

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

WELCOME

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.” The slumber of winter gives way to the excitement of February, as Florence and Tuscany awaken with Carnevale celebrations, the romance of Valentines Day, and the launch of the year’s cultural programs including Black History Month Florence. There are so many good reasons to wear your best coat and take to the streets, the abundance of music, performance, historical parades, and new restaurant openings won’t disappoint. Enjoy the last bite of the winter chill with all its magic, with best wishes, from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, EGLA, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

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PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR FEBRUARY

BEST EVENT: IL CARNEVALE CELEBRATIONS IN VIAREGGIO! From February 4

The celebrations for Il Carnevale happen all over Tuscany, but by far the most famous and exciting is the famed Carnevale in Viareggio. There are many chances to see the Masked Parade in February, with 5 days of processions spread over the month as well as the “Great Ending Fireworks”. If there was ever a time to make the trip outside of Florence, this is it. The parades, parties, fireworks, masked balls, theatre, and culinary events are truly over-the-top. Wear clothes you don't care too much about, because it's a given that you'll end up sprayed with foam and sprinkled with confetti! Old, young, and everyone in-between, joins in the silliness. Read [all about the history of Carnevale here](#). And find [dates and more information here](#).

BEST P&F RENTAL: A QUIET APARTMENT WITH LIGHT AND AIRY SPACIOUS ROOMS AWAY FROM THE TOURIST BUSTLE

A very comfortable and quiet apartment near the city centre without having to contend with all the tourist bustle. A truly Italian residential neighbourhood. Outside the historic centre near the avenues that were constructed on the site of the ancient city walls, between Piazza della Libertà and the Fortezza da Basso. The area is predominantly residential with food shops, gelateria, restaurants and a weekly open air market, plus a monthly antique market in the garden of the Fortezza. It is well served by city transportation. [More information and photos](#).

BEST TRADITION: CALCIO STORICO HONOURS THE BATTLE OF THE SIEGE, February 17

The Calcio Storico honour a historical siege with the Annual *Partita dell'Assedio*. It was the siege of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, on the 17th of February 1530 that gave us both the custom of changing the guard but also strengthened the tradition of this famous game of Calcio Storico reenacted every year between the four factions of Florence. Intended as a statement of indifference to the danger that stalked the city outside of the city walls, these events had a strong symbolic impact of solidarity on those within the boundaries. “The Battle of the Siege”, when Florence struggled without allies against the Imperial troops of Charles V, signalled the return of the Medici family after their exile. Even under the stress of the battle, the match served as a challenge to the foreign troops, demonstrating just how little the Florentines felt the weight of threat just beyond its walls – even though they eventually fell in August 1530. This game, a mix of soccer, rugby and American-styled football will be reenacted in traditional Bianco and Verde costume (the Green team against the White team) on the 17th of February in front of the Santa Croce Church at 2 pm.

BEST ANNIVERSARY: FLORENCE HONOURS ANNA MARIA LUISA DE MEDICI, February 18

February 18 celebrates the greatest patroness of the arts in Florence history, Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici. The last of the ruling line of the Medici, she left behind an extraordinary legacy in the form of The Family Pact, which bequeathed the considerable artistic patrimony of the family, accrued over three centuries, to the city of Florence. The Pact was to prevent any of the patrimony from being removed from Florence or the state of Tuscany. Instead, she insisted, everything must remain in Florence, for all time, “for the use of the public and to attract the curiosity of foreigners.” In honour

of Anna Maria Luisa, Florence opens its Civic Museums with free entry for the public on the day of her death, February 18. Be sure to include a visit to the Medici Chapels to pay your respects. Civic museums: Palazzo Vecchio, Museo del Novecento, Brancacci Chapel, Santa Maria Novella, Museo Stefano Bardini. Read more about [the history of Anna Maria Luisa here](#).

BEST FESTIVAL: 8th EDITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH FLORENCE, Until March

Black History Month Florence is a cross institutional network for Black cultural production that celebrates the diversity of Afro-descendent Cultures in the context of Italy. The initiative is engaged in programming, advising and co-promoting over 50 events annually within the month of February, through a network formed and supported by the Comune, foundations, institutions, cultural associations, museums, schools and venues dedicated to art and to music. Black History Month Florence is broken down into BHMF Film, BHMF Art, BHMF Workshop, BHMF Talk, BHMF Food, BHMF Tours, BHMF Kids and BHMF Theatre/Dance forming a community dedicated to challenging flattened narratives about African and African Diasporic cultures and disseminating culturally diverse programming. Follow their [Facebook](#) and [Website](#) for the release of the program.

