

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, EGLA, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

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PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR MAY

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. 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 P&F RENTAL: A COMFORTABLE APARTMENT CLOSE TO THE CITY CENTER, IN A TRULY ITALIAN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

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



BEST ANNIVERSARY: 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. Don't miss 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.

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 SPORT: 100KM INTERNATIONAL WALKING RACE FROM FLORENCE TO FAENZA, May 24-25

The 100 km of the Passatore is an ultramarathon running competition that takes place annually on the last Saturday of May, starting from Florence and finishing in Faenza. The race, which was held for the first time in 1973, is named after the Passatore, a popular figure from the history and folklore of Romagna. 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](#).

BEST EXHIBITION: MIDA, THE MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DELL’ARTIGIANATO AT FORTEZZA DI BASSO, Until May 1

An event which has hosted the most important master craftsmen of history inside a privileged space, where tradition and innovation merge to create extremely valuable handmade products. Every year, you can admire the works of the ancient Florence workshops, as well as remote arts which are being rediscovered through the fair itineraries, following a harmonious path among the Italian regions and the countries of the whole world. Unique pieces, modelled by experienced hands, dedicated to people who want to stand out. Classical, modern, ethnic, contemporary, feasible - any kind of style here finds its ideal dimension. Opening Times: everyday from 10.00 to 22.30 (last day closing at 20.00). See more information at the [website](#).

BEST DINING OUT: 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, try these tips: [The Best Gelato in Florence](#).

BEST OF THE REST

THE SPRING PLANT AND FLOWER MARKET, PRESENTED BY THE TUSCAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR OVER 170 YEARS, April 25 - May 1

A favourite for all those with a green thumb! This year the Spring Plant and Flower Market Exhibition, always held in the charming Giardino dell'Orticultura from April 25 to May 1. More than 70 specialized exhibitors will offer a wide range of products in the fields of floriculture, horticulture and fruit growing, along with gifts and handicrafts. During the event, visitors will be able to participate in a rich cultural program, including courses, workshops, talks, book presentations, lectures and free seminars. [Website](#).

BEST SPRING GARDENS: INTERNATIONAL IRIS GARDEN AND THE ROSE GARDEN, From April 25 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. 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

MIDA, THE MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DELL'ARTIGIANATO AT FORTEZZA DI BASSO, April 25 - May 1

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GIARDINO DELL'ARTECULTURA, May until September

The Giardino dell'ArteCultura is one of the most popular summer spaces in Florence and offers every day a rich program of events for all tastes and all ages. This well-equipped space, inside the Garden of Horticulture in Florence, offers every evening various art and entertainment initiatives for adults and, for children, in the park not far from Piazza della Libertà. Events schedule available on the [official Website](#).

LA DEMOCRAZIA DEL CORPO DANCE FESTIVAL, Until May

Until 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 theme is: Suspending the journey. *"When the rainbow of human cultures has sunk into the void dug by our fury; as long as we exist and a world exists – this tenuous arch that binds us to the inaccessible will resist: and will show the reverse path to that of our slavery..."* Claude Lévi-Strauss, Tristes Tropiques. Please click here to get the whole [programme](#).

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

TRACEY EMIN, SEX AND SOLITUDE AT PALAZZO STROZZI, Until July 20

Palazzo Strozzi in Florence dedicates the largest exhibition ever held in Italy to a provocative and controversial living artist: Tracey Emin. Sex and Solitude. Her first successes date back to the 1990s with works such as The bed or the Tent, which caused a sensation but propelled her into the Olympus of art. Hard hit by the events of life - the latest a devastating tumour - she infuses her works with very physical and bodily aspects such as sex, abortion, illness, thereby linking art to life. All this is expressed in different artistic disciplines, from drawing to painting, from photography to video, made explicit in the exhibition with 60 works. [Website](#).

GIANELLI: IL CIELO SOPRA FIRENZE, Until May 15

These huge street sculptures are already the talk of the town. Il Cielo sopra Firenze is the title of the new exhibition by the artist Emanuele Giannelli. Giannelli's exhibition is inspired by Wim Wenders' famous film The Sky Above Berlin, but the parallels do not stop at the title: just as in Wenders' film

the guardian angels move around the city, visible only to children, the artist tells of the visionaries in Florence who looked to the sky and were able to build its history thanks to their thinking. [Website](#).

BOTTEGHE FIORENTINE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT VIA DEI BARDI, Until May 31

The photographic exhibition by Guido Cozzi will be inaugurated on January 25, 2025, at the Istituto de' Bardi of Florence, in the prestigious Palazzo Capponi. The exhibition takes visitors on a visual journey through some of the city's artisan workshops: restorers, decorators, bronze workers, blacksmiths, carpenters, gilders, jewelers, bookbinders, and many more. These crafts once formed the economic and social fabric of the city's neighborhoods and, despite modern challenges, continue to preserve an ancient knowledge. At the Tethys Gallery on Via de' Vellutini 17r, a small complementary exhibition will be set up, featuring images of historic workshops that are no longer in operation. [Website](#).

THE IMPRESSIONISTS IN NORMANDY, AT THE MUSEO DEGLI INNOCENTI, Until May 4

150 years after the first exhibition of the Impressionist movement in Paris in 1874. Normandy, thanks to the colours of its sky, the sparkle of its water and its verdant valleys has been immortalised through the gaze of painters such as Monet, Renoir, Delacroix and Courbet, the protagonists of this exhibition along with many others: an exceptional corpus of more than 70 works that tell about the Impressionist movement and its close links with the territory. The masterpieces on display tell of the intellectual ferment of exchanges, comparisons and collaborations between the greatest artists of the time who, immersed in a dazzling nature of intense colours and scintillating panoramas, gave Normandy the emblematic image of the cradle of Impressionism. [Website](#).

