between Palazzo Strozzi and contemporary art, offering visitors a path to discover the great stars of global art of recent years together with a look at the younger generations.

Reaching for the Stars. From Maurizio Cattelan to Lynette Yiadom-Boakye
Palazzo Strozzi. Piazza Strozzi. www.palazzostrozzi.org

MILAN **Welcome** VIDEOGUIDE

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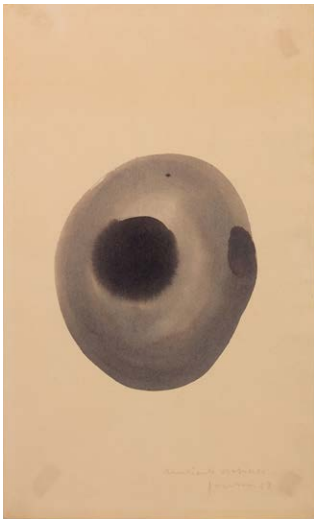
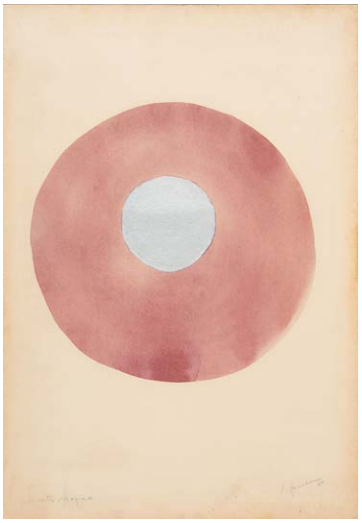
MUSEO DI PALAZZO VECCHIO, UNTIL 4 JUNE

► THE SEARCH FOR THE ABSOLUTE

ART Raising questions rather than giving answers to stimulate critical debate on the great question marks of mankind and the rules of the universe: this is the aim of the exhibition. It compares two artists, **Lucio Fontana and Alberto Giacometti** who, despite being so different in attitude and lifestyle, share the same purpose: the search for the absolute. Through their works of art, the matter, they attempt to represent the immaterial, which reflects the mystery of existence and the meaning of life. An authentic **anthropological investigation** that gathers masterpieces coming from all over Italy and overseas to celebrate two giants of 20th century art.

Giacometti-Fontana. La ricerca dell'assoluto
Museo di Palazzo Vecchio: Sala delle Udienze e Sala dei Gigli. Piazza della Signoria. www.museonovecento.it
PH © FRANÇOIS FERNANDEZ – ARCHIVES FONDATION MAEGHT (FRANCE)





MUSEO NOVECENTO,
UNTIL 13 SEPTEMBER

◄ INVESTIGATION INTO THE ORIGINS OF TIME AND SPACE

ART The title of the exhibition recalls the famous, though shocking, painting of Gustave Courbet and it gives a different interpretation that views Eros as the generating force of human life and outer space. The exhibition includes a **series of drawings and small sculptures** aimed at questioning the genesis of time and space based on two different dimensions: the **past**, the birth of the Earth, and the **future of the universe**, immeasurable and unpredictable.

Lucio Fontana. L'origine du monde
Museo Novecento. Piazza del Duomo, 8
www.museonovecento.it
IMAGES © FONDAZIONE LUCIO FONATANA BY SIAE 2023

FORTEZZA DA BASSO, 25 APRIL-1 MAY

A DIP IN THE WORLD OF CRAFTSMANSHIP

FAIR **Florence International Crafts Fair** is regarded as one of the most important events of its kind in Europe as it has been held since 1931. The fair aims to showcase and enhance traditional and innovative handicrafts from all over the world. On this occasion, you'll be able to meet **over 800 exhibitors** who display their creations in a wide range of categories, such as **clothes and accessories, furniture items, leather goods, woodworks, jewelry, and food and wine products**. This event represents an unmissable chance to admire and even purchase unique and high-quality handmade products of all sorts.

MIDA: Mostra Internazionale dell'Artigianato
Fortezza da Basso. Via Filippo Strozzi, 1
www.mostrartigianato.it

COURTESY OF GAGOSIAN

SEVERAL LOCATIONS, UNTIL 24 SEPTEMBER

◄ KAMI PAINTER OF INVISIBILITY

CONTEMPORARY ART "Light, Gaze, Presence" is an exhibition by the Iranian-American artist **Y.Z. Kami** with a selection of works exhibited for the first time in Florence in some of the city's symbolic places: Museo Novecento, Museo di Palazzo Vecchio, Museo degli Innocenti and, exceptionally, in the millenary Abbazia di San Miniato al Monte. The project is a journey into the pictorial universe of the artist: his production focuses mainly on the creation of **portraits of women and men captured in close-up**, often with their eyes closed and within neutral backgrounds that leave visible only a few details apart from their faces. His rarefied painting has the ability to draw the viewer in, arousing intense feelings, such as a sense of **placid contemplation bordering on transcendence**.

Y.Z. KAMI. Light, Gaze, Presence
Several locations: Museo Novecento,
Museo di Palazzo Vecchio, Museo degli Innocenti,
Abbazia di San Miniato al Monte. www.museonovecento.it

PALAZZO PITTI, UNTIL 14 MAY

THE GRAND LADY OF THE XVI CENTURY

HISTORY At the **Pitti Palace**, the cradle of Renaissance art, you can visit the largest exhibition ever dedicated to **Eleonora di Toledo**, the "Grand Lady of the 16th century": **more than 100 works**, with significant international loans, including paintings, drawings, tapestries, dresses, jewellery and precious stones will tell the story of the life, personality and extensive cultural impact of the Duchess of Florence. The **wife of Cosimo de' Medici**, who after his death became Grand Duke, duchess and regent of Florence, a politically influential woman, the **true founder of the Boboli Gardens** as they are known today, but also an icon of beauty, Eleonora was queen of the fashion and costume of her time.

Eleonora di Toledo and the Invention of the Medici Court in Florence
Palazzo Pitti. www.uffizi.it/eventi/mostra-eleonora-di-toledo

► IVORY MASTERPIECES

SCULPTURE Rethinking the exhibition itinerary, improving conservation methods and enhancing the works on display: this was the aim of the complete renovation of the **Sala degli Avori** in the **Museo Nazionale del Bargello**, which alone covers a **time span of fifteen centuries**, from rare Etruscan and Roman objects to 19th century artefacts. This is undoubtedly a collection that in terms of the abundance and prestige can be considered in line with some of the great European museums, such as the South Kensington Museum in London and the Musée de Cluny in Paris.

Sala degli Avori
Museo Nazionale del Bargello.
Via del Proconsolo, 4. www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it

PH © ANTONIO VISCIDO

MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO, 30 APRIL

▼ THE MOST LEGENDARY SEDUCER OF ALL TIME

MUSIC The "Don Giovanni" is a two-act opera composed by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** to an Italian Libretto crafted by Lorenzo da Ponte. Created by the Spanish dramatist and poet Tirso da Molina, the protagonist of the opera is the legendary fictional character called "Don Juan", a libertine and womanizer who eventually receives his punishment. The masterpiece debuted in Prague in 1787, year in which it started gaining even more notoriety. The show is directed by **Zubin Mehta**, one of the world's finest conductors, who is known for his expressiveness on the stage and interpretation of the operas.

Don Giovanni, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Conductor: Zubin Mehta
Maggio Fiorentino, Piazza Vittorio Gui
www.maggiofiorentino.com

PIAZZA SANTA CROCE, 2 APRIL

▲ WHEN SPORT MEETS CULTURE

SPORT The **Florence Half Marathon** attracts runners from all over the world since it is open to all kind of enthusiasts, both beginners and veterans. On the way, the participants will be able to explore the city following a flat path that goes through the **historic center**, passing by famous landmarks such as the **Duomo, Ponte Vecchio and Piazza Della Signoria**. The race, about 21km long, represents a great opportunity to admire the beauty of Florence and, at the same time, have fun in the festive atmosphere of the city.

Half Marathon Firenze
www.halfmarathonfirenze.it

GALLERIA DELL'ACCADEMIA

THE NEW GALLERY OF PLASTER CASTS

ART A true jewel, the **Gipsoteca** of the Galleria dell'Accademia has recently reopened to the public with a new look, after two and a half years of renovation and fitting-out work. The plaster casts, restored and cleaned, are enhanced by the **light powder blue of the walls**, so much so that they seem alive with their stories.
The collection consists of **over 400 works**, including busts, bas-reliefs, monumental sculptures, original models mostly by Lorenzo Bartolini, one of the most important Italian sculptors of the 19th century.
The Gipsoteca is one of the pieces in the renovation process of the Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence and **Beyond the David** is the title with which the new setup was presented, underlining the fact that the museum is not only a treasure trove of Michelangelo's sculpture, which is loved all over the world, but it is also a witness to important collections related to Florentine art.

PH © GUIDEO COZZI

TRADITIONAL EVENTS IN FLORENCE

6 JANUARY

CAVALCATA DEI MAGI
A historical re-enactment of the Epiphany when Three Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Baby Jesus. A celebration that takes place wearing splendid fifteenth-century costumes.

PHOTO © ELENA.KATKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

CAVALCATA DEI MAGI

18 FEBRUARY

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE ELECTRESS OF THE PALATINATE
Celebration of the last heir of the Medici dynasty, Anna Maria Luisa: the presence in Florence of extraordinary artistic treasures including the Uffizi Gallery, the Palatine Gallery and the Gallery of the Academy is all due to her. To mark the occasion, some municipal museums allow access free of charge.

25 MARCH

CAPODANNO FIORENTINO
The Florentine "Old New Year", celebrated since before the advent of the Gregorian Calendar (1582), with a parade through the central streets of the city in historical costumes.

EASTER

SCOPPIO DEL CARRO
A popular secular and religious tradition that dates back to the time of the Crusades. A procession with percussionists and flag-wavers in historical costumes, city officials and representatives of the clergy, accompanies a cart with a pyrotechnic tower from the church of SS. Apostoli to Santa Maria del Fiore, where it is set alight.

1 MAY

TROFEO MARZOCCO-SBANDIERATORI
A contest between historical groups of flag-wavers organized by the "Bandierai degli Uffizi di Firenze", which takes place in Piazza della Signoria.

THIRD SUNDAY IN MAY

PALIO DEL BALUARDO
A crossbow shooting competition to commemorate the birth of the Florentine Republic on 16th May 1527, the date when the Medici were expelled from Florence. The competition is held at the Bastione known as the Fonte della Ginevra.

23 MAY

LA FIORITA
A Florentine tradition celebrating the burning at the stake of Dominican preacher Fra Girolamo Savonarola, a controversial figure in the city's history. A wreath of flowers is laid on the plaque dedicated to him in Piazza della Signoria, after which rose petals are thrown into the Arno from Ponte Vecchio.

24 JUNE

FESTA DI SAN GIOVANNI and FINALE DEL CALCIO STORICO

A contest that has taken place in Piazza Santa Croce for 600 years on the day of St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of the city. Highly competitive, it combines football, rugby and wrestling and is held as the culmination of a tournament between teams from the city's neighbourhoods: White from Santo Spirito, Red from Santa Maria Novella, Green from San Giovanni and Blue from Santa Croce.

PH © GABBUGGIANI MARCO

CALCIO STORICO

26 JULY

FESTA DI SANT'ANNA
A secular and religious festival held near the church of Orsanmichele, in which the figure of Saint Anne, co-patron saint of the city, is venerated.

10 AUGUST

FESTA DI SAN LORENZO
It takes place in the morning with a "Historical Procession of the Florentine Republic" from the Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa through the streets of the historic centre to the Basilica di San Lorenzo. In the evening, in Piazza San Lorenzo.

END OF SEPTEMBER

BACCO ARTIGIANO
A traditional Festival of Wine and the outstanding products of the territory. Concomitant entertainment events are also held to mark the occasion.

BACCO ARTIGIANO

8 OCTOBER

FESTA DI SANTA REPARATA
At Santa Maria del Fiore each year the ceremony is held of the offering of candles in the crypt. According to the legend it was thanks to the miraculous intercession of Saint Reparata that the Florentines succeeded in repelling the siege of the Ostrogoths in 406 AD, an event that marked the triumph of Christianity in Florence.

END OF DECEMBER

FESTA DEGLI OMAGGI
An ancient folkloristic event in which the "Procession of the Florentine Republic" addresses the civil and religious authorities to wish them good luck during the festivities.

PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO, 25 APRIL-20 MAY

▲ THE TRUE SYMBOL OF FLORENCE

GREEN The **Iris Garden** is an authentic cradle of this plant species known for the delicate and enveloping fragrance that makes it unique. The iris flower is the symbol of the city: actually, the red flower on the Florentine coat of arms is an iris and not a lily! The garden was opened in 1957 and since then, hundreds of different species from all over the world have been planted, some of which are very rare and ancient. Currently, this wonderful place houses **over 1,500 varieties of iris**, which come in a **variety of colors and shapes** and bloom in late April and early May, and it also features a small **pond** and a **gazebo**, which offer panoramic views of Florence.

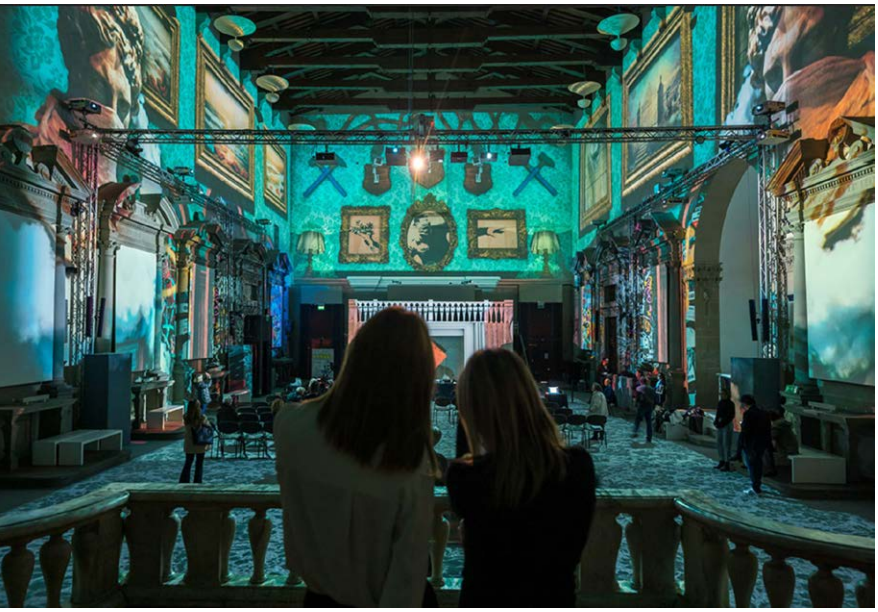
Giardino dell'Iris
On the hillside right next to Piazzale Michelangelo (entrance on the corner with Viale Michelangelo)
www.societaitalianairis.com

PALAZZO VECCHIO

DISCOVERING THE SECRETS OF FLORENCE

EXPERIENCE Guided tours of Palazzo Vecchio allow you to visit a series of **particularly precious rooms**, including the staircase built at the behest of **Gualtieri di Brienne** and carved into the thickness of the wall, the Studiolo di **Francesco I de' Medici**, a refined treasure chest "of rare and precious things", and the **Scrittoio of his father Cosimo I** (better known as the "Tesoretto"), and finally the imposing truss structure that supports the coffered ceiling of the **Salone dei Cinquecento**.

Percorsi Segreti. *Palazzo Vecchio, Salone dei Cinquecento, Studiolo di Francesco I. musefirenze.it/attivita/percorsi-segreti/*



CATTEDRALE DELL'IMMAGINE, UNTIL 1 MAY

◄ A UNIQUE MULTISENSORY EXPERIENCE

STREET ART An immersive spectacular event that reproduces the **creative journey of Banksy**, the most disruptive and satirical artist of street art worldwide. Thanks to the fusion of history and technology, you'll be able to dive into his works of art, which deal with important topics such as homologation, war atrocities, global pollution, animal cruelty and child exploitation. The exhibition also includes interactive experiences such as the "**Be Banksy experience**": thanks to an **interactive spray can**, visitors will turn into virtual street artists, painting on a digital installation that simulates the **creation of a real graffito**.

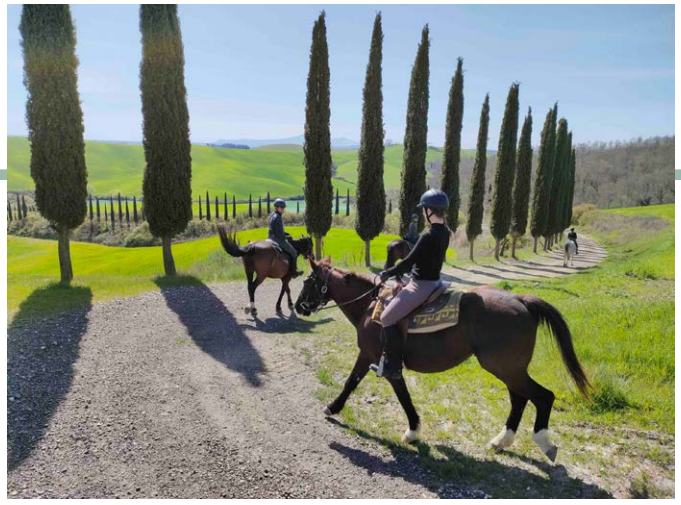
Inside Banksy. Unauthorized Exhibition
Cattedrale dell'Immagine. Piazza di Santo Stefano
www.insidebanksy.it

PIAZZA DEL DUOMO, 9 APRIL

◄ THE EXPLOSION OF THE CART

FOLKLORE On **Easter Sunday** the most awaited event is The Easter Explosion of the Cart (Scoppio del Carro). The cart, named "**Brindellone**" is decorated with flags and flowers and filled with **fireworks**, and it is drawn by a team of oxen through the streets of Florence, before being finally positioned in front if the Duomo, where the spectacle begins. Besides bringing good luck, the explosion symbolizes the **beginning of spring** and the **triumph of life** over death.

