

# RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

# **WELCOME**

January is the season of less tourists and more space to wander throughout the city. Florence is magnificent in the winter - the halls of galleries and museums are less crowded, making it the ideal moment to linger over the artistic treasures that illuminate the city with history. It's also the time to travel into the hills for skiing and thermal baths, returning to immerse in the Pitti fashion events that take over the city centre. 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 with Tuscany's indulgent winter stews. Sending you our warmest best wishes for a 2026 filled with joy, love, and good health. With best seasons wishes, from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, EGLA, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

# JUMP TO YOUR FAVOURITE SECTION

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR JANUARY

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# PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR JANUARY

# BEST EVENT: NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS, December 31

### FOR CELEBRATIONS ACROSS FIVE FLORENCE PIAZZAS:

(<u>From The Florentine Magazine</u>): Florence is preparing a free, city-wide New Year's Eve celebration spread across four main squares, offering diverse cultural events for residents and tourists. Piazza Santa Croce will host a varied and entertaining show, piazza Santissima Annunziata features gospel music, piazza del Carmine focuses on jazz, and piazza della Signoria is set to see a light show and midnight countdown. <u>Organized by the MUS.E Foundation with Sky</u>, the line up for the main stage in Santa Croce features Paola Iezzi, Tiromancino, Franco126, Sarafine, X Factor talents Layana and Tomasi, and DJ Lele Sacchi

### THE NIGHT OF MUSICALS:

Presented by La Compagnia delle Formiche from 10pm on December 31 at <u>Teatro Cartiere Carrara</u>, the show journeys through some of the most beloved musicals of all time, including Grease, Mary Poppins, Dirty Dancing, La La Land, The Phantom of the Opera, and Singin' in the Rain.

#### FOR THE BEST OF FINE DINING AND GALA CELEBRATIONS:

As Florence prepares to welcome 2026, the city's dining scene offers an array of celebrations that balance elegance, creativity and a sense of occasion. From refined gala dinners and rooftop parties to countryside brunches and music-led festivities, these are the places to ring in the New Year in style. Click here to see the full list by The Florentine Magazine.

# BEST P&F RENTAL: AN AMAZING APARTMENT WITH OUTDOOR SPACE AND A BREATHTAKING VIEW, BOTH IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND WALKING DISTANCE TO THE CITY

The property is situated on a hillside in the immediate outskirts of Florence with a magnificent view overlooking full the panorama of the town. 5 minutes' walk to the hilltop church of San Miniato al Monte and the Piazzale Michelangelo. The neighbourhood is like a little village popped unchanged directly from the past. It is within 10 minutes'



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walk to the river and to the San Niccolò area which is the closest shopping spot. The municipal buses give a handy and reliable service between the hills and the citycenter if you are not willing to walk or to take the car. The bus stop is approx 50 mts from the house. More information and pictures.

## 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", commemorating the visit of the Magi. The legend says that the three wise men on their journey were stopped by an old woman with a broom who asked where they were going. They explained they were following a star that would lead them to a newborn baby, and invited her to come along. But she was too busy sweeping and cleaning and so she said no. When she realised her mistake, her regret was so great that she continues to wander Italy. During the night between the 5th and 6th January, (when the Wise men found the baby Jesus), she flies over the houses on her broomstick and enters each home through the chimney (or in modern apartments, through the keyhole). Into the socks left hanging near the fireplace, she leaves candies and gifts for good children, and black coal (or black sugar today), garlic and onions for the naughty ones. Parents would always include some coal over the gifts, to trick their children! And the night before, the family leaves some wine and cakes for the old lady.

# 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: THE PITTI EXHIBITIONS ARE BACK, WITH PITTI UOMO, PITTI FILATI, AND PITTI BIMBI FILLING FLORENCE WITH FASHION

**Pitti Uomo 109, January 13-16:** This edition's theme is Motion. Because everything is movement, transformation, story, progression. The theme embodies the dynamism and the many inspirations that stem from this idea. Hosted at Fortezza da Basso, a consolidated appointment with menswear, a special four-day event will accompany journalists and buyers including previews, special events and installations.

