

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

WELCOME

Winter has arrived and the cold snap has overtaken the city, but the nights are warmed by the gentle glow cast through the streets. Take a stroll with your loved ones beneath the twinkling lights that decorate Florence with the magic of the season. This year, Via Tornabouni is causing a particular stir with its breathtaking light display. See our detailed list of Christmas Markets, along with all the best events to soak up the spirit of the season. However you choose to rest or celebrate, we hope you enjoy the best of family, friends, community, and charity as the year comes to a close, with best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, LESLIE, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR DECEMBER

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR DECEMBER: IN MEMORY OF WANDA FERRAGAMO, THE WOMAN WHO TURNED HER HUSBAND'S SHOE COMPANY INTO AN EMPIRE

We honour the memory of the tremendous Wanda Ferragamo, the embodiment of Florence innovation, style, glamour, and innovation in design with impeccable honouring of tradition and craft. The Ferragamo Museum was her own creation and for this, we recommend you visit their current exhibition Italy in Hollywood as a way to celebrate her legacy.

“Wanda Ferragamo, who turned her husband’s Italian shoe company into a luxury-goods empire and fulfilled his dream of dressing the customer from head to toe after taking over the business more than 50 years ago, has died. She was 96. The widow of Salvatore Ferragamo, who produced custom-made shoes for actresses such as Audrey Hepburn, Greta Garbo and Marilyn Monroe, lacked any business experience when she took on the running of her husband’s company after he died in 1960. Twenty-four years his junior, she expanded the Ferragamo brand into clothing, perfume, handbags, leather goods, watches and eyewear. Helped by her six children, who have led various divisions, Wanda Ferragamo was at the helm of the Florence-based company for five decades, longer than her husband was after founding it in 1927.

“I didn’t think about myself at all — whether I was capable or not,” she said, according to a 2007 interview in Time magazine. “I just went at it with such energy, such goodwill.”

In 1995, Wanda Ferragamo opened a museum inside the company’s headquarters as a tribute to her husband. She wrote her autobiography, “Stepping Into the Dream” (2008), co-authored with Jay Mulvaney.

“Everything that we do here is always in reverence to him,” she said in the interview with Die Zeit, referring to her husband. “I learned a lot from Salvatore.”

(From: fortune.com)

BEST EVENT (AND MARKET) FOR DECEMBER: THE BELOVED ANNUAL A.I.L.O. CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 1 and 2

Each year the American International League of Florence Onlus (AILO), founded in 1975, organizes a bazaar. There will be all types of clothing – evening gowns, cocktail dresses, casual attire, coats, kid’s togs – plus purses, gloves, scarves, jewellery (diamonds, or not) and hats. Toys for children should also be on your shopping list. There will, of course, also be food and drink galore! Bring the kids, too; there will be games and activities. Everyone at P&F is looking forward to seeing you there.

The Christmas Bazaar is actually a year-long project for league members, with lots of organization behind it! Members propose charities and their needs, which are then voted on in a certain order. Over the years, AILO has raised over €1,000,000 for Florentine charities. Please do your best to help them reach their goals. As always there is a lottery with of wonderful prizes and tickets are already flying out the door, so call Antonietta Ferraioli on tel. [333599754](tel:333599754) for tickets and to collect lottery prizes.



The poster for the A.I.L.O. Christmas Bazaar features a dark blue background with white stars. At the top, the text 'A.I.L.O. Christmas Bazaar' is written in a mix of red and white fonts. Below the title is a small image of a gift box. A central photograph shows the 'Giardino dell'Orticoltura' (Tepidarium) building, a large glass and metal structure. To the right of the photo, the dates and times are listed: 'Sabato 1 Dicembre ore 15:30 -19:00' and 'Domenica 2 Dicembre ore 10:30 -19:00'. Below the photo, the location is given as 'Giardino dell'Orticoltura (nel Tepidarium) Via Vittorio Emanuele II, 4 - PONTE ROSSO (Firenze) ATAF N°25 da S.Marco fermata Via Bolognese'. A green box says 'INGRESSO LIBERO'. A parking 'P' sign indicates 'PARTERRE - Piazza Libertà'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'The American International League of Florence - ONLUS' and 'COMUNE DI FIRENZE'.

THE PLACE: Giardino dell' Orticoltura nel Tepidarium - Vittoria Emanuele 2, 4 Ponte Rosso ATAF numero 25 da Piazza San Marco firmata Via Bolognese - and for parking Parterre Piazza della Libertà.

THE DATES AND TIMES: Saturday December 1st 15.30-19.00, Sunday December 2nd, 10.30-19.00

Please look at our website AILO at: www.aioflorence.org for more information about this wonderful event to raise funds for Florentine charities.

BEST P&F RENTAL PICK FOR DECEMBER: ENJOY THE SUN FROM DAWN TO SUNSET IN THIS COZY AND OPEN-FEELING APARTMENT

Set in a side street, off the tourist beaten track, where Michelangelo lived, of the historical center of Florence, just minutes walk from piazza Santa Croce, Sant' Ambrogio foodmarket and Piazza Signoria, close to services as post office, supermarkets, banks and public transport. The house has a mix of antique and modern furniture, wooden beam ceilings and tile floors. The dining area has a wide size window (4 mt. 12 ft. wide) overlooking the Duomo, and from the kitchen window can see the hills of Florence and Fiesole. Enjoy the views, sun and light, with a lot of windows and cross ventilation.

On the top floor, this attic roof top apartment is set on the 4th floor (67 steps up) for a total of approx 60 sq. mt. (approx. 650 sq. ft.), and it consists of: Entrance, Living and dining area (double sofa bed, table for 6), Kitchen, Double bedroom area, Bathroom with shower, Study/laundry room.



Find more [photos and information here](#).

BEST CHRISTMAS TRADITION FOR DECEMBER: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CHRISTMAS, AND SANTO STEFANO FEATURING THE DUOMO CHRISTMAS TREE AND NATIVITY SCENE

December 8

December 8 in Italy is a national holiday that celebrates the Immaculate Conception. This day of festivity unofficially starts the countdown to Christmas as many Italian families traditionally use this day to set up and decorate their Christmas tree and Nativity scene in their homes.

On December 8 in Florence's historic centre the large Christmas tree is set up in Piazza del Duomo. The lighting of the Christmas tree is accompanied by an official public ceremony with the participation of Florence's Mayor. Also in Piazza del Duomo, the impressive Nativity Scene is built in the front and left of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. The Nativity has life-sized beautiful statues made in terracotta by an artisan of Impruneta. Both the Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are up until January 6, the day of Epiphany.

In the Cathedral of Florence, the traditional Christmas Eve Mass is celebrated by the Cardinal of Florence at midnight (Vigil prayers start at 11pm). On Christmas morning, the Mass is celebrated at 10:30am, in conjunction with the Pope blessing in Rome.

BEST MUSIC FOR DECEMBER: STRINGS CITY FESTIVAL IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

December 1 and 2

Strings City is a popular festival dedicated to string instruments, which for two days resounds in the most evocative places of culture in the city. The event presents the finest musicians, composers, and conductors selected by the Artistic Committee: Fiesole Music School, Luigi Cherubini Conservatory, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, and the Orchestra of Tuscany. The program ranges from classical music to more contemporary melodies, giving life to an orchestra of sounds and places that makes the whole of Florence vibrate. But not only. Strings City is a festival of music, art and beauty: a unique experience for a weekend of great emotions.

See the [whole program here](#).