Scoppio del Carro. *Piazza Duomo*



WINE TOURS AND MUST-DO EXPERIENCES IN THE TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

The spring season is definitely the best time of the year to relax and savor the beauty of the Tuscan countryside. These places offer a wide selection of experiences that combine leisure and entertainment. For example, if you are a wine or truffle enthusiast, you absolutely need to book a visit to the **historic cellars of Montepulciano**, as well as have **lunch in the vineyards** and **wine tastings in San Gimignano**, where you can also go truffle hunting in the woods and then have a truffle lunch. Alternatively, if you love animals, the best choice for you is taking **horse-riding tours** through the vineyards in San Gimignano or on the Sienese hills, followed by a **picnic or a wine tasting**, to your liking.

If you want to live a once-in-a-lifetime experience, going **trekking** or taking a **walk with the sweetest alpacas** in the Florentine hills is exactly what you are looking for. The experience is suitable for both adults and children, even to those who are not much of a walker.

On the other hand, if you are interested in something more dynamic and adventurous, you absolutely shouldn't miss the **quad excursions** arranged in some fairytale landscapes, such as the Chianti hills or the Maremma. After the ride, you are also offered a **lunch with grilled meat and good wine** or wine tasting, depending on the package you choose.

www.holidoit.com

Giardino Bardini

PH. © STEFANO CASATI

Giardino di Boboli

PH. © VITALI/123RF.COM

Giardino delle Rose

A DAY IN THE GREEN HEART OF FLORENCE

The month of April is the best time of the year to visit the numerous and gorgeous gardens the city of Florence has to offer.

Located on a hill behind **Pitti Palace**, which was the residence of the Medici family, The **Boboli Garden** (Giardino di Boboli) is one of the greatest open-air museums in the city and one of the finest examples of Italian-style gardens. It is home to a wide variety of trees, fountains and sculptures and its layout inspired many European Royal gardens, such as Versailles.

The **Bardini Garden** (Giardino Bardini) is an authentic oasis in the heart of Florence as it is situated on a hillside above the city's historic center. The garden is renowned for the terrace it features, which offers stunning views of the city, as well as the iconic wisteria pergola that takes visitors into a passage where they can live a romantic experience while admiring the breathtaking landscape of Florence around them.

The **Rose Garden** (Giardino delle Rose) is located just below Piazzale Michelangelo, on a hillside overlooking the city. The garden houses a wide selection of roses, about 400 species, together with a collection of sculptures by Jean-Michel Folon, a Belgian artist. In this oasis of peace, visitors can escape from the chaos of the city, strolling around the gardens and enjoying the fragrance of the flowers and the amazing views below them.

Giardino di Boboli - *behind Palazzo Pitti, www.uffizi.it*
Giardino Bardini - *between Ponte Vecchio and Uffizi Gallery, www.villabardini.it*
Giardino delle Rose - *below and to the left side of Piazzale Michelangelo, www.ilgiardinodellerose.it*

PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO

FLORENCE AT YOUR FEET

EXPERIENCE **Piazzale Michelangelo** is one of the **most charming belvederes in Florence**, an unmissable terrace overlooking the city, an essential destination for tourists and Florentines alike. The panorama to be enjoyed from here is breathtaking, as it embraces the entire city, from Forte Belvedere to Santa Croce, along the Lungarni and the Ponte Vecchio, and then the Duomo with its dome and Giotto's bell tower, Palazzo Vecchio, and beyond, the hills to the north of the city. In the square dedicated to Michelangelo there are bronze copies of his famous works: the David and the four allegories of the Medici Chapels of San Lorenzo, the originals of which are obviously conserved in the city. **For a guaranteed wow effect, go there at sunset**. You can get there by bus or on foot, going along the Lungarno, or from Piazza Poggi, by climbing up the charming Rampe del Poggi, a combination of steps, grottos and fountains.

© CEZARYW/123RF.COM

2023 EVENTS IN ITALY

Find the next year calendar on florence.welcomemagazine.it

APRIL

2-5/4 | Verona | Vinitaly. www.vinitaly.com
9-30/4 | Venice | Homo Faber. www.homofaber.com
14-16/4 | Milan | Miart. www.miart.it
18-23/4 | Milan | Milano Design Week-Salone del Mobile.Milano. www.salonemilano.it

MAY

6-28/5 | Several locations in Italy | Giro d'Italia (106th edition). www.giroditalia.it
8-21/5 | Rome | Tennis. Internazionali BNL d'Italia. www.internazionalibnlditalia.com
18-22/5 | Turin | Salone Internazionale del Libro (35th edition). www.salonelibro.it
20/5-26/11 | Venice | Biennale Architettura-18th International Architecture Exhibition www.labiennale.org
31/5-4/6 | Venice | Salone Nautico Venezia www.salonenautico.venezia.it

JUNE

11/6 | Mugello (Tuscany) | Moto GP. Gran Premio d'Italia. www.motogp.com
13-17/6 | Brescia-Rome-Brescia | Mille Miglia 2022. www.1000miglia.it
15-18/6 | Milan-Monza | MIMO Milano Monza Motor Show. www.milanomonza.com
16-20/6 | Milan | Milano Moda Uomo. www.cameramoda.it
16/6-8/9 | Verona | Arena di Verona Opera Festival (100th edition). www.arena.it

JULY

2/7 | Siena | Palio di Siena-Palio di Provenzano. www.ilpalio.org
7-16/7 | Perugia | Umbria Jazz. www.umbriajazz.it
15/7 | Venice | Festa del Redentore. venice.welcomemagazine.it

AUGUST

16/8 | Siena | Palio di Siena-Palio dell'Assunta. www.ilpalio.org
30/8-9/9 | Venice | Biennale Cinema. www.labiennale.org

SEPTEMBER

3-9/9 | Monza (Milan) | Formula 1. Italian Grand Prix. www.formula1.com
4-24/9 | Milan and Turin | MITO SettembreMusica. mitosettembremusica.it
6-10/9 | Mantua (Lombardy) | Festivaletteratura (27th edition). www.festivaletteratura.it
9-17/9 | Venice | The Venice Glass Week. theveniceglassweek.com
10/9 | Misano (Emilia Romagna) | Moto GP di San Martino e della Riviera di Rimini. www.motogp.com
15-17/9 | Florence | Fragranze. fragranze.pittimmagine.com
15-18/9 | Terni (Umbria) | Umbria Jazz. www.umbriajazz.it
19-25/9 | Milan | Milano Fashion Week Women's. www.cameramoda.it
21-26/9 | Genoa | International Boat Show. www.salonenautico.com
30/9-8/10 | Trieste | Barcolana (55th edition). www.barcolana.it

OCTOBER

7/10– 3/12 | Alba (Piedmont) | International Alba White Truffle Fair (93rd edition). www.fieradeltartufo.org

NOVEMBER

1-5/11 | Turin | Paratissima (19th edition). www.paratissima.it
2-5/11 | Verona | Fieracavalli (125th edition) www.fieracavalli.it
3-5/11 | Turin | Artissima (30th edition). www.artissima.art
7-12/11 | Milan | EICMA. International Motorcycle and Accessories Exhibition. www.eicma.it
15-19/11 | Milan | BookCity Milano. bookcitymilano.it
17-25/11 | Venice | Teatro La Fenice - Opening of the Opera and Ballet season www.teatrolafenice.it
21/11 | Venice | Festa della Salute. venice.welcomemagazine.it

DECEMBER

2-10/12 | Milan | Artigiano in Fiera. www.artigianoinfiera.it
7/10 | Milan | Oh Bej! Oh Bej! – Traditional street market milan.welcomemagazine.it
7/12 | Milan | Teatro alla Scala – Opening of the Opera Season. www.teatroallascala.org

Dream experiences

To discover the beauties of the city or to try out special experiences, Welcome to Italia offers you some unmissable opportunities. Choose whether to take part in exclusive city tours or book the experience you've been dreaming: **www.welcometoitalia.com**

ALL ABOUT FLORENCE!

Make the most of the city in one day. If you are planning to stay in Florence only 24h then you can't miss this combination tour. You will have the opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of the Accademia Gallery and the Uffizi Museum and to walk around the city center.

TOP MUSEUM TOUR

Visit the two most important museums in Florence which host some of the greatest art pieces of the Italian history. The guided tours include the skip the line tickets and the free admission to the Archeological Museum and the Museum of the Opificio delle Pietre Dure.

FLORENCE BY NIGHT PRIVATE EXPERIENCE

Explore the city center with a private tour: you can enjoy a pleasant walk with an expert guide who will take you in the main squares and most interesting landmarks of Florence, from the Signoria square to the Ponte Vecchio and the Oltrarno district.

EXCLUSIVE TOUR AT THE ACCADEMIA

Don't miss an original tour discovering the stories of the "David" by Michelangelo, one of the most famous sculptures in the world, and a must-see masterpiece in Florence. The Accademia ticket and museum reservation fees are included.

WELCOME TO ITALIA
THE ONLINE GUIDE TO DISCOVER AND ENJOY ITALY

Discover other experiences: www.welcometoitalia.com

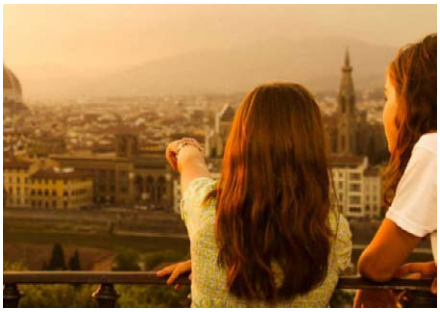
THE SPECIAL ONES

MARKET TOUR AND TUSCAN COOKING EXPERIENCE

Let's visit the Sant'Ambrogio Market with a chef-guide and buy all the necessary for a cooking class. Enjoy your meal with a wine tasting.

SPECIAL HUNT FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Learn about Florence's past in a fun and entertaining way in an intriguing quiz and animal art hunt. Two itineraries are available: Medieval and Renaissance.



FASHION TOUR IN FLORENCE

The best of town temptations: the antique Florentine perfume shop, Officina Profumo Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella and the Museo Salvatore Ferragamo.

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WELCOME TO ITALIA

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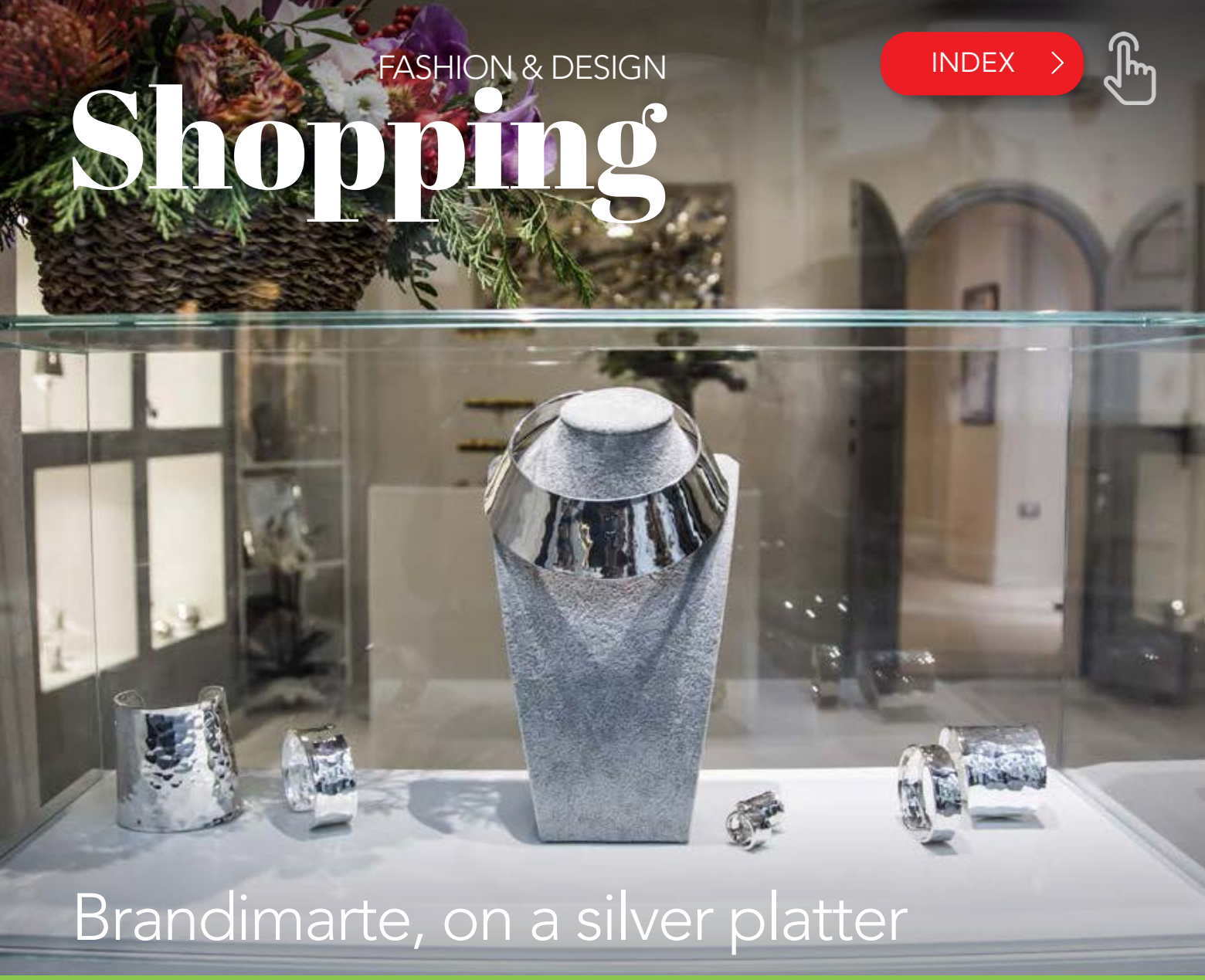
Shopping

INDEX >



Brandimarte, on a silver platter

At the historic Florentine silverware brand, you can purchase engravings, glasses, decanters, bracelets, rings, necklaces, pendants and much more besides, all strictly made in Italy.

In the heart of the historic centre of Florence, there is a special boutique, a genuinely exciting place to tour which aims to re-educate you on the use of silver in everyday life, breaking the habit of seeing the silver item as a luxury piece to only be exhibited on special occasions.
This is the workshop of **Brandimarte**, a company that was established in Florence in 1955 and that was run by the founder's grandchildren, Stefano and Giada Guscelli. Since 2017 the brand is owned by Bianca Guscelli, Stefano's daughter.
Brandimarte is distinguished for the **hand crafting** and sale of **silverware for the table** and **925 sterling silver jewellery**, in addition to its collection of historical silver medals.
The **collections of jewels**, exclusively made in Italy, created by the best Florentine artisans, include bracelets, rings, necklaces, earrings and much more besides. Among the lines to be worn, standing out are the "timeless" hammered jewellery, elegant and sophisticated.
In the boutique you will also find the "**Wine Collection**": decanters and tasting glasses made of 925 sterling silver.
This metal, in fact, has organoleptic and antibacterial properties, is a heat conductor and enhances the aromas within drinks.

>> www.brandimarte.com
Via del Moro, 92/r.
T: 055 2693384. Map D3

The entire *Ferragamo* universe

PH © GUGLIELMO DE' MICHELI FOR SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

Florentine brand that has known how to combine age-old hand crafting skills with the creativity typical of products made in Italy, today Salvatore Ferragamo represents quality, contemporary elegance, innovation and tradition.

The Florentine boutique, which contains all the fashion house's men's, women's, accessories and perfume collections, is located inside the medieval **Palazzo Spini Feroni**, the company's historic workshop since 1938, today its headquarters and the site of the **Salvatore Ferragamo Museum**.

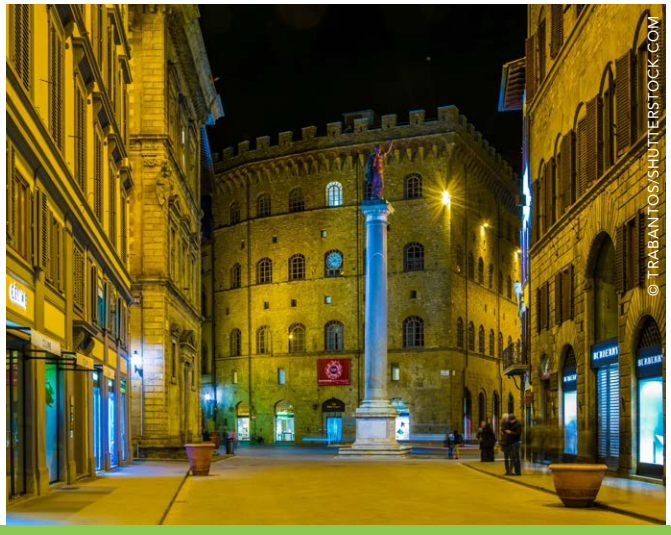
The boutique occupies the entire ground floor of the building, inside large spaces decorated with 18th-century frescoes, stretching from Piazza Santa Trinita to the banks of the River Arno.