Pitti Bimbo 102, January 21-22: The New Edit: A New Contemporary Project. The contemporary soul of Pitti Bimbo is expanding with a new area born from the collaboration between the fair and

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BOBO CHOSES, the Spanish brand that in recent years has become a symbol of a new, multifaceted approach to children's fashion – where modern design culture blends seamlessly with high-quality craftsmanship, combining aesthetic vision with commercial success, mindful attention to sustainability, and the ability to represent childhood with authenticity, far from stereotypes.

**Pitti Immagine Filati 98, January 21-23:** Pitti Filati will be waiting for you at the Fortezza da Basso! Pitti Immagine Filati, the key international fair for the world of yarns and knitwear, returns to its original location at the Fortezza da Basso. The unmissable event of the sector is reserved only for operators. See the website for all the details.

#### BEST DINING OUT: IL BORRO TUSCAN BISTRO

This year, one of my long time favorite restaurants in Florence, Il Borro Tuscan Bistro, was awarded the prestigious "Il Forchettiere" recognition as the best restaurant in the city, a milestone that celebrates the excellence of Tuscan cuisine and their constant commitment to the pursuit of quality. Ferruccio Ferragamo's family collaborated with Chef Andrea Campani to share their vision through Il Borro: simplicity and a focus on sustainability, elegance and authenticity, values reflected both in the dishes and in the restaurant's ambiance. Imagine ossobucco filled tortelli, rich with jus and brightened with vibrant parsley oil, or veal schnitzel in the crispest of crumbs made from organic locally-made breadsticks. And of course, everything is paired to perfection with Il Borro wines. Website.

# **BEST OF THE REST**

# NEW YEARS CONCERT AT TEATRO VERDI BY THE ORCHESTRA OF TOSCANA, January 1

The Orchestra della Toscana's new year opens, as is tradition, with a special concert. On the podium, Diego Ceretta, principal conductor of the ORT, delivers an operatic program combining elegance and theatricality, featuring soprano Giuliana Gianfaldoni and tenor Riccardo Della Sciucca. Two young but already established performers, regular guests at major Italian and European theaters. The concert represents a festive yet unconventional occasion, designed to welcome the coming year with the communicative power of the voice and the musical quality that distinguishes the ORT. More information and tickets.

# VINI MIGRANTI - WINE FAIR AND STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, January 25-26

The <u>Manifattura Tabacchi</u> will host the 6th edition of Vini Migranti, an annual event held in Florence, an opportunity for meeting and cultural exchange lasting two days. More than 90 wine producers from every corner of the worldwill present their labels, offering the public an opportunity to discover new stories, emotions and reflections. Two areas will be represented: the market

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exhibition with the possibility of tasting and purchasing, and tastings with stories of sustainability, integration, culture. You can consult the programme on the <u>official website</u>.

#### 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)

### LITTLE TRAIN AT LE CASCINE PARK

A delightful tradition returns to Parco delle Cascine this year: the Trenino nel Parco (Park Train). Children aged 3 to 10 can enjoy an exciting and original experience aboard a special train, departing from the beginning of Viale Abramo Lincoln. The route, organized in stages, will take the little ones on a journey of discovery through one of the city's most significant green areas, a place with centuries of history that holds anecdotes, picturesque views, and unexpected curiosities. The initiative offers the opportunity to explore the park from a different perspective, transforming the visit into a moment of play, learning, and wonder. The tours are scheduled for the following dates: January - Friday 2, Saturday 3, Sunday 4, and Monday 5, with departures at 3:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. Participation is free, but reservations are required. Website.

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# CHANGING OF THE GUARD AND HISTORIC PARADE OF THE FLORENTINE REPUBLIC, January 4

An unmissable tradition for visitors from around the world. This ritual, held on the first Sunday of each month, has its roots in timeless military practices. The changing of the guard is a symbol of strength and security, historically associated with the protection of castles, fortifications, battlefields, and cities. Over time, as military strategies evolved, it took on a deeply symbolic role, representing the power and authority of major military and civil institutions, even in our modern era. The event takes place on the Arengario of Palazzo Vecchio, and is performed five times throughout the morning. It is traditionally followed by the Historic Parade of the Florentine Republic, which marches through the streets of the historic center. Access is free and open to the public. Website.

