

# PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES  
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

## WELCOME

May is one of the best times to be in Florence. The rain finally leaves, but the weather is not too hot and the gardens are spectacular. Music fills the air throughout the city. There are more events happening than we could possibly fit into one newsletter, but we have done our best to cover the highlights! Take in the spring blooms, honour the women who take care of you for Mother's Day, and enjoy the sunshine together while there is still a cool breeze. With best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, LESLIE, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

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## PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR MAY

### **BEST SPRING GARDENS FOR MAY: INTERNATIONAL IRIS GARDEN AND THE ROSE GARDEN, Until May 20**

The Iris is the symbol of Florence, the deep red of the Giglio di Firenze! Until May 20, you should spend part of every day in **the Iris Garden above Florence**, breathing in fresh air, avoiding the crowds and restoring your spirits. Expect beautiful flowers, meticulously refined over generations by the careful hands of their keepers. Even if you're not passionate about flowers, it is a refreshing splash of early summer colour in a beautiful city.

While you are so close, it is the perfect time to visit **the stunning Florence Rose Garden**. Open all year around, the roses are in full bloom throughout May, and with over 350 different types of roses to enjoy, this is a heavenly treat for your senses. The scent of roses and their velvety bursts of colour are a great backdrop to enjoying the view of the city, or taking a book to enjoy on the grass. Also in the rose garden are sculptures by Belgian artist, Jean Michael Folon, which sit against the Florence city backdrop beautifully. There is also a Japanese Garden with a waterfall and tea pagoda that was a gift to Florence from the city of Kyoto.

Iris Garden: Piazzale Michelangelo, Cnr of Viale dei Colli and Piazzale Michelangelo

Opening Hours: Daily 10am-12.30pm & 3pm-7pm, Web: [www.irisfirenze.it](http://www.irisfirenze.it)

Rose Garden: Piazzale Michelangelo, Viale Giuseppe Poggi, Opening Hours: Daily 9.00 - Sunset

### **BEST P&F RENTAL: LIVE WITHIN THE FAMOUS PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA IN AN ELEGANT APARTMENT ON THE NOBLE FLOOR OF A HISTORIC BUILDING**

This apartment has one of the most impressive locations in town, but at the same time, is totally quiet. Piazza della Signoria has been the political heart of the Florentine city since the middle ages. The piazza is extremely centrally located, within a few minutes' walk from the Duomo cathedral, the Ponte Vecchio and all of Florence's major museums, historical sights, bistros, bars and restaurants. The exquisite Rivoire Caffè Pasticceria, is 50 meters from the apartment. It is a wonderful location for shopping and sightseeing, with the main post-office and the Central Market of San Lorenzo less than 15 minutes away.



For more information and photographs, [see the website here](#).

## **BEST EVENT: NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND THE HISTORIC FLAG THROWING CONTEST**

### **May 1**

It's the Labor Day holiday in Italy and across Europe, in honour of the workers of the world. Italians will be enjoying the day off, and there will be less buses and trains than usual. But there's no reason to stay home, because there is the incredibly exciting flag throwing competition, where expert flag throwers compete for the Marzocco Trophy! The Marzocco is the heraldic lion that represents the free Republic of Florence, with the most famous Marzocco located in Piazza della Signoria where the contest is being held. The original statue was created by Donatello in the 15th Century, and is now housed in the Bargello, while a copy rests in its place in the piazza. The lion is carved with his paw placed protectively over the symbol of Florence, the red lily. The flag throwing demonstrates extremely talented choreography, creating a stunning visual effect as the flags twirls and fly through the air. The performances are accompanied by live music, and the whole event is a colourful spectacular. An exciting display that can be enjoyed by children and families. Piazza della Signoria at 3.30pm

## **BEST FESTIVAL: FABBRICA EUROPA ARTS AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL: 26TH EDITION, May 3 - July 12**

For lovers of theatre, dance, contemporary performance, installation, art, and everything in between. This is the biggest international arts festival in town, and the programming is exceptional. The inauguration of the XXVI edition is on Friday 3 May at the Stazione Leopolda in Florence, featuring a company that, more than any other, has marked the historical memory of the festival from 1994 to present: **La Fura del Baus**. The Festival continues until July involving other locations in Florence and Tuscany. A significant part of the programming will take place at the Teatro della Pergola and in the new spaces of the PARC Performing Arts Research Centre (in the complex of the former Scuderie Granducali).