Salvatore Ferragamo
Via de' Tornabuoni, 4/r.
T: 055 292123.
www.ferragamo.com.

FERRAGAMO'S CREATIONS – The wing of the store that faces onto Piazza Santa Trinita hosts the Ferragamo's Creations corner, with the exclusive footwear line that revisits some of the brand's iconic. This is a space whose layout recalls the studio where Salvatore Ferragamo received his customers and all its creative inspiration. A unique opportunity to fully immerse yourself in the universe of this gifted innovator who has revolutionised the world of women's footwear through new models, volumes and materials.

Strolling through Florence

The city's blend of old-world charm and modern specialty stores makes for a shopping experience that will satisfy every kind of visitor.



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VIA DE'TORNABUONI: LUXURY SHOPPING

Together with Via della Vigna Nuova, Via de' Tornabuoni is believed to be the **most famous shopping area** in the city, containing many **top designer fashion brands**. This district, which is the medieval heart of the city, has been associated with luxury shopping since the 19th century. The **historical buildings** have been renovated into modern stores housing famous brands like Gucci, Salvatore Ferragamo, Bulgari, Burberry, Damiani, Dolce & Gabbana, Giorgio Armani, Loro Piana, Montblanc, Pomellato, Prada, Saint Laurent, Stefano Ricci, Valentino, Tod's, Hogan, Emilio Pucci and many others. Visit the **Museo Salvatore Ferragamo** within the same boutique, which honors the world-famous Florentine designer with piece showcases and historical evolution documents. Also, make sure to visit **L'Olfattorio**, a bar à parfums that blends Renaissance architecture with the sale of contemporary products, where you can inhale scents from wine glasses.

VIA DEL PARIONE: THE ARTISANAL HEART OF THE CITY

A street celebrating Florence's artisanal shopping opportunities, revealing **artisanal stores** and **modern boutiques** that offer one-of-a-kind goods. This area houses Il Bisonte, a Florentine brand of unique high-quality Italian leather items and **Anichini**, a traditional tailor's shop for children where skilled artisans create elegant items for newborns, children and youngsters using the best Italian fabrics. Don't miss the **Antica Legatoria Alberto Cozzi**, a store filled with the arts of bookbinding, personalizing original leather goods, and embellishing paper through the rare process of marbling.

PONTE VECCHIO, LUXURY SHOPPING OVER THE BRIDGE

Ponte Vecchio is a passageway over the **Arno River** that is devoted to shopping for **gold and jewellery**. The jewellery shops on the Ponte Vecchio have a long history. Back in 1563, Grand Duke Ferdinand I ordered local goldsmiths to set up shop along the bridge, in order to replace the butchers' and grocers' shops that had been established there for centuries. The latter threw garbage and scraps from their shops into the Arno and this damaged the image of the centre of a prestigious city such as Florence. After four hundred years, this is still the commercial vocation of the district, which nonetheless does not lack other luxury trades, starting with handmade **leather goods**. Particular attention should be paid to the **Cassetti 1926** boutique, whose first shop on the Ponte Vecchio dates back to 1976 and whose second was opened in 1981. This was followed by the Rolex Boutique in 2009 and, since 2014, the Vacheron Constantin Boutique, which, with its watchmaking history of almost 260 years, adds further value to the range of luxury goods offered by the Cassetti brand.

© JULIA LAV/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

© EQROY/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

SAN LORENZO MARKET

The market of San Lorenzo is a **not-to-be-missed experience** in Florence. The indoor section, called Mercato Centrale, is a **gourmet heaven** that offers an **endless selection of international foods** in a 19th-century building. Shop for groceries or spend **time tasting all the food** in the eating area. The market also has an outdoor area that stretches across multiple streets surrounding Mercato Centrale, consisting of **hundreds of vendors** that give you the opportunity to buy **authentic souvenirs**.

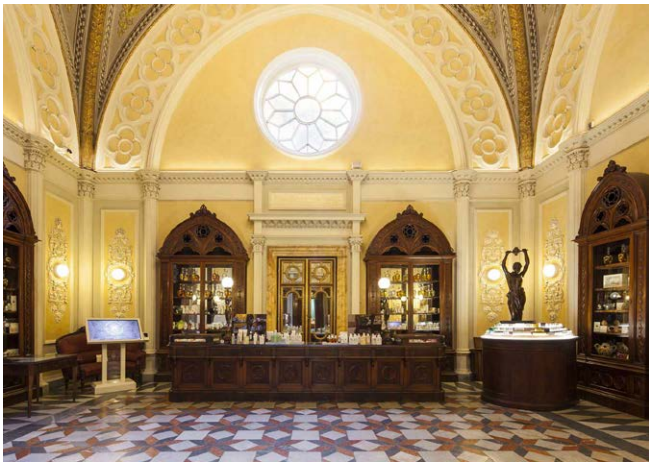
ARTISANS IN OLTRARNO

From a recent census, it seems that there are around 800 **artisans' workshops** in the **Oltrarno**. Via Maggio, in particular, traditionally a temple for **antiquarians**, is today still a concentration of art and culture. However, if you have a weakness for **shoes**, you are in the right place, because this zone is the very place where you can see craftsmen busy at work on made-to-measure **shoes**, such as those of **Roberto Ugolini** *(see photo)*. Do you love the unmistakable aroma of paper? Then you will not be able to resist going into one of the marbled paper and bookbinding artisan shops in the Oltrarno, such as **Il Torchio**.

But this zone is also swarming with **goldsmiths' workshops**: for example, drop in at Ugo Bellini, a stone's throw from Piazza Santo Spirito, where they create exclusive jewellery using age-old methods, also based on customers' designs. And what can you say about the **Antico Setificio Fiorentino**, one of the very few **silk production workshops** left in Europe? Since 1786 they have been spinning precious silk fabrics, today used above all by the houses of haute couture and by architects to furnish residences and boats.

OLTRARNO, ITALIAN TRADITION AT THE TOP

In the districts of the Oltrarno - **San Frediano, Santo Spirito and San Niccolò** - you breathe the air of a more authentic "**Florentine-ness**". In this labyrinth of lanes and alleyways you can still find craftsmen and women who conserve and hand down original and sophisticated working methods. The confines between these districts are rather fluid and the **Oltrarno can be considered one large sprawling district**. Once considered among the most infamous neighbourhoods in the city, today San Frediano has become fashionable, also thanks to the famous Lonely Planet guide, which defined it as "the coolest neighbourhood in the world". In particular, Borgo San Frediano has become renowned both for its traditional artisan shops and for the many venues spread out among its lanes and alleyways, but there is also no shortage of churches and historical monuments. Don't miss the legendary art form with a visit to the **Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella** *(see photo)*, a 600-year-old perfumery located in a breathtaking antique structure. Still using ancient recipes to make modern-day perfumes and skincare goods, its products have been famous for centuries.



© KIEVVICTOR/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

SANT'AMBROGIO, THE PICTURESQUE DISTRICT OF FLORENCE

Sant'Ambrogio is a lesser-known area filled with stores and restaurants, featuring the beauty of Florence without plentiful crowds. Shop for fresh ingredients in the **Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio**, a historic indoor market that has offered produce and specialty foods since 1873. For antiques and crafts, stroll through the **Ciompi Antiquarito** in Piazza Annigoni. Open daily, this market offers vintage items such as jewelry, prints, and books. If you love leather accessories then you must not miss **Cuore di pelle**, a small artisan shop located between the Synagogue and Piazza Sant'Ambrogio. Here you can buy bracelets, belts, bags, passport holders, brush holders, bottle holders, wallets and plenty more besides, all obviously made of handsewn leather (www.cuordipelle.com). In Via De' Macci, towards Santa Croce, you must not miss taking a glance at the workshop of Cecilia **Falciai**, who specialises in working scagliola and in the technique of Florentine mosaic-making (commesso) using semi-precious stones and marble (www.ceciliafalciaiscagliola.com).
In Via Sant'Egidio, the historic shop **Sbigoli Terrecotte** offers a vast range of artistic ceramics, entirely made and decorated by hand, following the Tuscan handicraft tradition of majolica, in other words, terracotta enamelled with medieval and Renaissance decorations, but with more modern influences (www. sbigoliterrecotte.it).

VIA PORTA ROSSA AND PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

In the **heart of Florence**, the network of streets between Via Porta Rossa and Piazza della Repubblica form a **paradise for shoppers**. Browse through countless luxury stores and marvel at window displays in Via Porta Rossa to find the perfect Florentine souvenir. Don't miss **Rinascente**, a department store in Piazza della Repubblica that sells **the best brands and artisan products in the city**, even offering a terrace with a breathtaking **panoramic view** of the city.

© BAHDANOVICH ALENA/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

BORGO SS. APOSTOLI

Borgo SS. Apostoli is a road tucked between Ponte Vecchio and Ponte Santa Trinita, a **quiet haven** in the center of the bustling city. The street contains **historic buildings** and numerous **antique stores** that **embody Florentine artisanship**. Find historic stones, artwork, and leather goods in the traditional stores that line the peaceful road.

BORGO OGNISSANTI, TOP OF ANTIQUES

The street of Borgo Ognissanti runs parallel to the Arno River and is located nearby the Duomo. Considered the "**path of opportunity**," this area is filled with stores whose products range from **flowers** to **pastries** to hardware tools. Discover showrooms that span from **antique to contemporary** as well as **interior design** stores. Walk through Piazza Ognissanti, the site of the annual antique fair where global dealers meet to display their traditional paintings and furniture.

Tax Free Refund Guide

According to the Italian law, non-EU resident travellers may be granted VAT relief/refund for goods intended for personal or family use purchased in Italy. This relief is surely **an advantage for the foreign travellers**: in fact, it allows to save from a minimum of 4% up to a maximum of 22% of the selling price of the goods purchased. Here is a **short guide** according to the **Italian legislation** to discover the common system of value added **tax exclusively for non-EU resident travellers**.

1. VAT (in Italian: IVA) is a **value added tax** on goods and services, and is part of the European Union's value added tax system.

2. In some cases, travellers may be granted a **VAT refund**. This refund does not cover the services supplied by hotels, restaurants, taxis or agencies.

3. You may be eligible for a VAT refund provided that:

- you are a **non-EU resident**;
- the goods purchased are intended **for personal or family use** only and are carried in your luggage;
- the overall value of the goods purchased exceeds **154,94 Euro** (VAT included);
- the purchase is certified by an **invoice**. This invoice should include a description of the goods purchased, your personal information as well as the details of your passport or any other equivalent document;
- the goods shall leave the EU territory by the **third month** following the date of issue of the invoice, as proved by the "**customs stamp**";
- from 1 September 2018, tax free invoices in Italy must be electronically transmitted by the national seller to OTELLO information system (**O**nline **T**ax Refund at **E**xit: **L**ight **L**ane **O**ptimization) and their validation is digitally carried out.
- after the digital "customs stamp" is obtained, OTELLO will send a message to the retailer that all the requirements are met and, as a consequence, the retailer will reimburse the amount due or will settle the tax relief.
- the invoice is **returned to the Italian retailer** within four months after the purchase was made. If the invoice is stamped by other EU countries, it needs to be brought to the shop retailer by the fourth month following that of the purchase.

4. The goods purchased and the relevant invoice must be **shown at the customs** exit point when leaving EU territory (if you intend to pack the purchased items into your check-in luggage, you must go to Customs **BEFORE checking in**).

5. After leaving EU territory, the traveller must return the original invoice, regularly endorsed by the customs office, to the Italian retailer. Said invoice must be returned within four months from the date when the document was issued.

6. The refund can be made **directly by the Italian retailer** (however, make sure that the shop you've chosen displays a "Tax Free Shopping" or "Euro Tax Free" sign in its window).

7. Several **Tax-Free companies are able to offer immediate VAT cash refunds** when the goods leave either Italian or EU territory (thus exonerating the passenger from having to return the invoice to the retailer). However, this procedure only applies at major international airports or main border crossings. **Most major department stores have Tax Free Refund offices**.

8. The services provided by Tax-Free companies imply the payment of a small administrative sum which is **directly deducted** from the amount of VAT refunded to the traveller.

9. In the event of a traveller not receiving a VAT refund within a reasonable period of time, he or she should re-contact the Italian retailer or one of the aforementioned companies.

10. However, please note, VAT cannot be refunded directly by customs offices.

Source: www.adm.gov.it/portale/ee/citizen/

INDEX >

Top Brands

ALBERTA FERRETTI PHILOSOPHY— www.albertaferretti.com. c/o Spazio A. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via Porta Rossa, 107/r. T: 055 212995. **Map E4**

ANNAMARIA CAMMILLI — www.annamariacammilli.com. Open Mon 3pm-7pm; Tues-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via Vacchereccia, 12R. T: 055 2608617. **Map F4**

ASPESI—www.aspesi.com. **Women.** Open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm/3pm-7pm; Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via di Porta Rossa, 85. T: 055 287987. **Men** Open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm/3pm-7pm; Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via di Porta Rossa, 51/r. T: 055 287931. **Map E4**

BALENCIAGA—www.balenciaga.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm. Piazza Santa Trinita, 1/r. T: 055 9040090. **Map E4**

BOGGI MILANO— www.boggi.com. Open Mon 3pm-7.30pm; Tues-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 10.30am-1.30pm/3pm-7.30pm. Via della Vigna Nuova, 27/r. T: 055 219179. **Map E3**

BORSALINO— www.borsalino.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm. Via Porta Rossa, 40/r. T: 055 218275. **Map F4**

BOTTEGA VENETA— www.bottegaveneta.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 2pm-7pm. Via degli Strozzi, 6n. T: 055 284735. **Map E3**

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI— www.brunellocucinelli.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via dei Pecori, 16/r. T: 055 285832. **Map F3**

BULGARI—www.bulgari.com. Open daily 10am-7.30pm. Via de'Tornabuoni, 56/r. T: 055 2396786. **Map E4**

BURBERRY—it.burberry.com. Open daily 10.30am-7.30pm. Via de'Tornabuoni, 29/r. T: 055 293811. **Map E4**

CARTIER— www.cartier.it. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm. Via degli Strozzi, 36/r. T: 055 292347. **Map E4**

CHANEL—www.chanel.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm. Piazza della Signoria, 10. T: 055 2989699. **Map F4. Fragrance & Beauty.** Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm. Via dei Calzaiuoli, 47-49/r. T: 055 298181. **Map F3**

CHOPARD— www.chopard.com. Open Mon-Sat 10.30am-7pm; Sun 11.30am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 30-32/r. T: 055 2670157. **Map E4**

DAMIANI— www.damiani.com at Rinascente department Store. Piazza della Repubblica, 4. www.rinascente.it. **Map F3**

DIOR— www.dior.com. **Women.** Open daily 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 15/r. T: 055 2669101. **Map E3**

DOLCE&GABBANA—www.dolcegabbana.it Open daily 10.30am-7.30pm. Via degli Strozzi, 12-18/r. T: 055 281003. **Map E4. Baby.** Open daily 10.30am-7.30pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 18/r. T: 055 2399909. **Map E4**

EMILIO PUCCI—www.emiliopucci.com Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 20-22/r. T: 055 2658082. **Map E4**

ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA—www.zegna.it Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 10.30am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 3/r. T: 055 264254. **Map E3**

ETRO—www.etro.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 2pm-7pm. Palazzo Rucellai-via della Vigna Nuova, 50/r. T: 055 2670086. **Map D3**

FENDI—www.fendi.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 40/r. T: 055 212305 **Map E3**

FURLA—www.furla.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7.30. Via de' Calzaiuoli, 10/r (corner of piazza della Signoria). T: 055 2382883. **Map F4**

This spring outfit by **GIORGIO ARMANI** is strongly characterised by the short jacket in shaded nappa leather with pearl effect. The result of expert Made in Italy craftsmanship, it is a garment that captivates with its distinctive design, creating an embroidery effect as soon as it is worn.

Victoire de Castellane's signature creations for **DIOR** high jewellery express femininity, elegance and refinement, where boldness is expressed with grace.

GIORGIO ARMANI—www.armani.com
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 10am-2pm/3pm-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 83/r.
T: 055 219041. **Map E3**

GUCCI—www.gucci.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 73-81/r. T: 055 264011. **Map E3** • **Duomo**. Open daily 10-19. Via Roma, 32/r. T: 055 75923803. **Map F3** • **Garden**. Open daily 10-19.30. Piazza della Signoria, 10. T: 055 75927010. **Map F4**

Attrape-Rêves is a **LOUIS VUITTON** fragrance with a base of raw cocoa powder, a bouquet of peonies and a sensual heart of patchouli, enlivened by sparkling lychee notes.