# MORE EXHIBITIONS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

# GREGORIAN CHANTS CONCERT IN SAN MINIATO AL MONTE, VIRI GALILAEI CHOIR, January 5

The Coro Viri Galilaei, directed by Enzo Ventroni, which has been studying and performing Gregorian chant for more than thirty years in an effort to keep this tradition alive, will perform inside the Basilica of San Miniato al Monte on 5 January 2026 at 7:15 PM. The program includes several Advent pieces, the Invitatory of the Matins for Christmas Night, and other chants from the liturgical season of Christmas. Earlier the same evening, at 5:30 PM, in the same Basilica, the Choir will sing the Proper of the Mass for the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Admission to the concert is free; it is advisable to arrive early in order to find a seat before the performance begins. Website.

### **TOSCA AT TEATRO MAGGIO MUSICALE, January 11-18**

Tosca returns to the stage at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino from 11 to 18 January 2026, opening the year with one of the most intense and beloved works in the operatic repertoire. Giacomo Puccini's opera is presented in a production of strong theatrical impact, directed by Massimo Popolizio, which foregrounds the dramatic and cinematic nature of the story, and conducted by Michele Gamba, leading the Orchestra and Chorus of the Maggio. The sets by Margherita Palli, costumes by Silvia Aymonino, and lighting by Pasquale Mari help to recreate a dark and oppressive atmosphere, consistent with the papal Rome in which the story unfolds and with the climate of violence, power, and passion that runs through the opera. Website.

# UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS CONCERT CHORALE - FREE CONCERT, January 8

The choir of the University of Sioux Falls, from South Dakota (USA), arrives in Italy to share with the Florentine public a musical moment dedicated to choral singing and its ability to create captivating atmospheres. The event will take place on Thursday, 8 January 2026, at 9:00 p.m., in the splendid Church of Santa Trinita in Florence, a place that, with its acoustics and historical charm, naturally enhances vocal music. Conducted by Dr David DeHoog-Kliewer, the choir will perform a

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repertoire that spans different styles and sounds, offering a simple, direct and nuanced listening experience. The evening will be enriched by the presence of the Menura Vocal Ensemble, conducted by Edoardo Materassi: a collaboration that brings together two extraordinary choral groups, making for a truly special evening. To reserve your free ticket, simply send a request to performancesbooking@gmail.com.

### HELEN CHADWICK AT THE MUSEO NOVECENTO, Until March 1

Helen Chadwick: Life Pleasures, the first major Italian retrospective dedicated to one of the most radical and influential British artists of the late twentieth century. Running from 25 November 2025, coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 1 March 2026, and organised in collaboration with The Hepworth Wakefield and Kunsthaus Graz, the exhibition traces the artist's entire career, from her early experimentations in In the Kitchen (1977) to the celebrated Piss Flowers (1991–92). A pioneer of abject art and a key figure of the British avant-garde, Chadwick combined aesthetics, irony, and unconventional materials to explore the body, matter, and representation. The retrospective highlights the enduring relevance of her work, underscoring her decisive contribution to contemporary artistic languages and feminist discourse. Website.

# **CENTOVENTI: VILLA ROMANA 1905-2025, Until March 8**

In celebration of the 120th anniversary of Villa Romana, the Museo Novecento presents the exhibition CENTOVENTI: Villa Romana 1905-2025. Villa Romana has established itself from the very beginning as a free and independent space, dedicated to artistic experimentation and international dialogue. Over time, it has supported young and innovative art, aiming to build new traditions through critical reflection on the past and present. The exhibition explores the ongoing dialogue between the residency on Via Senese and the city of Florence, highlighting Villa Romana's role in creating relationships, influences, and original visions, despite its seemingly peripheral location. Since 1905, the Villa has hosted artists and intellectuals who have transformed it into a laboratory of experimentation and openness to the contemporary world. Website.

