

# PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES  
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

## WELCOME

This is the time of year for residents - the halls of galleries and museums are peaceful, making it the ideal moment to linger over attractions that are usually crowded with tourists. Winter is also the season to travel into the hills for skiing and thermal baths, and immersing in the fashion events that take over the city centre. Or if you'd prefer to hide from the cold, then bundle up, light the fire (or a few candles), pour a nice glass of Chianti and snuggle in under a warm blanket. Warmest best wishes for a 2024 filled with joy, laughter, and good health, with best wishes, from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, EGLA, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

## JUMP TO YOUR FAVOURITE SECTION

[PITCHER AND FLACCOMIO PICKS](#)

[BEST OF THE REST](#)

[EXHIBITIONS](#)

[DANCE, THEATRE AND MUSIC](#)

[FILMS, LECTURES, AND CULTURAL EVENTS](#)

[CLASSIFIEDS](#)

# PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR JANUARY

## **BEST EVENT: CAPODANNO, NEW YEARS CELEBRATIONS ACROSS FLORENCE**

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 Signoria hosts a classical concert starting around 11:15 pm. This year look for jazz, pop and rock to be happening in all the major piazzas including Piazza della Signoria, Piazza San Lorenzo and Piazza Carmine. 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 Manifattura Tabacchi, Tuscany Hall, Space Nightclub, or XO Club and Lounge, where there'll be huge parties going all night. With all of Florence theatre's also staging special events and performances, you can choose the ambience right for you to celebrate the New Year in Florence! Find all the action here at this dedicated [website](#) or The Florentine Magazine's fantastic [list in english](#).

## **BEST P&F RENTAL: A TASTEFULLY DECORATED APARTMENT THAT COMBINES THE OLD WITH THE NEW, FEATURING SUPER MODERN AMENITIES**

Via Benci is in the Santa Croce neighborhood, within a few minutes walk from all of the city's most famous museums and monuments. The Sant' Ambrogio open-air fruit and vegetable market, post office and general shopping are near-by. The apartment is situated near several theatres, the main ones being "Il Teatro Verdi" and "La Pergola", which host numerous concerts throughout the year. Piazza Santa Croce hosts many festivities including the "Calcio in Costume" the historical foot ball match played in medieval costumes in the month of June, and numerous outdoor concerts.



[More information and photos.](#)

## **BEST TRADITION: LA BEFANA VISITS DURING THE EPIPHANY, January 6**

On January 6, La Befana arrives in Florence and this is Italy's traditional day of gift giving. In the Christian tradition the name "Befana" is a popular version of the Greek term "Epiphany", which was the festivity following Christmas commemorating the visit of the Magi. According to legend, the three wise men on their journey were stopped by an old woman with a broom who asked them where they were going. They told her that they were following a star that would lead them to a newborn baby, and invited her to come along. But she replied that she was busy sweeping and cleaning and did not go. When she realised her mistake, her regret was so great that she continues to wander about Italy. She is portrayed as an old ugly woman who flies over houses riding her broom. On the Epiphany she enters through the chimneys (or in modern apartments, through the keyhole), and into

the socks that children left hanging near the fireplace she leaves candies and gifts for good children, and black coal, garlic and onions for naughty children. Parents of course would always include some coal over the gifts, to trick their children.

### **BEST PARADE FOR JANUARY: THE CAVALCADE OF THE THREE KINGS ARRIVES IN FLORENCE, January 6**

This special parade recreates the arrival of the Three Kings in Bethlehem to the manger where the baby Jesus was born. The "Cavalcade of the Three Kings" takes place in downtown Florence on the morning of January 6 and is a commemoration of an ancient celebration of the epiphany that has taken place in the city as far back as 1400. On this special occasion, a parade in beautiful Renaissance costumes starts from Palazzo Pitti and winds its way through the city, passing by Piazza della Signoria and arriving at the Cathedral and Baptistery in Piazza del Duomo. The Sbandieratori, or flag-throwing company, of the Uffizi also participates in the event, enchanting the public with their skill in throwing, exchanging and waving their flags in Piazza della Signoria. The procession begins at 14.15 from Palazzo Pitti.

### **BEST EXHIBITION: PASSEGGIATE PATRIMONIALI, FREE WALKS THROUGH FLORENCE'S HISTORIC SITES**

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)). A calendar of [free guided tours](#) at some of the city's historic sites takes place until January 7, taking visitors through lesser-known areas of the centre and exploring the reasons why the city is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list, focusing on the areas around Porta San Gallo and San Miniato al Monte. Email: [info@musefirenze.it](mailto:info@musefirenze.it).