Have fun diving into the full [programme of events here](#).

## **BEST TRADITION FOR MAY: GIORNO DELLA MAMMA, 2nd Sunday in May**

It is Mother's Day in Italy, the day to celebrate mothers everywhere or any special woman who raised you. For those travelling with their mother in Florence on May 13th, remember to give her an extra hug and wish her the happiest of days, Italian style of course... with an Aperol Spritz toast, springtime flowers, or an extra-large, double scoop of gelato!

## **BEST EXHIBITION: LAST CHANCE TO SEE ANTONY GORMLEY: ESSERE, AT THE UFFIZI GALLERY, Until May 26**

"Can an object be the catalyst for new thoughts and behaviours?" (Antony Gormley)

In the Aula Magliabechiana of the Uffizi, this exhibition brings together works of different materials and scales that explore the body in space and the body as space. There will be 12 works on show in the new gallery on the ground floor, where natural light will play into 12 distinct vaulted spaces defined by six stone columns and no internal walls. Two further works will be placed inside the Gallery and another one on the terrace. At the core of the exhibit, there is a dialogue between two sculptures, *Passage* and *Room*, realized 35 years apart and both dealing with the space of the body. [Tickets and more information](#).

## **BEST FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CRAFTSMEN: ARTIGIANATO E PALAZZO CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH THEIR XXV EDITION, May 16-19**

**ARTIGIANATO E PALAZZO** celebrates its “vermeil” anniversary, paying tribute to the refined technique of gilding silver with gold, which originated in France in the mid-18th century. This edition brings together, once again, a new selection of approx. **100 master artisans** who will not only display their products, but also give live demonstrations of their mastery, revealing the technical secrets that make their work unique. On this “Vermeil” anniversary, **gold will be the common theme** of the numerous events programmed for the four days of the show. A journey dedicated to understanding, meeting, viewing and tasting, designed to spread knowledge of the roots from which our values originate.

10am-8pm, Giardino Corsini 115 Via della Scala. More information: [www.artigianatoepalazzo.it](http://www.artigianatoepalazzo.it)

## **BEST DINING OUT: INDULGE AT PIZZERIA SANTARPIA**

*(From [Conde Naste Traveler](#))*

Santarpia, one of Florence’s best pizzerias, is housed in a bright, contemporary space just east of Santa Croce, with jazzy custom tiles on the walls. Neapolitan pizzaiuolo (pizza maker) Michele Leo is in charge of the two wood-fired ovens turning out some 150 pizzas a night. All of the ingredients in these authentic Neapolitan pies are carefully sourced—organic tomatoes from Vesuvius, mozzarella from deep in Campania, anchovies from the fishing village of Cetara on the Amalfi Coast—and the dough is left to proof for at least 48 hours, making for a light, crispy, puffy-rimmed base. Desserts, from master pastry chef Luca Mannori, are not to be missed; the celebrated, chocolate-rich Sette Veli (Seven Veils) cake is a masterpiece. There are also gluten- and lactose-free versions of all the pizzas. Drinks include a great selection of craft beers, both by the bottle and on tap.

Largo Pietro Annigoni, 9 (Borgo La Croce), website: [santarpia.biz](http://santarpia.biz)

## **BEST OF THE REST**

### **SPRING GELATO FLAVOURS AT ALL THE GELATERIE!**

Now is the time to indulge in gelato, as the spring flavours erupt with flavour. Be sure to choose your gelateria well, as not every store is alike. The number one tip is to avoid any giant piled-up heaps of gelato. No! Gelato or a great sorbet should be so heavy with cream, fruit, and deliciousness, that it could never sustain such a tower. For the best tips on how to spot a great gelato, as well as where to find the best gelateria around town, read this fantastic article by our favourite food blogger, [The Curious Appetite](#).

### **FLORENCE COCKTAIL WEEK, May 6-12**

Florence Cocktail Week (FCW) returns, the event dedicated to mixology "made in Florence". A week full

of master classes and night sessions with Italian and international guests, round tables and events aimed at an audience of professionals and enthusiasts. FCW involves the best Cocktail Bars in Florence and Tuscany and is sponsored by the Municipality of Florence, which is also the promoter of celebrations dedicated to **the Negroni Centenary**, a historic Florentine cocktail known throughout the world.