# TOULOUSE-LAUTREC, A JOURNEY THROUGH THE PARIS OF THE BELLE ÉPOQUE, Until February 22

The Museo degli Innocenti is hosting an exhibition dedicated to Henry de Toulouse-Lautrec, the great painter, illustrator and graphic innovator born in Alby, France, in 1864. Visitors to the ancient and prestigious Museo degli Innocenti will be able to admire over 170 works by the French artist, some of which come from Hamburg and others from the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum in Albi. Recognised as someone who was able to capture the nightlife and bohemian spirit of Montmartre in Paris with an ironic and profound gaze, Toulouse-Lautrec was also able to show the dark side behind that glittering world. Website.

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# PALAZZO STROZZI PRESENTS FRA ANGELICO: THE EXHIBITION, Until January 25

The Basilica di San Lorenzo complex host's Humanitas - La Forza dell'Amore, which presents Andrea Roggi's monumental bronze sculptures. The Tree of Life, a favorite subjecto for the Tuscan artist, is represented in his works through the union of matter and spirit: his human figures, embracing each other in a synthesis of strength and tenderness, look like tree trunks and their arms, turned towards the sky, become olive branches, while the roots, inserted into the globe, represent the deep and essential bond with nature. You can see the full exhibition using your ticket to visit the San Lorenzo Church complex.

### OCEANS: DAVID DOUBILET AT VILLA BARDINI, Until April 12

Underwater photography comes to Florence with Oceani, the Italian debut of David Doubilet (New York, 1946), one of the world's most renowned nature photographers, at Villa Bardini. Doubilet, who has been collaborating with National Geographic since 1971 and is still active today at the age of 79, has explored the Earth's oceans for over half a century, becoming an international reference point in the field of underwater photography. His photographs combine aesthetics, science and storytelling, thanks in part to his invention of the over/under technique, which involves simultaneous shooting above and below the water's surface. 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: Uffizi, Accademia, Bargello, Medici Chapels, Pitti Palace (all museums), San Marco, Palazzo Davanzati, Medici Villas. And civic museums: Palazzo Vecchio, Arnolfo Tower, Santa Maria Novella, Stefano Bardini Museum, Fondazione Salvatore Romano, Museo del Novecento, Brancacci Chapel in Santa Maria del Carmine. More information here.

# **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 2026.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

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# **CLASSIFIEDS**



#### SALE – Albizi Attic – Historic Center

Top floor, 60 steps up, listed with the Fine Arts, to be upgraded, approx. 150 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 1800 Sq. Ft.) and 80 Sq. Mt. (800 Sq.Ft) of terraces. 2 bed, 3 bath, sunny, views, and centrally located. For more info please contact us directly.

Asking Price 1,300,000 Euro



### SALE - Ponte Vecchio Apt - Historic Center

First and top floor, listed with the Fine Arts, refurbished, approx. 120 Sq. Mt. (1200 Sq. Ft.). 2 bed, 3 bath plus study on loft; quiet, high decorated ceilings and centrally located

Asking Price 1,050,000 Euro



#### SALE - Monte San Savino Farm House - Tuscany

Free standing, refurbished stone house approx 360 Sq. Mt. (3600 Sq.Ft.), surrounded by 10.000 Sq. Mt. (2.5 acres) of garden. 6 Bed, 4 Bath, autonomous heating, pool.

Asking price 870,000 Euro



# SALE - San Frediano Town House - Historic Center

In good condition, approx. 280 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 2800 Sq. Ft.) and 180 Sq. Mt. (1800 Sq.Ft) of terrace. 4 bed, 3 bath, quiet, car parking, air conditioning.

Asking Price 1,800,000 Euro



#### SALE – Bagno a Ripoli Villa – 10 Km from Florence

Modern style free standing villa, approx. 450 sq. mt.(4500 Sq. Ft), and 5000 Sq.Mt. (50.000 Sq. Ft.) of garden. 8 bed, 7 bath, air conditioning, pool autonomous heating.

Asking Price 2,200,000 Euro



#### SALE – Piazza Beccaria Apt –

Townhouse style, open space with loft level, approx. 60 sq. mt.(600 Sq. Ft), 2 bed, 1 bath, air conditioning.

Asking Price 325,000 Euro