HERMÈS—www.hermes.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10.15am-7pm. Piazza degli Antinori, 6/r. T: 055 2381004. **Map E3**

HOGAN—www.hogan.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 2pm-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 97/r.
T: 055 2741013. **Map E3**

HUGO BOSS—www.hugoboss.com.
Open daily 10.30am-7.30pm.
Via Por Santa Maria, 70-72/r.
T: 055 294909. **Map F4**

LORO PIANA—www.loropiana.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 34-36/r.
T: 055 2398688. **Map E4**

LOUIS VUITTON—www.louisvuitton.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30; Sun 11am-7.30pm.Piazza degli Strozzi, 10/r.
T: 055 266981. **Map E3**

MAX MARA—it.maxmara.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 66-68-70/r.
T: 055 214133. **Map E3** • Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30; Sun 11am-7pm. Via de' Pecori, 23/r.
T: 055 287761. **Map F3**

MICHAEL KORS—www.michaelkors.it.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30;
Sun 10.30am-7.30pm.
Piazza della Repubblica, 43.
T: 055 290284. **Map F3**

MISSONI—www.misson.com.
Open daily 10am-7pm. Via Porta Rossa, 77-79/r. T: 055 215774. **Map F4**

MIU MIU—www.miumiu.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10.30am-7.30;
Sun 10am-7pm. Via Roma, 8/r.
T: 055 2608931. **Map F3**

MONCLER—www.moncler.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7; Sun 11am-7pm.
Via degli Strozzi, 3/r. T: 055 2657583.
Map E3

MONTBLANC—www.montblanc.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 63/r.
T: 055 292050. **Map E3**

POMELLATO—
www. pomellato.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 1pm-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 89-91/r. T: 055 288539.
Map E3

PRADA—www. prada.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via Roma, 27/r.
T: 055 286035. • Open daily 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 53-67/r. T: 055 267471 **Map E3**

VALENTINO GARAVANI rockstud strappy pumps in patent leather and transparent polymer material. Strictly Made in Italy.

SAINT LAURENT—www.ysl.com.
Open daily 10am-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 4-45/r.
T: 055 9040100. **Map E3**

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO—
www.ferragamo.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 4-14/r.
T: 055 292123. **Map E4**

STEFANO RICCI—www.stefanoricci.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm.
Palazzo Tornabuoni - Via dei Pescioni, 1.
T: 055 210856. **Map F3**

SWAROVSKI—www.swarovski.com.
Open Mon-Sat 10am-8pm; Sun 10am-7.30pm. Via dei Calzaiuoli, 43/r.
T: 055 216227. **Map F3**

TOD'S—www.tods.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 2pm-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 60/r. T: 055 219423. **Map E3**

VALENTINO—www.valentino.com.
Women. Open daily 10am-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 23/r. T: 055 293142.
Map E4

A modern accessory with timeless appeal, the Varenne shoulder bag is a handcrafted model made in Italy from luxurious box leather by **JIMMY CHOO**. Available in pastel pink, black, caffelatte and smoky blue.

INDEX >

Fashion outlets

Not far from Florence, in Tuscany but also in nearby Emilia-Romagna, don't miss a trip to these shopping destinations offering discounts year-round.

BARBERINO DESIGNER OUTLET

McArthurGlen Barberino is conveniently located adjacent to the A1 motorway, for easy access from Florence (just 30 minutes from the city centre). McArthurGlen also boasts "Serravalle" near Milan (the largest Designer Outlet in Europe), "Castel Romano" near Rome, "La Reggia" near Naples and "Noventa di Piave" close to Venice. Open daily 10am-8pm.

• **WHERE**: take the A1-E35 motorway in the direction of Bologna and exit at Barberino. Daily shuttle bus service from Florence Santa Maria Novella train station (4 times a day). Meeting point: City Sightseeing Firenze Line A Stop No.1, Florence SMN Train Station, left-luggage office side.

• **WHAT**: the perfect location to find your favourite designer brands at up to 70% off, all year round. With more than 120 boutiques, cafés and restaurants, children's play area and free parking, surrounded by wonderful Tuscany countryside and architecture, Barberino Designer Outlet offers something for everyone. *McArthurGlen.it/Barberino*

CASTEL GUELFO THE STYLE OUTLETS

The point where quality, style and convenience meet: men's, women's and children's clothes, sportswear, accessories and cosmetics with discounts of between 30% and 70% all year round. Castel Guelfo The Style Outlets is located in the Emilia-Romagna region, 1.5 hours from Florence. Open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm; Sat and Sun 10am-8.30pm.

• **WHERE:** take the A1 Bologna-Ancona and exit at Castel San Pietro Terme. A free shuttle service is available daily from Castel San Pietro Terme railway station.

• **WHAT:** 110 boutiques by prestigious brands – such as Baldinini, K-way, Flavio Castellani, Guess, Pepe Jeans, Timberland, Trussardi and Vans – of clothing and accessories for the whole family, sportswear, items for the home and beauty products, with discounts of up to 70% on the retail price.

• **NOT ONLY SHOPPING:** to make the day of shopping even more enjoyable, the centre also hosts art exhibitions, lots of events and initiatives designed to involve the whole family. *www.thestyleoutlets.it*

FIDENZA VILLAGE

One of the 11 Villages of "The Bicester Collection" by Value Retail in Europe and China: a unique experience combining shopping, art, great food and exclusive services. Open daily 10am-8pm.

• **WHERE:** in Emilia-Romagna, near the city of Parma, only 2 hours from Florence. Take the A1-E35 motorway and exit at Fidenza/ Salsomaggiore Terme.

• **WHAT:** more than 120 boutiques of Made in Italy and international fashion and lifestyle brands at prices reduced by up to 70% all year round; the Hands-free Shopping service, the Global Blue Tax Free Kiosk for immediate VAT refund and the personal stylist service are available in the Village.

• **NOT ONLY SHOPPING:** Fidenza Village is an open-air museum embellished by over 30 street art works by some of Italy's and the world's greatest street artists. With a selection of cafés and restaurants where you can sample Italian and regional delicacies, Fidenza Village is the perfect destination for a pleasant day out. *www.fidenzavillage.com*

THE MALL FIRENZE

The luxury outlet centre The Mall Firenze is a gallery of the world's most exclusive designers at truly advantageous prices, offering customers a unique shopping experience. It is set in the heart of the Tuscan countryside, just 30 minutes from Florence. Open daily 10am-7pm (in June, July, August 10am-8pm).

• **WHERE:** take the A1-E35 motorway in the direction of Rome. Leave the motorway at the "Incisa-Reggello" exit and proceed on the right towards Pontassieve, as far as Leccio. Direct bus service from central Florence (Busitalia/Sita bus station-Via S. Caterina da Siena, near the central railway station, €7). Exclusive door-to-door minivan service from centrally located hotels in Florence (€35 round trip). Ask your concierge.

• **WHAT:** over 40 luxury stores (fashion, fragrance and footwear) featuring your favourite brands with discounts of up to 70% year-round: Gucci, Fendi, Salvatore Ferragamo, Dolce&Gabbana, Jimmy Choo, Saint Laurent, Bottega Veneta and Chloé (June 2018 Opening).

• **NOT ONLY SHOPPING:** the Gucci Caffè Restaurant, on the top floor of the Gucci store, is the perfect spot for a lunch break or just to savour a moment of relaxation after a day's shopping. *www.themall.it*

VALDICHIANA VILLAGE

An authentic "Shopping Village" in the province of Arezzo (1 hour from Florence), offering a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere and a unique shopping experience characterised by quality and convenience. It has several facilities and services, such as a beauty centre, a playground, the library and several food courts where the

best local food and wines are on offer. Open daily 10am-8pm.

• **WHERE:** take the A1-E35 motorway in the direction of Rome and exit at Valdichiana Bettolle.

• **WHAT:** 140 designer and brand shops characterized by quality and convenience offering 30% to 70% discounts all year round and further discounts during sale periods: Adidas, Baldinini, Brooks Brothers, Calvin Klein, Diadora, Geox, Guess, Levi's, Massimo Rebecchi, Samsonite, Tommy Hilfiger, Under Armour and many others.

• **NOT ONLY SHOPPING:** ample choice of the restaurants and refreshments, a modern playground, the possibility of recharging your electric car, free wi-fi, mobile phone recharge and, in the event of rain, the possibility of walking in the dry beneath the porticoes.

www.valdichianaoutlet.it

The Mall Firenze

Valdichiana Village

Fidenza Village

Castel Guelfo The Style Outlets

Barberino Designer Outlet

INDEX >

One restaurant, three souls

High-quality ingredients from small Tuscan farms and an elegant, welcoming environment make Foody Farm the ideal place for an appetising break at any time of day. By Giulia Minero

Don't let yourself be deceived by the antique ceilings or the vintage tables, because **Foody Farm**'s proposals could not be more innovative. This restaurant, a few yards from the Ponte Vecchio, with its modern furnishings, its petrol blue coloured velvet seats, mosaics and wrought iron details, makes the rediscovery of **Tuscan raw materials**, combined to bring **innovative recipes** to life, its distinctive feature. Then the absence of a traditional dining approach envisaging hors d'oeuvres, first and main courses, makes the restaurant's proposals dynamic and highly personalisable. The specialities range from street food to tartares, as well as salads, home-made pasta, cheeses and meats, with a selection of **vegetarian offers**, all based on local ingredients from carefully selected small Tuscan farms. Inside the restaurant **three souls** coexist, which are perfect to respond to guests' requirements at any time of day. **BreakFarm**, for example, is available every day from 7am to 10.30am and envisages an innovative format based on the **international buffet breakfast** with sweet and savoury food, while **Farmology** reinterprets the classic concept of **aperitifs or after dinner drinks** proposing cocktails of balanced ingredients mixed in glass, then served in bottles at temperatures that differ according to the preparation.

>> Lungarno Corsini, 2A
T: 055 242327. Map E4
www.foodyfarm.it

2023 Michelin-starred restaurants

Santa Elisabetta

In addition to the historic and well established Enoteca Pinchiorri, with its prestigious three Michelin stars, there are six other Florentine restaurants that have been awarded one star. Let's enjoy them together.

Enoteca Pinchiorri ❀❀❀
Via Ghibellina, 87. T: 055 242757
enotecapinchiorri.it
How do you manage to be honoured with three Michelin stars, the highest recognition, which is only achieved by a hundred restaurants worldwide? In the case of the Enoteca Pinchiorri, it comes from the winning combination of prime quality raw materials, the search for innovation, yet without forgetting the territory's (great) culinary tradition, obsessive attention to every detail and an unrivalled wine menu, which includes highly prized labels, along with others that are little known but equally interesting. Then we can add the fact that the restaurant is located inside the 18th-century Palazzo Jacometti-Ciofi and that its desserts are a delight for the senses.

Santa Elisabetta ❀❀
Piazza Santa Elisabetta, 3. T: 055 27370
www.ristorantesantaelisabetta.it
In the heart of the historical centre of Florence, a unique location, the Byzantine Pagliazza Tower: built around 541-544 AD, today it is part of the register of historical Florentine buildings. Santa Elisabetta is on the first floor of the tower, with a particular circular shape, in an intimate atmosphere that only houses seven tables. Its menu respects nature and the seasons. The Chef chooses to experiment with minimalism, on dishes with a single product that is the protagonist and two or three others that act as a support. Each dish is characterized by the contrasts between acidity and sweetness, cooked and raw, sapidity and lightness.

Borgo San Jacopo *c/o Hotel Lungarno Borgo* ❀
San Jacopo, 62/r. T: 055 281661
www.borgosanjacopo.com
Overlooking the banks of the Arno, with a picture postcard view of Ponte Vecchio, the restaurant Borgo San Jacopo is perfect for a romantic evening. In this case the winning recipe is one that blends creativity, tradition and quality ingredients (lamb in sea water or Bresse rooster and octopus are an example of this), all washed down with wines chosen from a cellar of 900 labels. You can opt for the tasting menu (the potato-based one is unmissable) or à la carte.

Gucci Osteria da Massimo Bottura ❀
Piazza della Signoria, 10. T: 055 75927038
www.gucci.com/it/it/store/osteria-bottura
Located inside inside the Gucci Garden, the creative liaison between Gucci and Bottura celebrates two things Italy is renowned for: fashion and fine cuisine. Head of the team is Mexican chef Karime Lopez Kondo. The menu is an explosive blend of flavours ranging from Italy to the Orient and offers cosmopolitan titbits such as the "Taka-ban", the classic Japanese steamed bun with pork belly and spicy sauce, or marinated Adriatic palamita with tortilla or fried aubergines in shiso sauce. In a very intimate setting, the bistro plays around the tones of green and pistachio and can welcome up t o 35 diners indoors.

Chic Nonna di Vito Mollica *at Palazzo Portinari Salviati (Corte degli Imperatori)* ❀
Via del Corso, 6. T: 055 5353555
chicnonna.com
A restaurant focused on fine dining, run by Executive Chef Vito Mollica, whose philosophy is to use raw materials of exceptional quality; the aim is to create seasonal menus with a traditional yet international flavour, presented with a haute cuisine style. It is here that Vito Mollica creates his most ambitious dishes, thanks to that combination of technique and childhood memories that made him appreciated by national critics and earned him his first Michelin Star in 2011.
The menu is à la carte, with a choice of two tasting courses, one traditional and one vegetarian.

Il Palagio ❀
Borgo Pinti, 99. T: 055 2626450
www.ilpalagioristorante.it
Inside the Hotel Four Seasons, in a sophisticated environment with tables both indoors and outdoors, Il Palagio bases itself on a culinary proposal that looks to the Italian and regional tradition with a touch of modernity, as in the terrine of foie gras with Vin Santo gelée or cheese and pepper cavatelli with red shrimps and baby squid. Chef Vito Mollica offers a menu that is a symphony of flavours, raw materials and colours, at times venturing far beyond the confines of Tuscany with dishes based on truffle, wagyu beef or three kinds of caviar. The wine menu includes more than 400 labels, 50 of which also served by the glass.

Enoteca Pinchiorri

Borgo San Jacopo

Chic Nonna di Vito Mollica

Your home restaurant

Dedicated to those who want to **experience the real regional culinary tradition**, the typical products of the territory and recipes handed down through the generations of Italian families. The **"Cesarine" network** - spread out over **140 Italian cities** with over 1000 amateur chefs - has become established over recent years with this very aim: to offer a complete **gastronomic experience** by opening up the doors of home with lunches and dinners, personalised show cooking, cooking competitions, visits to markets or local producers or catering in exclusive locations. **Having lunch with an Italian family**, with dishes prepared following the typical traditions of the local cuisine, tasting the wines of the territory, is a truly unique experience! And from this year live cooking courses and virtual appointments are available on the cesarine.com website, in both Italian and English, so you can continue to learn family recipes and all the secrets of traditional cuisine.
www.cesarine.com

TUSCAN CUISINE

Benedicta

EDITOR'S TIP The Benedicta restaurant, to which the Michelin Guide 2017 assigned 3 forks, is a pearl hidden away in a side street near Santa Maria Novella, inside the Rivoli Boutique Hotel. Italian and Tuscan cuisine revisited in a contemporary vein, with a menu based on locally sourced ingredients that changes every two months depending on the season. Open 7.30pm-11pm; closed on Sun. From late April to October you can dine in the romantic flower garden. €€. www.ristorantebenedicta.it. Via Benedetta 12/r. T:055 2645429. **Map D2**

Bordino Trattoria

High up in a little street just a stone's throw from the Ponte Vecchio, the Trattoria Bordino is always crowded with both locals and tourists because of its quality food at very affordable prices. The dishes are traditional, with bistecca alla fiorentina grilled directly on wood charcoal the speciality. A wide selection of Italian wines accompanies the dishes in a pleasant, relaxed environment. €€. www.trattoriabordino.it. Via Stracciatella, 9/r. T: 055 213048. **Map F5**

Cammillo

A historic Florentine trattoria not far from Ponte Vecchio. Inside it is as if time stood still: the (very long) menu has practically all the classic Tuscan recipes, plus a few you wouldn't expect like prawn curry with pilaf rice, actually one of Cammillo's signature dishes. Also very good are the croutons with chicken livers, the ribollita, tripe, bistecca alla fiorentina and stuffed rabbit. €€. Borgo San Jacopo, 57/r. T: 055 212427. **Map E5**

Cibrèo Ristorante

In Florence and in the area near the Market of Sant'Ambrogio, Cibrèo is a trademark for eating well. The Cibrèo Restaurant offers territorial and regional cuisine that is sincere and vigorous, with no fear of strong ingredients such as olive oil, garlic or Tuscan kale, drenched in personality, in the image of its founder Fabio Picchi. The products are strictly seasonal and arrive from rigorously selected farm, fisheries, sheep and cattle breeders. €€€. www.cibreo.com/ristorante. Via Andrea del Verrocchio, 8/r. T: 055 2341100. **Map L3**

Da Burde

The menu changes with the mood of the kitchen, and the seasons. Here you'll find croutons with chicken livers, fiorentina, pappa col pomodoro, and ribollita. Highlighted by the Michelin Guide as excellent value for money, the atmosphere has remained that of the early 1900's, as has the food, simple but rich in flavour. A well-stocked cantina, with Tuscan and Piedmontese wines but also French, including some fine champagne. €€€. www.vinodaburde.com. Via Pistoiese, 154. T: 055 317206. **Off Map**

Latini (Il)

