

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

WELCOME

As Spring emerges across Tuscany, bringing blooms and colour to guide the way as Italy transitions to phase two, “living with the virus”. The government outlined their plans for a slow and careful reopening of Italy, and you can find information about those steps in the Important Information section of the newsletter. This month we share with you how cultural life is continuing online, with exhibitions, lectures, films and more being live streamed to keep the flavour of Italy fresh in your mind. For the most part, *restiamoacasa*, with more businesses able to deliver to our doors and even restaurant takeaways now available. It will be Spring for gentle contemplation of what may grow from the crisis into the blooms of our new future. We look forward to that future bringing us all together again. With warmest best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, LESLIE, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

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PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR MAY

BEST ANNIVERSARY: NATIONAL LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY, May 1

It's the Labor Day holiday in Italy and across Europe, in honour of the workers of the world. While it won't be happening this year, the day is usually celebrated with an 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 usually 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. This year, the national holiday will be celebrated from home, but we honour the day, as well as the image of the Marzocco - especially the protection of the city that it represents.

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

It is Mother's Day in Italy, the day to celebrate precious mothers everywhere or any special woman who helped to raise you. Be sure to spoil your mother Italian style, in any way that you can. Some of Florence's best gelaterie are making deliveries, and it's the perfect time to share an Aperol Spritz over Skype or Zoom, so you can still share the day with a lovely treat - even from a safe distance!

BEST P&F RENTAL: A LOVELY TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT ON A BEAUTIFUL CHARACTERISTIC STREET IN THE OLD PART OF FLORENCE

Borgo Ognissanti is a characteristic street in the old part of Florence, with shops and restaurants. A 5 minute stroll to the fashionable boutiques of Via Tornabuoni and Via della Vigna Nuova. Of historic interest is the Church of Ognissanti with the magnificent cenacolo of Ghirlandiaio, plus an added attraction is the cinema Fulgor which shows films in English. Sleeps four people easily, and has a bathtub for relaxing.

See [more information and photographs here](#).



BEST EXHIBITION: THE UFFIZI VIRTUAL TOUR ONLINE

(from: theflorentine.net)

Following its social media response to Covid-19, the Uffizi has today launched a full-immersion virtual tour of the gallery's most prestigious areas. By clicking [here](#), anyone with a computer, tablet or smartphone can take a virtual tour of ten rooms in the Uffizi, including those that have opened over the past year. The suggested route starts with the Sala delle Dinastie and its portraits of the Medici and the Della Rovere, two families who had an instrumental role in the Uffizi's current

collection. The tour comprises 55 artworks in all, which can be viewed from a variety of angles and distances. Essential notes, in Italian or English, can be accessed by clicking on the information panels, while the most famous pieces have a link to their details on the Uffizi website. Read more here at [The Florentine](#).

BEST EVENT: THE BRITISH INSTITUTE ONLINE SEMINARS, BRINGING THE BEST IN FLORENTINE CULTURE RIGHT INTO YOUR HOME

In response to the positive feedback on our recent online cultural events as well as specific requests to expand our History of Art programming along these lines, the British Institute of Florence is offering a new series of online seminars devoted to the art and culture of Florence! A pilot programme is scheduled to run the week of 11-15 May 2020, and is now available for registration. Led by the British Institute's Head of History of Art, Jeremy Boudreau, this seminar will introduce participants to the various resources available for the remote study of Florentine art here in Italy and around the world. With the aid of digitised readings and online content, we will explore the city's monuments and masterpieces while devoting each weekday to particular frameworks and methodologies for research, teaching and independent study. If you would like to offer any input as we develop future seminars for this series, please complete the online survey, and [keep an eye on this page!](#)

BEST DINING OUT: ORDER IN FROM THE DELICIOUS MELALEUCA BAKERY AND BISTRO FOR PICK UP, OR HAVE TREATS DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

There's no reason to miss out on fantastic food and gorgeous cakes and treats from the Aussie team at Melaleuca! There's a new set menu for the Friday Night Dinner Box each week, and a gorgeous list of goodies from their bakery, including probiotic coconut yoghurt and freshly ground coffee. Their gorgeous cakes and pastries are very popular – last week's cinnamon scrolls still have me drooling. And now with their new pick-up service for Phase 2, you can even arrange a freshly made coffee to be ready with your order collection! [See their site](#) and join their mailing list to receive weekly menus right in your inbox: melaleuca.florence@gmail.com

BEST OF THE REST

REMEMBERING THE DEATH OF SAVONAROLA, May 23

While there will be no official parade this year, on May 23 Florence commemorates Fra' Girolamo Savonarola's death. Girolamo Savonarola was a Dominican friar and puritan fanatic, who became moral dictator of the city of Florence when the Medici were temporarily driven out in 1494. A visionary, prophet and formidably effective hellfire preacher, obsessed with human wickedness and convinced that the wrath of God was about to fall upon the earth, he detested practically every form of pleasure and relaxation.