BEST PERFORMANCE EVENT FOR DECEMBER: THE NUTCRACKER BALLET, A CHRISTMAS TRADITION BY THE ST PETERSBURG BALLET

December 23

Text from: theflorentine.net

Love, dreams and imagination combine to form one of the most fascinating ballets in the history of classical dance. The enchanting set designs of the Saint Petersburg Ballet make audiences feel part of Hoffmann's fairytale. For its fable-like characteristics, its happy ending and the plotline defined by a festive atmosphere, "Lo Schiaccianoci" (The Nutcracker) has become a ballet that bewitches children and charms adults, with its dancing candies, miniature soldiers, Christmas trees, snowflakes and flowers, not to mention its mean mice, Prince Charming and tooth fairy. It's now the most-performed show during the Christmas holiday season. The ending is marked by the exquisite Waltz of the Flowers, after which Clara wakes up in an armchair with her nutcracker still in her lap, happily transported by this Christmas dream. Matinee: 4.45pm, Main performance: 8.45pm

[Tickets via Boxoffice](#)

Teatro della Pergola via della Pergola 12/32

BEST EXHIBITION FOR DECEMBER: ITALY IN HOLLYWOOD AT THE MUSEO SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

Until March 10

Based on Salvatore Ferragamo's autobiography, the exhibition explores Italian migration to California and the influence that the bel paese's myths and culture had on the state. An extensive section is devoted to Californian film productions in which this Italian influence is evident. The exhibition centres around the world of art, artisans and entertainment, the fields in which Ferragamo focused his creativity, and presents them as if they were the plot of a film. Salvatore Ferragamo returned to Italy in 1927 after twelve years in the United States.

With photographs, film clips, objects, clothing and artistic depictions, the exhibition will illustrate the relationships and the role played by Italians and Italian art in the birth of silent film, while also exploring

this theme in a contemporary light.

Entrance: € 8; free under 10 and over 65

Free entrance to the Salvatore Ferragamo Museum every first Sunday of the month.

Museo Salvatore Ferragamo, Piazza Santa Trinita, 5R, Firenze

BEST DINING OUT FOR DECEMBER: FOOD AND WINE IN PROGRESS AT STAZIONE LEOPOLDO

December 1 and 2

For the fourth year, indulge in the appointment that has blossomed to be a centrepiece of the food industry: cooking shows, wine master classes, in-depth seminars, conferences on the future of the sector, on innovations and experiments, and a major exhibition in the Leopolda spaces in Florence.

Excellence and evolution. Food & Wine in progress in 2018 grows, follows the change of society, and generates new life. Life that translates into a new way of communicating that also follows the new trends in the sector, increasingly prestigious protagonists and great producers of the territory of Tuscany. A single denominator: the absolute, the best, that unites the two great souls of the food and wine event: Ais (Italian Sommelier Association) and the Regional Union of Tuscan Chefs.

[More information here.](#)

BEST OF THE REST FOR DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS MARKETS FILLED WITH ARTISAN TREASURES, HAND-MADE GIFTS, AND CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED

The Croce Rossa Italiana Christmas Market from DECEMBER 30 to December 2

The 2018 edition of the Christmas market will be held at the historic headquarters of the Florence Committee of the Italian Red Cross, at Palazzo Capponi, (with entrance also from Via Borgo san Frediano 12). Also for this year, the entire proceeds of the Christmas Market will be exclusively dedicated to the assistance of needy families in the Florentine territory. The Christmas market has been the main source of funding for over 25 years, thanks to which volunteers and volunteers of the Red Cross of Florence can support the more than 2,000 people in our city who are in conditions of poverty, illness, problems of social reintegration and families with disadvantaged children. Organised by the Florence women's committee of the Italian Red Cross, and open each day between 10.00-18.00 (a late start of 15.00 on Nov 30). Enjoy free entry and browse the vintage, antiques, clothing, gifts, jewellery and curiosities. Located at: Lungarno Soderini, 11

Via Maggio Street Party to kick off their Contemporaneamente Festival on Saturday December 1

Opening Saturday, December 1, 2018 from the afternoon to late evening along the pedestrian street, dressed and ready for Christmas with the green interventions of Aglietti Floriculture.

Following the inauguration, the full program of exhibitions, meetings, music and tasting will continue

until December 24th. The special Christmas Florentine lanterns in the shape of a star will be lit in the presence of the Mayor Dario Nardella at 16:30.

Mercatino in a Palazzo: “Natale per file” kicks off at the Palazzo Corsini from December 1-3

One of the most treasured events of the December calendar, this Christmas market raises funds for charities held every year in Palazzo Corsini. You'll find gourmet products and gift ideas, with proceeds going toward the non-profit organisation FILE's palliative care support. There will be over 60 exhibitors, including big brands and boutique artisans, with clothing for men, women, children, design items, household linen, modern objects, jewellery, perfume, cosmetics, wine and food products, books, toys, and many other curiosities. 10am-7pm, Palazzo Corsini, Lungarno Corsini 8.

Natale in Villa: Mostra Mercato di Alto Artigianato at Villa Le Piazzole on December 1 and 2

On Saturday, December 1 and Sunday, December 2, Strana.mente events will host the ninth edition of "Natale in Villa", a "high-handicraft market" and now an annual Florentine Christmas event.

All the finest Made in Italy goods will be on sale in the elegant setting of Villa Le Piazzole at Poggio Imperiale. Exhibitors – from both Tuscany and elsewhere – will have booths touting bijoux and jewelry, clothing and accessories, perfumes and cosmetics, refined home decorations, furnishing accessories and high quality food products. A series of side events will also take place.

The Villa's Cellar will host an exhibition highlighting botanical and naturalistic watercolors by Laura Lotti and will run guided tours through the historical sections of the Villa.

"Telling the Tea" with "Tea Teller" Vania Coveri will introduce you to the fascinating world of tea. There will be free tastings, a Christmas Tea Party and a World Tea Traditions event.

Children's activities will include decorating beehives and candlemaking using loom wax, hosted by Fiordafiore organic farm. Basket-making workshops will be led by Giovanni Ursi.

All events are free entry. FREE ENTRANCE - large parking lot and shuttle service offered.

The Etsy Made In Italy Christmas Market at The Student Hotel on December 1 and 2

ETSY Made Local returns to Florence, with the Christmas Market Saturday & Sunday 1-2 December!

During the event you will have the opportunity to discover more than 30 artisans, designers, and local artists who are part of our Etsy community. You can buy directly from them and you will find a wide selection of illustrations and graphics, fabrics and clothing, ceramics, household items and jewelry. It will be an excellent opportunity to find unique and totally handmade gifts, ready to be put under the tree.

All handmade, locally!

From 10:30 to 19:30, The Student Hotel in Viale Spartaco Lavagnini n70-72

Christmas Fair at the Harold Acton Library, 7th of December at 15:00. All are welcome to the annual Harold Acton Library Christmas Fair. Tea and cakes will be served from 15:00 to 18:00. Books, arts and crafts, homemade goods. There will also be a raffle, and the prizes are always wonderful, with all proceeds going towards the library.

The Creative Factory Market, presented by Associazione Heyart on December 16

The Creative Factory, a project by the Heyart Association, is a self-made market aimed at promoting creativity and youth enterprise. Born in Florence in 2015, the market already boasts several editions, made in completely unusual locations of the city, and is characterized by the participation of carefully selected young designers and artists. Self production, uniqueness and research. Productions with attention to the smallest details, dedicated to limited series, the selection of materials and experimentation for a style that reaches uniqueness through the rediscovery of craftsmanship and the mixture of shapes and techniques. This year, The Creative Factory arrives in the center of Florence in the historic Piazza dei Ciompi to return, albeit in part, its original function as a place dedicated to crafts by proposing this new appointment for lovers of quality handmade products in the city.

h 15.30 “Cactus, che passione!” A workshop for children (5-11 years) by Ale Ma.Ma

In the laboratory small plants will be created with the creative recycling of coffee capsules and the cold porcelain technique.

h. 16.30 “Create your own fabric bag”, a workshop for adults by Z'Atelier.

With the WORKSHOP you can create bags in unusual and fun shapes. Omiyage is the Japanese word for gift. It is in fact an ancient tradition in Japan to give small pretty handmade fabric bags. The workshop gives you the chance to make small, imaginative bags with your own hands in which to put your small gifts to give to friends on important occasions.