Historic trattoria near Santa Maria Novella highlighted in the Michelin Guide. Besides bistecca alla fiorentina, there are pork chops and ribs on the Il Latini grill, as well as roast beef or lamb. Also available are Florentine tripe and peposo (peppery Tuscan beef stew), depending on the season. The cantina is well stocked with the best Tuscan wines, autochthonous and non, as well as the big French labels. €€€. www.illatini.com
Via dei Palchetti, 6. T: 055 210916. **Map D3**

Lungarno23

In the splendid setting of Lungarno Torrigiani, this restaurant is famous for its Chianina meat hamburgers, which are certified with the I.G.P. mark and come from small local farms. Forget the image of fast food, because here the hamburger is accompanied by fresh ingredients, hand-made sesame seed bread, freshly fried potatoes and browned onions. €€. www.lungarno23.it. Lungarno Torrigiani, 23. T: 055 2345957.
Map G6

L'Ortone

Situated in the emerging San Ambrogio foodie district, opposite the charming street market, the menu is based on typical Tuscan dishes, with a focus on traditional first courses and grilled specialities, including of course the fiorentina. If you want to try something more adventurous you can't go wrong with the pork liver confit with kale and Boretto onions. €€. www.lortone.it. Piazza Lorenzo Ghiberti 87/r. T: 055 234 0804. **Map L4**

Tuscani 3 (I)

If you love "ciccia" (which is what Tuscans call red meat), you must not miss this steakhouse and delicatessen that is very famous in the city. Located in the heart of the historic centre, a few steps from Piazza della Repubblica, it obviously offers the typical bistecca alla fiorentina but also selections of Tuscan pork, cured meat boards or steak tartare and hamburger made rigorously with Chianina meat. €€. http://ituscani3.com.Via Dante Alighieri 18/r.
T: 055 285356. **Map F4**

CANTINE

Antica Mescita San Niccolò

Ever wanted to eat lunch in a 1000 AD Romanesque crypt? In Florence you can, at the Antica Mescita San Niccolò, which also used to serve as a customs post for wine originating from Chianti. Naturally, the wine is excellent and predominately Tuscan and the food also reflects the season and the local territory, with dishes such as cold cuts and mixed cheeses, ribollita, bistecca alla fiorentina and lampredotto, to name just a few. €€. www.osteriasanniccolo.it. Via San Niccolò, 60/r. T: 055 2342836. **Map H6**

Buca Lapi

This is one of Florence's oldest eating places. Crafted out of the wine cellars of the Renaissance Palazzo Antinori, it still preserves traces of over a century of history thanks to the meticulous restoration of the internal frescoes. Buca Lapi is particularly popular with lovers of the real fiorentina, but the other local Tuscan dishes are worth trying too, such as croutons, ribollita or wild boar with polenta. €€€. www.bucalapi.com.
Via del Trebbio 1/r. T: 055 213768. **Map E3**

Buca Mario

For years ordinary folk have rubbed shoulders with famous names beneath the bare brick ceilings of Buca Mario to enjoy simple, genuine Florentine cuisine (although you can still request a private room for up to ten people in classic 16th-century Florentine style). The bistecca alla fiorentina is excellent, as is the ribollita or pappardelle with Maremma boar ragù. €€. www.bucamario.com. Piazza degli Ottaviani, 16/r.
T: 055 214179. **Map D3**

Advertorial

Obicà, not only Mozzarella and Pizza

PHOTOS © ANDREA GRANATIERO

In the elegant and sumptuous setting of a period palace Obicà Mozzarella Bar welcomes its guests with the best of traditional Italian cuisine.

The **Obicà Menu for Winter** is not just a list of gastronomic proposals suited for the season, but the result of almost 20 years of **work in the name of quality**. Among the tastiest dishes we can mention the **Potato Flan** with Mortadella IGP, Sicilian pistachios and Parmigiano Reggiano DOP fondue, **Pizza with Porcini Mushrooms, Pumpkin**, Buffalo Mozzarella and Parmigiano Reggiano DOP flakes, **Potato Gnocchi** with Camembert di Bufala Fondue, Gorgonzola, Caramelised Pears and Walnuts. Finally, one of the most iconic dishes of the Mediterranean melting pot, the **Sardinian Fregola**: squid, baby octopus, organic tomato sauce and croutons to complete a dish that promises to be unforgettable.

Obicà Mozzarella Bar
Via de' Tornabuoni 16
T: 055 2773526
www.obica.com

PH © ALBERTO BLASETTI

OBICÀ ALL OVER THE WORLD – The authenticity and genuineness of the best Italian products of which the Obicà Mozzarella Bar Group is a spokesman, can now be tried in no less than **24 restaurants around the world**. In Italy, between Milan and Palermo, Florence and Rome, but also abroad, where the Italian soul is intertwined with a cosmopolitan spirit: London, Porto, New York, Tokyo, Osaka and Yokohama.

Florentine food terms

Buca Mario

'Lampre…' what's that? Florence has a multitude of culinary specialities of peasant origin that are still very popular in the city today. Some are so niche as to be unknown outside Florence, let alone to foreigners. So we've decided to put together a glossary of Florentine food terms to help you find your way among the soups, animal parts you never thought you could eat and distinctive eateries. By Chiara Zaccarelli

BISTECCA ALLA FIORENTINA
This is one of the most iconic dishes in Florence cuisine. The succulent steak is obtained from a specific cut of a young Chianina cow, a part of the loin near the backbone which has a T-bone in the middle. It should be grilled at a very high temperature, so that a fine crust forms rapidly on the meat. All the flavour of this dish depends on the cooking: the meat must be brown on the outside but red, soft and juicy on the inside, hot, but not cooked through. It should also be at least 3 or 4 cms thick, and weigh between 1.2 kg and 1.5 kgs. At a restaurant you pay for a fiorentina by weight: an average price to be sure of getting the real thing is around 50 euros a kilo.

CANTUCCI
This is one of the best-known cake recipes in Tuscan cuisine. The finger-shaped almond biscuits are made by slicing up a long roll of baked dough while still hot. The dough is made with flour, sugar, eggs, butter and raw almonds, not toasted or shelled. Tuscans normally dunk their 'cantucci' in a fortified local wine called Vin Santo made from dried grapes. You can find them in any bakery or local foods shop.

CIBREO
A dish for strong stomachs, Cibreo is a typical main course of Florentine "poor cuisine" containing liver, chicken hearts, crests, eggs, lemon juice and onion. Even though presented like that it seems to be an inauspicious mixture, it is famous for having been one of the favourite dishes of Caterina de' Medici, who attempted - unsuccessfully - to export it to France and it seems she was so fond of it that it gave her indigestion a number of times.

LAMPREDOTTO
This is Florentine street food par excellence. But watch out, it's not for weak stomachs. Actually it's a cow's fourth stomach, known as the 'abomaso', cooked in a herb broth and most commonly served in a panino soaked in the broth or topped with the local parsley-based green sauce. Historically a poor man's dish, it is still very popular in Florence today thanks to the numerous open-air kiosks known as "lampredottai", doing a roaring trade with Florentines as well as tourists who can't wait to try this speciality, accompanied by the obligatory glass of wine.

PAPPA COL POMODORO
On the face of it this is just another variant of bread and tomatoes. But until you've tried this soup made of stale bread (unsalted), tomatoes, garlic, basil, extra virgin Tuscan olive oil, salt and pepper, you'll never guess how good it is. Everyone loves this tasty, genuine dish, including the kids. So much so there's even a popular children's song all about it.

RIBOLLITA
Another delicious country dish typical of Florence and the whole of central Tuscany is ribollita, a soup made of stale bread, kale and beans (borlotti, toscanelli or cannellini). 'Ribollita' literally means boiled several times. The name derives from the fact that in the old days peasants used to make a large pot and serve it, heated up, over a number of days, each time tastier than before.

SCHIACCIATA
This simple focaccia baked in a wood oven and dressed with olive oil and salt is a great favourite with Florentines, who eat it on its own or stuffed with salumi and cheeses, either as a quick lunch or substantial snack. Again, like many traditional Florentine recipes, it is based on a horror of wasting any left over bread dough. In Florence you'll find it at any baker's, but of course everyone has their own preference: soft and well oiled, crisp and salty, or made with ancient grains. Just try it to decide which is your favourite!

Ribollita

PHOTO © SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Historic cellars for foodies

Florence's *cantine*, where in the past the well to do kept their wine, salumi and meats, haven't lost their vocation as custodians of fine taste. The majority, with dining rooms located beneath street level, are still called "*buca*", although some have become proper restaurants, with menus (and prices) more suited to international visitors, while others still offer simple, authentic Florentine home cooking.

(C.Z.)

Buca Lapi

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www.osteriasanniccolo.it
Via San Niccolò, 60/r. T: 055 2342836.

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www.bucalapi.com. Via del Trebbio 1/r. T: 055 213768.

Buca Mario - For years ordinary folk have rubbed shoulders with famous names beneath the bare brick ceilings of Buca Mario to enjoy simple, genuine Florentine cuisine (although you can still request a private room for up to ten people in classic 16th-century Florentine style). The bistecca alla fiorentina is excellent, as is the ribollita or pappardelle with Maremma boar ragù.
www.bucamario.com
Piazza degli Ottaviani, 16/r T: 055 214179.

Buca Poldo - A few yards from Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio, Buca Poldo serves characteristic Tuscan dishes including ribollita, pappa al pomodoro, fiorentina and boar stew, as well as a few forays into other regional cuisines. Although the majority of the courses are meat based, some fish dishes are also available. The kitchen is open on two sides, so that diners can watch the chefs at work.
www.bucapoldo.com
Chiasso degli Armagnati, 2/R. T: 055.239.6578.

Buca San Giovanni
Buca San Giovanni is another of Italy's historic restaurants. Originally the sacristy of the nearby Baptistery of Saint John opposite Florence cathedral, it was also the Rosicrucian masons' secret initiation venue and countless notables from Florence and elsewhere have enjoyed a meal under its ancient vaults. There is no lack of classic dishes such as ossobuco alla Fiorentina (oxtail) and stracotto al Chianti (beef braised in Chianti), but the cuisine also stretches to other Italian regional specialities, such as bucatini all'amatriciana, spaghetti alla carbonara or linguine al pesto.
www.bucasangiovanni.it
Piazza San Giovanni, 8. T: 055 287612

Buca San Giovanni

Fiaschetteria Nuvoli - Just a few steps from Piazza Duomo is an obligatory destination for anyone who has ever wondered what Florence's old wine cellars were really like in the past. Open from 8.30 in the morning until evening, it serves typical Tuscan specialities such as chicken liver croutons, cold cuts, tagliatelle al ragù, fried chicken or brains, ribollita, pappa col pomodoro and roast porchetta. There is also a vast choice of Tuscan wines, also available for aperitifs.
Piazza dell'Olio, 15/r. T: 055 239 6616.

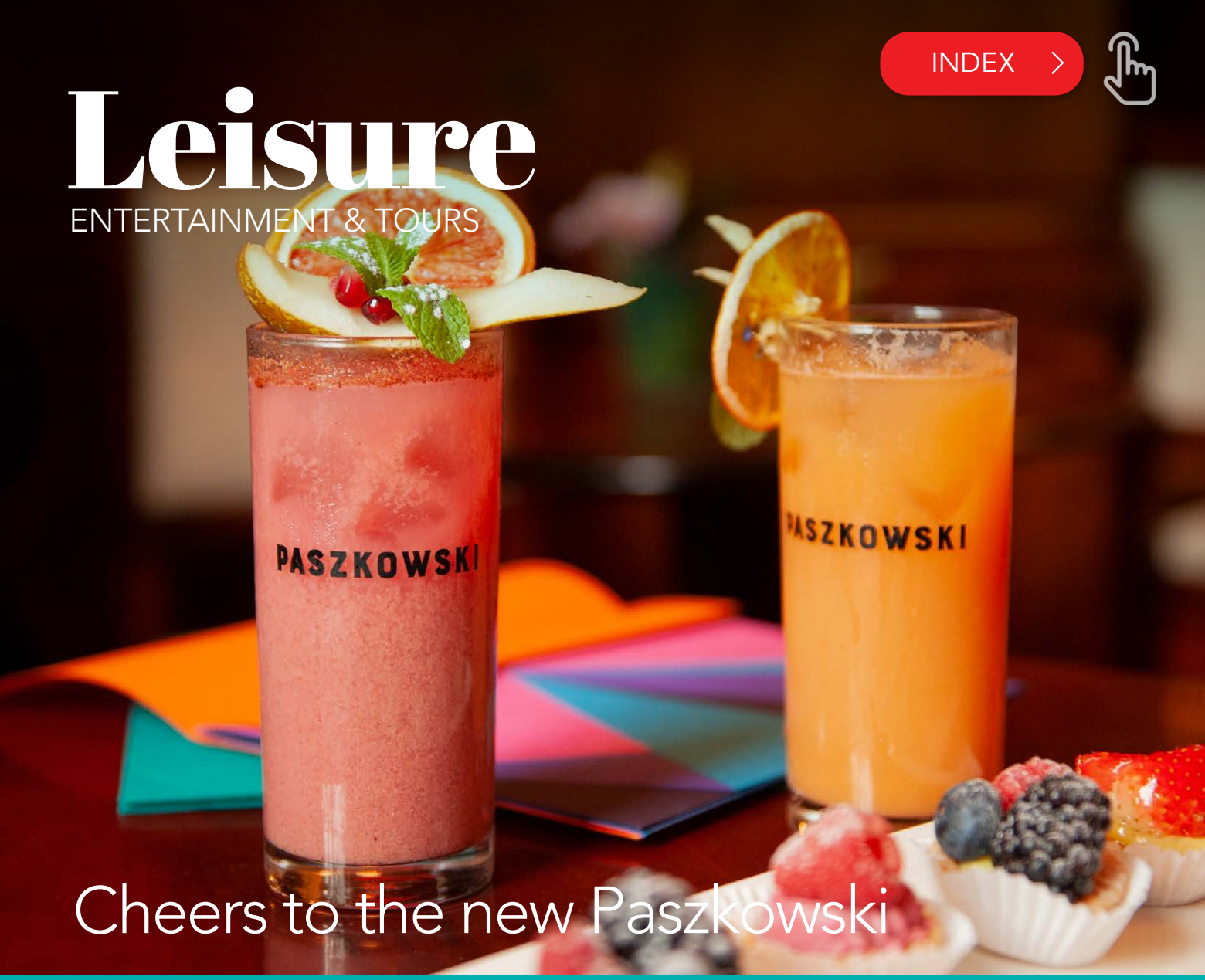
Ristorante Buca dell'Orafo - A few yards from Ponte Vecchio, in an old goldsmith's workshop inside the walls of a 13th century palace, is the restaurant Buca dell'Orafo. Traditional Tuscan dishes and menus that vary depending on the season testify to the quality of the ingredients. Don't miss the ribollita, the maltagliati (flat, irregular offcuts of pasta), autumn mushrooms and taglierini with fresh spring peas.
www.bucadellorafo.com
Via dei Girolami, 28/r. T: 055 213619.

Buca Poldo

Buca dell'Orafo

Leisure

ENTERTAINMENT & TOURS



Cheers to the new Paszkowski

Since 1846, quality and tradition have been combined at the Caffè Concerto Paszkovski, an unmissable destination for breakfast, a snack or an aperitif with an authentically Florentine spirit.

First inaugurated with the name Caffè Centrale, given its position in the heart of Piazza della Repubblica, the **Caffè Concerto Paszkovski** took on its current identity in 1903, when the Società Toscana C. Paszkowski per la Fabbricazione e la Vendita di Birra purchased it, to transform it into a café concerto and then a literary café. From that moment on, the venue welcomed high-profile figures of the calibre of D'Annunzio, Montale, Saba and Pratolini. A further demonstration of its historical value arrived in 1991, when it became one of the **Locali Storici d'Italia**. Today, in its sophisticated rooms, which have recently undergone a conservative restoration, it hosts a Café with an attached **tea room**, a cocktail bar and a restaurant. The first, today, as yesterday, is the ideal place to treat yourself to a coffee prepared respecting the best Italian tradition, accompanied by a selection of home-made sweet and savoury pastry delights. The ritual of the **aperitif** takes place every day in the cocktail bar, with drinks ranging from the great classics to signature cocktails, together with a selection of beers. The classic dishes of the tradition and the proposals that have contributed to the history of the café, with the addition of contemporary offerings, become the protagonists of the **Restaurant** under the skilful guidance of chef **Fabio Barbaglini**. Here particular attention is reserved for the selecting of high-quality raw materials, prepared with cooking processes and methods that bring out their flavour without altering their properties.

