

# PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES  
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

## WELCOME

After the Twin Towers tragedy, we at PITCHER & FLACCOMIO decided to start a Monthly Newsletter to entice all our friends, clients and those interested in Florence and Tuscany to come back to visit. Now, this original vision of sharing the beauty of Florence after a crisis takes on a renewed importance. During this pandemic, we will offer you a window into life in Florence in all the creative ways it is continuing, and tempt you in the coming months with the spectacular beauty and culture of our favourite region.

For now in Florence and Tuscany, we remain firmly at home, all doing our part for #restiamoacasa. The first lockdown was due to end on April 3rd, but as the numbers slowly stabilise, we await confirmation on April 2nd as to how long the lockdown will be extended. Early information suggests it could continue until April 18th, an extra two weeks, so we wait patiently to see! In the meantime, we have filled the newsletter with all the online treats that have erupted from local communities, bringing Florentine life to the web. We have also listed key sources where you can find official and accurate information about the pandemic and up-to-date rules for each stage.

Next month, we'll keep you up to date about the slow Spring rebirth of the city, as we follow all the guidelines that evolve. As the incredible spirit of Italy has shown, community and unity can never be contained, even while we rest at home. We hope you celebrate the spirit of noble sacrifice and precious rebirth this Easter, sharing love with each other in every way you can. With warmest best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, LESLIE, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

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# PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR APRIL

## **BEST ANNIVERSARY: LIBERATION DAY NATIONAL HOLIDAY, April 25**

“E questo è il fiore del partigiano ... morto per la libertà!

“Bella Ciao”

“On April 25, you’ll hear this refrain throughout every corner of Italy, sung on street corners by small groups, played on the radio or performed by bands in parades and local plazas. Set to the melody of a traditional folk song, “Bella Ciao” was the anthem of the Italian resistance movement during World War II, often sung by the left-wing anti-fascist rebels who fought against the atrocities of the Nazis and the leader of Italy, Benito Mussolini. Even today, the lyrics are symbolic of the sacrifices made for freedom. While Italy has been a democratic republic since 1946, many Italians remember a time when they did not have such freedom. That history is honored throughout Italy on April 25 with La Festa della Liberazione, or Liberation Day, festivities. Every year, the entire country joins together to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis and pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the fight to free their country.”

[Read more about the history of Liberation Day here.](#)

## **BEST P&F RENTAL: A DELIGHTFUL COUNTRY HOUSE, LOVINGLY CARED FOR INSIDE AND OUT**

The 13th century stone farmhouse is set among olive trees and vineyards in characteristically Tuscan countryside, only 1.8 km from Impruneta, the main shopping centre for the area. Every Saturday there is an open-air market in this small town. The Ugolino golf club, where one can play golf (18 holes), tennis and swim, is approximately 8 km away. The house has four bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, antique furniture, and an open swimming pool surrounded by trees.



[More photos and information here.](#)

## **BEST EVENT: EASTER WEEKEND HOLIDAY, April 9-13**

This year, we wait to discover how far the lockdown will extend through April. If the lockdown lifts, and you’d like to explore things to do over the Easter weekend, check out these great tips from [Visit Florence](#) and [Discover Tuscany](#). It’s also the time of the famous tradition: The *Scoppio del Carro*. The Explosion of the Cart has been celebrated in Florence for more than 350 years, dating back to the First Crusade. A thirty-foot carved and painted wooden cart (the present version is over 150 years old) is pulled by flower-bedecked white oxen from Porta al Prato to Piazza del Duomo. A very special Easter Sunday mass is held, a ritual that includes one of the best daytime fireworks displays

in the world. During the singing of the Gloria of the Easter Mass, the deacon lights a holy fire, kindled from three historic stone chips that were obtained during the crusades of 1099 from the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The ‘*colombina*’ - a mechanical bird shaped like a dove with an olive branch in its beak, representing the Holy Spirit - ‘flies’ down a line through the open doors of the cathedral, where the Holy Fire is used to light a fuse attached to the dove. It flies back to the cart where it ignites the explosion, erupting fireworks into the Easter sky with plumes of purple smoke - the unofficial colour of Florence.