29 Florentine local cocktail bars will each propose a Cocktail List consisting of: a Signature Cocktail (Twist on the Negroni), a RiEsco to Drink Italian, an I Love Bitter and a Green Drink. Quality drinking, together with responsible drinking, will be the threads that will unite this festival of mixology.

[Facebook page](#)

### **LA FIORITA PARADE IN PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA: REMEMBERING THE DEATH OF SAVONAROLA, May 23**

The Dominican friar Girolamo Savonarola, prior of San Marco and a stern moralizer, was burnt at the stake in Piazza della Signoria on 23 May 1498. Every year, on the anniversary of that date, a Mass is celebrated in Palazzo Vecchio in his memory, and flowers – the Fiorita – are laid on the spot where he was burnt. The ceremony is accompanied by music and a performance by flag-wavers

The traditional “Fiorita”: the homage starts at 9:30 am from piazza della Signoria with the “Infiorata” and the historical procession arriving at Ponte Vecchio at 10:00am where petals of roses are symbolically thrown on the Arno river.

### **10TH EDITION OF LA NOTTE BLUE AT LE MURATE, FOR EUROPE DAY AND THE FESTIVAL OF EUROPE 2019, May 9 and 10**

Notte Blue is a two day program of events, workshops and music that is dedicated to celebrating the fundamental values of Europe, born as the fruit of a long process of integration between participating countries. The festival happens just ahead of the next European Parliament elections which will take place on May 26th. This year amongst the program is the photo exhibition “Immigration and Integration”, the lecture “Europe: False Myths and Perspectives”, as well as concerts and opportunities for language exchange. See the [full list of events here](#).

### **100KM INTERNATIONAL WALKING RACE FROM FLORENCE TO FAENZA, May 25-26**

The 100 km international walking race from Florence to Faenza starts from Via Calzaiuoli in Florence and continues along the via Faentina, passing through Fiesole, Borgo San Lorenzo, Marradi, Brisighella . The arrival of the winner at Faenza (Piazza del Popolo) is due at 9.45pm.

For more information, [see the website](#).

### **THE RETURN OF AMICO MUSEO: SPECIAL OPENINGS AND EVENTS IN THE TUSCAN MUSEUMS FREE FOR VISITORS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, Until June 2**

Through guided tours, social exhibitions, interactive workshops and narrations, museums tell us about ourselves and our territory, our present and our future. The main theme of the XVIII edition of Amico

Museo is "Museums as cultural hubs - the future of tradition", identified for ICOM's International Museum Day on May 18. The museums will participate with proposals linked to two themes that, drawing from the suggestion of ICOM, recall the creative capacity of man: that of "Leonardo da Vinci, creative genius" and that of "The creative museum: from tradition to the future". Another important event this year will be "The Night of the Museums" which will take place throughout Europe on May 18th. The museums participating will open from 21 to 23, giving the public the opportunity to have a new perspective on their collections. [More information here.](#)

## **THE FESTIVAL DEL VIAGGIO, May 30 - June 2**

Festival del Viaggio is a series of meetings, performances, exhibitions, documentaries dedicated to travel. The festival will take place in various venues: Spazio Alfieri, Gabinetto Vieusseux-Palazzo Strozzi, Fondazione Studio Marangoni-via San Zanobi. While the program hasn't been released yet on the website, we recommend you check in closer to the date to see what's happening and enjoy videos, articles, and blogs from past events. [See the website here.](#)

## **#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**

### **FEMALE PERSPECTIVES: WOMEN, SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND TALENT 1861-1926, Until May 26**

This year, 2019, **the Uffizi Galleries** and **Advancing Women Artists** are celebrating International Women's Day (March 8) with an exhibition devoted to the professional commitment and talent of women in Italy from the late 19th and to the early 20th centuries. In this period, the city hosted women of the calibre of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Jessie White Mario, Theodosia Garrow Trollope and Margaret Fuller. The exhibition, pans out in a scenic fashion around a central core of large works, thus allowing its female protagonists to emerge as the true stars of the show. [More information here.](#)

### **JOHANN PAUL SCHOR'S GOLDEN FLOAT: THE EPHEMERAL SPLENDOUR OF THE**

## **BAROQUE CARNIVAL, AT PALAZZO PITTI, Until May 5**

An opportunity to admire a very recent and spectacular acquisition for the Uffizi: Johann Paul Schor's major work depicting the feast held in Rome by Prince Borghese in 1664. Festivities in the age of the Baroque were all creativity and magnificence: huge triumphal floats, masks and allegories, spectacular stage designs and endless surprises. All of this is to be found in the exhibition, which focuses on the image of the sumptuous masquerade organised by Prince Giovanni Battista Borghese for the carnival in Rome in 1664.