>> Piazza della Repubblica, 35/R
T: 055 210236. Map F3. caffepaszkowski.it

APERITIVI

Chiaroscuro
Opened in 1999 as a place to celebrate coffee, Florentines today are attracted by the original and genuine snacks. Coffee, hot chocolate and aperitifs served in a popular bar-cafe furnished with a retro touch. Until 9.30pm. www.chiaroscuro.it. Via del Corso, 36/r. T: 055 214247. **Map G3**

Easy living
Better known to Florentines as the "spiaggina" (little beach), its location is quite singular: this strictly summer-only bar is built right on the river-bed of the Arno, opposite Torre San Niccolò, from where patrons can enjoy a leisurely aperitif with a stunning view of Ponte Vecchio, often with live music. There is always a cooling breeze, a big plus in a sweltering Florence summer. www.easylivingfirenze.it. Piazza G. Poggi. T: 055 2341112. **Map I6**

Gucci Osteria da Massimo Bottura
The style of one of the world's favourite fashion brands, a star chef and an incomparable location, surrounded by Florentine art. Popular at any hour, aperitifs are a particularly draw. www.gucci.com. Piazza della Signoria, 10. T: 055 75927038. **Map F4**

Il Locale
Ideal at any time of day, but perfect for aperitifs, located in a small street not far from the Duomo. Hanging garden, lounge bar, cantina and intimate snugs, all beautifully restored. Exquisite nibbles and excellent wine list. www.localefirenze.it. Via delle Seggiole, 6. T: 055 9067188. **Map G3**

Il Rifrullo
In 1981 it was the first American Bar in Florence and it has never lost its appeal as a rendezvous for both Florentines and visitors, renovated several times but still a landmark. You can enjoy its rightly acclaimed aperitifs and abundant buffet in the garden in summer or in front of the fire in winter. www.ilrifrullo.com. Via San Niccolò, 55/r. T: 055 2342621. **Map H6**

Moyo
Aperitifs and light dinner in a locale that offers international cuisine, cocktails and DJ set in a modern and stylish setting, a landmark of Florentine nightlife. www.moyo.it. T: 055 2479738. Via dei Benci, 23/r. **Map H4**

Rivalta Cafè
Aperitifs, DJ set and Italian menu in a chic venue that combines modern furnishings and frescoed ceilings. The sight of the Arno at dusk always attracts a crowd. www.rivaltacafe.it. Lungarno Corsini 14/r. T: 055 289810. **Map E4**

Rooftop Bar La Terrazza
Cocktails and champagne on an elegant patio furnished to contemporary taste, looking over at the medieval Consorti Tower. On the top floor of the Hotel Continentale. www.continentalehotel.com. Vicolo dell'Oro, 6. T: 055 27265987. **Map F4**

Se·Sto on Arno
The Westin Excelsior opens its bar for aperitifs every evening from 7pm to 9pm. Two large terrazze provide a 360° view over the marvels of Florence. www.westinflorence.com. Piazza Ognissanti, 3. T: 055 27151. **Map C3**

Signorvino
This wine bar on two floors offers Italian wines (more than 1500 labels, also to buy), coffee, aperitifs and snacks. Delicious Tuscan and other regional bites. Rooftop terrace with view of Ponte Vecchio. www.signorvino.com. Via de' Bardi, 46/r. T: 055 286258. **Map F5**

Three Sixty
From May to September the Grand Hotel Minerva, next to Santa Maria Novella, opens its magnificent panoramic terrazza with swimming pool to outside guests. Aperitifs from 7pm. www.grandhotelminerva.com. Piazza di Santa Maria Novella. T: 055 27230. **Map E2**

BRUNCH

Ditta Artigianale
Founder Francesco Sanapo finished sixth in a contest held in Melbourne in 2013 involving competitors from 60 countries to find the world's best coffee barista. Back in Florence, he opened this bistrot which, besides the exceptional coffee, serves a brunch menu (from 9am to 3.30pm) ranging from Greek yogurt and crudités to bacon and French toast. Designer atmosphere. www.dittaartigianale.it. Via dei Neri, 32/r. (Santa Croce district). • T: 055 2741541 or Via dello Sprone, 5/r. (Santo Spirito district). T: 055 0457163. **Map E5**

Foody Farm
"The right food from the right places" is the motto of this little restaurant where the quality and traceability of the ingredients is the holy grail. An original and genuine light lunch, with the option of half portions. Tuscan street food and fast food, including lampredotto and pecorino, chianina and croutons, besides pasta and soups. 11am till midnight. Intimate bistrot in the Santa Croce district. www.foodyfarm.it. Corso dei Tintori, 10/r. T: 055 242327. **Map H5**

Odeon Bistrot
Burgers, brunch and aperitifs in this beautiful little restaurant with a very elegant exterior, white columns and vaulted ceiling. Open each day from 8.30 in the morning till 3 at night, for snacks and traditional Tuscan dishes as well as an exceptional wine list. City centre, next door to its namesake cinema. www.odeonbistro.it. Piazza degli Strozzi, 8/r. T: 055 215654. **Map E4**

Procacci
This delicatessen founded in 1885 has become an institution, and not only in Florence, especially for its truffle-based specialities and impeccable selection of wines. Combines a gourmet food shop and wine bar in a relaxing atmosphere, with delicious snacks to eat in. 10am till 9pm (Sunday from 11am till 8pm). Historic venue in the heart of Florence. www.procacci1885.it. Via de' Tornabuoni, 64/r. T: 055 211656. **Map E3**

Teatro del Sale
Theatre-club-lounge-restaurant inspired by Florentine celebrity chef Fabio Picchi – formerly patron of the legendary Cibreo restaurant – and co-founder, president and artistic director Maria Cassi. Every day from 12-noon it serves a highly original brunch of buffet food and hot snacks at a fixed price of 15 euros (20 euros on Saturday and Sunday). From Tuesday to Saturday (7.30pm-9pm), dinner with after-dinner show, both at a fixed price of 30 euros. www.teatrodelsale.com. Via dei Macci, 111/r. (Sant'Ambrogio district). T: 055 2001492. **Map I3**

CONCERT VENUES & THEATRES

Teatro Comunale
The Teatro Comunale di Firenze is the city's largest theatre. Overall, it occupies approximately half a block between corso Italia, via Magenta and via Solferino. The main theatre has seating for around 1800, but also part of the complex is a foyer called the "Piccolo Teatro", which can hold a little under 600 spectators. The name "Comunale" [Municipal] dates back to 1933, when the Florentine Maggio Musicale was established (see entry), but the theatre itself dates back to the second half of the 19th century. www.operadifirenze.it. Corso Italia, 16. T: 055 27791. **Map B2**

Teatro Verdi
The largest "Italian-style" theatre in Tuscany is located in Florence, in the historic district of Santa Croce, and hosts all genres of performance. Inaugurated in 1854, since 2000 it has been owned by the Orchestra of Tuscany, which is based there. www.teatroverdifirenze.it. Via Ghibellina, 99. T: 055 212320. **Map H4**

Teatro Goldoni
Inaugurated in 1817 in the presence of Ferdinand III of Habsburg-Lorraine, thanks to its proximity to Palazzo Pitti it soon became the court theatre. Oval-shaped, with 80 boxes distributed over four orders, the theatre experienced a period of abandonment. After a lengthy restoration, it returned to its original pomp in 1998, with a historical design by Italian director and actor Luca Ronconi. www.operadifirenze.it. Via Santa Maria, 15. T: 055 2779309. **Map C6**

Teatro del Maggio
The Teatro del Maggio is in the centre, beside the old city walls, next to the historic Stazione Leopolda (*see listing*). The garden that welcomes visitors is Piazzale Vittorio Gui, named after the founder of the Stabile Orchestrale Fiorentina and the Florentine Maggio Musicale. Symphony concerts and operas are performed in a contemporary space in a large wood-covered hall. www.operadifirenze.it. Piazzale V. Gui, 1. **Off Map**

Stazione Leopolda
Inaugurated in 1848, it was Florence's first railway station: it was decommissioned, and today has become a sought-after venue for meetings, conferences and various events. A versatile, multifunctional space, it has its name associated with the recent history of Italy, being the venue of the event that launched the career of Florentine politician Matteo Renzi. www.stazione-leopolda.com. Viale Fratelli Rosselli, 5. T: 055 212622. **Map A1**

Visarno Arena
It is located inside the Ippodromo Visarno racecourse, located in Florence in the Parco delle Cascine. Surrounded by greenery and with seating for 60,000, the area is the favourite venue for major open-air events. Active since 2015, it has already hosted, among others, concerts by David Gilmour, Massive Attack, Einsturzende Neubauten, Sting and Duran Duran, but also the 2015 and 2016 editions of World Refugees Day. www.visarnoarena.it. Parco delle Cascine (approx. two kilometres from the Central Station of Santa Maria Novella). **Off Map**

Itineraries

LANDMARKS & MUSEUMS

Amid faith, art and history

Universally recognised as one of the locations symbolising the city, consecrated in 1059 in honour of its patron, Saint John, the Baptistery of San Giovanni is one of the oldest places of worship in Florence. By Giulia Minero

Located opposite the complex of Santa Maria del Fiore, the Baptistery owes part of its renown to its particular octagonal plan structure - typical of the baptisteries of antiquity - surmounted by a pyramidal dome consisting of eight segments, the richly decorated interior of which bears the signatures of great Renaissance artists of the calibre of Cimabue and Coppo di Marcovaldo. Among the masterpieces contained in it, in addition to the funerary monument in memory of the "Antipope" John XXIII created by Michelozzo and Donatello, the precious **gilded mosaics of the dome** representing the Angelic Hierarchies and **Universal Judgement** stand out, dominated by the great figure of Christ the Judge.

The exterior of the Baptistery, on the other hand, entirely covered in slabs of white marble from Carrara and green marble from Prato, is famous for its **three bronze doors**, of immense historical and artistic value. The **South Door**, by Andrea Pisano, dating back to 1330, illustrates the life of Saint John the Baptist in 28 inlaid panels, the **North Door**, by Lorenzo Ghiberti, imagines the life and passion of Christ through 20 panels, and with a further eight, the four evangelists and four "fathers of the church", while the **East Door**, located opposite the Cathedral and known by the epithet conferred on it by Michelangelo, of "Porta del Paradiso" (Gate of Paradise), consists of ten gilded panels representing scenes from the Old Testament.

>> Battistero di San Giovanni
Piazza San Giovanni. Map F2
www.ilgrandemuseodelduomo.it

Gate of Paradise, detail.

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ATTRACTIONS & MONUMENTS

Duomo and Cupola
Completed in 1436, the religious building, whose official name is "Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore", is third in terms of dimensions after St. Peter's in Rome and St Paul's Cathedral in London. The most important artists of the period participated in its creation (the bell tower is by Giotto), while the famous multi-coloured marble façade dates back to the 19th century. Brunelleschi's Dome, still the tallest construction in the city, is a symbol known all over the world: it is possible to climb to the top (exclusively on foot) up its 463 steps. www.ilgrandemuseodelduomo.it. Piazza del Duomo, 3/5-6. T: 055 2302885. **Map F2**

Battistero
Located opposite the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, the Baptistery of St. John the Baptist is the building that completes the considerably striking appearance of the square. Its origins are uncertain, but its first official dating is at least in the 12th century. It is characterised by an octagonal plan, lined with a dome of eight segments, covered by a pyramid roof. The outside is decorated with white marble from Carrara and green marble from Prato, characteristics of the Florentine architecture of the Romanesque period. It has three famous doors, sumptuously decorated, and an interior that, with its marble and mosaics, is reminiscent of that of the Pantheon. Used in antiquity for the investiture of knights and poets, its praises are sung by Dante in the Divine Comedy. www.ilgrandemuseodelduomo.it. Piazza di San Giovanni, 8. T: 055 2302885. **Map F2**

Campanile di Giotto
84.70 metres high and around 15 wide, a manifestation of 14th-century Florentine Gothic architecture, the Giotto's bell tower is one of the four main components of the complex of Santa Maria del Fiore, in piazza del Duomo. Lined with white, red and green marble, like that adorning the Cathedral, the majestic square-based bell tower, designed by Giotto in 1334, can be visited by climbing no less than 414 stairs up to the top, from where you can enjoy extraordinary views of Brunelleschi's Dome. www.ilgrandemuseodelduomo.it. Piazza del Duomo. T: 055 2302885. **Map F3**

Piazza della Signoria
This is the central square of Florence, the seat of civil power and social heart of the city. L-shaped, it is located at the centre of medieval Florence south of the Cathedral. Already important in the Roman Age, the square has been gradually enhanced over the centuries; facing onto it are Palazzo Vecchio (see entry), the splendid Loggia della Signoria, the Tribunale della Mercanzia, Palazzo Uguccioni and Palazzo delle Assicurazioni Generali. Also prominent in the square are the Fountain of Neptune and a series of statues of Renaissance origin, representing one of the most important sculptural cycles in the world. The most famous is certainly Michelangelo's *David*: the one on display in its original position is a copy, whereas the original is conserved in the Galleria dell'Accademia. **Map F4-G4**

Palazzo Vecchio
Located in piazza della Signoria, today it is the seat of the Municipal Council of Florence. It is the finest synthesis of 14th-century civil architecture and is one of the best known civic buildings in the world. Its imposing façade, abounding in history, the charm of its magnificent courtyards and its precious interiors make it a site visited daily by hundreds of people. www.museicivicifiorentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza della Signoria. T: 055 2768325. **Map G4**

Ponte Vecchio
There has been a bridge at this point of the River Arno ever since before the year one thousand; yet, between floods and reconstructions, the official date of foundation of the current Ponte Vecchio is given as 1345. For the entire Middle Ages the bridge hosted greengrocers', fishmongers' and butchers' shops, who used the river to dispose of their waste in a hurry. At the end of the 16th century, however, when it became the "noble" zone of the city, the goldsmiths and jewellers started to arrive, and they have been there uninterruptedly to this day. To celebrate this history, on prominent display on the bridge is a bust of Benvenuto Cellini, the greatest goldsmith of the Renaissance. Access is gained to the bridge between via Por Santa Maria and Lungarno degli Archibusieri and between Borgo San Jacopo and via de' Guicciardini. **Map F5**

Palazzo Pitti and Giardino di Boboli
The symbol of wealth and power, the building was inhabited by the Medici, then by the Habsburg-Lorraines and, after the Unity of Italy, by the Savoy family. The original architecture dates back to the 15th century and "Pitti" is the surname of its first owner. The building is located on the left bank of the river, at the foot of Boboli Hill. They are one of the most important examples of Italian-style gardens in the world and are considered a genuine open-air museum. Currently they are the site of four different museums: the Treasury of the Grand Dukes, the Palatine Gallery and the Royal Apartments, the Gallery of Modern Art and the Museum of Fashion and Costume. They are connected to Forte di Belvedere. www.uffizi.it/palazzo-pitti. Piazza de' Pitti, 1. T: 055 294883. **Map E6**

Piazzale Michelangelo
Piazzale Michelangelo is the most famous and appreciated panoramic point in Florence, with its views seen all over the world in million of postcards and reproductions. Dedicated to the city's most famous artist, the square has bronze copies of some of Michelangelo's most famous sculptures. Access to the Piazzale can be gained by car, along the tree-lined Viale Michelangelo, or on foot, by climbing the monumental flight of steps known as the "Rampe del Poggi". **Map I7**

San Miniato al Monte
Not far from Piazzale Michelangelo, stands the Abbey of San Miniato al Monte, a medieval religious building situated at one of the highest panoramic points in Florence. The most spectacular access is gained via the monumental flight of steps (which is not advisable, however, for those with problems walking). The outside of the church is decorated with green and white marble, typical of Florentine Romanesque, while a 12th-century mosaic decorates the central part of the façade. www.sanminiatoalmonte.it. Via delle Porte Sante, 34. T: 055 234 2731. **Off Map**

Mercato Centrale
Built at the end of the 19th century, the project was entrusted to Giuseppe Mengoni, the architect of the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in Milan, who was inspired by Les Halles in Paris. Since 2014, on the first floor of the historic covered market there has been a complex containing dozens of small restaurants, leisure activities and street food options, and this has now become a point of reference for informal but good quality cuisine for both Florentines and tourists. www.mercatocentrale.it. Piazza del Mercato Centrale/Via dell'Ariento. T: 055 2399798. **Map F1**

PH © IVANTAGAN / 123RF.COM

Palazzo Pitti and its dynasties

A palace for three dynasties, Palazzo Pitti is an extraordinary building located in the **Oltrarno district**, at the foot of ther Boboli Hill. The famous **Boboli Gardens**, which are the park of the palace, take their name from this hill. Palazzo Pitti contains **four different museums**: the **Treasures of the Grand Dukes** (*ground flloor and mezzanine*) with vases made of semi-precious stones, rock crystals, ambers and ivories and an exceptional collection of Oriental porcelains; the **Palatine Gallery and Monumental Apartments** (*noble floor*) with the world's largest concentration of works by Raphael, the **Gallery of Modern Art** (*second floor*) hosting an important group of paintings by the Macchiaioli school; the **Musem of Fashion and Costume** (*Palazzina della Meridiana*) with 6,000 items from the 18th century to today.
Open Tues-Sun 8.15am-6.50pm. www.uffizi.it/palazzo-pitti. Piazza de' Pitti, 1. Map E6

Santa Croce
Together with Santa Maria Novella, San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito, it is one of the "great basilicas", a point of reference of the Franciscan order: a radiant example of Tuscan Gothic, it owes its sober appearance of wooden trusses and terracotta floors to Franciscan charisma. Giotto painted some of his great masterpieces here and the French writer Stendhal experienced that profound artistic agitation that has been known since then as the "Stendhal syndrome". The basilica contains the monumental sepulchres of Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli. www.santacroceopera.it. Piazza Santa Croce, 16. T: 055 2466105. **Map H4**

