

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

WELCOME

It's the most wonderful time of the year... We especially look forward to the first weeks of December. The holiday street decorations are going up, shop windows glow invitingly, and city strolling becomes a real pleasure. In Tuscany, the snow is whitening the mountaintops and it is a chance to see the real Tuscany. Locals going about their every day business as the vineyards and woods turn burnt orange. Don't forget that along with Christmas day and Boxing day, December 8th is a holiday, too! See the best festive window displays, and cosy up for warmth in the glowing trattoria's that are their most delicious when it's cold, with best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, LESLIE, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR DECEMBER

BEST EVENT FOR DECEMBER: AILO HOLIDAY BAZAAR

December 2 and 3

Each year the American International League of Florence Onlus (AILO), founded in 1975, organizes a bazaar. There will be all types of clothing – evening gowns, cocktail dresses, casual attire, coats, kid's togs – plus purses, gloves, scarves, jewellery (diamonds, or not) and hats. Toys for children should also be on your shopping list.

Once again there is a lottery full of wonderful prizes with tickets already flying out the door, so call any member of the AILO or phone Pitcher & Flaccomio at 0552343354 for tickets or purchase them at the door. There will, of course, also be food and drink galore! Bring the kids, too; there will be games and activities. Everyone at P&F is looking forward to seeing you there.

The Christmas Bazaar is actually a year-long project for league members, with lots of organization behind it! Members propose charities and their needs, which are then voted on in a certain order. There is no question that decisions in 2012 are difficult, as there is more need than ever. Over the years, AILO has raised over €1,000,000 for Florentine charities. Please do your best to help them reach their goals.

This year, the American International League ONLUS will be holding the annual Christmas Bazaar again in the NEW LOCATION: Convitto della Calza - Piazza della Calza, 6, 50125 Firenze, right near the Piazza of Porta Romana.

Times: Saturday from 15.30 to 19.00, Sunday from 10.30 to 19.00

BEST P&F RENTAL PICK FOR DECEMBER: A LUXURIOUS SPACE WITH IMPRESSIVE ANTIQUE FURNISHINGS AND DECORATION

"A superb apartment in a central location handy to everything Florence has to offer. The height of the ceilings and the antique furnishings and decoration are impressive. The space is very luxurious for a city apartment."

Piazza Madonna degli Aldobrandini is located in the very center of town and is home to the famous Medici Chapel. It is a few steps from the San Lorenzo church and market, the train station, the Dome Cathedral and a short distance from all of the monuments and museums. The area is abundant with shops and restaurants, not to mention the stands of the well-known San Lorenzo market.

The apartment is situated on the 1st floor with a lift and measures approx. 300 sq. mt. (approx. 3230 sq. ft.) and consists of: Entrance, Living room, Gallery, Study (can be single bedroom), Dining room (table for 10, 2 tables for 4/6), Large storage room (built in wardrobes), Kitchen (table for 4/6), Master bedroom (large double bed in alcove), Bedroom in loft (2 single beds), 3 bathrooms (2 en suite with shower stalls, 1 with tub), Laundry room

The apartment is furnished and decorated with antiques and the living room, dining room, bedroom and study have frescoed ceilings, while the gallery is entirely frescoed. The floor is tiled with terracotta. The Master bedroom en suite bathroom is white marble; the other is white tiled with stone wall in shower. The guest bathroom has black and white tiles and white fixtures. The kitchen is modern with a 6 meter professionally equipped bench.

Positives: Location, spacious, light, elegant furnishings, paintings and decorations. Small discount



possible at nearby gym/wellness center.

More information:

http://www.pitcherflacomio.com/new/index.php?file=oneaffitti&form_id_affitti=1256<

BEST MARKET FOR DECEMBER: SPECIAL CHRISTMAS AND ARTISAN MARKETS

Hot mulled wine, great beer and a salty, smoky wurstel – all can be found right now in Piazza Santa Croce. **The Mercato Tedesco di Natale (German Christmas Market) that started in late November and runs until December 27, from 10am until 10pm daily.** Traditional German food and craft products fill the square, there are also seventeen other countries represented in over fifty stands. A small Christmas village of charming wooden huts, with open areas of tables and chairs where you can sit and enjoy some of the rich German food on offer. Don't forget to try the apple strudel and the hot mulled wine! Open daily from 10am - 10pm.