### **BEST FESTIVAL: FIRENZE ON ICE VILLAGE AND THE PANORAMIC WHEEL, Until January 7**

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)). The [popular ice skating rink](#) pops up from December 8 to January 15, said to be the largest rink in Tuscany. Skaters dash through the spectacular setting from 10am to midnight. While there, don't miss the chance to take a spin on the 55-meter-high panoramic wheel, which will be on site until June 10. Not a fan of heights? There's a fabulous Christmas village with specially curated activities for families and children, as well as plenty of food stalls and more. The fun doesn't stop there! From May 1 to June 10 there will be other attractions in place of the Christmassy-vibes, taking on a spring theme. [Website](#).

### **BEST DINING OUT: RISTORANTE DIVERSO**

An immaculate seafood restaurant serving contemporary fine dining amongst chic and elegant decor, located near Piazza della Indipendenza. Innovative dishes full of umami such as spaghetti alla chitarra with katsuobushi and gyoza di tonno, alongside classics such as polpo e patate and spaghetti alla vongole. They have a divine degustation menu that's well worth the indulgence, and the young staff offer professional and attentive service. [Website](#).

## **BEST OF THE REST**

## **FLORENCE WINTER SALES**

While some sales have already started, after the Epiphany of January 6th all the stores of Florence will begin their major sales to clear out their Autumn and Winter stock, in order to make room for the new season arrivals. You can expect savings of at least 50%, which often reach 70% towards the end of the month as stocks dwindle. It's the perfect time to grab a few last minute winter coats to help survive the winter chill of January!

## **HOT THERMAL BATHS TO EASE THE WINTER CHILL**

Winter is the season to enjoy the range of beautiful hot springs located in Tuscany, both to warm you up and for all the rumoured health benefits! There are a number of different springs, some free and some with spa facilities designed to help you pass the entire day relaxing out of the city centre. Check out their websites to see which one you like, and don't be afraid to try the plunge from the hot springs to the cold lakes - they swear it's good for you! A list of Tuscan Thermal Baths:

Terme di Bagno Vignoni (Siena)

Grotta Giusti (Pistoia)

Terme di Gambassi Stabilimento Acqua di Pillo (Florence)

Terme di Firenze (Florence)

Terme di Montecatini (Pistoia)

Terme di San Casciano dei Bagni Fonteverde (Siena)

Terme di Saturnia (Grosseto)

Terme Calidario (Livorno)

## **FLORENCE WRITERS COMMUNITY HOST A JANUARY BRAINSTORM SESSION**

The Florence Writing Community is a vibrant group of people who aim to support writers of all genres and levels and to foster connections among those who love the written word. On the January schedule, there is writing practice (on the 9<sup>th</sup>), a writers' brainstorm session (on the 16<sup>th</sup>), a writers' group (on the 25<sup>th</sup>), and more while a month-long writing challenge is also planned for February. For more information, write to: [contact@opendoorsreview.com](mailto:contact@opendoorsreview.com)

## **PITTI IMMAGINE, FASHION COMES TO TOWN, January 9-26**

Although all of the Pitti Immagine productions are aimed at specialist fashion buyers (you may be one), Florence knows they are here because the streets are full of fashionable folk. January is the month that fashion events, parties, and shows spill out of various venues in the historic centre, and is a heavenly time for people-watching in the streets. Look out for local bloggers covering the fashionistas and the mad styles on show as people travel to and from the events.

**PITTI UOMO 105** – From 9-12 January. The most important international platform for men's clothing and accessories collections and for the launch of new projects on men's fashion. Born in 1972, it takes place in Florence, two editions a year.

**PITTI BIMBO 98** – From 17-19 January. The only international appointment able to represent the entire universe of children's fashion in all its forms; born in 1975, the fair launched the first fashion shows and events dedicated to this segment.

PITTI FILATI 94 – From 24-26 January. The leading event in the field of knitting yarns with an eye to technological innovations and services for the textile industry; his Spazio Ricerca is the laboratory where the trends of the future are experienced and anticipated.

Stazione Leopolda, [www.stazione-leopolda.com](http://www.stazione-leopolda.com). See the Pitti Website [here](#) for all the information.

