

# 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 seasons 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 THREE BEDROOM APARTMENT IN A GREEN AREA WITH A TERRACE AND BALCONIES FOR ENJOYING THE SPRING SEASON OUTDOORS**



This apartment is set on a secondary street in a quiet and green residential area called Campo di Marte, on the north outskirts of Florence, well serviced with public transport, shops and supermarkets. About 30-40 min walk to the historic center, or 10 min ride with bus. With three bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 balconies, and an outdoor terrace with furniture, this is a home for the whole family to enjoy together.

[More information and photos here.](#)

### **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 23-24**

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 3**

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 88th FESTIVAL OF THE MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINA HAS LAUNCHED! Until July 1st, 2026**

**The Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Festival** is one of Europe's oldest festivals. This year's edition, the 88th, is particularly rich and high-quality, including opera and concerts, featuring major names in the international music scene.

**Opera highlights include:** The Death of Klinghoffer by John Adams, directed by Luca Gudagnino; Un ballo in maschera by Giuseppe Verdi, conducted by Zubin Mehta, starting May 12; and Giulio Cesare by George Frideric Handel, directed by David Livermore.

**Concert Highlights Include:** Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, conducted by Zubin Mehta, will be on April 23 and 29, respectively. On May 3, Michele Mariotti will conduct Dvořák's symphonic masterpiece From the New World; on May 16, Mahler's celebrated Fifth Symphony will be performed, conducted by Myung-Whun Chung. In the dual role of conductor and violinist, Dmitry Sinkovski will perform Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade on May 23; a piano recital by Beatrice Rana (music by Beethoven and Bruckner) on May 28; Sir Antonio Pappano will conduct the Italian Youth Orchestra, with music by Brahms and Shostakovich, on May 24.

**Special concerts** by Ludovico Einaudi will be held on May 20 and 21; On June 6th, a concert by Asmik Grigorian, soprano (Tchaikovsky & Rachmaninoff); Diego Ceretta, conductor, on June 9th with music by Beethoven, Mendelssohn & Schubert; Francesco Meli, tenor; Luca Salsi, baritone (Verdi & Liszt) on June 16th. The Festival concludes with the monumental complete performance of Beethoven's nine symphonies, conducted by Daniele Gatti, from June 18th to July 1st.

#### **Open May**

This "Maggio" season also sees the renewal of the parallel "Open May" calendar: the Teatro del Maggio Musicale hosts a multitude of high-level events, literally "opening" its doors to other major musical and cultural institutions in Florence: from the Amici della Musica to the Cherubini Conservatory, from the Fiesole School of Music to the Homme Armé. Also scheduled is "La Traviata da cortile," an event curated by Alessandro Baricco. Find all the details (complete calendar of events, how to purchase tickets) on the official [Maggio Musicale Fiorentino website](#).

#### **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](#).

#### **DANCE AND MUSIC IN FLORENCE CENACLES**

From April 12 to June 21, 2026, a series of six concerts curated by the Florentine Chamber Orchestra will take place in the intimate and rarefied settings of the Cenacolo di Sant'Apollonia, the Cenacolo di Andrea del Sarto, the Cenacolo di Ognissanti, the Cenacolo del Fuligno, and the Museo di San Marco. Music resonates in Florence's great Renaissance refectories through a project that brings into dialogue two of the city's extraordinary heritages: painting and music. Thus is born "The Places of Listening," a new concert series that will bring the Orchestra della Toscana into the frescoed refectories of some of the city's most evocative state museums. The initiative invites visitors to rediscover these monumental spaces, often from mass tourism, through a sensitive and contemporary dialogue between sound, gesture, artistic expression, and architecture. [Website](#).

### **THE SPRING PLANT AND FLOWER MARKET, PRESENTED BY THE TUSCAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR OVER 170 YEARS, April 25 - May 3**

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'Orticoltura from April 25 to May 3. 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](#).

### **INTERNATIONAL IRIS GARDEN AND THE ROSE GARDEN, Until May 20**

The Iris is the symbol of Florence, the vibrant 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](http://www.irisfirenze.it)

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

### **APERICINEMA AT 25HOURS HOTEL, Until May**

Join us for Apericinema, where aperitivo meets the big screen. Come a little earlier, order your drink, grab some free popcorn and get comfortable before the film starts at 8pm. Choose from our special

Apericinema offers and enjoy a great wine, a fresh beer or one of our signature cocktails while watching a carefully selected movie in original language with Italian subtitles.

Entrance is free, and every month brings a new theme to discover. See what's playing and join us for an amazing movie night. [See the film program here!](#)

### **CAREGGI IN MUSICA 2026, Until May 24**

The new edition of Careggi in Musica 2026 begins, the season of Sunday concerts organized by the Association A.Gi.Mus. Florence at the Aula Magna of the New Entrance of Careggi Hospital (Largo Brambilla 3). Once again this year, the initiative offers a rich program of free musical events for patients, healthcare staff, and the general public, bringing together culture, beauty, and moments of relief within the hospital setting. The season will continue with a full schedule of 12 Sunday concerts through 24 May 2026, ranging from classical music to more contemporary sounds, and featuring performances by soloists, ensembles, and emerging young talents. The program includes concerts dedicated to film soundtracks, recitals for instruments such as viola and piano, initiatives focused on great composers, and special tributes designed to engage a broad and diverse audience. [Website.](#)