The laboratories are free on reservation: info.heyart@gmail.com

At 5.30 pm, fashion show by Lady Jane B. boutique Vintage inspired by Christmas outfits!

The Special Christmas Edition of the Santo Spirito markets - to be held in Piazza del Carmine

On December 16, come and see what Santa and his elves have been creating ready for Christmas! You can find all kind of stands offering foods, ceramics, hand-knit sweaters, carved wooden toys, and unique gifts, especially if you are shopping for kids. Open from 9.00-19.00

The Mercato di Natale al Parco d'Arte, held within the Enchanted Garden of Santa Claus

The "EcoRinascimento" Association has invited artisans and hobbyists to participate in their 2018 Christmas Market, where you'll also find locals setting up stalls to sell second hand items. A wonderful family friendly choice for a day out. The Mercatino will be held during the exhibition "The Enchanted Garden of Santa Claus", on the following days: 8-9 December / 15-16 December / From 21 to 26 December / 29-30-31 December and 1 January / 4- 5-6 January.

Where: Pazzagli Art Park, via Sant'Andrea a Rovezzano, Florence

And last, but most definitely not least: The Famous and Favourite Mercato Tedesco di Natale in Santa Croce until December 20

Hot mulled wine, great beer and a salty, smoky wurstel – all can be found right now in Piazza Santa Croce. It started in late DECEMBER and runs until December 20, from 10am until 10pm daily. Traditional German food and craft products fill the square, there are also seventeen other countries represented in over fifty stands. A small Christmas village of charming wooden huts, with open areas of tables and chairs where you can sit and enjoy some of the rich German food on offer. Don't forget to try the apple strudel and the hot mulled wine! Open daily from 10am - 10pm.

FIRENZE WINTER PARK AT THE OBIHALL

Until February 24

The winter park is back for the season! Go skiing, ice skating and tobogganing on the banks of the Arno at Obihall. After heading down the 80-metre piste on skis or a snowboard or trying your luck on the ice rink, indulge in some après-ski at the bars, enjoy a hearty meal at the restaurant or join in the many children's activities. The park will remain open over the Christmas period (and on Christmas Day from 2:00pm until 1.00am).

See www.firezewinterpark.it for details.

CURIOUS APPETITE'S UPDATED LIST OF BEST RESTAURANTS IN FLORENCE

We love Curious Appetite, which began with Coral Sisk offering humble Food Tours throughout Florence, and now offers some of the best gourmet experiences on foot, along with no-nonsense guides to eating around town for every budget and craving. Her extensive guide to eating & drinking well in the Renaissance wonderland has been given a polished update, be sure to bookmark this cherry-picked list via [Eater](#):

<https://www.eater.com/maps/best-restaurants-florence-italy>

Looking for unique dining experiences in Florence? Check out the Curious Appetite Progressive Dinner Crawl, too:

<https://curiousappetitetravel.com/dinner-crawl-in-florence>

“F-LIGHT YOUR MIND”: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES FLORENCE

Until January 6

After the great success of the last editions, Florence is preparing to light up with "F-Light": the Florence Light Festival will shed new light on the monuments and squares of the city.

The event will offer video-mapping, projections, light games, artistic installations, educational activities, special visits to museums, shows and cultural meetings.

The festival, promoted by the City of Florence and organized by MUS.E, under the artistic direction of Sergio Risaliti, this year will celebrate the genius of Leonardo da Vinci, who will be celebrated in 2019 for the 500 year anniversary of his death. As usual, many spaces of the city will be involved: on all Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Piazza Santa Maria Novella and the Oltrarno, with particular attention to the Towers and the city gates and the neighborhoods outside the historic center. At the center of F-light there is always light, a source of universal energy. The title this year evokes the illumination of the mind, the thought that overcomes the limits of knowledge to dare the new, to experiment, to innovate. The symbols of the festival will therefore be the flame that lights up a lamp in the night, the filament that warms up, the neural network that lights up.

As usual F-Light will also be an opportunity to offer a new permanent lighting to some monuments or places in the city: after donating a new lighting system to the Loggia del Pesce, the Basilica of Santa Croce, Piazza Ghiberti and the Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio, this year F-light will bring a new light in some

of the most significant and suggestive symbols of Florence.

CONTEMPORANEAMENTE FESTIVAL ON VIA MAGGIO

December 1-24

For the VIII edition of *CONTEMPORANEAMENTE. Art design crafts and contemporary culture*, along Via Maggio and surroundings, the festival features many Oltrarno realities, antique and contemporary art galleries, places dedicated to the conservation of art, crafts, and workshops, with meetings and exhibitions, workshops for adults and children, music and visits to artisans who will hold live demonstrations, tastings and presentations, all in the name of dialogue between history, art, modernity and enhancement of doing. *AT THE SAME TIME. Art design, craftsmanship and contemporary culture in Via Maggio e dintorni* is a project conceived by the Via Maggio association, born to highlight all the Florentine realities of the Oltrarno that move in this area.

For the duration of the event the map "Artisans OMA in Oltrarno" will be available at Spazio NOTA in via de 'Serragli 104

TRACES OF WWI IN FLORENCE: GUIDED TOURS OF MONUMENTS TO THE FALLEN

Until March 3

(From: theflorentine.net)

To celebrate 100 years since the end of World War I, Mus.e Firenze and the local UNESCO office, with help from Opera di Santa Croce, are organizing guided visits through some of Florence's key monuments to the fallen. As remembrance events take place across the globe, Mus.e Firenze and UNESCO have launched a series of tours that will take residents and visitors through the traces of the first "Grande Guerra" in the Tuscan capital.

Two different types of itineraries are on the program. The first (1 hour and 15 minutes) offers an overview of WWI memory in the historic center, while the second (50 minutes) examines individual monuments in residential areas of the city. The former tours will begin at Palazzo Vecchio and move through the historic center, ending at the Santa Croce complex, home to three crucial spaces in the local WWI narrative: the Famedio, the Park of Remembrance and the Cappella alla Madre Italiana (December 2, January 13, February 3, and March 3, with sessions at 2.30pm and 4pm each day.) The latter visits will focus on Ferdinando Vichi's "Vittoria" (11am, November 18, piazza di Santa Maria al Pignone) and Mario Moschi's "Soldier with Woman and Child" (11am, November 25, piazza Dalmazia.)

Tours are free, but booking is mandatory and will open on the Monday ahead of each tour. Call 055.2768224 or write to info@muse.comune.fi.it.

FRESH PASTA COOKING LAB AT FLORENCE DESIGN SCHOOL

December 9



A fun and flavour filled session exploring the best of traditional technique with playful artistic flair. Practice the traditions of fresh pasta making and explore colour and shape. Create your own batch! Materials and wine are all included in the price.

Presented by Florence Design School, Stadium Architecturae

Space is limited, so please reserve in advance: StadiumArch1@gmail.com

45€/person, approx. 3 hours, Sunday December 9 at 16.00

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, December 31, put your warmest coat over your fanciest clothes (and perhaps some long undies) and head to central Florence for at least three free outdoor concerts. While the final schedule is yet to be announced, traditionally Piazza della Signora hosts a classical concert starting around 11:15 pm. This year look for jazz, pop and rock to be happening in Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza della Stazione, Piazza Santa Maria Novella and Piazza SS. Annunziata.

If you're looking for a party with all the works, The Hard Rock Cafe is famous for their New Year's party, or you could ring in the New Year at the Fortezza da Basso at a celebration from 10 p.m. on December 31 to 8 a.m. on the first day of 2018. With different rooms of the centre featuring different music styles and international DJs and performers, you choose the ambience right for you to celebrate the New Year in Florence.