[Tickets and more information.](#)

## **ANIMALIA FASHION AT THE PITTI PALACE, Until May 5**

Clothes like sculptures, fabric and embroidery like paintings: everything in the rooms of the **Museum of Costume and Fashion** in Pitti Palace helps to recreate a kind of zoological stroll amid the creations of contemporary designers conjuring up the most unexpected of animal worlds. From France and Italy to China and Russia, the clothing on display provides visitors with an astonishing overview of what **Nature** has to offer **Haute Couture** in terms of inspiration and atmospherics, and **Art** as a product of imagination and creativity. The exhibition explores the relationship that fashion establishes with animals in an entertaining and poetic manner, yet at the same time it sounds an alarm bell at a time when climate change and the superpowers' dwindling interest in environmental issues are endangering countless species. [Tickets and more information here.](#)

## **LEONARDO RICCI 100: WRITING PAINTING AND ARCHITECTURE - 100 SIDE NOTES ON ANONYMOUS (20TH CENTURY), Until May 26**

At the end of the celebrations for the centenary of his birth, the National Committee Ricci 100 presents a major exhibition celebrating Leonardo Ricci, a leading figure in the Italian architectural scene after the Second World War. The visitor is guided by the excerpts of Anonymous (20th century), the existentialist book he wrote in the United States in 1957: divided into sixteen sections, like the chapters of the book, the exhibition proposes a path that interweaves the threads of the disciplines practiced by Ricci, imitating the openness of his thought. The result is an amazing overview of the richness of Leonardo Ricci's theoretical research, artistic production and design activities as a writer, painter and architect. Video documentaries and magazine excerpts contribute to the interpretation of a multifaceted message, masterfully translated by Ricci himself also through the written form. At the ex-refectory of Santa Maria Novella, entrance from Piazza Stazione 6. Mon-Sat 11am-5.30pm, Sundays and holidays 1.00pm-5.30pm

## **KIKI SMITH: WHAT I SAW ON THE ROAD, AT PALAZZO PITTI, Until June 2**

Kiki Smith, born in 1954 in Nuremberg, is one of the leading lights in contemporary art and a militant feminist whose works form part of the collections of some of the leading international museums (the MoMA in New York, the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, the Haus Esters Museum in Krefeld and the Fundació Joan Miró in Barcelona, to name but a few) and who won the 51st Venice Biennale by acclamation with her installation entitled *Homespun Tales* in 2005.

[Tickets and more information.](#)

## **HEROES - BOWIE, BY SUKITA, Until June 28**

(from: [the florentine.net](http://the.florentine.net))

80-something Japanese photographer Masayoshi Sukita is best known for his long collaboration with the one and only “White Duke,” David Bowie. Out of it came the distinctive cover portrait for *Heroes*, Bowie’s twelfth studio album, carrier of his chart-topping song of the same name. OEO Firenze Art and Le Nozze di Figaro have teamed up with the Città Metropolitana di Firenze and the Comune to spotlight Sukita’s most iconic photographs of his creative hero and friend Bowie. Around 90 photographs—some of them on display in Italy for the first time—will be exhibited in Palazzo Medici Riccardi, while a range of related events and concerts will run concurrently. For more information, see [www.oeoart.com](http://www.oeoart.com).