### **“Green-Line”: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES FLORENCE, until January 7**

Florentines and tourists will be invited to take part in a light journey, an imaginary trip from the city’s squares to the celestial vault. After the great success of the last editions, Florence is preparing to light up with "Green-Line": the recently rebranded Florence Light Festival that sheds 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. 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. [Website](#).

### **DOMENICOALMUSEO : STATE MUSEUMS FREE FOR EVERYONE, AND CIVIC MUSEUMS FREE FOR RESIDENTS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY 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. 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. You’ll find more information at: [www.musefirenze.it](http://www.musefirenze.it)

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### **ANISH KAPOOR AT PALAZZO STROZZI, Until February 2024**

Until 4 February 2024 Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi presents a major exhibition conceived and realised with Anish Kapoor, the celebrated master who has revolutionised the idea of sculpture in contemporary art. Through historical and recent works, including a new production specifically conceived in dialogue with the architecture of the Renaissance courtyard, Untrue Unreal is an itinerary that winds its way through monumental installations, intimate spaces and perturbing forms: Palazzo Strozzi becomes a place concave and convex, whole and shattered at the same time, in which the visitor is called upon to question his or her senses. [Website](#).

### **CHINI 150, CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF FLORENTINE ARTIST GALILEO CHINI**

On the occasion of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Galileo Chini's birth, the [Chini Museum](#) of Borgo San Lorenzo, which collects the artistic production of the Chini family, presents an anthological exhibition dedicated to the Florentine artist, with works ranging from the period of the Fornaci San Lorenzo to his last works. [Read more here](#).

## **CECILY BROWN: TEMPTATIONS, TORMENTS, TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS AT MUSEO NOVECENTO**

From 30 September, the Museo Novecento and the Bianca Cappello Room in Palazzo Vecchio will host the works of one of its most talented exponents of contemporary painting, the English painter Cecily Brown, who more than any other has been able to reinvent the relationship between contemporary art and the great figurative art of past centuries. The exhibition brings together more than thirty works, most of them previously unpublished, born from a reflection on the Temptations of St. Anthony, a subject that has been widely investigated by artists over the centuries, from Michelangelo Buonarroti to Hieronimus Bosch, from Paul Cézanne to Odillon Redon, and taken up by a colour reproduction of an engraving by the German artist Martin Schongauer. The artist is exhibiting his work for the first time in Florence at the Museo Novecento and Palazzo Vecchio, in what promises to be the most sophisticated and exciting exhibition of the year, curated by Sergio Risaliti. [Website](#).

## **ARTEMISIA NEL MUSEO DI MICHELANGELO, AT CASA BUONARROTI**

The exhibition "Artemisia nel Museo di Michelangelo", curated by Museum Director Alessandro Cecchi, and designed by Massimo Chimenti of Cultura Nuova, is located in three rooms on the ground floor of Casa Buonarroti. The first places Artemisia in the context of her new city, Florence, where she found herself part of the social and cultural circle of the poet Michelangelo the Younger. Here she became the first woman painter to be admitted to the Accademia del Disegno, made the acquaintance of Galileo Galilei and obtained commissions from the top echelons of Florentine society, including the Grand Duke Cosimo II. [Website](#).

## **MAPPLETHORPE - VON GLOEDEN. BEAUTY AND DESIRE, ON DISPLAY AT MUSEO NOVECENTO, Until February 2024**

From September 23 to February 14, 2024, the Museo Novecento pays tribute to one of the most significant figures in 20th-century photography, Robert Mapplethorpe, in a unique comparison with the photographs of Wilhelm von Gloeden and a selection of photographs from the Alinari Archive. The exhibition is the second major exhibition of this museum dedicated to photography, a practice that has revolutionized the history of art since the 19th century. "Beauty and Desire" draws inspiration from a series of artworks that highlights Mapplethorpe's intense artistic production, emphasizing the connection between his work and classical aesthetics, as well as his sculptural approach to photography, which is evident in his studies of both male and female nudes and still life, equating bodies with objects in a sculptor's vision and sensibility. [Website](#).

## **ART NOUVEAU ON DISPLAY AT THE MUSEO DEGLI INNOCENTI, Until April 2024**

The Museo degli Innocenti is welcoming the first exhibition in Florence dedicated to Alphonse Mucha, the most important Czech artist, father of Art Nouveau and creator of iconic images. In the late 19th and early 20th century, Paris was considered the capital of art world. It was the period of the so-called Belle Époque, there was great enthusiasm, and Alphonse Mucha, also thanks to his meeting with Sara Bernhardt, became the most famous and disputed artist of the time. His works, illustrations, theatre posters and nascent advertising became available to all. It is to this exceptional artist that Artemisia and the Museo degli Innocenti are dedicating the upcoming great Florentine exhibition. [Website](#).