### **BEST DINING OUT: IS DINING IN WITH THESE FABULOUS ONLINE COOKING TUTORIALS FROM ITALY’S BEST, MASSIMO BOTTURA**

During the lockdown, the incomparable Massimo Bottura has been streaming cooking lessons online through Instagram! Titled “Kitchen Quarantine”, the videos are also available for post-live viewing through the facebook page. Included in the selection is the Cena Degli Avanzi series, where Massimo makes up brand new dishes out of yummy leftovers. You can find the demonstrations live here at [Instagram](#), and head over to [Facebook](#) where the conversation continues! What will you be cooking up this month?

## **BEST OF THE REST**

### **THE FLORENTINE BUILDS COMMUNITY ONLINE WITH TF TOGETHER, Wednesdays**

(from: [theflorentine.net](http://theflorentine.net))

During the week at 5pm CET—unless another time is noted—we’re going to *try* to have something to do together. We have chosen to meet on **Go To Meeting** or **Go To Webinar** (depending on the event format). The kind folks at **LogMeIn** are our **technical sponsors**; their digital communications packages make it possible for us to meet and interact online. With a wine club on Wednesdays, music, psychologists and more, the line-up is being ever updated. **Read more** [here](#).

### **MANIFATTURA TABACCHI HOME EDITION, Daily**

(from: [theflorentine.net](http://theflorentine.net))

The digital versions of Manifattura Tabacchi's wide-ranging events line-up can be found via their [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) From **Regeneration Yoga** at 10am on Thursday with yogi Sara Beccari to **Live Loud** music sessions at 7pm on Sunday.

### **SPEAKEASY MULTILINGUAL ONLINE, Every Wednesday**

Global pandemics are no fun. But let's make the best of it! Online [Speakeasy Multilingual](#), every Wednesday at 7:30. We will break into smaller groups, which we will switch up every 20 minutes. Every Wednesday, this is the link: <https://zoom.us/j/744708793>

Not quite as nice as real life but all the bored, self-quarantined people of the world can participate. Silver linings: No commute time. Drinks and food of your choice. No parking. Totally free.

[See the Speakeasy website here.](#)

## **PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES, CONFERENCE@HOME WITH THE STUDIO MARANGONI FOUNDATION, Weekly**

(from: [theflorentine.net](http://theflorentine.net))

Weekly video conferences will be held with renowned photographers in a series called **conference@home**, an initiative by the Studio Marangoni Foundation. Friday's appointment is with the surrealist Abelardo Morell, discussing his career. To take part, go to this [link](#).

## **PLACEHOLD OPEN MIC NIGHT NOW ONLINE, FORTNIGHTLY FRIDAYS**

After four years of live open mics, Placeholder have shifted online to entertain you during this lockdown period! An unexpected bonus to the new online format is the ability to have virtual tours of artists' homes and studios, expanding the open mic genre! In honour of the lockdown, the theme for the next session is "Home Tours", where artists, singers, writers, poets, storytellers, are all invited to take us on a tour of their home, or to link their performance with a detail found inside. See you on Zoom! The direct event link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/466700270> or [See the website here](#).

## **STOCK UP ON CREATIVE WRITING FROM FLORENCE**

From [Creative People in Florence](#)

CPiF has some incredibly talented authors in the group! Now more than ever is the perfect time to explore their works. There is everything from historic novels set in Italy to autobiographies and love stories. We've also included some great storytelling blogs and even a bit of poetry. The Paperback Exchange will even deliver books right to your door! As always, please be sure to share this post as much and as often as you can to help support the creative community here in Florence especially during this incredibly difficult time! [Read all about it here](#).

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **WHERE SHOULD I BE CHECKING FOR ACCURATE NEWS AND INFORMATION?**

It's especially important to be relying on the correct information and news sources during this time. Here are some official and accurate sources:

Italian Government Website: [www.governo.it](http://www.governo.it)

Italian Ministry of Health: [www.salute.gov.it](http://www.salute.gov.it)

Coronavirus Page at the Ministry of Health: <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/>

Coronavirus Counts Worldwide: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

News Site with daily official conference at 6pm: <http://ansa.it/>

## HELPLINES FOR ASSISTANCE DURING LOCKDOWN

How can we help the elderly, immunosuppressed and those with chronic diseases, especially if they're alone, at this time? A phone call is always appreciated and helps people feel less alone. Assistance with shopping and with any other needs is also a way to help out by making sure they don't have to put themselves at risk. Here are a number of helplines giving advice and support. Read all the information at [The Florentine](#).