## **BEYOND PERFORMANCE: CALLY SPOONER AND MARIO GARCIA TORRES AT THE STROZZINA, Until July 14**

Three ways of revisiting the notion of the performance in art today. **Cally Spooner** (United Kingdom, 1983) will be presenting *And You Were Wonderful, On Stage*, a large video installation showing the construction of a film based on a musical, in an ongoing alternation between stage and backstage. **Mario García Torres** (Mexico, 1975) will be presenting *Falling Together in Time*, an installation in which video, painting, music, sculpture and performance art interact in a space that will be brought to life by a series of actions taking place without warning. Bringing the project to a close, the **Opavivarà!** collective (Brasil 2005) will transform the courtyard of Palazzo Strozzi with its installation entitled *Rede Social*, a large and extremely colourful hammock measuring over 10 metres, which the public will be urged to climb into in order to experience the space and architecture of the Palazzo from a new and unconventional viewpoint devoid of all hierarchy.

## **VERROCCHIO, THE MASTER OF LEONARDO DA VINCI, AT PALAZZO STROZZI, Until July**

The exhibition, with a special section at the Museo Nazionale del Bargello, brings together for the first time Verrocchio’s celebrated masterpieces and capital works by the best-known artists associated with his workshop in the second half of the 15th century, such as Domenico Ghirlandaio, Sandro Botticelli, Pietro Perugino and Leonardo da Vinci, his most famous pupil, also reconstructing Leonardo’s early artistic career and interaction with his master thanks to outstanding loans and unprecedented juxtapositions.

Read [all the details here](#) and a wonderful article about the [500th Anniversary of Leonardo here](#).

# **DANCE AND THEATRE**

## **FABBRICA EUROPA ARTS AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL: 26TH EDITION, May 3 - July 12**

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Have fun diving into the full [programme of events here](#).

## PERFORMANCES AT TEATRO VERDI

The 'Teatro Pagliano' assumed its current name, 'Teatro Verdi,' in 1901. Built during the Grand Ducal period in Florence on the former site of the fourteenth century Stinche Prison. This is truly one of the most stunning theatres in Europe, and their program is full of music, dance, musicals, and variety shows.

### OUR PICK FOR THIS MONTH:

Enjoy an evening of captivating cello with a concert by [Mario Brunello](#), playing music by Arenskij, Rubinstein, and Čaikovskij.

To see the full list of events in this stunning venue, go to: <http://www.teatroverdifirenze.it/en/>

## THEATRE AND MUSIC AT TEATRO DELLA PERGOLA

The Teatro della Pergola is a historic opera house in Florence, Italy, built in 1656 under the patronage of Cardinal Gian Carlo de' Medici.

### OUR PICK FOR THIS MONTH:

#### [La Natura delle Cose](#), as part of the Fabbrica Europa Festival

The Nature of Things by Virgilio Sieni, is based on the philosophical-encyclopedic poem of Lucretius, *De rerum natura*. The five dancers go through the three scenes creating a compact quartet of men and a metamorphic and ever-present female figure, like the Venus-goddess of the generative act evoked by Lucretius at the beginning of his poem. The choice of *De rerum natura* coincides with the urgency of turning to the nature of things, to their soul and origin, placing dance as a tool for investigation and as a manifesto for a reflection on today.

To see the whole program for both theatres: <http://www.teatrodellapergola.com/>

## FILMS, LECTURES, AND PRESENTATIONS

### 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.

May 8: [Resubstantiating antiquity - revival and architecture reuse in the Renaissance.](#)

A lecture in english by Michael Waters

May 15: [The Shepherdes Calender \(World Premier\).](#)

A lecture in english by David Salvage

May 22: [Roma Britannica - Britain and the British in the Latin inscriptions of Rome.](#)

A lecture in english by Tyler Lansford

May 29: [The lady is a spy - Stan Harding in Florence.](#)

A lecture in english by Melanie King.

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

### **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.

This month's English language films include: **The Professor and the Madman, and Avengers Endgame**

This month's Special Events/Screenings include: **Being Leonardo da Vinci, and Il Giovane Picasso**

[Find the whole schedule here](#)

### **TARANTINO UNCHAINED FILM FESTIVAL AT THE CINEMA LA COMPAGNIA, Until May**

Take a break from the Renaissance and grab the popcorn for a film binge! Special screenings dedicated to one of the masters of American cinema, Quentin Tarantino. The program celebrates the 25th anniversary of his cult classic, "Pulp Fiction". Cinema: Via Camillo Cavour 50/r. Films begin at 21.00.

