

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

WELCOME

May is one of the best times of the year to be in Florence. The rain finally eases, but the weather is not too hot and the gardens are spectacular. Music fills the air throughout the city, and the streets are filled with travellers and locals alike. 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, EGLA, 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

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

BEST P&F RENTAL: A TRANQUIL AND EASY APARTMENT JUST OUTSIDE OF THE CITY CENTRE

In the residential area just out of the historic center, on the left bank of the River Arno and close to Piazza Taddeo Gaddi. The Tram Line 1 stop is about 4 minutes walking from the apartment, and it takes about 15 minutes to get to the Santa Maria Novella central train station in the historical center of town. There is also good access to the highway and the speedway to Pisa and Livorno, called the Fi-Pi-Li. The area is well served with autobus, super markets, restaurants and other shops. [More information 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 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 MARKET: ARTEFACENDO IN PIAZZA DEI CIOMPI, May 6 and 7

The Artefacendo market, which focuses on displaying and selling high quality artisanal goods and crafts, is back in Florence this Saturday and Sunday! If you are in the market for hand-crafted wood, glass, silver, gold, wool, ceramic, or leather products, make sure you don't miss this market (you might even catch a live demonstration while you're there)! More details [here](#).

BEST DINING OUT: THE NEW LOOK CIRO AND SONS FOR THE GLUTEN FREE AMONG US

They aren't new to the scene, but Ciro and Sons are one of the longest running establishments in Florence who serve the gluten free community. Where once you could enjoy gluten free pizza, now you can also enjoy a full menu of pasta, lasagne, fritto, cakes and more, all gluten free and perfectly indulgent! The new decor brings a level of freshness to an old Florence haunt, and the service is friendly and welcoming. A gluten free favourite in town. [See the website](#).

BEST OF THE REST

THE FLORENTINE MAGAZINE'S LIST OF TOP EVENTS TO ENJOY IN MAY

Truly, May is such an explosive month as the whole city erupts into activity, inspired by the beautiful days and cool evenings of Spring. We couldn't possibly cover all there is to know about what's on, so if you're a true Florence and event lover, after savouring this newsletter you must also savour The Florentine Magazine's list of even more exciting events! [Find it here](#).

MOSTRA MERCATO PIANTE E FIORE AT THE GIARDINO DELL'ORTICOLTURA, Until May 1

If you're looking for ways to celebrate **Earth Week** by enjoying some time in nature, this flower show at the Horticulture Garden might be a great way to do so! Come enjoy a nice walk around the gardens and appreciate some rare greenery in the city. This annual flower and plant show is much beloved by residents of Florence, where springtime is truly the star of the show. See the [website](#) for more information.

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 article in Conde Naste, [11 Best Gelato Shops in Florence](#).

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.

100KM INTERNATIONAL WALKING RACE FROM FLORENCE TO FAENZA, May 22-23

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](#).

LA DEMOCRAZIA DEL CORPO DANCE FESTIVAL

From February to May, enjoy the international Festival La Democrazia del Corpo ("Democracy of the Body") by Virgilio Sieni. The "Democracy of the Body" proposes a cycle of performance works intended as excursions exploring the body. This year the festival returns to the central theme of the artists themselves, those who research and build bridges with history: passages that are understood as meeting places that are always open and poetically in mutation, where the reference to the body, to musical form, to gravity, to the philosophy of space, to its care and way of hosting the other, creates the initiatory gesture of encounter and relationship. Please click here to get the whole [programme](#).

TI RACCONTO FIRENZE - GUIDED TOURS IN FLORENCE BY THE TOUR GUIDES OF CONFGUIDE

From Friday, March 10 to Wednesday, June 21, a large calendar of guided tours to explore Florence and unexpected places of its suburbs accompanied by the tour guides of Confguide. Discover new places and interesting facts about Peretola village, old Florence evoked by the writer Vasco Pratolini, Florence of the XIX century, the Cemetery of Porte Sante - a true Florentine "Spoon River"-, the villages of Quaracchi and Brozzi and the murals of the Isolotto. Reservation is required. Visits can be booked only from the [Gimmeguide](#) Website. This event is promoted by the City of Florence, thanks to the funding of the Ministry of Tourism as part of the project "Great Italian Destinations for a Sustainable Tourism".

#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

REACHING FOR THE STARS AT PALAZZO STROZZI

Palazzo Strozzi partners with the Sandretto Rebaudengo Foundation to deliver an exquisite exhibition featuring over 50 contemporary artists from around the globe. There are some of the biggest names in contemporary art, including works from notable artists Damien Hirst, Maurizio Cattelan, Shirin Neshat, Cindy Sherman, and more, this exhibit focuses on themes such as bodies, mythology, identity, and community, among others. For more details, see the [website](#).