## HOW CAN I HELP ITALY DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Everyone living in Italy is affected by the quarantine we are all living through. In times such as these the best way to be is proactive, while [strictly observing the laws in force](#): stay at home. Read here at [The Florentine](#) for a number of important fundraisers to help Italy during the Covid-19 emergency.

## HOW CAN I HELP FLORENCE AND TUSCANY DURING CORONAVIRUS?

We know that Florence is close to all of our hearts, and many want to help the grand city and region to recover from the crisis. You can find a wonderful list of fundraising campaigns and charities that all require help, here at [The Florentine](#).

## MENTAL HEALTH GUIDANCE FROM DR. PAOLO MOLINO, PSYCHOTHERAPIST AND PSYCHOLOGIST BASED IN FLORENCE

How do we deal with fear, solitude and the host of emotions we're all going through at this exceptional time? The Florentine's Jane Farrell speaks with Florentine psychotherapist Dr Paolo Molino about the emotions we're experiencing during coronavirus lockdown and how we can process them. These are Dr. Molino's top tips for good mental health during coronavirus, as presented to the public during one of the [TF Together online chats](#). Read Jane's article summing up five of the key tips for good mental health covered during the session [here at The Florentine](#).

## EXHIBITIONS

### TAKE AN ONLINE TRIP WITH MUSEUMS IN FLORENCE AND ITALY ONLINE

It may not be the perfect time for a visit, but Italy is making sure that many of its treasures are still accessible for travellers to take a virtual tour of this cultural paradise. Here are three fantastic museums that have online tours available of their collections, starting with the divine Uffizi.

1. Galleria degli Uffizi - Firenze <https://www.uffizi.it/mostre-virtuali>
2. Pinacoteca di Brera - Milano <https://pinacotecabrera.org/>
3. Musei Vaticani - Roma <http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/it/collezioni/catalogo-online.html>

### ARTISTS AND ART TUTORIALS ON LINE THANKS TO ASSOCIAZIONE HEYART



Like everyone, we too [#restiamoacasa](#) continuing to work and plan future initiatives, with the hope that this difficult moment will be resolved soon. We want to continue, however, to support the artisans and makers who participate in our events by exploiting the web which, more than ever, is essential to develop their activities. Hoping to be useful, every next Monday and Wednesday we launch a section on our Fb page that will promote these brands and their social channels while on Friday we will publish short tutorials on small creations to do at home! [Find their events at the website.](#)

## DANCE, THEATRE AND MUSIC

### **CURATED PERFORMANCES AND CONCERTS STREAMING THROUGH THE FIRENZE TV CHANNEL ON YOUTUBE**

This is THE channel for theater, music, art, culture of Florence and for Florence! This project is the response to the call by Councilor for Culture and President of the Teatro della Toscana Tommaso Sacchi Foundation to bring the centers of art and culture to life despite the moment of silence and necessary closure to safeguard public health. An open and shared forum to which all Florentine theaters and local artists can contribute. Find an incredible selection of Florence's best live art, music, performance, dance, and more live on the web, bringing culture directly to the spectators' home. Supporting #iorestoacasa! Sign up for the channel here: <https://tinyurl.com/firenzetv>

### **THE SHOWCASE OPEN MIC, ONLINE EVERY MONDAY NIGHT**

The Showcase Open Mic is continuing online on Zoom - EVERY MONDAY at 21:00 - just like always! Just sign into Zoom and use this meeting ID #: 541-961-592

We may be in our separate homes but the music can still bring us together! Tutti sono benvenuti!

[Follow their facebook page here.](#)

## FILMS, LECTURES, AND PRESENTATIONS

### **EVENTS AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE**

“The Institute remains closed of course, but we have not gone to sleep! We managed to switch our large English teaching business to on-line delivery overnight when we had to close the school at Palazzo Strozzi. Nearly all our students are continuing to benefit from their lessons on-line, taught by our brilliant teachers using ZOOM from their homes. Both teachers and students are enjoying the new experience, which provides perfect continuity of learning.