Savonarola made many powerful enemies. Among them was the Borgia pope, Alexander VI, who eventually excommunicated the rigorous friar. On Palm Sunday in 1498 St Mark's was attacked by a screaming mob and Savonarola was arrested by the Florentine authorities with two friars who were

among his most ardent followers, Fra' Domenico and Fra' Salvestro. All three were cruelly tortured before being condemned as heretics. On the morning of May 23rd a crowd of Florentines gathered in the Piazza della Signoria, where a scaffold had been erected on a platform for hanging the men, before burning the bodies to ashes (a plaque marks the spot today). It is said that a priest standing near asked Savonarola what he felt about this approaching martyrdom. He answered, 'The Lord has suffered as much for me,' and these were his last recorded words. (www.historytoday.com)

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF THE FLORENTINE MAGAZINE, HEALING NOT BROKEN, AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD WITH LIMITED RUN OF PRINT COPIES

Healing not Broken: The Florentine special issue is OUT NOW.

Get your FREE digital download: <http://theflr.net/specialissue>

It's a 106-page commemorative issue documenting the emergency we are all enduring. In this special edition of The Florentine, we witness an outpouring of a renewed humanism in Florence, of learning, words, thoughts and creativity, with articles, poems and short stories scribed by our international community, some the winners of our literary competition launched to keep you company during quarantine, plus ideas and considerations for the future from Tuscany's leaders and institutional figures, all interspersed with iconic photography of Florence at its most restful.

If you enjoy this special issue, please pledge a donation to The Florentine at this critical time: www.theflorentine.net/support

GET YOUR FLORENCE FIX! TOUR FLORENCE ONLINE WITH GIRL IN FLORENCE'S LIST OF THE BEST INSTAGRAM PAGES TO FOLLOW

"In a time when we can't physically be in Italy ourselves, the next best thing is to follow people who are. The ones who can evocatively capture the landscapes, culture, street scenes, food culture and everyday moments we all love and appreciate. Ones that we simply long to experience again once these days are over. After calling Italy home for 13 years and blogging on GirlInFlorence.com since 2012, I have found Instagram to be a very useful portal to connect with people all over the country and even make new friends. Though I will always be a blogger first, the gram is indeed a great way to wind down from work/life with a scroll and catch up with friends around the globe. This is simply a list of people I enjoy following on Instagram that capture Italy in a myriad of different ways."

[See the list here!](#)

ORDER YOUR SPRING FLOWERS AND PLANTS FROM THE SOCIETÀ TOSCANA DI ORTICULTURA

(from: theflorentine.net)

A highlight of this time of year for many of us is the plants and flowers market at the Giardino dell'Orticoltura, intended to have been held from April 25 to the May 1. Wandering the gardens with the vivid colours and intoxicating scents of such an incredible variety of botanical delights is an annual highlight. While not quite the same, we can still bring some floral joy to our own homes

courtesy of the [Società Toscana di Orticoltura](#) who have brought their fare to an online store. So that means succulents, orchids, fruit trees, bulbs, herbs and whatever else those with a green thumb might desire are available for purchase. Read more here at [The Florentine](#).

THE FLORENTINE BUILDS COMMUNITY ONLINE WITH TF TOGETHER, Wednesdays

(from: [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. We update our list every FRIDAY with the next week's program, so you can follow the page [here](#).

MANIFATTURA TABACCHI HOME EDITION, Daily

(from: [theflorentine.net](#))

Manifattura Tabacchi have released a new digital programme centered on culture and contemporary art [online](#). Titled 'Living Room', the series focuses on research and experimentation with regular content released via [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Film, books, podcasts, poems, interviews and various artistic contributions make up the packed programme and the multidisciplinary approach is sure to appeal.

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.](#)

OPEN DAY PLUS THE PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES, CONFERENCE@HOME WITH THE STUDIO MARANGONI FOUNDATION, Weekly

Enjoy weekly video conferences with renowned photographers in a series called **conference@home**, an initiative by the Studio Marangoni Foundation. Each week there is a new special guest, sharing their expertise and work. You can see who's coming up over on their [facebook page](#). The foundation is also hosting their 2020 Open Day for their renowned photography course online, and you can read all about it as well as register to join [here at the website](#).

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

REOPENING ITALY: PHASE TWO BEGINS WITH SLOW AND CAREFUL STEPS

The new guidelines for the slow shift into Phase Two can be read from the official website (in Italian) with the [full 70 pages of legislation here.](#)

The Florentine Magazine have translated some of the key points into English, making it easier to understand some of the main changes. You can read their coverage [here.](#)

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

Italian Ministry of Health: 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

ONLIFE ONLINE, HOSTED ON THE VILLA ROMANA WEBSITE

(from: [theflorentine.net](#))

Created by Giacomo Zaganelli in collaboration with Angelika Stepken, OnLife is an exhibition that "reflects the Zeitgeist, the current spirit of the time, the fact that we are all obliged to stay at home" only able to keep our social relationships alive using the web. Hosted on the [Villa Romana website](#), contributing artists include Silvia Piantini, Fabrizio Silvia Piantini, Fabrizio Bellomo, Yao Jui Chung, Leone Contini, Mischa Leinkauf, Armin Linke, Johannes Paul Raether, Christian Naujoks, Rosa Barba, Gabriele De Seta, Takayoshi Kitagawa, Antje Majewski, Giacomo Zaganelli and Nasan Tur.