LUCA GIORDANO, MAESTRO BAROCCO A FIRENZE, ON SHOW AT PALAZZO MEDICI RICCARDI

Many works by the Italian Baroque master Luca Giordano will be on display for a limited exhibition in Palazzo Medici Riccardi. The exhibition will include paintings commissioned by wealthy and prominent Florentine families of the time as well as some of his sketches that are on loan from the National Gallery in London. [Website](#).

GIACOMETTI - FONTANA. SEARCHING FOR THE ABSOLUTE, Until June 4

From 2 March to 4 June 2023, the exhibition Giacometti - Fontana. The Quest for the Absolute,

curated by Chiara Gatti and Sergio Risaliti, will be on display in the monumental spaces of the Museo di Palazzo Vecchio, specifically in the Sala delle Udienze and the Sala dei Gigli. For the first time, these two pillars of the 20th century, so distant in their attitudes and in their lives, but equally linked by a reflection on the truth in art, conquered through the experience of matter and imagination at the same time, poised between the primordial dimension of time and the cosmological dimension of space, will be brought together. [Website](#).

LIGHT, GAZE, PRESENCE, Y.Z. KAMI ON DISPLAY ACROSS FLORENCE, Until September

The exhibition of Y.Z. Kami (Tehran, 1956) presents a selection of works exhibited for the first time in Florence in some of the city's most beautiful sights: Museo Novecento, Museo di Palazzo Vecchio, Museo degli Innocenti and, exceptionally, in the millenary Abbazia di San Miniato al Monte (from 17 February to 24 September 2023). The exhibition is a journey into the pictorial universe of the Iranian-American artist, who has lived and worked in New York since the 1980s. With a selection of 24 works located in some of the most prestigious Florentine cultural institutions, Light, Gaze, Presence brings together some of the main strands of Y.Z.'s artistic research. Kami in a close dialogue with the extraordinary medieval and renaissance masterpieces housed there.

ESCHER ON SHOW AT MUSEO DEGLI INNOCENTI, Until May 2023

The Museo degli Innocenti in Florence hosts an anthological exhibition dedicated to the brilliant Dutch artist Maurits Cornelis Escher. The spaces of the historic Museo degli Innocenti will host more than 200 works by the Dutch artist, who was discovered by the general public in recent years and has become one of the most beloved artists worldwide. In his famous engravings and lithographs Escher creates a unique, imaginative, impossible world where art, mathematics, science, physics and design converge, as well as representing Italy in many of his works. [Website](#).

INSIDE BANKSY: AN IMMERSIVE MULTIMEDIA EXPERIENCE

The Cathedral of the Image will become the home of the world's street art by hosting, within the monumental complex of Santo Stefano al Ponte, the world premiere of the unauthorized immersive digital exhibition dedicated to the subversive and satirical British writer Banksy. Inside Banksy is a spectacular immersive event realised by Crossmedia with the curatorial contribution of Gianni Mercurio, in which the creative path Banksy is told: the most subversive and satirical artist on the world street art scene. A real story that unfolds through a wise mix of images, sounds, music that can immediately evoke underground culture of Bristol. [Website](#).

ARYAN OZMAEI SHOWING AT TERZO SPAZIO, MURATE ART DISTRICT, Until April 9

Florentine artist Aryan Ozmaei displays 20 paintings unpacking the complex ideas of decolonization in art and history. Inspired by the exhibit location itself, the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology, Ozmaei uses anthropological statues and sculptures as subjects, displaced from their original contexts. According to the Florentine magazine, "She explores a relationship between art and anthropology, using it to platform powerful readings of colonial history, the ethnocentric gaze,

modernity and its crisis, the need for rewriting, processes of hybridization and de-colonialism.” Read more at [The Florentine](#) or discover more details about the exhibit [here](#).

DANCE, THEATRE AND MUSIC

FIRENZE SUONA MUSIC CONTEST, Until May

Firenze Suona Music Contest is an original music competition for young Italian groups and soloists. From November to January, across all of Italy, young musicians and bands have been fighting it out to be chosen for the finals. Now the final selection will give us their best during seven events of live music in Firenze from March 5 to May 14. The selection evenings and semifinals will take place in Florence at the LE MURATE literary café, on Sundays in March and 2 and 16 April 2023 respectively, while the final will be on 14 May at VIPER. Admission for the public is free for all the concerts! [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:

BATTISTONI CONDUCTS THE ORCHESTRA OF TOSCANA (ORT) - Tuscany’s beloved orchestra presents their seasonal concert series, with a special night of music by Schubert in the evocative location of Teatro Verdi. A magical experience.