BEST PARADE: CHANGING OF THE GUARD IN PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA, February 3

The Changing of the Guard begins with a parade through the streets of Florence, and then ends with the traditional ceremony of the Changing of the Guard. Enjoy the spectacle of drums and costumes as the "Gonfalone", the Banner of Florence, or the Historical Parade of the Florentine Republic, arrives in the centre of the Arengario, in front of Palazzo Vecchio. There are two armed soldiers positioned on either side, together with the captain and an officer who complete the Guard. Find the [times and routes here](#).

BEST DINING OUT: CAFFE ODEON, TO CELEBRATE THE NEW COMBINED BOOKSTORE AND CINEMA REOPENING

Experience the new life given to the historic Odeon cinema in Florence, as a multifunctional cultural centre. The dream was to be able to have a space, open all day like the great Central European cafés, in which to offer dishes from different gastronomic traditions, together with an equally rich pastry shop and a high quality coffee shop, without neglecting sophisticated non-alcoholic drinks, wines and cocktails. Savoring food, drinking a steaming coffee or sipping a good wine are things that have a lot in common with reading a book or watching a film: it is always a question of using our senses to experience stories, which concern us directly or lead us in other worlds, and this is precisely what made the meeting allow our dream to come true. Enjoy coffee, brunch, lunch, afternoon tea, aperitivo, dinner, and great cocktails. [Website](#).

BEST OF THE REST

THE FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL, XIX EDITION, February 10-12

The Il Trillo Music School and Florence International Arts Expo, directed by tenor Cigon Kim, present the 2024 edition of the festival dedicated to traditional Korean and European music. During

the festival there will be classical and modern music masterclasses, music therapy training sessions held by teachers from the school and guest lecturers, design courses and art exhibitions. The event is sponsored by the City of Florence, the Centro Associazioni Culturali Fiorentine, the Amici della Lirica Foyer and the Italian Association of Tuscany Music Schools. [Website](#).

WINE LOVERS DELIGHT: L'ANTEPRIMA AT THE FORTEZZA, February 18

Over a hundred producers will be setting up to present their new vintages. Don't miss the opportunity to spend the day to savor over 500 types of wines. After the great success of last year, the special preview of the Consorzio Vino Chianti and of the Consorzio Tutela Morellino di Scansano, returns again to the Fortezza da Basso in Florence. 110 companies sharing their absolute best in the Cavaniglia pavilion, which will be entirely occupied by stands and events. Get [more information here](#) and [here](#).

TASTE 2024, THREE DAYS DEDICATED TO COLORFUL TASTES AT THE FORTEZZA DI BASSO, February 3-5

Taste, the three-day event dedicated to the excellence of taste, is back. Colors are food for the eyes. Red, blue, yellow, green: each one stimulates joy, conviviality, and memories. That's why the chosen theme for the next edition of Taste (Fortezza da Basso, February 3-5, 2024) is "Colors are served!" an advertising campaign where the most familiar ingredients of our tables have become colorful symbols of the incredible variety of flavors offered by the exhibition itinerary of the event. More and more companies of international haute cuisine operators are present, just as the public of foodies, who participate in great numbers in the events scheduled both at the show and at the collateral events in the city (Fuori di Taste), is growing in number and passion. [Website](#).

TESTO 2024, THE BOOK LOVERS FESTIVAL AT STAZIONE LEOPOLDA, February 23-25

At the Stazione Leopolda, the fair that aims to examine the book in all its forms, from its genesis to its arrival on the shelves. It will showcase the entire production chain that brings a book to life. It is built around the value of the book, analysing the different phases that go into the creation of a text, starting with the birth of an idea to its production, to the arrival of a book in bookshops and the final phase in which the pages arrive in front of the reader's eyes. [Website](#).