May 6: Django Unchained

May 27: The Hateful Eight

## MUSIC

### **POWER AND VIRTUE: FESTIVAL DEL MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO LXXXII LAUNCHES, May and June**

The ribbon cutting of the Maggio Fiorentino - LXXXII Maggio Musicale Festival is scheduled for May 2, 2019, the day on which the 500th anniversary of Leonardo Da Vinci's death occurs. *Power and Virtue* is the title chosen for the LXXXII edition, and *fil rouge* the theme of the entire festival.

*"This edition, entitled 'Power and virtue', seems to warn us all in our daily life: the exercise of power, small or large, must have ethics as a beacon and not fall into abuse. The Maggio wants to tell us about it in music, with an ambitious program - from Lear to Straniera to Nozze of Figaro, who starts the Mozart trilogy - and a symphonic season that will see the masters Fabio Luisi, Zubin Mehta, Daniele Gatti and*

*Riccardo Muti take their place on the podium. - says **Dario Nardella** , mayor of Florence.*”

[See the whole program here at the website.](#)

## **THE ORCHESTRA DELLA TOSCANA PRESENTS VILLE E GIARDINI INCANTATI, Until May 25 - June 22**

"Ville e Giardini incantati" will debut its third edition on May 25th. Music and art will once again come together in an original journey of 12 concerts for 5 different productions with soloists, ensembles and masters of the Orchestra della Toscana in the Medici Villas of Petraia, by Cerreto Guidi, of Poggio a Caiano and in the Garden of the Villa di Castello. Five main moments, each with a theme, for a total of twelve concerts. A journey of emotions and discoveries for the eye and ear, which will lead to the discovery of four emblematic places of extraordinary cultural and scenic value belonging today to the "Villas and Medici Gardens in Tuscany", declared part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Humanity in 2013. See all the [concerts and information here](#).

## **JAZZ PROGRAM AT THE ROOFTOP CAFFÉ DEL VERONE WITH ITS STUNNING VIEWS OF FLORENCE**

The Caffè del Verone is located in the historic Istituto degli Innocenti, in the ancient drying room where linens were stretched to dry in the late fifteenth century. Now it is a stunning caffè with the best views of the city, and hosts a regular jazz program and events. The Verone Jazz program includes a short interview with each performing artist to introduce the public to their music. Concerts are free and open to the public while seats last. Every concert will have a pre-show aperitivo starting at 7pm.

See who's playing each week here at their [Facebook page](#)

## **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. *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. You'll find performances of Vivaldi, The Three Tenors, and La Traviata regularly on the schedule each month.

OUR PICK FOR THE MONTH:

### [Vivaldi's Four Seasons](#)

What better way to enjoy spring than with Vivaldi! The Firenze Academy Ensemble 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'.

[See the whole program for the Auditorium here.](#)

## **CLASSICAL CONCERTS AND OPERA AT ST MARK'S CHURCH, INCLUDING SPECIAL ITALIAN DINNER ON SELECTED DATES**

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. They also have a full Cultural Program that runs throughout the year - a very special place to visit while in Florence.

This month's program includes: **Love Duets, Carmen, Tosca, La Traviata, La Boheme, Madame Butterfly, Barber of Seville, and Rigoletto**

[The complete schedule here](#)

## **OPERA AND CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH DINNERS AT THE ICONIC CHIESA DI SANTA MONICA, FIRENZE, Various dates**

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. Enjoy 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](#)

## **NETWORKS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS**

### **SPEAKEASY MULTILINGUAL FIRENZE, WEEKLY HAPPY HOURS**

New to town and want to meet locals and get an insider experience of Florence? The weekly Speakeasy Happy Hours are a chance for y'all to get out of your usual little worlds and meet all kinds of people. Forty to eighty people come every week from a dozen countries. English and Italian dominate but smatterings of many other languages can be heard. French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Russian, and even Persian, Chinese, and Arabic, here and there.

Wednesdays at 19:30, L'Appartamento. [Website here](#).

### **THE CULTURAL SALON: SPECIAL EVENTS, TALKS, AND GATHERINGS FOR THE CULTURALLY CURIOUS IN FLORENCE**

This is a strong community of culture seekers, which covers everything from lectures, exhibitions, artist studio visits, pot luck aperitivi, and social events with plenty of opportunity for networking and meeting people. Their events range from morning talks to evening social occasions, so there's something to suite everyone's schedule. Get a real insiders glimpse into life in Florence, and discover the creative and intellectual fabric of Florence. Find them [here](#) and [here](#).