#DOMENICOALMUSEO : STATE MUSEUMS FREE FOR EVERYONE, AND CIVIC MUSEUMS FREE FOR RESIDENTS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH WITH SPECIAL GUIDED TOURS

First Sunday of the month

On the first Sunday of every month, Florence opens up all of its state and civic museums free for residents of the city, or people born here. It's a fantastic initiative to reward the people who call Florence home, and make it easier for them to enjoy the city's treasures.

Here's a list of the **state museums free to all**: Uffizi, Accademia, Bargello , Medici Chapels, Pitti Palace (all museums), San Marco, Palazzo Davanzati, Medici Villas.

And **civic museums free to residents**: Palazzo Vecchio, Arnolfo Tower, Santa Maria Novella, Stefano Bardini Museum, Fondazione Salvatore Romano, Museo del Novecento, Brancacci Chapel in Santa Maria del Carmine.

Make a note that you still have to visit the ticket offices to collect a free ticket, and they close an hour before the museums close. Remember, special guided visits or tours have to be reserved in advance. You'll find more information at: www.musefirenze.it

EXHIBITIONS IN DECEMBER

BANKSY. THIS IS NOT A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY, AT PALAZZO MEDICI RICCARDI

Until February 24

Banksy, the British artist from Bristol who nobody has seen, generally defined as belonging to Street Art, represents the greatest case of popularity for a living artist since the days of Andy Warhol. The Florence

exhibition comes from a rigorous selection with the best 20 images produced so far, those that have made the planetary success of one of the most complex, ingenious and intuitive artists of our time.

On display extensive historical information on the works, with photographic documentation, the original "black books", three small volumes published between 2001 and 2004 and containing images, texts, aphorisms, poems and in general Banksy's thoughts. On show also original posters of some of his exhibitions, counterfeit banknotes and a selection of videos.

At Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Via Cavour, 1

Entrance: € 10 / € 6 reduced (Medici Palace museum included)

Information: +39 055 2760552 or +39 055 366 144

ON HATE AND LOVE: GIORGIO VASARI AND THE ARTISTS IN BOLOGNA

Until December 2

The exhibition explores the problematic relationship between Giorgio Vasari and his Bolognese contemporaries. As is evident from some passages from the "Lives", the relationship between Giorgio Vasari and the Bolognese artists was quite troublesome. He incidentally speaks about them by saying that they have "the head full of arrogance and smoke". And talking about Michelangelo's life he even points out that after only one year he left Bologna because he "wasted time there".

Vasari generally reproaches Bolognese artists for their lack of knowledge about ancient classical art as source of inspiration for their works. Nonetheless his harsh criticism is destined to soften throughout the years: he for example says that if Correggio had gone away from Emilia to settle in Rome, he probably would have worked miracles. And coming to the following generation of artists, he even says words of praise about their works.

[More information and tickets](#)

WHAT'S ON AT MUSEO NOVECENTO: THE NEXT ARTIST OF THEIR SOLO CYCLE, PIERO MAZONI

Until December 13

"On a regular basis, the Museo Novecento focuses on the figure of a single artist, choosing to tell a peculiar aspect of his career thanks to the exhibition of one or more works in the collections of the City of Florence or borrowed from other public collections or private - explained **Sergio Risaliti** -. We are proud to inaugurate the first 'monographic project' on Piero Manzoni in a museum space in Florence focused on 'objects' - or rather the 'object-concepts' - that the artist produces from 1959 to 1962."

" Between the late fifties and early sixties, during the so-called economic miracle Manzoni performs his experimental miracles - said the curator **Gaspere Luigi Marcone**- An 'unclassifiable' artist who continually offers critical stimuli and research hypotheses. A search marked by dialectical polarities: concept / object, material / immaterial, internal / external, irony / rigor, magic / science, finite / infinite, all / nothing. From the Lines to the 'corporal' works such as the Air Bodies, the Sculpture Eggs and the Artist's Shit, Manzoni has redefined the idea of 'making art'; his path is punctuated by these 'concepts-objects', 'boxed' works, mysterious and ironic but of absolute depth; they are not just 'simple provocations', the artist has always worked in a more absolute and all-encompassing way. Along with a

constant theoretical activity, its operations have paved the way for many experiments of the following years on a national and international level".

[Tickets and more information here](#)

WHAT'S ON AT PALAZZO PITTI:

TRACES 2018: LETTING FASHION DRIVE YOU

Until December 31

The "selection" of garments and accessories in *Traces 2018. Letting fashion drive you* is based on the same formula as last year's edition: traces left by modern sculptures and painting alongside an itinerary devoted to fashion in a series of fast-paced juxtapositions, some of them natural and logical, some of them shocking and conflicting, between textile artworks from the Museo della moda e del costume, sculptures and paintings from the Modern Art Gallery's collections. Some of them conjure up purely evocative images, others fuel mutually intriguing dialogue. But this time the garments come chiefly from daily life, pret-à-porter wear, some of which was even manufactured in series rather than exclusively as unique one-of-a-kind pieces.

TRAVELLING WITH STYLE: DRIVING CARS, BE GUIDED BY TRENDS

Until December 31

An original and multidisciplinary exhibition, in which the historical photographs of the Archivio Locchi document the charm of the car during the twentieth century beside the exhibition of clothes to wear while travelling.

The Fashion and Costume Museum

PRINCE'S FRAGILE TREASURES: THE PATH OF PORCELAIN BETWEEN VIENNA AND FLORENCE

Until March 10

On display a selection of porcelains, paintings and sculptures testifying the eighteenth-century international taste of the Ginori and Vienna manufacturers, to celebrate the magnificence of porcelain during the Lorraine Grand Duchy.

The works on display – porcelain of course, but also paintings, sculptures, semi-precious stone inlay work, ivory, crystal, tapestries and engravings – serve to point up the fertile dialogue among the arts, celebrating the magnificence of porcelain in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany during the rule of the House of Lorraine. The exhibition showcases loans from national and international institutions, from leading museums in Europe and the United States and from a number of important private collections.

Treasury of the Grand Dukes

The exhibitions are included in the Pitti Palace [ticket price, more information here.](#)

WATER AS A MICROSCOPE OF NATURE: DA VINCI'S CODEX ON DISPLAY AT THE UFFIZI FOR THE 5TH CENTENARY OF THE ARTIST'S DEATH

Until January 2019

Uffizi Galleries in collaboration with the “Museo Galileo” and with a subsidy from the “Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio” Bank of Florence presents: *Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Leicester. Water as a Microscope of Nature*. Curated by Paolo Galluzzi, the exhibit will definitely be a preview of the celebrations for the fifth centenary of the death of one of the most iconic figures in the history of mankind. Temporarily lent to the city of Florence by its owner, Bill Gates, the Codex Leicester will be on display from 29 October 2018 to 20 January 2019 at the “Magliabechiana Hall” of the Uffizi. Handwritten by Leonardo between 1504 and 1508, the 72 sheets the codex is made of are full of prodigious notes and extraordinary sketches on water and environment. Other marvellous original drawings realized by Leonardo in the same years, in that really “magic” season of the history of Florence, will be on view too, exceptionally lent by many Italian and foreign institutions.

[More information here.](#)

CONVITI E BANCHETTI AT MUSEO STIBBERT

Until January 2019

Before the time the Stibbert became a museum, it was a home where all the daily functions of family life took place. They cooked, they had guest parties, they had lunch together, and were always socializing. Today, for the exhibition "Conviti e Banchetti" the Stibbert Museum wanted to take the audience back to this time and revive the great traditions of a banquet. The exhibition's purpose is to show how tables were displayed, set, decorated, and served from the Renaissance to the 19th century.

There were distinct styles throughout history and the types of pottery and tableware are particular to those eras. These reconstructions are presented in display cases, along with decorative aspects to tie the theme and tradition together.