Santa Maria Novella
Together with Santa Croce, San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito, it is one of the "great basilicas", a point of reference of the Dominican order. Its foundation dates back to the end of the 13th century but work on it continued for centuries, so the church, with its elegant façade by Leon Battista Alberti, is a harmonious synthesis of Gothic and Renaissance styles. The church of Santa Maria Novella hosts exceptional works of art by Masaccio, Giotto, Brunelleschi, Filippino Lippi, Domenico Ghirlandaio and Paolo Uccello. www.smn.it. Piazza Stazione, 4 - piazza Santa Maria Novella, 18.
T: 055 219257. **Map D2-E2**

Santo Spirito
Together with Santa Croce, San Lorenzo and Santa Maria Novella, it is one of the "great basilicas", a point of reference of the Augustinian order. The church has given its name to the entire surrounding neighbourhood, "Borgo Santo Spirito", located "Oltrarno", that is on the left bank of the river.
A jewel of Renaissance architecture, the church was the last great project by Filippo Brunelleschi. www.basilicasantospirito.it. Piazza Santo Spirito, 30.
T: 055 210030. **Map D5**

San Lorenzo
Together with Santa Croce, Santo Spirito and Santa Maria Novella, it is one of the "great basilicas" of Florence, founded, according to the tradition, by Saint Ambrose, the first bishop of Milan, in the fourth century AD: it is therefore one of the oldest churches in the city. Its current appearance, however, is the result of the last major reconstruction work that took place in the 15th century at the wishes of the Medici and under the direction of the great architect Filippo Brunelleschi. Its bare stone façade was intended to receive a rich marble decoration designed by Michelangelo, which unfortunately was never executed. The interior is a masterpiece, also embellished by sculptures by Donatello of rare expressive intensity. www.operamedicealaurenziana.org. Piazza di San Lorenzo, 9. T: 055 216634-055 214042. **Map F2**

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITION SITES

Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana
Part of the museum complex of the Basilica di San Lorenzo, it is one of the finest examples of the architecture of Michelangelo. Commissioned by Pope Clement VII (a Medici) and completed at the wishes of Grand Duke Cosimo I in 1571, entry is gained by ascending the monumental staircase designed by Michelangelo and built by Bartolomeo Ammannati in 1559. The Library conserves approx. 11,000 Greek, Latin and Oriental manuscripts, often richly miniated, dating from the 5th to the 19th century, in addition to papyruses and rare print editions. Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-1.30pm. Full ticket price: Basilica + Medici Library €8.50. www.bmlonline.it. Piazza di San Lorenzo, 9. T: 055 2937911. **Map F2**

FIRENZECARD www.firenzecard.it

Firenzecard costs €85 and allows access to 60 museums and is valid for 72 hours from the initial entry to a museum on the Circuit. It can be purchased online or from one of the authorised sales points in Florence. It includes:
- **1 entry ticket + 1 exhibition supplement + 1 priority ticket for each museum on the Firenzecard circuit**
- **Priority access to museums without booking, except for the Dome, Galleria degli Uffizi and Galleria dell'Accademia, where the booking is required but free.**

Cappella Brancacci
The Church and the Convent of Santa Maria del Carmine, dating back to the mid-13th century, house the Brancacci Chapel, a masterpiece that is universally renowned for the frescos of the cycle of *Scenes from the Life of St. Peter* by Masaccio and Masolino da Panicale. Executed in 1425-1427, they were left unfinished and were eventually completed by Filippino Lippi between 1481 and 1482. You are advised to book (T: 055 2768224-8558). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun and holidays: 1pm-5pm. Full ticket price: Wed-Fri €6; Sat-Sun-Mon: Brancacci Chapel+Fondazione Salvatore Romano €7. www.museicivicifiorentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza del Carmine, 14. T: 055 2768224-558-2382195. **Map C5**

Cappelle Medicee
Since 1869 the Medici Chapels have been a state museum, but their history is closely associated with that of the Basilica di San Lorenzo, of which they are part. The museum consists of the New Sacristy, designed and conceived as regards its sculptural furniture by Michelangelo, the Chapel of the Princes, a monumental mausoleum built using semi-precious stones, the Crypt, where the Medici Grand Dukes and their relatives are buried, and the Lorenese Crypt, which contains the funeral monument to Cosimo the Elder. Open daily 8.15am-1.50pm. Closed: 1st, 3rd, 5th Monday and 2nd, 4th Sunday of the month,. Full ticket price: €8. www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it/musei/2/medicee | www.operamedicealaurenziana.org. Piazza Madonna degli Aldobrandini, 6. T: 055 282984. **Map F2**

Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi
Palazzo Strozzi is one of the finest examples of private architecture of the Renaissance and a dynamic cultural centre that hosts international level exhibitions, ranging from ancient art to the Renaissance, to contemporary art. Always present are an exhibition devoted to Palazzo Strozzi, the café and the museum shop, which looks out onto the Renaissance courtyard, where concerts, performances, contemporary art installations and theatrical plays are organised. Open daily and holidays 10am-8pm, Thurs 10am-11pm. Museum full ticket price: €12. www.palazzostrozzi.org. Piazza Strozzi. T: 055 2645155. **Map E3**

Forte di Belvedere
At the end of the 16th century, Ferdinando de' Medici commissioned Bernardo Buontalenti to design a fortress on the top of Boboli Hil. The fort currently hosts top-level events and exhibitions. Open exclusively on the occasion of temporary exhibitions. Full ticket price: €3. www.museicivicifiorentini.comune.fi.it. Via San Leonardo, 1. **Map F7**

Galleria degli Uffizi
The Gallery occupies the whole of the first and second floors of the large building erected between 1560 and 1580 based on a project by Giorgio Vasari; it is one of the most famous museums in the world on account of its extraordinary collections of ancient sculptures and paintings. The collections of paintings from the 14th century and the Renaissance contain a number of absolute masterpieces: from Giotto to Botticelli, from Leonardo to Canaletto. There are also important collections by German, Dutch and Flemish painters, including Dürer, Rembrandt and Rubens. Open Tues-Sun 8.15am-6.50pm. Closed on Mondays. Museum full ticket price: €20. www.uffizi.it. Piazzale degli Uffizi, 6.
T: 055 23885. **Map F5**

Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze
The Galleria owes its vast popularity to the presence of a number of sculptures by Michelangelo: the *Prisoners*, *St. Matthew*, but above the famous *David*, transported here from Piazza della Signoria (where it was replaced by a faithful copy) in August 1873. Housed in the adjacent premises are works coming from the Academy of Design, the Academy of Fine Arts and the convents themselves, which were abolished in the Napoleonic Age. And also, the Gipsoteca, or Hall of Models, the collection of Russian icons and musical instruments of the courts of the Medici and Lorena families. Open Tues-Sun

8.15am-6.50pm. Closed on Mondays. Museum full ticket price: €12. www.galleriaaccademiafirenze.beniculturali.it. Via Ricasoli , 58/60. T: 055 2388609/612. **Map G2**

Museo degli Innocenti

The Museum is located in the ancient Spedale degli Innocenti, designed by Brunelleschi. Opened in 1445 as a refuge for abandoned children, today it continues its function as the "Institute of the Innocents". The museum itinerary combines the documentary and historical-artistic heritage, and in its Gallery hosts precious artworks by Sandro Botticelli, Domenico Ghirlandaio, Bartolomeo di Giovanni, Piero di Cosimo, Neri di Bicci and Luca and Andrea della Robbia. **EDITOR'S TIP** On the terrace the elegant **Caffè del Verone** offers beautiful panoramic views. Open daily 10am-7pm. www.istitutodeglinnocenti.it. Piazza Santissima Annunziata, 13. T: 055 2037308. **Map H1**

Museo dell'Opificio delle Pietre Dure

An elegant collection of works made of semi-precious stones and multi-coloured marble and scagliola, paintings on stone and oil paintings, instruments, plus an extensive collection of stone samples. The works are displayed in chronological order from the early 17th century to the 1880s. Open Mon-Sat 8.15am-2pm. Closed on Sundays and holidays. www.opificiodellepietredure.it. Via degli Alfani, 78. T: 055 218709. **Map H1**

Museo di Palazzo Vecchio

For over seven centuries Palazzo della Signoria, or Palazzo Vecchio, has been the symbol of the city's civil power, and today it is still the seat of the Municipal Council of Florence. Built in 1299, over time it has undergone numerous enlargement and transformation projects. Along its labyrinthine routes are rooms and private environments sumptuously decorated by some of the most famous artists of the Florentine Renaissance, with period furnishings and exceptional masterpieces. Open daily, 9am-11pm; Thursdays throughout the year: 9am-2pm. Museum full ticket price: €10. www.museicivicifiorentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza della Signoria. T: 055 2768325. **Map G4**

Museo di Santa Maria Novella

The complex of Santa Maria Novella includes the 13th-century Dominican Basilica and the monumental cloisters. The church contains extraordinary works such as Giotto's *Crucifix*, Masaccio's *Holy Trinity*, Brunelleschi's *Crucifix*, the Tornabuoni Chapel by Ghirlandaio and his workshop and the Strozzi Chapel by Filippino Lippi. The cloisters present rare examples of the Florentine painting of the 14th and 15th centuries. Open: Mon-Thurs 9am-7pm. Full ticket price: €7.50. www.smn.it, www.museicivicifiorentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza Stazione, 4 - piazza Santa Maria Novella, 18. T: 055 219257- 055 282187. **Map E3**

Museo Giardini di Boboli

Stretching out behind Pitti Palace are the marvellous Boboli Gardens. It was the Medici who were first responsible for designing their layout, creating the model of the Italian-style garden that was to become an example for many European courts. Populated by ancient and Renaissance statues, adorned with grottos - including the famous Buontalenti Grotto - and large fountains, such as those of Neptune and the Ocean, they are a genuine open-air museum. The terraced area includes the Rococò pavilion known as the Kaffeehaus and the Limonaia, the Lemon House. At the centre of the Rose Garden is the Palazzina del Cavaliere, which houses the Porcelain Museum. Closed first and last Monday of the month. Full ticket price: €10. www.uffizi.it. Piazza Pitti, 1. T: 055 23885. **Map E6**

Museo Nazionale del Bargello

This imposing building, built between the 13th and 14th centuries as the seat of the Podestà and the Council of Justice, was a lowly prison between 1574 and 1858. The Museum conserves a highly important collection of Renaissance sculptures, with masterpieces by Donatello, Luca della Robbia, Verrocchio, Michelangelo, Cellini and Giambologna, and prestigious collections of "lesser arts". Open daily 8.15am-1.50pm. Museum full ticket price: €9. www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it/musei/1/bargello. Via del Proconsolo, 4. T: 055 282902. **Map G4**

Museo Salvatore Ferragamo

This is a museum devoted to the history of the Ferragamo company, to the life of its founder, Salvatore Ferragamo, and to his creations. Every year it organises exhibitions that investigate the relationship between fashion and art. The museum is situated in Palazzo Spini Feroni (1289) – which was purchased by Ferragamo in 1938 to make it the headquarters for his company and his workshop – and in its rooms it displays masterpieces of Florentine art from the 17th and 18th centuries. Open daily 10am-7.30pm. Full ticket price €6. www.ferragamo.com/museo. Palazzo Spini Feroni, Piazza Santa Trinita, 5/r. T: 055 3562-846/466. **Map E4**

Museo Stefano Bardini

A connoisseur of art and an unbridled merchant in antiquities, Stefano Bardini (1836-1922) donated his private collection to Florence, where it was displayed in the Neo-Renaissance building that housed his antiquarian gallery. There are over 2000 items there, including sculptures, paintings and objects of applied arts, from ancient art to that of the 18th century, with a major presence of works from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Open Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon 11am-5pm. Full ticket price €6. www.museicivicifiorentini.comune.fi.it. Via dei Renai, 37 (Ponte alle Grazie). T: 055 2342427. **Map G6**

Orsanmichele

A unique, extraordinary monument, in which civil and religious functions are combined. Built as a granary, in the mid-14th century it was consecrated for Christian worship. On the ground floor the Church houses a grandiose marble tabernacle by Orcagna. The originals of the numerous sculptures (works by famous Florentine artists from the 15th and 16th centuries) that adorned the niches outside on the four sides of the imposing stone cube are conserved in the museum on the first floor. On the second floor you can enjoy a fine panoramic view of Santa Maria del Fiore. Classical music concerts are held here. Church (ground floor): open daily 10am-4.50pm. Free entry. www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it/musei/3/orsanmichele. Via dell'Arte della Lana, 1. T: 055 2388606. **Map F4**

MANET eSIM: DIGITAL AND SMART

Are you looking for a **reliable and fast connectivity** in Florence? Today, you can easily **surf the web**, even if you are **travelling**. Discover the **Manet eSIM platform**, an innovative technology that is revolutionizing mobile connectivity.

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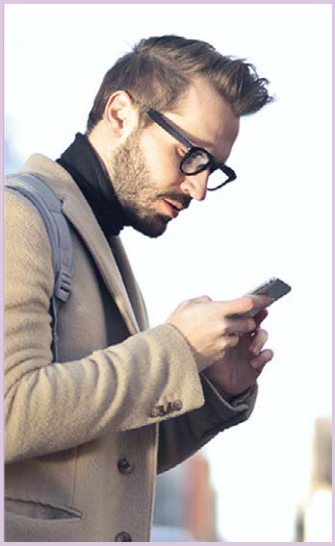

Essentials

MAPS & INFO

PHOTO © SEAN.XU / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

The museum city

Within its historic centre (declared a "Unesco world heritage site" en bloc) Florence contains a unique concentration of historical and artistic attractions. Here is some guidance for you to enjoy it.

Florence's labyrinthine plan, made up of alleyways and sidestreets, derives from its medieval origins. Yet the city's period of maximum splendour was undoubtedly the **Renaissance**, of which countless masterpieces remain. With less than four hundred thousand inhabitants and covering an area of little more than a hundred square kilometres, Florence is practically impossible to tour by car, and in fact the centre is to a large extent prohibited to vehicle traffic. We suggest, if possible, that you **tour it on foot**, to best enjoy its beauties, but you can also count on quite an efficient **public transport** network (which, however, is severely limited during the nighttime hours, so take care after midnight). Taxis and bikes can reach all the strategic points, whereas private cars are usually only allowed into the centre to load and unload your luggage at your hotel (but always ask your concierge, also so you can receive indications of where the car parks are located in the centre). To find your way around the city, it is a good idea to keep well in mind that Florence is developed along the **two banks of the River Arno**. All the roads that run alongside the river, on both sides, are called "**Lungarno**" and it is only the second part of the name that changes. Lungarno degli Archibugieri, for example, is right in the centre: it is there that the Vasari Corridor passes and the Uffizi looks out over it. The whole area on the other side of the river, to the south, is called "**Oltrarno**" by the Florentines. It was originally outside the historic centre, but today it contains important attractions, such as Pitti Palace, the Boboli Gardens and Borgo Santo Spirito, the city's most bohemian neighbourhood. For decades the Florentine naming system has had a peculiarity that is gradually disappearing, but some traces of it can still be found: the civic numbers, in fact, were divided between "black", which denoted he residences, and "red", for businesses. Some red numbers still remain, so bear that in mind.

Finally, some suggestion for improving your visit. The Tuscan regional capital is one of the cities with the highest tourist density on the entire planet: wherever you wish to visit, **book in advance** (or have them book for you at your hotel).

You should also bear in mind that the serious overcrowding takes place around mid-morning, so if you are an early bird then that could give you a significant advantage.

Emergency

AMBULANCE – T: 118
POLICE – T: 055 3285
FIRE SERVICE – T: 115

PASSPORTS Questura di Firenze, Via Zara, 2. T: 055 49771.

Taxi

TAXI FIRENZE 4242.IT T: 055 4242 - www.4242.it

TAXI FIRENZE 4390 T: 055 4390 - www.4390.it

www.apptaxi.it/firenze: available for iOS and Android, it has more than 4045 licensed taxi drivers.

Fixed taxi fares to airports

From Amerigo Vespucci Airport to Florence (city centre): €22 (plus baggage supplements and extra fee for night or holiday travel).

From Florence (city centre) to Pisa: €140 / Bologna: €180 / Rome Fiumicino: €550 / Milan Linate: €550 / Milan Malpensa: €650

Trains

The most important railway station is **Santa Maria Novella (SMN)**, in the central Piazza della Stazione, and regional, interregional, high-speed and international trains arrive at and depart from there.
Florence offers fast-track access to major cities across Italy thanks to its **high-speed trains**: • Bologna: 35 min • Rome: 1 hour 20 min • Milan: 1 h 40 min • Venice: 2 hours 5 min • Naples: 2 hours 52 min • Turin: 2 hours 55 min

TRENITALIA Railway Company - Info T: 892021. www.trenitalia.com.

ITALO - Info T: 060708. Italo Assistance T: 892020. www.italotreno.it.

Airports

AEROPORTO DI FIRENZE PERETOLA "AMERIGO VESPUCCI" (FLR) - (4 km from the centre of Florence). The airport, to the North-West of Florence, lies between the "Firenze Nord" exit from the freeway and Florence's industrial area near Prato. Call centre T: 055 30615. www.aeroporto.firenze.it

• Connections to the airport
VolaInBus Shuttle Service (www.fsbusitalia.it) from S.M. Novella Station (Piazza della Stazione). Every 30 min, travel time approx. 30' (5am-8pm) and approx. 1 h (10pm-midnight). Tickets can be purchased on board, at the BusItalia-Sita Nord ticket office near the S.M. Novella Station (Via S. Caterina da Siena) or at ATAF ticket offices (www.ataf.net). One-way ticket: €6 - round trip ticket: €10.