DANZA IN FIERA: INTERNATIONAL TRADE&SHOW DANCE EVENT AT FORTEZZA DI BASSO, February 23-25

All you need is dance! Danzainfiera is the largest and most original international exhibition dedicated to dance. Expect a full program of shows and performances, alongside the official trade show for industry professionals. Danzainfiera is a unique platform of its kind, where the exhibition spaces and meeting places alternate with the stages and the classrooms to accommodate a vast program that embraces all dance styles. See [the spectacular events program here](#).

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!

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

EXHIBITIONS

LAST CHANCE TO SEE 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

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 Odilon Redon, and taken up by a colour reproduction of an engraving by the German artist Martin Schongauer. [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

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. [Tickets and more information.](#)

MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO

The Theatre of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino owes its name to the prestigious Maggio Musicale Festival, the oldest in Italy, a first that it shares in Europe with the festivals of Salzburg and Bayreuth. Founded in Florence in 1933, the festival quickly became a centre of dissemination of the great European musical culture indicating and proposing new and unconventional ideas, in regards to classical repertoire and contemporary compositions. See the full program [here at the website.](#)

PERFORMANCES AT TEATRO VERDI

The 'Teatro Pagliano' assumed its current name, 'Teatro Verdi,' in 1901. It was built during the Grand Ducal period in Florence on the former site of the fourteenth century Stinche Prison. Our pick for this month: **Cats, The Musical:** After the great success with record numbers last season, Cats is the title that changed the history of this genre of show and that does not suffer the passage of time, winning the hearts of audiences of all ages. For the first time, and with the author's permission, Cats

will be set in Rome, in a hypothetical and futuristic 'dump' of works of art and archaeological finds, with the Colosseum in the background. An irresistible colony of humanised cats sing and dance on the ruins of the Eternal City in a magical atmosphere marked by fantasy, drama, romance and great music. For more information and to book tickets: <http://www.teatroverdifirenze.it/en/>

FILMS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AT CINEMA LA COMPAGNIA, January

Cinema La Compagnia presents not only cinema from around the world (premieres, reviews and retrospectives, proposals from the Mediateca archive, author cycles, festivals) but also meetings, conferences, book presentations, lessons for schools and for anyone wanting to know the history of cinema. The program updates every week, so see the website for all the titles coming up. [Website](#).

WEEKLY SOCIAL LIFE DRAWING SESSIONS AT SOTTO AL BRITISH

Every Monday night from 19:00-21:00 (except public holidays), a life drawing session led by artist Tom J. Byrne. A social, life drawing event prepares the spirit for a creative week and is a great way to meet new and interesting people. There is no instruction given but through sharing insights and discussion over a glass of wine after drawing, people can exchange drawing methods. The session is from 19:00 - 21:00 and consists of short warm up poses followed by longer poses as the evening moves along. [More information here](#).

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE CULTURAL PROGRAM IN THEIR STUNNING HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY

A beloved favourite in Florence, The British Institute continue their offerings of Wednesday lectures, concerts, and other cultural treats in the stunning location of the historic Harold Acton Library, and now also in their new contemporary space, SOTTO al British. Enjoy exquisite views of the Arno River together with the majesty of the library, and its cultural events. To see the full month's program of lectures and events, [see the website here](#).

FEBRUARY WISHES

As we savour the last glimmer of winter, we wish you love and celebrations for all the year will bring.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

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CLASSIFIEDS



SALE – Fiesole Portion of Farmhouse – 5 km from Historic Center
Free standing on 3 sides, approx. 250 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 2500 Sq. Ft.), plus small 60 Sq. Mt. (600 Sq. Ft.) of dependance and 1000 Sq. Mt. (10000 Sq. Ft.) of private garden. 4 bed, 4 bath; autonomous heating.

Asking Price 1,085,000 Euro



SALE – Quarrata Farm House– 25 km West of Florence Free standing stone farm house, to be totally refurbished, approx. 500 sq. mt.(5000 Sq. Ft), plus 1 hectare (3 acres) of land. Electricity already in place, water well.

Asking Price 460,000 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 – 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 – Chianti Farm House - 35 Km South of Florence
Farm Complex to be refurbished, approx. 600 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 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 – Ponte Vecchio Apt – Historic Center
Refurbished first floor apt with elevator, approx. 150 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 1500 Sq. Ft.). 2 bed, 2 bath; autonomous heating, doorman, condo terrace on roof.

Asking Price 1,200,000 Euro

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