[More information and tickets.](#)

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. This month’s pick:

Giuseppe Verdi’s OTHELLO.

Othello made its triumphant debut at La Scala in Milan on 5 February 1887. At 74 years of age, Verdi demonstrated an astonishing capacity for renewal, covering Boito's verses in an unexpected and original way. Abandoning the security of the closed number for the open form, the composer gave life to a mobile and continuous melodic flow. With one eye on Wagner and one on the Italian theatre tradition, Verdi thus marks the culmination of his exceptional creative parabola with this work. See the full program [here at the website](#).

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: the Pergola Theatre. The Amici della Musica of Florence presents various concerts in this exquisite old theatre of Florence. Works by Rossini, Schumann, Schubert, Brahms, Bach, Beethoven and Mozart are only a small sample of what will be performed. [Tickets and more information.](#)

FILMS, LECTURES, AND CULTURAL EVENTS

APERICINEMA AT 25HOURS HOTEL

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)) The swanky Cinema Paradiso in the trendy walls of [25hours Hotel Piazza San Paolino](#) is collaborating with Ibero-American cinema association EntreDosMundos for an exciting new program of film screenings and book presentations. Join every Wednesday and some Thursdays starting at 7:30pm to enjoy the full range of events. There are special prices on drinks as well as free popcorn with the chance to order tapas from the bar and enjoy them at your seat. All films will be screened in Italian with English subtitles and the book presentations will also be in Italian. The films that follow each book presentation will be in Spanish with Italian subtitles.

[More information here.](#)

THE NEW CINEMA ASTRA PRESENTS ORIGINAL LANGUAGE FILMS

The new hub for cinema and culture is simply exploding with events. This week enjoy screenings of Italian award winning film Amusia, amongst programming from France, Sweden, Spain, and across Europe. With up to six screenings a day, there is always a chance to experience the best of contemporary European cinema. [See the website for more information.](#)

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.

THIS MONTH, DON'T MISS A ROYAL TEA WITH BONA FRESCOBALDI, May 5

On the Eve of the Coronation of King Charles III, we are delighted to have Marchesa Bona Frescobaldi join us for a cup of tea and chat about the long history her family shares with the British monarchy - from ruinous debts to King Edward II in the fourteenth century, through to her own personal friendship with our new King. We will conclude with a Royal Toast!

Programme:

16:30 - Tea Served

17:00 - Simon Gammell in conversation with Bona Frescobaldi. To register for the event, and to

discover the full month's program of lectures and events, [see the website here](#).

20th CENTURY - THE MOST BEAUTIFUL INVENTION - SECOND EDITION AT CINEMA LA COMPAGNIA

From 10 February to 14 May La Compagnia presents the second edition of The Most Beautiful Invention: masterpieces of the 20th century in original language (part two) with Italian subtitles. A journey through the history of cinema whose aim is to remind us how unique the experience of seeing a film on the big screen is. Detailed program on the [website](#).

CINEMA AT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE

From January 16 to May 8, the French Institute in Florence offers every Monday a screening in original version (French) with Italian and/or English subtitles. An inspiring journey through the French film classics. For the complete programme, visit the official [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](#).

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 – San Marco Garden Apt – Historic Center

Refurbished apartment on two levels approx. 500 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 5.000 Sq. Ft.) plus 300 Sq. Mt. (3000 Sq. Ft.) of private garden. 4 bed, 5 bath; autonomous heating, air con., garden.

Asking Price 2,400,000 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 – 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.

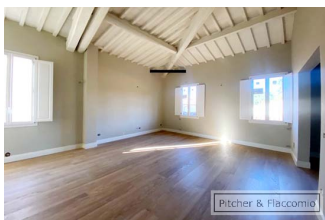
Asking price 890,000 Euro



SALE – Calenzano Villa – Outskirts

Historic villa with depandance approx. 2500 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 25.000 Sq. Ft.). 18 bed, 21 bath; autonomous heating, air con., land and garden

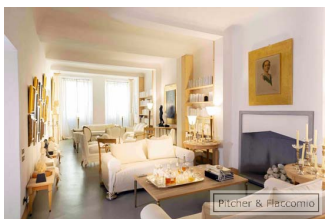
Asking Price 9,500,000 Euro



SALE – Piazza Azeglio – Historic Center

Second and top floor (possible elevator), refurbished, approx. 140 sq. mt.(1400 Sq. Ft), 2 Bed, study, 3 Bath. Autonomous heating, air con.

Asking Price 870,000 Euro



SALE – Santa Maria Novella – Historic Center

Second floor, with elevator, refurbished, approx. 300 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 3000 Sq. Ft.). 3 bed, 3 bath, plus study; autonomous heating, air con., and centrally located

Asking Price 2,200,000 Euro

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