To read about the various themes throughout history, and for more information, [see the website here.](#)

Museo Stibbert, Via Federico Stibbert, 26, 50134 Firenze FI

VOICES OF WOMEN: THE FEMALE UNIVERSE IN THE LAURENTIAN COLLATIONS

Until January 11

The return of a brilliant exhibition of 66 manuscripts related to the female world: on show literary works and letters written by women, dedicated, owned, commissioned and copied works by female figures, more or less famous, starting from classical antiquity to the twentieth century.

At the Laurentian Library, Piazza San Lorenzo, 9, Firenze

Entrance: € 3 € 2,50 if bought with the ticket to visit the Basilica di San Lorenzo

From Monday to Friday 9.30am-1.30pm

Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

GIACOMO ZAGANELLI PUTS TOURISTS AT THE CENTRE OF A NEW EXHIBIT AT THE UFFIZI GALLERY

Until February 24

The new exhibition by Giacomo Zaganelli at the Uffizi makes tourists reflect on the alteration of their visit brought about by digital technology. *Grand Tourism* is composed of three videos by the same artist: *Illusion*, *Everywhere but nowhere* and *Uffizi Oggi*, where Zaganelli urges a reflection upon the identity of today's tourism, in particular upon the habit of looking at artworks (and not only) through smartphones, video cameras and similar devices. Commissioned by the Uffizi Galleries, "Uffizi Oggi" in particular is the video which fits the spirit of the project best. Shot during an ordinary day at the Uffizi, it is also a personal reinterpretation as well as an unconventional viewpoint on what happens every day in front of Botticelli's masterpieces like the *Birth of Venus* or the *Spring*. The three videos composing "Grand Turismo" are meant to be a sort of break of the public's visit where each visitor is thus expected to reconsider the experience s/he has just gone through. The aim is that of stimulating even unexpected reflections and reactions in people of different ages, cultures and provenances.

[More information at the website](#)

FRAGILE TREASURES OF THE PRINCES ON DISPLAY AT PALAZZO PITTI

Until March 2019

The Lorraine Grand Duchy, who succeeded the last Medici, distinguished itself in Florence for a new and refined orientation in art. At the center of the trend inaugurated by the Austrian family, there was the celebration of porcelain, which is the subject of the exhibition *Fragile treasures of the princes. The porcelain streets between Vienna and Florence*, hosted at Palazzo Pitti from DECEMBER 13th to March 10th 2019. The Fiorino Hall, fulcrum of the Medici Palace, boosts an interesting dialogue between arts and habits. A starting point for the comparison is a material that has always been appreciated by wealthy and noble families: porcelain. The Grand Duchy of Lorraine, indeed, brought the great passion for porcelain in Florence, through the figure of Marchese Carlo Ginori, dispatched to Vienna and fascinated there by the fragile production of a local factory. Back in Florence, he founded his manufacture in 1737, following the example of the Austrian one. The exhibition set up in Palazzo Pitti, aiming at illustrating the new trend in art and culture by Carlo Ginori, consists of works lent thanks to international collaborations with partners of the museum. The main themes - in porcelains, sculptures, tapestries, waxes, crystals and ivories - are the passion for the exotic, the exploration of nature and the interest in antiquity, all typical of eighteenth-century culture around Europe.

[More information here](#)

MUSEUM OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART BY COLLECTOR ROBERTO CASAMONTI AT THE PALAZZO BARTOLINI SALIMBENI

Until March 2019

(From: artnet.com)

The Italian art dealer and collector Roberto Casamonti is giving his home city of Florence what it has been missing for a few centuries—a museum of Modern and contemporary art. The 78-year-old founder of Tornabuoni Art unveils parts of his personal collection in a Renaissance-era palace on March 24, which he says will be the first institution in the city to be dedicated solely to modern and contemporary art.

Casamonti has selected 250 works from his personal collection of more than 5,000 works by Italian and international artists, which include pieces by Warhol and Picasso, and Basquiat. They will hang in the

ornate rooms of the 16th century Palazzo Bartolini Salimbeni, under 20-foot-high ceilings decorated in gold leaf.

Palazzo Bartolini Salimbeni

Via di Porta Rossa n. 1

DANCE AND THEATRE FOR DECEMBER

PERFORMANCES AT TEATRO VERDI

The 'Teatro Pagliano', which assumed its current name, 'Teatro Verdi,' in 1901, was built during the Grand Ducal period in Florence on the former site of the fourteenth century Stinche Prison. During the nineteenth century, Florence – which was also the capital of Italy - witnessed the construction of many theatres. The Teatro Verdi is the only one still in operation, having lived through a century and a half of history and tremendous change. This month, see:

December 1: Dance - Swan Lake

December 2: Pop-Rock-Jazz - Edoardo Bennato

December 4: Variety - Caveman con Maurizio Colombi

December 8: Kids - Il Pupazzo di Neve

December 6-9: Variety - Destinati All'Estinzione con Angelo Pintus

December 10: Pop-Rock-Jazz - Shapiro & Vandelli Peace and Love Tour

December 13: Classic - Thomas Dausgaard (director) and Henning Kraggerud (Violin)

December 14-16: Prose - Belle Ripiene, Una Gustosa Commedia Dimagrante

December 21 and 22: Musical - Dirty Dancing

December 24: Classic - Concerto di Natale, Christmas Concert

December 27: Dance - Schiaccianoci

January 1: Classic - New Year's Opera Gala

For more information and to book tickets: <http://www.teatroverdifirenze.it/en/>

THEATRE AND MUSIC AT TEATRO DELLA PERGOLA AND TEATRO NICCOLINI

The Teatro della Pergola is a historic opera house in Florence, Italy. It is located in the centre of the city on Via della Pergola, from which the theatre takes its name. It was built in 1656 under the patronage of Cardinal Gian Carlo de' Medici to designs by the architect Ferdinando Tacca, son of the sculptor Pietro Tacca. The Teatro Niccolini is the oldest of the modern theatres in Florence, which shares its history with Teatro della Pergola. Compagnia dei Concordi was the first drama academy, founded in 1644 and protected by Prince Don Lorenzo de' Medici (son of Ferdinando I). In 1651 the company split into two sections, with one moving to via della Pergola where the Pergola theatre now stands, and the other into via del Cocomero. Over the 1700s this theatre was renovated and upgraded, and in 1860 was dedicated to

the Livorno playwright Giovanni Battista Niccolini.

This month at Teatro della Pergola, see:

Nov 27-December 2: After Miss Julie

December 4-9: Misura per Misura

December 12-16: La Tragedia del Vincitore

December 27-Jan 2: A Testa in Giú

December 1-Apr 27: Sulla Scia dei Giorni

Dec 2-Apr 14: In Sua Movenza é Fermo

This month at Teatro Niccolini, see:

December 27-Jan 6: L'Acqua Cheta

For more information and to book tickets: <http://www.teatrodellapergola.com/>

THEATRE AT TEATRO RIFREDI, NOW EASY TO ARRIVE ON THE TRAM LINE

The theater hall was first built as a working and social structure in 1913 but during the fascist period it was burned down, and then transformed into the Casa del Fascio. After the war, it was reacquired and resumed activity, then at the end of the 60s, a group of young people decided to try creating theatrical experiences: among these there were personalities like Daria Nicolodi and Norma Martelli. Following the effervescent spirit of '68, avant-garde and busy theater was made, such as Brecht and Ionesco. The tradition continues, and now the theatre brings in fantastic international acts to present alongside contemporary Italian performances.

This month see:

December 1: Swan Lake, by Opus Ballet

December 7, 8, 9: Popcorn, by Les Objets Volants (France)

December 15: Antropolaroid, by Proxima Res

December 28-31: Chefs, by Yllana (Spain)

For more information and to book tickets: <http://www.teatrodirifredi.it/>

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS IN DECEMBER

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT TASSO HOSTEL FLORENCE

The best combined literary and musical open mic in town. Come one come all to either perform or just listen--always free. Full bar--bring your own food or snacks. Sign up begins at 8:30. See you there!