Merry and Bright: A Creative People in Florence Holiday Event. December 9-10 at Palazzo San Niccolò (Via San Niccolò 79) Creative People in Florence is pleased to announce our third annual holiday event bringing together a selection of artists, artisans and designers for a weekend of holiday cheer, including a pop-up market featuring top quality jewelry, accessories, homewares and more, workshops, tastings and live music. Visitors can browse for unique, handmade gifts and get to know the artisans and designers who made them, or stop in for a workshop (for adults and children!) or a tea tasting. On Saturday evening a festive aperitivo will feature live music by local talent. This year hosts a great group long-time CPiF friends (MK Textiles, New Kid Footwear, Officine Nora, Sara Amrhein) and some great new entries like Tiche Clothing (fashion), Tago Designs (handbags), Sara Rabà (fashion) and Lizziemargherita (handbound books and stationary). There will be a kids activity station set up on Sunday, a watercolor workshop, wreath-making, and more to be announced.

Saturday, December 9 from 11am-7pm: Pop-up market featuring unique, handmade gifts, Workshops for adults and children (tba), Tea tasting with Oronero

Saturday, December 9 from 7-9pm: Cozy aperitivo with live music. Stop by for some festive fun and catch up with friends.

Sunday, December 10 from 11-6pm: Pop-up market continues, Workshops (tba)

A Boboli Christmas Market on December 11th. Christmas is celebrated in my favourite artists area of **Oltrarno**, in via Romana and the surrounding streets. You'll find a bustling Christmas market, with music and games for children and light projections. Admission is free.

ARTour presents Il Bello In Piazza in the beautiful Piazza degli Strozzi. From the 8th - 10th and from the 21st - 23rd of December, Piazza degli Strozzi will host a double event with a market and showcase of the productions of artisan masters. Here, you can appreciate and buy the best craftsmanship offers Florence has to offer. There will be original items, for all tastes, ranging from garments to ceramics to jewels. The event, organized by Cna Firenze, in collaboration with Tuscany Region, the City of Florence and Artex, takes place from 10 am to 10 pm. "Variety and quality are the perfect combination that make this event a must-see for tourists and locals alike" - commented **Jacopo Silei coordinator Cna Firenze Città** -. "Artour brings "Made in Italy" artisan products and the charm of authentic craftsmanship, those that distinguish our businesses and make a difference."

Christmas Fair at the Harold Acton Library, 15th of December at 15:00. All are welcome to the annual Harold Acton Library Christmas Fair. Tea and cakes will be served from 15:00 to 18:00. Books, arts and crafts, homemade goods. There will also be a raffle, and the prizes are always wonderful, with all proceeds going towards the library.

Fierucolina Dell'Immacolata from December 8-10, from 9am - 7pm, Piazza SS Annunziata will be alive with a can't-miss crafts and organic food countryside Christmas fair. You will find hand-woven dresses and ponchos, Christmas wreaths, beeswax candles, naturally scented soaps and oils, home-baked bread and cakes, ceramics, wine, olive oil, olive wood salad bowls and more.

Fierucolina Di Natale on December 17th between 9am - 7pm. Take yourself down to **Piazza Santo Spirito** and find what Santa (or his faithful helpers) has been handcrafting for very good children. You can find all kind of stands offering foods, ceramics, hand-knit sweaters, carved wooden toys, and unique gifts, especially if you are shopping for kids.

Mercatino in a Palazzo: Christmas market to raise funds for charities held every year in Palazzo Corsini. From December 1-3, You'll find gourmet products and gift ideas, with proceeds going toward the non-profit organisation FILE's palliative care support. There will be over 60 exhibitors, including big brands and boutique artisans, with clothing for men, women, children, design items, household linen, modern objects, jewellery, perfume, cosmetics, wine and food products, books, toys, and many other curiosities. 10am-7pm, Palazzo Corsini, Lungarno Corsini 8.

BEST PERFORMANCE EVENT FOR DECEMBER: THE NUTCRACKER BALLET BY ST PETERSBURG BALLEY COMPANY AT TEATRO DELLA PERGOLA

December 23

Text from: theflorentine.net

“Tchaikovsky's Christmas classic, performed by the St. Petersburg Ballet and choreographed by M. Petipa. Based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's 1816 story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," adapted by Alexandre Dumas and later set to music by Peter Tchaikovsky, "The Nutcracker" is a Christmas fable for the ages and a ballet that merits an annual viewing. With its colorful cast of characters (including miniature soldiers, mean mice and snowflakes come to life), plus its elaborate costumes, scenery and memorable music, "The Nutcracker" has made Christmas dreams come true for all ages for generations. The St. Petersburg Ballet will perform against the magnificent backdrop of Teatro della Pergola in an **afternoon show recommended for families (5.45pm)** and a **nighttime finale (8.45pm)**. Early booking is highly advised; various ticket packages and pricing are available.”