AEROPORTO DI PISA "GALILEO GALILEI" (PSA) - (80 km from the centre of Florence). Call centre T: 050 849300. www.pisa-airport.com

• Connections to Florence-S.M. Novella Station and Aeroporto di Firenze Peretola
Shuttle Services: 1) Terravision – One-way ticket: €4.99 - round trip ticket: €9.98. Every 30 or 60 min, travel time approx. 70' (9am-midnight) and approx. 1 h (10pm-midnight). www.terravision.eu
2) Autostradale – T: 02 30089000. One-way ticket: €7.50 - round trip ticket: €13.50. Every 30 or 60 min, travel time approx. 70' (9am-midnight) and approx. 1 h (10pm-midnight). www.autostradale.it

UNIQUE | FAST TRAINS NETWORK FROM FLORENCE

Getting around Florence

The Florence **bus network** consists of **91 lines** operated by Autolinee Toscane.

AT-Autolinee Toscane *www.at-bus.it/en/firenze*
Infoline daily 6am-midnight.
Green Line T: 800 964424.

Ordinary ticket: €1.50, valid for 70 minutes; can be used on buses, trams or trains.

GEST-Tramvie *www.gestramvia.it*
The tramway is the efficient, convenient, punctual and ecological transport system for getting around Florence, connecting the centre to the northern and western suburbs of the city.
Infoline daily 6am-midnight.
Green Line T: 800 142424.
The **Tramway T1 "Leonardo"** line connects S.M. Novella Station in Florence to Scandicci.
The **Tramway T2 "Vespucci"** line connects the Amerigo Vespucci Airport to Piazza dell'Unità d'Italia.
Electric buses move around the historic centre and also reach the pedestrian areas (C1-C2-C3-D lines).
Route C1 is convenient for visiting the most important museums in Florence: it operates from 7am to 8.30pm and with 25 stops crosses the historical centre. The service runs approximately 170 times a day, one every 10 minutes, connecting the Parterre/Via Ponte Rosso area to Lungarno Torrigiani/Ponte alle Grazie.
The entire historic centre of Florence (which is approximately the part located within the 19th- century ring-roads or *viali*, which is a protected UNESCO heritage site) is a "Zona a Traffico Limitato" (**ZTL**), or restricted traffic zone. Bicycles, electric vehicles, motorcycles and scooters are allowed to enter.

Tourist Information

INFOPOINT FIRENZE TURISMO - www.firenzeturismo.it
1. *Train Station Infopoint* > Piazza della Stazione, 4. T: 055 212245. Open Mon-Sat 9am-7pm; Sun and holidays 9am-2pm. Multilingual tourist information and sales point for ***Firenzecard***.
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Florence Map
INDEX
Opera di Firenze
Amerigo Vespucci Airport (4km)
Fortezza da Basso
Giardino di Palazzo Corsini sul Prato
Chiesa episcopale americana di St. James
Casa di Riposo della Beata Elisabetta Vendramini
Cenacolo di Foligno
Stazione Ferroviaria Firenze Santa Maria Novella
PIAZZA DELLA STAZIONE
Giardino degli Orti Oricellari
Santa Lucia sul Prato
Polimoda
Basilica di Santa Maria Novella
PIAZZA SANTA MARIA NOVELLA
Loggia di San Paolo
Palazzo Antinori
Chiesa dei Santi Michele e Gaetano
Ognissanti
Chiesa di San Paolino
Museo Marino Marini
Palazzo Strozzi
Ponte Amerigo Vespucci
ARNO
Porta San Frediano
Ponte alla Carraia
Palazzo Corsini al Parione
Basilica di Santa Trinita
Palazzo Bartolini Salimbeni
Museo Salvatore Ferragamo
Chiesa S. Frediano in Cestello
PIAZZA DE' NERLI
Santi Apostoli e Biagio
Ponte Santa Trinita
Palazzo Gucciardini
Palazzo della Missione
Chiesa San Jacopo
Palazzo Macchiavelli
Chiesa di Santa Maria del Carmine
Basilica di Santo Spirito
PIAZZA TORQUATO TASSO
PIAZZA SANTO SPIRITO
Palazzo Guadagni
Ex monastero delle Convertite (1330)
Chiesa di San Felice in Piazza
PIAZZA DEI PITTI
Palazzo Pitti
Teatro Goldoni
Giardino Corsi
Chiesa di San Pier Gattolino
Giardino di Boboli
Siena 80km
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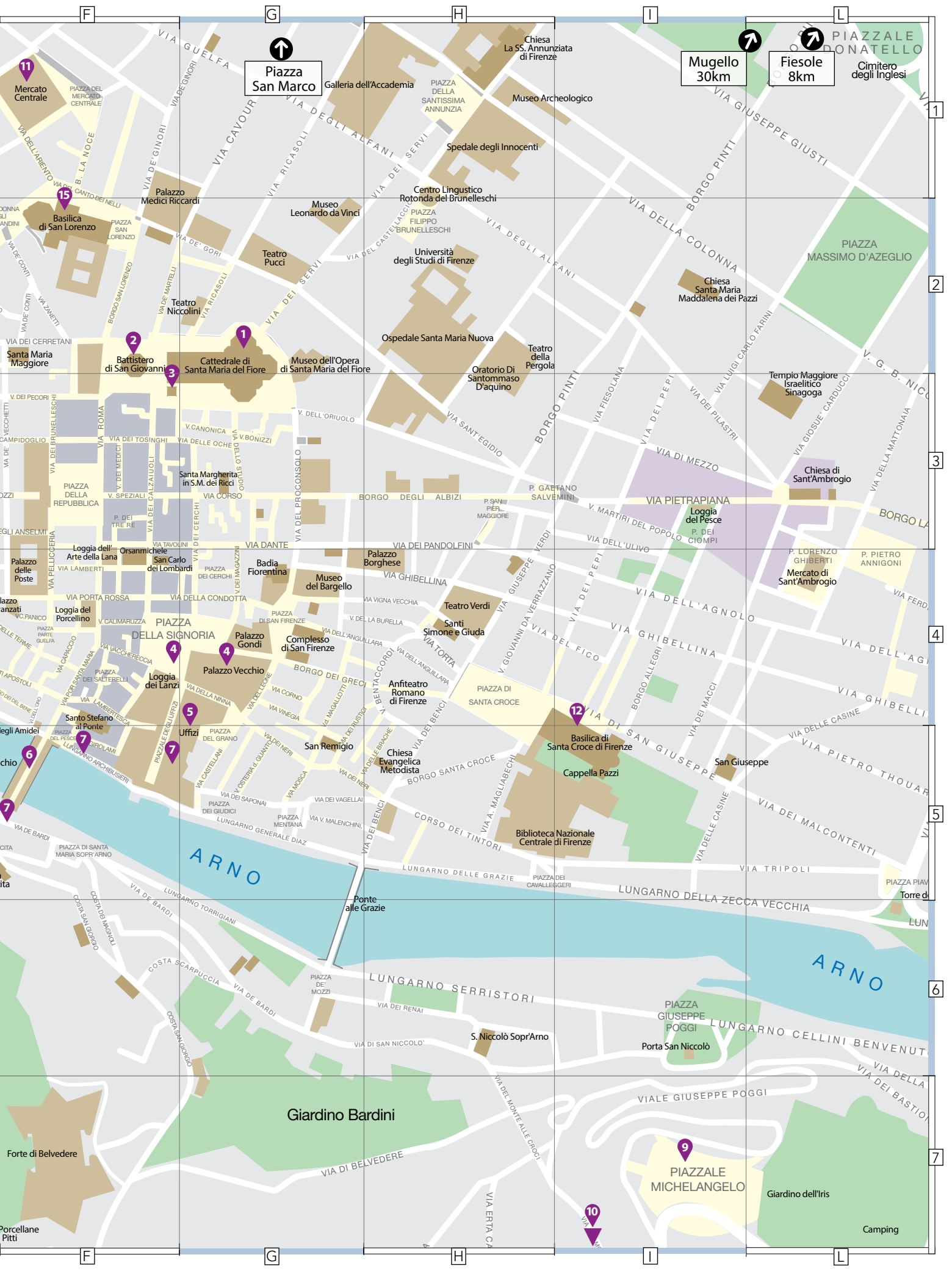
Top in Town see page 3
1 DUOMO AND CUPOLA
2 BATTISTERO
3 CAMPANILE DI GIOTTO
4 PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA AND PALAZZO VECCHIO
5 GALLERIA DEGLI UFFIZI
6 PONTE VECCHIO
7 CORRIDOIO VASARIANO
8 PALAZZO PITTI AND GIARDINO DI BOBOLI
9 PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO
10 SAN MINIATO AL MONTE
11 MERCATO CENTRALE
12 SANTA CROCE
13 SANTA MARIA NOVELLA
14 SANTO SPIRITO
15 SAN LORENZO
SHOPPING AREAS
ENTERTAINMENT AREAS



Piazza San Marco
Mugello 30km
Fiesole 8km
Mercato Centrale
Galleria dell'Accademia
Chiesa La SS. Annunziata di Firenze
Museo Archeologico
Cimitero degli Inglesi
Spedale degli Innocenti
Palazzo Medici Riccardi
Basilica di San Lorenzo
Museo Leonardo da Vinci
Centro Lingustico Rotonda del Brunelleschi
Teatro Pucci
Università degli Studi di Firenze
Teatro Niccolini
Chiesa Santa Maria Maddalena dei Pazzi
PIAZZA MASSIMO D'AZEGLIO
Santa Maria Maggiore
Battistero di San Giovanni
Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore
Museo dell'Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore
Ospedale Santa Maria Nuova
Teatro della Pergola
Oratorio Di Santommaso D'aquino
Tempio Maggiore Israelitico Sinagoga
Santa Margherita in S.M. dei Ricci
PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA
Chiesa di Sant'Ambrogio
VIA PIETRAPIANA
Loggia del Pesce
Loggia dell' Arte della Lana
Orsanmichele
San Carlo dei Lombardi
Badia Fiorentina
Palazzo Borghese
Museo del Bargello
Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio
Palazzo delle Poste
Loggia del Porcellino
PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA
Teatro Verdi
Santi Simone e Giuda
Palazzo Gondi
Complesso di San Firenze
Palazzo Vecchio
Loggia dei Lanzi
Anfiteatro Romano di Firenze
PIAZZA DI SANTA CROCE
Santo Stefano al Ponte
Uffizi
San Remigio
Basilica di Santa Croce di Firenze
Chiesa Evangelica Metodista
Cappella Pazzi
San Giuseppe
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze
ARNO
Ponte alle Grazie
LUNGARNO DELLA ZECCA VECCHIA
LUNGARNO SERRISTORI
PIAZZA GIUSEPPE POGGI
LUNGARNO CELLINI
S. Niccolò Sopr'Arno
Porta San Niccolò
Giardino Bardini
Forte di Belvedere
PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO
Giardino dell'Iris
Porcellane Pitti
Camping

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5 STARS

Belmond Villa San Michele – Via Doccia, 4 (Fiesole) • **Off Map**
Bernini Palace – Piazza S. Firenze, 29 (Piazza della Signoria) • **Map G4**
FH55 Villa Fiesole – Via Frà Giovanni da Fiesole detto l'Angelico, 35 (Fiesole) • **Off Map**
Four Seasons Hotel Firenze – Borgo Pinti, 99 • **L1**
Golden Tower Hotel & Spa – Piazza degli Strozzi, 11/r • **Map E4**
Helvetia & Bristol Firenze – Via dei Pescioni, 2 • **Map E3**
Hotel Regency Firenze – Piazza M. D'Azeglio, 3 • **Map L1**
Hotel Savoy – Piazza della Repubblica, 7 • **Map F3**
Il Salviatino – Via del Salviatino, 21 (Fiesole) • **Off Map**
LHP Hotel River & Spa – Lungarno della Zecca Vecchia, 18 • **Map L5-L6**
Lungarno – Borgo San Jacopo, 14 • **Map F5**
NH Collection Firenze Porta Rossa – Via Porta Rossa, 19 • **Map E4**
Palazzo Montebello– Via G. Garibaldi, 14 • **Map B1**
Palazzo Vecchietti – Via degli Strozzi, 4 • **Map E3**
Portrait Firenze – Lungarno degli Acciaiuoli, 4 • **Map F4**
Relais Santa Croce – Via Ghibellina , 87 • **Map H4**
Sina Villa Medici – Via Il Prato, 42 • **Map B1**
The St. Regis Florence – Piazza Ognissanti, 1 • **Map C31**
The Westin Excelsior, Florence – Piazza Ognissanti, 3 • **Map C3**
Villa Cora – Viale Machiavelli, 18 • **Off Map**
Ville sull'Arno – Lungarno Cristoforo Colombo, 1/3/5 • **Off Map**
Villa Tolomei Hotel & Resort – Via di Santa Maria a Marignolle, 10 • **Off Map**

4 STARS

AC Hotel Firenze by Marriott – Via L. Bausi, 5 • **Off Map**
Adler Cavalieri – Via della Scala, 40 • **Map C1**
Albani Firenze – Via Calzaiuoli, 6 • **Map F3**
Balestri – Piazza Mentana, 7 • **Map G5**
Continentale – Vicolo dell'Oro, 6/r • **Map F4**
Dei Cavalieri Relais Monna Lisa – Borgo Pinti, 27 • **Map H2**
Executive Firenze – Via Curtatone, 5 • **Map B2**
FH55 Calzaiuoli – Via Calzaiuoli, 6 • **F3**
FH55 Grand Hotel Mediterraneo – Lungarno del Tempio, 44 • **Off Map**
Gallery Hotel Art – Vicolo dell'Oro, 5 • **Map F4**
Garibaldi Blu – Piazza Santa Maria Novella, 21 • **Map E2**
Ginori al Duomo – Via de' Ginori, 22/24/26 • **Map F1**
Glance Hotel In Florence – Via Nazionale, 23 • **Map E1**
Grand Hotel Adriatico – Via Maso Finiguerra, 9 • **Map C2**
Horto Convento Firenze – Viale L. Ariosto, 13 • **Map B4**
Hotel Cellai – Via 27 Aprile 14, 52/r • **Off Map**
Hotel Degli Orafi – Lungarno degli Archibusieri, 4 • **F5**
Hotel Londra – Via Jacopo da Diacceto 16/20 • **Map C1**
iH Hotels Firenze Select Executive – Via G. Galliano, 24 • **Off Map**
IL Tornabuoni Hotel – Via de'Tornabuoni, 3 • **Map E4**
J & J – Via di Mezzo, 20 • **I3**
Kraft – Via Solferino, 2 • **B2**
L'Orologio – Piazza Santa Maria Novella, 24 • **Map E2**
Mercure Firenze Centro – Via Nazionale, 21-23/r • **Map E1**
NH Collection Firenze Palazzo Gaddi (S) – Via del Giglio, 11 • **Map E2**
NH Firenze – Piazza V. Veneto, 4 • **Map A1**
NilHotel – Via E. Barsanti, 27 • **Off Map**
Novotel Firenze Airport – Via Tevere, 23 (Sesto Fiorentino) • **Off Map**
Palazzo Ognissanti Hotel – Via Maso Finiguerra, 12/r • **Map C2**
Palazzo dal Borgo – Via Della Scala, 6 • **Map D2**
Pierre – Via de' Lamberti, 5 • **Map F4**
Pontevecchio Suites & SPA – Via De' Belfredelli, 9 • **Map E5**
Rapallo – Via Santa Caterina d'Alessandria, 7 • **Off Map**
Roma –Piazza Santa Maria Novella, 8 • **Map E3**
Rosso 23 –Piazza Santa Maria Novella, 21 • **Map E2**
San Firenze Suites e SPA – Piazza di S. Firenze, 3 • **Map G4**
San Gallo Palace – Via Lorenzo Il Magnifico, 2 • **Off Map**
Santa Maria Novella – Piazza Santa Maria Novella, 1 • **Map E2**
Torre Guelfa – Borgo SS. Apostoli, 8 • **Map F4**
UNAHOTELS Vittoria Firenze – Via Pisana, 59 • **Off Map**

LUXURY HISTORIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Antica Torre Tornabuoni – Via de'Tornabuoni, 1 • **Map E4**
Be One Art and Luxury Home – Via dei Brunelleschi, 1 • **Map F3**
Palazzo Niccolini al Duomo– Via De' Servi, 2 • **Map G2**

4-STAR BOUTIQUE HOTELS

AdAstra – Via del Campuccio, 53 • **C6**
Grand Amore Hotel & Spa – Via de' Servi, 38/a • **Map H1**
Messori Suites – Via A. Giacomini, 25 • **Off Map**
Palazzo Castri 1874 – Piazza Indipendenza, 7 • **Off Map**
Riva Lofts Florence– Via Baccio Bandinelli, 98 • **Off Map**
Rivoli Boutique Hotel (S) – Via della Scala, 33 • **Map D2**
SoprArno Suites – Via Maggio, 35 • **D5**

COUNTRY HOUSES

Il Paluffo – Via Citerna, 144-Fraz. Fiano (Certaldo, Firenze) • **Off Map**

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