The first Wednesday of every month. Tasso Hostel Florence, Via Villani 15, Piazza Tasso

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/openmicflorence/>

BRITISH INSTITUTE LECTURE & CONCERT SERIES

Every Wednesday at 18.00, the British Institute presents a lecture, concert or other event in the Sala Ferragamo in the Harold Acton Library, which is followed by an informal drinks reception. The Cultural Programme is open to members of the British Institute of Florence. Membership options range from 24 hours (€5) to Life (€500). The Institute also hosts special events throughout the month, and this month includes:

Between Italy and Greece: letters across the Mediterranean Sea

5 December 2018 - 18:00, Lecture in English by Sara Moran

This lecture introduces the extraordinary Greek poet and musician Margherita Dalmati, drawing chiefly upon her correspondence with three eminent Italian writers and intellectuals of the 20th century: the poet Mario Luzi, the Germanist Leone Traverso and the literary critic Oreste Macrì. Sara Moran is the author-editor of *Lettere agli amici fiorentini*, published in 2017 by Firenze University Press, based on documents preserved in various Italian and Greek archives.

My father the poet Peter Russell

12 December 2018, Lecture in English by Sara Russell

Irwin Peter Russell (1921-2003) was a prodigiously learned poet, translator and polymath. He was a disciple of Ezra Pound and a cousin of Bertrand Russell. Although his voluminous writings never achieved mainstream recognition, he was very highly regarded as a poet in certain circles. (He was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature.) After periods in England, Berlin and Iran he settled permanently in Pian di Scò in Tuscany in 1983. He gave readings of his poetry at the British Institute. In this lecture his life and work are surveyed by his daughter Sara.

It's Storytime! The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg

13 December 2018 - 17:00, Reading and workshop

A special Christmas storytime with songs, activities, hot chocolate and marshmallows!

For children aged 3 to 8, but all ages are welcome. *No booking is required.* All events are in English and take place at the Harold Acton Library of The British Institute. The Storytime is open to members of the Library. Membership options include a Day card (€6), a Junior card (€20) and a Family membership (1 year €110, up to 3 family members).

You are invited to the Afternoon Tea in the Library served from 4:30 to 6 pm.

For more information about events or membership, [see the website](#).

FILM EVENTS IN DECEMBER

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE FILMS: ODEON CINEMA

The stunning Odeon Cinema was opened in 1922, built into the interior of Renaissance treasure, Palazzo Strozzi. The original palazzo design was by Filippo Brunelleschi, and this is one of the most beautiful cinemas you will ever find in the world. The Odeon hosts a long-running program of Original Language films throughout the year.

This month's English language films include: Bohemian Rhapsody, Cold War

This month's Special Events/Screenings include: Natale con Montalbano, Lo Schiaccianoci, The Doors Live at the Bowl, The Man Who Stole Banksy, The Eyes of Orson Wells

[Find the whole schedule here](#)

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER

OPERA DI FIRENZE: MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO

One of the most successful annual opera festivals in Florence that was founded in 1933 by conductor Vittorio Gui. Now the "Maggio Musicale Fiorentino" continues to this day, and is spread across multiple venues including: Teatro dell'Opera di Firenze, Teatro Niccolini, and Teatro della Pergola.

The Operas and Concerts for this month:

November 25-December 6: Carmen by Georges Bizet

Carmen is an Opéra-Comique in four scenes by Georges Bizet, to the libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy, based on the novel of the same name by Prosper Mérimée.

November 29-December 9: La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi

La traviata staged in this December session is part of the innovative project by the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino directed by Francesco Micheli, who have created a dramaturgy which brings together the three popular works by Verdi.

December 1, 2, 9: The Rossini Game

The Rossini Game is a show. The Rossini Game is a game. The Rossini Game is a story. The life of one of the greatest composers of the story told through his extraordinary music, the most significant events of the period, the characters who loved and venerated the great musician, or else they hated him.

December 13-22: West Side Story

West Side Story debuted in Washington in 1957. From there it went to Broadway, where it was a huge success, becoming one of the most loved and performed musicals, a title it still holds.

December 23: The Christmas Concert

Conductors: Lorenzo Fratini and Samuele Zagara, with the Fiesole Music School Ensemble, music Astrolabe and, Children's Choir of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

[Tickets and more information here.](#)

AMICI DELLA MUSICA

If you ever wanted to listen to classical music in a theatre where you could imagine Verdi or Mozart to walk in any second go to the jewel box Pergola Theatre. The Amici della Musica of Florence presents various concerts at the Teatro della Pergola. Works by Rossini, Schumann, Schubert, Brahms, Bach, Beethoven and Mozart are only a small sample of what will be performed. The concerts for this month:

December 1: Leif Ove Andses, Piano

The New York Times called Leif Ove Andsnes "a pianist of elegance, energy and masterly introspection". Thanks to the refined technique and interpretation, the Norwegian pianist has obtained the highest approval worldwide.

December 2: Roberto Fabbriani (flute), Francesco Gesualdi (accordion), Gamo Ensemble, Mauricio Sotelo (Director)

Program designed ad hoc by Mauricio Sotelo for the artistic collaboration between GAMO and Amici della Musica Florence.

[Tickets and more information.](#)

THE WEEKLY SHOWCASE OPEN MIC AT IL TOSCANACCIO

Every Tuesday

Florence is filled with creative and talented performers and The Showcase at Il Toscanaccio is designed to give them a unique and special stage. Every Tuesday, The Showcase is hosted by Florence singer-songwriter Patti DeRosa and presents the original works (and original interpretations) of musicians and writers. All creative spirits are invited to come and share their material, or just listen, in this intimate, cozy setting. The open mike begins at 9:00pm and performers can sign up (usually 3 songs), but each week also includes a "Featured Artist", (a local or touring musician or writer), who performs a 30 minute showcase. After the Featured Artist, the open mike resumes. Tutti sono benvenuti!

To perform or be the Featured Artist, contact host, singer-songwriter Patti DeRosa at pattiguitar@gmail.com

Il Toscanaccio, Piazza San Firenze 9

CONCERTS AT THE CENACOLO: ANCIENT MUSIC BROUGHT TO LIFE

December 8, 9, 11

The Ensemble L'Homme Armé presents two concerts of sacred and spiritual music from the dawn of the Florentine Renaissance. Then on the 11th, enjoy "Together for Peace", musical meetings of spirituality, meditation, and inter-religious prayer. Enjoy the opportunity to savour the art of sacred chant in the suggestive atmosphere of some of the most enchanting locations in Florence. Best of all, it's totally free.

See more information here: <https://hommearme.it/>

NIGHTS OF MUSIC AT THE AUDITORIUM DI SANTO STEFANO AL PONTE VECCHIO

Enjoy a wonderful concert at Auditorium Santo Stefano al Ponte Vecchio, located in the Piazza Santo Stefano just a few steps from Ponte Vecchio and Piazza della Signoria. A unique, intense experience not only from a musical but also from an artistic and culinary point of view. *Before selected concerts*, indulge in Tuscan cuisine between the 18th-century walls of Guelfi and Ghibellini Restaurant at Relais Santa Croce in the heart of Florence. Enjoy your meal among fine furnishings and frescoed ceilings, and take advantage of the opportunity to admire the wooden roof trusses based on a design by Leonardo Da Vinci.

This month see:

Christmas Concert with the Three Tenors, and Dinner, December 1, 4, 8, 15, 22, 30

Spend a wonderful Italian Christmas with the Three Tenors, listening to opera arias, Neapolitan songs and Christmas carols in the heart of Tuscany's beautiful capital! In the Auditorium Santo Stefano al Ponte Vecchio, the soloists are accompanied by a chamber ensemble of mandolin, cello, and piano. Famous arias from 'La Traviata', 'Rigoletto', and 'Tosca' share the program with Neapolitan favorites like 'O sole mio', 'Funiculi Funiculà', and 'Torna a Surriento'. Before the concert, indulge in Tuscan cuisine between the 18th-century walls of Guelfi and Ghibellini Restaurant at Relais Santa Croce in the heart of Florence.