DANCE, THEATRE, AND MUSIC

THE 87TH EDITION OF THE MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO, Until June 13

The Theatre of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino owes its name to the prestigious Maggio Musicale Festival, the oldest in Italy. Founded in Florence in 1933, the festival quickly became a centre of dissemination of European musical culture. This year's festival showcases two months of programming. On May 25, 2025, with repeats on May 28 and 31, Der Junge Lord's brilliant and satirical opera by Hans Werner Henze (1964) with Markus Stenz conducting and Daniele Menghini directing. This opera perfectly embodies Maggio's mission, which is to program and offer titles that are not, or only rarely, found on the billboards of other theaters. See the full program [here at the website](#).

PERFORMANCES AT TEATRO VERDI: INCLUDING SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW

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: **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW**. I have seen this show myself years ago in Australia, and it is one of the most memorable and meaningful theatre experiences I've ever been to! Slava's Snowshow is a genre in itself, managing to be as spontaneous and magical as the first day it was performed, transporting adults into a world of childhood wonder and amazement. [Website](#).

THEATRE AND MUSIC AT TEATRO DELLA PERGOLA, TEATRO RIFREDI AND TEATRO NICCOLINI

The Teatro della Pergola is a historic opera house in Florence, Italy, built in 1656 under the patronage of Cardinal Gian Carlo de' Medici. The Teatro Niccolini is the oldest of the modern theatres in Florence, which shares its history with Teatro della Pergola. The Teatro Rifredi was first built as a working and social structure in 1913, and at the end of the 60s, a group of young people decided to try creating theatrical experiences and the venue transformed into a theatre. You can find the full programming for all three of these beautiful theatres on the [Tuscany Theatre Website here](#).

AMICI DELLA MUSICA

If you ever wanted to listen to classical music in a theatre where you could imagine Verdi or Mozart to walk in any second go to the jewel box Pergola Theatre. The Amici della Musica of Florence presents various concerts at the Teatro della Pergola. Works by Rossini, Schumann, Schubert, Brahms, Bach, Beethoven and Mozart are only a small sample of what will be performed. [Tickets and more information](#).

FILMS AND OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING AT LOCAL FLORENCE CINEMAS:

Especially for those living here long term, a night at the cinema enjoying a film in our first language is a beloved tradition that we miss! More and more of Florence's cinemas are introducing film screenings in Original Language. Be sure to look for the words "Original Language" or "O.V." or "V.O." (Original Version/Versione Originale) when you're looking up film times, to be sure you're getting the right session! Otherwise you will see the film with Italian language audio dubbed over.

GIUNTI ODEON CINEMA: THIS MONTH "THUNDERBOLTS"

A beloved Florence favourite. Once an old cinema, and now a stunning bookshop and cinema with events and restaurant. In the evening at 9:00 PM, the cinema space lights up with screenings in the original language with subtitles and restored versions." [Buy Tickets here](#).

CINEMA LA COMPAGNIA: THIS MONTH "AWAY"

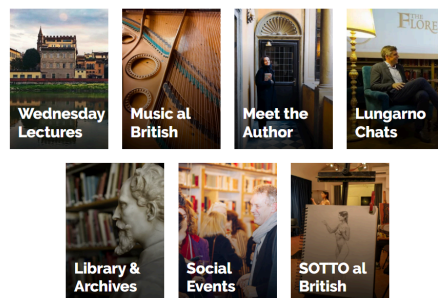
Cinema La Compagnia is in easy reach on the beautiful Via Cavour, and is home to the best cinema festivals from around the world. A second home for the film crowd in Florence, and they show original language films regularly. [See their program here](#).

SPACE CINEMA: THIS MONTH “THUNDERBOLTS” AND “PINK FLOYD AT POMPEII”

This one is an easy tram ride from the center to the San Donato tram stop, where you'll find Space Cinemas on the top floor of the large San Donato shopping complex. This is the biggest cinema complex in Florence, with multiple screening rooms and films every day. [See their schedule here.](#)

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE CULTURAL PROGRAM IN THEIR STUNNING HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY

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



LIFEDRAWING 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 – 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 1,050,000 Euro



SALE – Chianti Farm House - 35 Km South of Florence

Farm Complex to be refurbished, approx. 600 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 6000 Sq. Ft.) with land and garden. Electricity and water already in place. Hill top position, easy access.

Asking Price 900,000 Euro



SALE – Ponte Vecchio Loft - Historic Center

Refurbished loft apartment, approx. 180 sq. mt.(1800 Sq. Ft), 2 bed, 3 bath, autonomous heating. High decorated ceilings, out door balcony.

Asking price 1,350,000 Euro



SALE - Ponte Vecchio Apt - Historic Center

Refurbished first floor apt with elevator, approx. 150 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 1500 Sq. Ft.). 2 bed, 2 bath; autonomous heating, doorman, condo terrace on roof.

Asking Price 1,200,000 Euro



SALE – De Neri Apt – Historic Center

Refurbished third floor, apt with elevator, approx. 130 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 1300 Sq. Ft.). 2 bed, 2 bath; autonomous heating, Air Con..

Asking Price 1,500,000 Euro



SALE – San Lorenzo Apt – Historic Center

Top floor, with elevator, listed with the Fine Arts, refurbished, approx. 140 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 1400 Sq. Ft.) and 10 Sq. Mt. (100 Sq.Ft) of terrace. 3 bed, 2 bath, quiet, and centrally located

Asking Price 730,000 Euro

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