# DANCE, THEATRE, CINEMA AND MUSIC

## THE ORCHESTRA DELLA TOSCANA BRINGS IN THE NEW YEAR AT TEATRO VERD, January 1, 2024

Opera arias to celebrate the New Year! The concert entitled Grazie, Puccini! ideally opens the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the death of the composer from Lucca. Arias from his most famous operas will be heard, along with those of Bizet, Donizetti, Leoncavallo and Rossini. The Teatro Verdi in Florence will be the stage for an extraordinary afternoon (starting at 5.00 p.m.) on the first day of the year, thanks to the special concert organised as is tradition by the Orchestra della Toscana. Entitled Grazie, Puccini!, the event promises to take the audience on an emotional journey through the evocative melodies of the opera repertoire. [Website](#).

## CELEBRATE NEW YEARS AT THE AUDITORIUM DI SANTO STEFANO AL PONTE VECCHIO, WITH AIR AND A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

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.

OUR PICK FOR THE MONTH: [Vivaldi's Four Seasons](#)

The Florence Chamber Orchestra will perform Vivaldi's '**Four Seasons**' in the wonderful atmosphere of the Auditorium di Santo Stefano al Ponte Vecchio. The program opens with an 'Air' by Bach and Mozart's famous 'A Little Night Music'.

## DISNEY VINTAGE STORIES AT CINEMA LA COMPAGNIA, January

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)). Settle into [Cinema La Compagnia](#) to enjoy six Disney films from the 1960s and 70s, including Mary Poppins, and Pete's Dragon screened in Italian. 5 euro full, 4 reduced. 7 euro for film and snack (one companion free). There's a free ticket for customers of [Lilà Toys](#), with a store receipt, and there's a 10% discount for a purchase from Lilà Toys upon presentation of your cinema ticket. [Website](#).

## JANUARY 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. However you are starting your new year, we wish you peace, tranquility, and the love of those closest to you for 2024.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

*Newsletter written and compiled by Marisa Garreffa.*

*Pitcher & Flaccomio Newsletter: Direttore responsabile Raffaella Galamini - Pubblicazione con iscrizione n. 5697 del 23\01\09 presso il Tribunale di Firenze*

## CLASSIFIEDS



### **SALE – Ponte Vecchio Apt – Historic Center**

Refurbished first floor apt with elevator, approx. 150 Sq. Mt. (approx. 1500 Sq. Ft.). 2 bed, 2 bath; autonomous heating, doorman, condo terrace on roof.

Asking Price 1,200,000 Euro



### **SALE – via Venezia – Historic Center**

First floor with elevator, elegant building, to be refurbished, approx. 250 sq. mt. (2500 Sq. Ft), 4 Bed, 3 Bath. Car parking, small out door space, autonomous heating, quiet street.

Asking Price 990,000 Euro



### **SALE – Costa san Giorgio – Historic Center**

Top floor apt, approx. 150 Sq. Mt. (1500 Sq. Ft.) on two levels, 4 bed, 3 bath; quiet, natural light, autonomous heating, views over Florence.

Asking price 850,000 Euro



### **SALE - Duomo Attic Apt - Historic Center**

Refurbished top floor apt with elevator, approx. 55 Sq. Mt. (approx. 550 Sq. Ft.), plus small loft area. 1 bed, 1 bath; autonomous heating, air con., furnished.

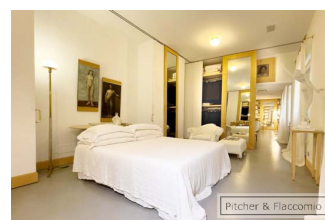
Asking Price 650,000 Euro



### **SALE – Chianti Farm House - 35 Km South of Florence**

Farm Complex to be refurbished, approx. 600 Sq. Mt. (approx. 6000 Sq. Ft.) with 2 acres of land and garden. Electricity and water already in place. Hill top position, easy access.

Asking Price 900,000 Euro



### **SALE – Santa Maria Novella – Historic Center**

Second floor, with elevator, refurbished, approx. 300 Sq. Mt. (approx. 3000 Sq. Ft.). 3 bed, 3 bath, plus study; autonomous heating, air con., and centrally located

Asking Price 2,200,000 Euro

**PITCHER & FLACCOMIO**

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