[Tickets and more information.](#)

New Year's Eve Gala with The Three Tenors and Ballet, December 31

Famous opera arias, Neapolitan songs and traditional works by Johann Strauss will be performed by three masterful tenors, accompanied by a mandolin, cello, and grand piano. Greet the new year with wonderful music, a glass of champagne and a dessert tasting.

[Tickets and more information.](#)

La Traviata Pocket Opera and Ballet with Dinner, December 28

Enjoy an enchanting Pocket Opera Version of Verdi's 'La Traviata' accompanied by Ballet dancers. In Verdi's masterwork, the beautiful but frail courtesan, Violetta, falls in love the well-born Alfredo Germont, and decides to abandon her feverish life of pleasure. But Alfredo's family intervenes, and the idyllic romance ends in tragedy. *Before the concert*, indulge in Tuscan cuisine between the 18th-century walls of Guelfi and Ghibellini Restaurant at Relais Santa Croce in the heart of Florence.

[Tickets and more information.](#)

Vivaldi's Four Seasons, December 24, 29

The Firenze Academy Ensemble will perform Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'. The program opens with an 'Air' by Bach and Mozart's famous 'A Little Night Music'.

[Tickets and more information.](#)

Movies in Concert: With Dinner, December 27

Hear the most beautiful and famous soundtracks that have made the history of cinema and music accompanied by a chamber ensemble of violin, grand piano and double-bass, and masterfully interpreted by a Soprano accompanied by the fabulous dancers of Opera in Roma. Before the concert, indulge in Tuscan cuisine between the 18th-century walls of Guelfi and Ghibellini Restaurant at Relais Santa Croce.

[Tickets and more information.](#)

CLASSICAL CONCERTS AND OPERA AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

In the beautiful and intimate setting of St Mark's Church, the performances are complete operas, apart from one or two slight adaptations to suit the intimate setting.

This month's program includes: Love Duets, The Marriage of Figaro, Carmen, La Traviata, La Boheme, Three Tenors, New Years Eve Gala Concert

Time: 8:30pm, Price: 30 €, seniors 25 €, students 15 €, Info: 340 8119192

[The complete schedule](#)

OPERA AND CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH DINNERS AT THE ICONIC CHIESA DI SANTA MONICA, FIRENZE

Various dates throughout December

Situated in the heart of Florence, between the San Frediano and San Spirito districts, the 15th-century Church of Santa Monaca offers an intimate and attractive location for classical music and opera performances. The interior includes sculptures and paintings by Baccio da Montelupo, Giovanni Maria Butteri, and Cosimo Ulivelli. The church plays host to a wonderful program of Opera, Classical Music, and Concert events, often pairing the evenings with Tuscan styled dinner at a nearby restaurant.

The program for this month includes: Italian, Romantic, and Classic Italian Opera Selections

[More information, including dinner menus and ticket bookings](#)

EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE FOR DECEMBER

THE TAROT GARDEN OF CAPALBIO

Until March, First Saturday of the month

Until March, you can enjoy a free visit to Niki de Saint Phalle's esoteric sculpture garden based on the Tarot cards, located in Tuscany, Italy. This project started in the late seventies and ended when Niki passed away in 2002. It was her wish that visitors could experience the park for free on one morning per month over the cooler months. The park is the fulfilment of a long-held dream by Niki to create a grand sculpture garden, and was realised together with a large crew and a number of artists, who worked as a family to transform Niki's smaller models into incredible sculptures of various scales throughout the garden. Take a tour of the Tarot, you never know, you might discover your future.

The first Saturday in the month, from 9 am to 1 pm. If this falls on a public holiday, the Giardino will open the following Saturday.

Official link

THE BEST OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT GALLERIA CONTINUA IN SAN GIMIGNANO

A contemporary and international art gallery in the heart of Tuscany.

Galleria Continua opened in San Gimignano (Italy) in 1990. Occupying a former cinema, Galleria Continua established itself and thrived in an entirely unexpected location, away from the big cities and the ultramodern urban centres, in a town - San Gimignano - steeped in history, timeless, magnificent. This choice of location provided scope for the development of new forms of dialogue and symbiosis between unexpected geographies: rural and industrial, local and global, art from the past and the art of today, famous artists and emerging ones. Current Exhibitions:

SHILPA GUPTA, Until January 13

One of the most internationally well-known Indian artists, Shilpa Gupta. During over two decades she has engaged with art in its interactive, participatory, and public dimensions. The artist has incessantly mapped the defining power of psychological and social and borders on public memory and life. Her works involve with the persistence power of repressive state apparatuses, the deceptive ideas of public consensus enabled by emerging mediascapes and the seductions of social homogeneity. Shilpa Gupta creates a visual grammar of a conceptual nature, weaves the intensity of writing through complex works: objects, photographs, drawings, performances, interactive videos. In this exhibition, the artist revisits her photographic series, "Do not See Do not Hear Do not Speak" (2006) creating a sculpture in which three figures are intertwined in a circle, each hiding the others' mouths, ears and eyes.

JORGE MACCHI, Until January 13

One of the most prominent artists of the modern Latin American artistic panorama, Jorge Macchi. The solo show, "Suspension Points", presents a series of works that weave together cinema, musical, literary and art history references with the dreamlike, the accidental, and with tragedy and humour: sculptures, paintings, watercolours, installations and two works born of a new collaboration between Macchi and Edgardo Rudnitzky, Argentinian musician and composer. Jorge Macchi's poetics of suspension goes beyond the limits of the frame. "Suspension Points" takes its name from a diptych in which the dots which form the image appear to disperse upon reaching the edges of the paper. Artist work is an invitation to reconsider the relationship between the objects of the world, it recreates the conditions of a parallel reality which undercuts our certainties and our consciousness. The installation "La noche de los museos", occupying the parterre of the ex-cinema and theatre space, is no exception. This work invites the spectator to reflect on the meaning of one of the main questions in Macchi's work: the materialising power of light.

HIROSHI SUGIMOTO, Until January 13

Hiroshi Sugimoto: the artist who condenses the course of time and the perception of space into a single moment. A multi-talented figure, his artistic practice is focused on photography, nevertheless it includes architecture, installations, sculptural objects and producing performing arts projects. The "The first encounter" that Sugimoto presents in the exhibition in San Gimignano starts from interiors of several historic cinemas, including those of Ferrara, Mantua, Siena, Florence – places of remembering par excellence, where collective experience explodes in individual memories – and ultimately retraces in part the Italian stops along a famous journey, that of the "quattro ragazzi" (four young men), known also as the Tenshō Embassy. Sugimoto began his theatre series in 1978, it consists in long exposure images of drive ins, movie halls of the 20s and 30s, and cinemas of the 50s, taken during the projection of a movie. After a nearly 15-year interval, in 2013, the artist took up his work on theatres again. Photographic works exhibited in this show include those born out of this more recent exploration.

[More information here](#)

PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA SHOWING AT SANSEPOLCRO

Until January 6

(Text from: arttrav.com)

In graduate school, our professor Rab Hatfield did an annual Piero Pilgrimage, which involved visiting this artist's home town and the area he worked in from Arezzo and through the mountains over to Rimini. This included stopping in Sansepolcro to visit the artist's *Resurrection*, which has just been restored and is now the centerpiece of an exhibit about Piero's legendary obsession with perspective. It surveys the

artist's interest in mathematics and uses various educational displays to look at perspective in the Renaissance.

Museo Civico Piero Della Francesca di Sansepolcro

VOLAREARTE AT PISA AIRPORT: NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR

Until 2019

(From discovertuscan.com)

“Well into the third edition of this initiative by the Henraux Foundation together with the Tuscany Airports, you will find a collection of 9 sculptures from Park Eun Sun gracing the Pisa airport.