## **MORE EXHIBITIONS AND CULTURAL EVENTS**

### **MARK ROTHKO AT THE PALAZZO STROZZI, Until August**

The Rothko exhibition arrives at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, one of the most important exhibitions ever dedicated to an undisputed master of modern art. He is one of the most prestigious artists in the world, and the monographic exhibition in Florence, with satellite sections at the Museum of San Marco and the Laurentian Library, is an absolutely unique event. Mark Rothko's career is traditionally divided into three distinct periods: all are represented in the 70 paintings on display in Florence, which come from major museums in both the United States and Europe that normally house his works. The architecture of Palazzo Strozzi and the Florentine spaces are the ideal setting for exploring Rothko's technique, which translates the tension between classical measure and expressive freedom into painting; colour creates a new perception of space and gives the canvas a particular material dimension, beyond normal two-dimensionality. [Website.](#)

### **BASELITZ. AVANTI! AT THE MUSEO NOVECENTO, Until September**

The Museo Novecento in Florence presents Baselitz. AVANTI!, a major exhibition dedicated to Georg Baselitz, organised in collaboration with the artist's studio. Spread over three floors, the exhibition brings together around 170 works, including engravings, paintings and sculptures, with a special focus on engraving, a central but lesser-known aspect of his work. The exhibition traces over sixty years of activity, highlighting the radical nature of his language and his famous practice of reversing images, which challenges the viewer's perception. Born in 1938 in pre-war Germany, Baselitz used destruction and historical crisis as a starting point to profoundly renew the figurative tradition. The exhibition also highlights the artist's strong connection with Florence, a city that was

fundamental to his development, where he stayed in the 1960s and 1970s and returned several times until his solo exhibition in 1988 at Palazzo Vecchio. [Website](#).

### **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 "THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2"**

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 "THE DRAMA"**

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 "THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2", "MICHAEL", AND "THE LONG WALK"**

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](#).

### **PERFORMANCES AT TEATRO VERDI: THIS MONTH SEE "BOTANICA SEASON", May 16-19**

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: BOTANICA SEASON**

Momix is a company of dancers and illusionists founded and directed by Moses Pendleton. The visionary American choreographer conjures a universe of surreal images by combining human bodies, costumes, props, and plays of light. Nature has always been Pendleton's inspiration; in a new guise, he revisits and reinvents his acclaimed masterpiece, Botanica, in a process of artistic evolution that reveals new depths, transforming it and leading it to unprecedented and dreamlike metamorphoses. Momix draws us into a seductive, sensorial immersion that will make us feel tiny before the vibrating wasps, the sensuality of marigolds, the grandeur of branches reaching toward the sky, and the vital energy of the sun. More information and ticket bookings are the [website](#).

## **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: Uffizi, Accademia, Bargello , Medici Chapels, Pitti Palace (all museums), San Marco, Palazzo Davanzati, Medici Villas. And civic museums: Palazzo Vecchio, Arnolfo Tower, Santa Maria Novella, Stefano Bardini Museum, Fondazione Salvatore Romano, Museo del Novecento, Brancacci Chapel in Santa Maria del Carmine. [More information 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 – Piazza Antinori Attic – Historic Center**

Top floor, refurbished apt, approx. 200 sq. mt.(2000 Sq. Ft), and 35 Sq.Mt. (350 Sq. Ft.) of terrace. 3 bed, study, 4 bath, air conditioning, autonomous heating. Possible elevator.

Asking Price 2,200,000 Euro



### **SALE - Signoria Apartment - Historic Center**

Second floor (54 steps) of antique old medieval tower, 100 Sq. Mt. (1000 Sq. Ft.), one bedroom, studio and one bathroom. High decorated ceilings, autonomous heating, air. con.

Asking Price 520.000 Euro



### **SALE - San Remigio Apt - Historic Center**

Refurbished Apt, third floor with elevator, approx 120 Sq. Mt. (1200 Sq.Ft.), plus 5 Sq.Mt. (50 Sq.Ft.) of balcony. 3 Bed, 2 Bath, autonomous heating, Air. Conditioning.

Asking price 1,100,000 Euro



### **SALE – Via Tornabuoni Apt – Historic Center**

Third floor (80 easy steps up), refurbished, modern style apt on two levels, approx. 75 sq. mt.(750 Sq. Ft). 1 bed, 1 bath, air conditioning, autonomous heating. Possible Elevator.

Asking Price 420,000 Euro



### **SALE – Albizi Attic – Historic Center**

Top floor, 60 steps up, listed with the Fine Arts, to be upgraded, approx. 150 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 1800 Sq. Ft.) and 80 Sq. Mt. (800 Sq.Ft) of terraces. 2 bed, 3 bath, sunny, views, and centrally located. For more info please contact us directly.

Asking Price 1,300,000 Euro



### **SALE - Paterno Farm House - 25 Km East of Florence**

Free standing, refurbished stone house approx 400 Sq. Mt. (4000 Sq.Ft.), surrounded by 1.500 Sq. Mt. (15.000 Ft) of garden. 5 Bed, 4 Bath, autonomous heating, independent apartments.

Asking Price 800,000 Euro

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