We don't yet know when it will be possible to reopen the Library and restart our programme of social and cultural events there. I doubt it can be before Easter - but rest assured, we will get up and running again just as soon as we can. In the meanwhile, I propose that we experiment with doing some cultural meetings on ZOOM (an easy to use videoconferencing system for up to 100 people using their computers at home).

On Wednesday I'll do a talk entitled Portraits & Selfies about tourism in Florence over the ages, using this platform - and I hope many of you from all over will drop in. We want to use the occasion to raise some money for Il Cuore di Firenze Foundation, a charity that is giving the hospitals in Florence vital support during the crisis.

To Join the Video conference:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/2769575320> (Meeting ID: 276 957 5320)

If this experiment is successful, we will run further ZOOM sessions – talks, discussions and literary seminars. We may even do a virtual Shakespeare Week!

Let us know what you think! Look after to yourselves. Tutto andrà bene.”

Simon Gammell OBE, Director, The British Institute of Florence

## **FESTIVAL DEI POPOLI DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL SCREENS ONLINE, daily**

(from: [theflorentine.net](http://theflorentine.net))

A documentary will be screened daily as the 61st International Documentary Film Festival streams directly to your lockdown. The #ipopolirestanoacasa initiative allows you to watch top-quality documentaries from the comfort of your own home, for free. With themes such as a journey through Algeria and deforestation in Paraguay, let your mind travel to distant lands. Find out more on their [facebook](#).

## **ORIGINAL LANGUAGE FILMS: ODEON CINEMA**

In this moment of forced suspension of our programming, the Odeon Cinema Florence has a very special offer ready for you! A discounted and exclusive subscription to the new UAM.TV platform. [CLICK HERE TO DISCOVER ALL THE DETAILS](#) and enjoy! You will be able to access a schedule with Italian and international films and documentaries selected from the most important festivals in the world, scientific, philosophical and medical insights as well as a news program where space is given for good news. To change your point of view!

## **APRIL WISHES**

We hope that love and connection bloom for you, wherever you are in the world, along with the flowers of Spring across the Tuscan countryside.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

P&F



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

Refurbished Apt, third floor with elevator aprox. 150 sq. mt. (aprox. 1500 sq. ft.) two bedrooms and three bathrooms. Under floor heating, air conditioning, sunny and views.

Asking price 1,500,000 Euro



### **SALE – S Annunziata – Historic Center**

Refurbished apartment, first floor, approx. 140 Sq. Mt. (1400 Sq. Ft.) plus 5 hectare (50 Sq. Ft.) of small outdoor. 3 bed, 3 bath, studio; autonomous heating, air conditioning.

Asking price 790,000 Euro



### **SALE – Porta Romana modern Apt's – Historic Center**

New complex with 7 units, with elevator, ranging from approx. 110 Sq. Mt. (1300 Sq. Ft.) plus garden . 2 bed, 2 bath; autonomous heating, air conditioning, terraces.

Asking Price 570,000 Euro



### **SALE – Porta Romana villa – 1 Km from Florence**

Free standing villa refurbished, aprox. 850 Sq. Mt (aprox. 8500 sq. ft.) and 6000 Sq. Mt. (1.5 acres) of garden and land. 5 Bed, 5 bath. Autonomous heating, south exposure, views, pool, garage.

Asking Price 7,950,000 Euro



### **SALE – Santo Spirito Attic – Historic Center**

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

Asking Price 410,000 Euro



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

Third floor, in good condition, approx. 90 Sq. Mt. (900 Sq. Ft.) plus approx 10 Sq. Mt. (100 Sq. Ft.) of terrace. 2 bed, 2 bath; autonomous heating, sun light out door space.

Asking Price 490,000 Euro



### **SALE – San Martino Villa Complex – 5 Km from Florence**

Villa and farm houses, free standing, refurbished, approx. 1600 Sq. Mt. (16000 Sq. Ft.) plus 13 hectare (32 acres) of private garden and land. 10 bed, 10 bath; pool, tennis, views, private.

Asking price 5,800,000 Euro