### **EXPAT WOMEN IN FLORENCE: SOCIALISE WITH MONTHLY MEETUPS FOR WOMEN**

The Expat Women in Florence group has been running for some years now, with monthly social meetups

to enjoy aperitivo in company and hot spots around town. The group has a strong social support theme; there are often fundraisers and callout for charity support throughout the year, with a real focus on women supporting women. Find them [here on facebook](#).

## **WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF FLORENCE**

Running since 1991, the network has a focus on professional, english speaking women in Florence, bringing them together and also offering social opportunities throughout the year. You can expect Guest Speakers every month, as well as their annual Networking Fair where members and non-members can share their businesses and products with each other over pot-luck aperitivo. Find them [here](#) and [here](#).

## **OPEN MIC NIGHTS**

### **LOST IN FLORENCE BOOK LAUNCH AT THE OPEN MIC NIGHT AT OSTELLO TASSO FLORENCE: FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

This month, in addition to our regular open mic night, we are launching the fabulous book by Nardia Plumridge, Lost In Florence. You may know the name from her famous blog, and now you can buy the book with all the secrets of Florence for locals and visitors alike.

We'll have an interview with Nardia and hear some best bits from the book, then carry on with our regular open mic and share the love. Tasso now includes Aperitivo at 19.30, and there will be late night Jazz after the open mic. Sign up begins at 8:30, and sets limited to 8 minutes per person. See you there! More information: <https://www.facebook.com/openmicflorence/>

### **STORYTELLERS FLORENCE AT TODO MODO BOOKSHOP, May 4**

Storytellers Florence is the Florence extension of Storytellers Rome which is a monthly English language oral storytelling event. Each month a theme is voted on by members of the group and people are invited to share a personal story based on that theme. The event is free and participation is not required to attend. Come and join us! Todo Modo Bookshop and Cafe. For more information, and to vote on the monthly theme, see the [facebook group](#).

### **SHOWCASE OPEN MIC AT THE VIRGIN ROCK PUB , FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**

Florence is filled with creative and talented performers and The Showcase at The Virgin Rock Pub is designed to give them a unique and special stage, hosted by Florence singer-songwriter Patti DeRosa. All creative spirits are invited to come and share their material, or just listen. The open mike begins at 9:00pm and performers can sign up (usually 3 songs). Tutti sono benvenuti! [More information here](#).

### **PULPIT OPEN MIC - PART OF THE ST MARK'S CULTURAL PROGRAM, May 30**

A monthly open mic night with only two rules: A five-minute time limit, and absolutely NO NOTES allowed. We don't mind what you talk about. Tell us a story, have a political rant, slam some poetry, or take us on a whimsical journey through your thoughts. To help you, Pulpit provides musical accompaniment to give your talk that extra flow. Entry by donation. [More information here.](#)

## EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE

### **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. Current Exhibitions:

**BERLINDE DE BRUYCKERE** Until September 1

“A single bed, a single room”. The exhibition presents a series of works created specifically for the gallery's ‘apartment’ space: objects that speak of the bare necessities of human life are entwined with wax casts of broken down trees.

**MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO AND PASCALE MARTHINE TAYOU** Until September 1

Both Pistoletto and Tayou are open to dialogue and exchange. Their works are testament to a process of continual expansion and evolution, aimed at refreshing the point of contact between the artistic experience and the external world.

**SUN YUAN AND PENG YU** Until September 1

[More information here](#)

### **LUIGI PECCI CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE, PRATO**

Since opening in 1988, the Luigi Pecci Contemporary Art Centre has built a collection of over 1000 works which map artistic trends from the ‘sixties up to the present day: painting, sculpture, cinema and video, installations, works on paper, artist books, photographs, graphic art, applied arts and commissioned projects. Current Exhibitions:

**THE MUSEUM IMAGINED, STORIES FROM 30 YEARS OF CENTRO PECCI , Until June 25**

Curated by Cristiana Perrella .

In collaboration with Irene Innocente, Elena Magini, Marta Papini, Maria Teresa Soldani.