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

It is expected that the full lockdown in Italy will start to ease from 4th May, but that the process will be long, gradual and cautious – no rapid return to the 'old normal' I'm afraid. So for now the Institute can only operate online. We will continue to offer you all a rich engagement with Florence in all her glory through virtual channels, until such time as we can welcome you back.

On Wednesday 6th May at 18:00 CET, Jeremy Boudreau will give the lecture: La Costa San Giorgio: An uphill encounter with Florence's Southside

Our Head of Art History returns to contribute a second lecture on one of Florence's countless historic corners: the Costa San Giorgio in Oltrarno. Join us for a virtual hike up the hill that houses more art and history than meets the eye! Our survey will include several of the city's earliest fortifications and churches, the homes of famous locals including Bernardo Buontalenti, Galileo Galilei and Stefano Bardini as well as the recurrent landslides that left the district and its residents shaken to the core. Enjoy this virtual experience to the fullest from your treadmill or exercise bike, or join us from the sofa with a glass of wine in hand as usual. Either way this talk is not to miss!

Upcoming lectures in the Wednesday Zoom series:

Wednesday 13 May at 18.00

Richard Hodges: Tuscany, the Mediterranean and the birth of Europe

Wednesday 20 May at 18.00

Allison Levy: House of Secrets: Palazzo Rucellai

Wednesday 27 May at 18.00

Mark Roberts: Oscar Wilde's loyal friend Reggie: Reginald Turner in Florence

Thanks to generous donations by many people round the world we have sent another E.1435 to Il Cuore di Firenze, towards their vital support of the hospitals of Florence. Though the curve of new infections seems to be flattening in Italy, there are still a lot of people sick and dying, so please do keep supporting this programme. [Donate Here](#)

WATCH "THE ART OF HEALING" ONLINE, A WONDERFUL ART DOCUMENTARY BY ADVANCING WOMEN ARTISTS

Watch [here](#), as conservators Liz Wicks and Marina Vincenti examine painterly layers and begin the process of rescuing Violante Ferroni's colors. In October, conservation work began on the first painting of our project 'The Art of Healing', Violante Ferroni's large oval canvas painted in 1756 and entitled St. John of God Heals Victims of the Plague. "When we first started, the subject matter invoked historical interest, not identification," says Wicks. "The theme seemed disconnected to our more fortunate present-day lives. Now that we are fighting against a virus that has been called 'a modern day plague', my connection to the figures in the painting has become a deeply emotional one. I can't wait until we get back to work on our project; I have never been more certain of the power of art to connect and heal us all."

FESTIVAL DEI POPOLI DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL SCREENS ONLINE, daily

(from: 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!

THE BEST OF ITALY IN CINEMA WITH CN TRAVELER'S LIST OF THE BEST 41 FILMS TO WATCH IF YOU'RE DREAMING OF ITALY!

“Italy has produced—and inspired—some of the [greatest cinema](#) of all time. Among its key players, you'll find directors like Federico Fellini and Luca Guadagnino alongside actors like Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni (and quite often, the American Gregory Peck). But when we asked our editors what their favorite Italian movies were, their choices went far beyond the classics. Below, you'll find picks like the mid-'90s rom-com *Only You* and Netflix's *Two Popes*—and lots of Tilda Swinton. (Plus Lizzie McGuire, of course.) Yes, the scope of our picks are broad—there are movies in Italian, filmed in Italy, or just set in part in the boot-shaped country included, but they'll all transport you to the bustle of Rome, the rolling Tuscan countryside, the luxe Lake Como, or beyond in no time. [See the whole list here!](#)

MAY WISHES

Let the darling buds of May warm your spirit and fill your heart with colour and sweet hopes for the future.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

Newsletter written and compiled by Marisa Garreffa.

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CLASSIFIEDS



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 – via Maggio Terrace Apt – Historic Center

In perfect condition elegant building listed with the Fine Arts, third floor with elevator aprox. 200 sq. mt. (aprox. 2000 sq. ft.) plus approx 15 Sq. Mt. (150 Sq. Ft.) of terrace; 3 Bed and 3 Bath. Autonomous heating, Air Con.

Asking Price 1,250,000 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 – 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



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 – Tornabuoni Attic – Historic Center

Third floor, refurbished, approx. 140 Sq. Mt. (1400 Sq. Ft.) plus 50 Sq. Mt. (500 Sq. Ft.) of private terrace. 3 bed, 2 bath; nice small building, natural light out door space

Asking price 990,000 Euro