This renowned Korean artist, a long time resident of Versilia, arrived in Italy to satisfy his desire to work with Apuane marbles. His artwork, known on an international level, is remarkable for the pure geometric forms composed of bi-color slabs of marble.”

Galileo Galilei Airport, Pisa

FUN, FESTIVALS AND FOOD OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE FOR DECEMBER

Here we put **just a taste** of the many, many events that are happening all throughout the beautiful villages of Tuscany - brought to you from our wonderful friends at [Discover Tuscany](http://DiscoverTuscany.com).

There are simply too many events to list, so we encourage you to check out the Discover Tuscany website and immerse in the full list of medieval fairs, music festivals, wine celebrations, and traditional fairs and parades. We put just a few of the events into the newsletter, but you'll find ALL the regular markets in surrounding towns, and the most detailed list you'll ever see of [special events throughout Tuscany here at Discover Tuscany](#). Be sure to check out their list of [Nativity Scenes across Tuscany](#) and their special page dedicated to [all the happenings in Siena](#).

TOSCANA GOSPEL FESTIVAL

December TBA

It's been over 20 years that Tuscany has invited gospel groups to perform in the month of December creating a festival atmosphere. Over the course of the month, there are several different concerts for the public to enjoy.

[Official link](#)

RALLY DELLA FETTUNTA

December 8 - 9

A road race celebrating the bruschetta & new oil

Enjoy watching a traditional car race along the panoramic and enchanting roads of Chianti, among vineyards, stunning views, tall whispering cypress trees and the magnificent olive groves! The race covers the area of Tavarnelle Val di Pesa, Barberino Val d'Elsa, San Casciano Val di Pesa e Castellina in Chianti, between the provinces of Florence and Siena. Fettunta is that delicious grilled bread served with a bit of extra virgin olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper, the perfect way for tasting the season's new oil olive.

[Official link](#)

GIOCO DEL PANFORTE IN PIENZA

December 26 - 30

a folkloristic competition in Valdorcia

It's a competition where participants have to throw an entire panforte (a typical Christmas treat from Siena) wrapped in paper over a long table, trying to get it to go to the opposite edge or as close as possible. This game has recently become so popular among both inhabitants and tourists, which are also invited to participate. Stop by and try your throw.

[Official link](#)

LO GRADIRESTE UN GOCCIO DI VIN SANTO IN MONTEFOLLONICO

December 8 -9

13th edition celebrating the delicious vin santo wine

An area of Tuscany particularly rich in the production of quality vin santo wines, with a tendency of being sweet filled with the aromas of the land. It's a festival aimed to promote the local "holy wine" or vinsanto, as the sweet dessert wine made in Tuscany is called and the products that usually are eaten with it, like cantucci, the almond biscuits typical of Prato. Wine, food tastings and even a competition for the best holy wine of the festival!

[Official link](#)

ASPETTANDO LE FIACCOLE AT ABBADIA SAN SALVATORE

December TBA

a bit of folklore & good food waiting for the flames

"Le Fiaccole" are pyres (sometimes 7 meters tall) that will be lit on the 24th of December. There are lots of dates to remember in this small town, from the 8-11 of December they start making the pyres which decorate the city streets, the pyres are lit on the 24th with the Sacred Fire and from the 8th of December till the 8th of January everyone can have fun visiting the "Village of Elves".

[Official link](#)

NATALECCI AT LUCCA

December 24

Bringing good luck for the new year

In the historic little town, just outside of Lucca, called Gorfigliano there will be huge bonfires set in several locations of the village, a tradition which illuminates the skies on Christmas Eve.

POLENTA DOLCE E BALDINO AT FALTONA

December 8

a tradition which has been passed down for centuries

Chestnuts were treasured as a source of nourishment filling in the holes of hunger during the long, cold winter months. Now they are a source of delicious treats - roasted, boiled, ground and made into flour for desserts. Come and taste them in every form in the valley of Casentino.

[Official Link](#)

DEGUSTAZIONE DI ZUPPE MAREMMANE AT SATURNIA

December TBA

test tasting the flavors of the Maremma

It all happens in Piazza Vittorio Veneto of Saturnia: the traditional tasting of typical Maremmane soups. The tastings will be accompanied by fritelle, bruschetta with new oil, vin brulé, and other and delicious Maremma specialties, served with excellent wine! The tasting schedule is from 12:00 to 19:00

[Official link](#)

INVITATION TO NEWSLETTER READERS

The Pitcher & Flaccomio Newsletter would like to invite readers and friends of readers to submit announcements of upcoming events that may be of interest to visitors and residents of Florence and Tuscany, provide shopping tips, and/or comments on what's "right" or "wrong" in Florence (or the Newsletter). We can't promise to put every announcement in the newsletter, but we appreciate your support, interest and messages.

Please send an email to info@pitcherflaccomio.com or newsletter@pitcherflaccomio.com

DECEMBER WISHES

Each year's end is a chance to appreciate what has past, while looking ahead to the new year with all its seasons of change to come. We wish you warm nights by the fire or in the warmth of the *trattorie*, savouring the intimacy of the season, and reflecting on love, friendship, and connection of all kinds.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

Newsletter written and compiled by Marisa Garreffa.

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P&F

CLASSIFIEDS



SALE – Fiesole Apt with Florence views – 3 km from Florence
Ground floor apt. to be refurbished, approx. 110 Sq. Mt. (1100 Sq. Ft.), plus approx 10 Sq. Mt. (100 Sq. Ft.) of out door space. 2 bed, 2 bath; quiet, natural light, superb views over all Florence.

Asking Price 620,000 Euro



SALE – Santo Spirito Attic – Historic Center

Top floor with elevator, refurbished, approx. 65 Sq. Mt. (650 Sq. Ft.). 1 bed, 1 bath; quiet, natural light, views

Asking Price 430,000 Euro



SALE – Volterra Farm House –

Free standing refurbished of approx. 380 Sq. Mt (approx. 3800 sq. ft.), plus 100 Sq. Mt (1000 Sq. Ft.) of barn and 1,5 hectares (5 acres) of garden. 4-5 Bed, 4 bath. Autonomous heating, pool and garage.

Asking Price 2,300,000 Euro



SALE – San Casciano Farm House – 20 Km South of Florence

Free standing, refurbished farm house, aprox. 220 Sq. Mt (approx. 2200 sq. ft.), plus 3000 Sq. Mt. (30.000 Sq. Ft.) of garden and land. 4 bed and 3 bathroom. Autonomous heating, independent barn.

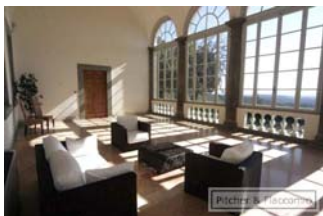
Asking price 750,000 Euro



SALE – Tornabuoni Attic – Historic Center

Third floor, refurbished, approx. 140 Sq. Mt. (1400 Sq. Ft.) plus 50 Sq. Mt. (500 Sq. Ft.) of private terrace. 3 bed, 2 bath; nice small building, natural light out door space

Asking Price 900,000 Euro



SALE – Serviced Apt's in Villa – Lucca

Refurbished Villa and Farm complex, apartments ranging from approx. 70 sq. mt. (approx. 700 sq. ft.) to 180 Sq. Mt. (1800 Sq. Ft.); out door and indoor pool, SPA, park and garden, reception and office; views, easy access to and from the villa.

Asking price 330,000 Euro



SALE – Fiesole loft Apt – 3 Km from Florence

Refurbished modern apt, 175 sq. mt. (approx. 1750 sq. ft.) with approx 150 Sq. Mt (1.500 Sq. Ft.) of garden. 3 bedroom 3 bathrooms, autonomous heating, air conditioning, car parking;

Asking price 1,300,000 Euro