The 30th birthday has been taken as a chance to reinterpret and reactivate the spaces and functions of Centro Pecci after the expansion completed in 2016. The exhibition will be accompanied by a insightful program of activities connected with literature, music, performance and theatre.

[More information here.](#)

## **VOLAREARTE AT PISA AIRPORT: NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR**

**Until 2019**

(From [discovertuscan.com](http://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**

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). We encourage you to check out the Discover Tuscany website and immerse in the full list of markets, medieval fairs, music festivals, wine celebrations, and traditional fairs and parades. See the full list of [special events for May here](#).

### **MOSTRA MERCATO DELL'ARTIGIANTO IN ANGHIANI, April 25 - May 1**

44 Years in Valtiberina

Being its 44th year, the exhibition in the Tuscan Valtiberina - will be held in [Anghiari](#) until May 1. A fair that brings together the old and the new, old skills and trades with new methods, artists and designs.

[Official Web page](#)

### **TRENO NATURA IN MONTALCINO, May 1**

Slow Travel in Southern Tuscany

A trip exploring the Montalcino area and welcoming the beauty of spring in this UNESCO heritage site. Departing from Siena and passing through [Buonconvento](#) to visit the scenery and markets of Southern Tuscany. Meet your train in Siena and visit the incredible landscape in slow motion aboard a vintage steam engine for the ancient flavors during market day in the famous Crete Senesi.

Check out our [blog post](#) with more details on the Treno Natura program in English.

### **SAGRA DEL PRUGNOLO IN MONTIERI, 2° Sunday of May**

Mushrooms are spring up everywhere

From east to west in the region of Tuscany everything's coming up mushrooms, last weekend you might have seen the festival in Pieve Santo Stefano, and this week in the countryside between Siena and the coast. During **the 12th & 13th of May** in Montieri, you can taste the exquisite springtime mushroom Prugnolo. From cheeses to liquor, plates of pasta and delicious meat dishes, everything is based on the Prugnolo mushroom! In addition to the food, the fest offers markets, local products, music, and hikes.

[More Info](#)

### **POLVERE & GLORIA IN GAOLE IN CHIANTI, May 17 - 19**

Motorbike Rally along the Eroica Route

Dust&Glory is a motorbike rally along the route of the Eroica, 200 kilometers of half paved and half dirt roads, through the most beautiful spring Tuscany landscapes. This edition introduces the “Zero +” category, dedicated to electric motorbikes. It will go alongside the two traditional categories “Vecchie Glorie”, (bikes registered and validated before December 31st, 1999), and “Saranno Famose”, (registered from January 1st, 2000).

[Official Webpage](#)

### **CANTINA APERTA AT TUSCANY WINE CELLARS, May 26 - 27**

Bring your tastebuds & wine glasses

This special event includes the opening of many famous and not so famous vineyards throughout Tuscany. Surprises in everywhere with wine tasting, food, and tours of this interesting areas. [Read here](#) for more information on this event.

[Click here to find who is open](#)

## MAY WISHES

We hope you enjoy the gardens, flowers, and all the delights of Florence this month. The city is in full bloom, ready for enjoyment at every turn.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

*Newsletter written and compiled by Marisa Garreffa.*

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## CLASSIFIEDS



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

First floor, refurbished, 60 Sq. Mt. (approx 600 Sq. Ft.). 2 Bed, 2 Bath. Modern with all amenities, autonomous heating, air conditioning, quiet secondary street.

Asking price 375,000 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 430,000 Euro



### **SALE – Settignano Villa – 3 Km East of Florence**

Free standing villa plus barn in good conditions, approx. 300 Sq. Mt. (3000 Sq. Ft.) surrounded by approx 700 Sq. Mt. (7000 Sq. Ft.) of garden. 5 bed, 4 bath; pool, quiet, private close to Florence.

Asking Price 1,650,000 Euro



### **SALE – Volterra Farm House –**

Free standing refurbished of aprox. 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 2,100,000 Euro



### **SALE – Oltrarno Apt – Historic Center**

Ground floor, refurbished, approx. 170 Sq. Mt. (1700 Sq. Ft.) plus 50 Sq. Mt. (500 Sq. Ft.) of private courtyard. 2 bed, 2 bath; car parking, out door space, air conditioning

Asking Price 750,000 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 980,000 Euro



### **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