Teatro della Pergola via della Pergola 12/32

via della Pergola 12/32

Website: <http://www.teatrodellapergola.com/schiaccianoci-balletto-san-pietroburgo/>

BEST CHRISTMAS TRADITION FOR DECEMBER: DUOMO CHRISTMAS TREE AND NATIVITY SCENE

December 8 in Italy is a national holiday that celebrates the Immaculate Conception. This day of festivity unofficially starts the countdown to Christmas as many Italian families traditionally use this day to set up and decorate their Christmas tree and Nativity scene in their homes.

On December 8 in Florence's historic centre the large Christmas tree is set up in Piazza del Duomo. The lighting of the Christmas tree is accompanied by an official public ceremony with the participation of Florence's Mayor. Also in Piazza del Duomo, the impressive Nativity Scene is built in the front and left of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. The Nativity has life-sized beautiful statues made in terracotta by an artisan of Impruneta. Both the Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are up until January 6, the day of Epiphany.

In the Cathedral of Florence, the traditional Christmas Eve Mass is celebrated by the Cardinal of Florence at midnight (Vigil prayers start at 11pm). On Christmas morning, the Mass is celebrated at 10:30am, in conjunction with the Pope blessing in Rome.

BEST EXHIBITION FOR DECEMBER: MELISSA KREIDER: REMNANTS AT THE FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

Until December 5

Text from: theflorentine.net

“Florence University of the Arts will spotlight artist and FUA alumna Melissa Kreider in a two-part exhibition across two venues—Ganzo, the creative lab-restaurant of Apicius International School of Hospitality, and FUA’s main campus at corso dei Tintori.

Titled "Remnants", Kreider’s exhibition comprises a series of photographs exploring themes of domestic and sexual assault, taken mostly in the rural United States. Her documentary images highlight the backlog of rape kits in police evidence rooms, sites where assaults or instances of domestic violence have occurred, steps involved in sexual assault evidence collection, and the survivors themselves. The photographs in "Remnants" only came to fruition through Kreider's extensive work with police

headquarters and sexual assault survivor and advocate networks across the United States.

Kreider is particularly close to her subject matter as a survivor of sexual assault herself, and finds the Florentine display fitting in light of the recent rape allegations leveled at local carabinieri by two young American women studying in Florence. The artist's primary aim is to prompt dialogue around this loaded yet essential topic: "Even if it sparks one productive conversation between people, that's what I want. I'm not trying to save the world."

BEST DINING OUT FOR DECEMBER: DELICIOUS BRUNCH AT MOMIO IN SAN FREDIANO

Review from our favourite: <http://girlinflorence.com/2017/07/05/momio-firenze-brunch-not/>

"At Momio, the feeling you get upon entering is very British but don't be fooled, the menu features a wide array of International options. However, when I think about it, is actually very British. Isn't the Uk's national dish Chicken Tikka Masala?

The front room is pleasantly muted in cool shades of blue, brown and pink, with colorful lampshades and exposed wire. On one wall, a glass cupboard showcases a selection of pretty china, a child's tea party waiting to happen or —who am I kidding, one for adults.

Along the main cafeteria bar sits a various array of glass-covered nibbles, of the sweet variety. Stacks of large chocolate chip cookies, one-person crostini and berry muffins, a perfect pairing go to go with a selection of tea from local tea-haven Tealicious (good choice guys) or an excellent selection of single-origin coffee (labeled on the menu with the place of origin).

We eagerly had a look at their cafeteria menu and chose a selection of their egg dishes. Perfectly cooked eggs benedict, eggs royal or eggs Florentine (9 to 11€ a plate), all of the English muffins are handmade as Nadia was on a mission to find ones that were perfect, after living for some time in London. Also on tap on omelettes, pitas, yogurt and granola. We shared a deliciously crunchy pizza frita (10€), topped with mortadella ham, each bite convincing me that I could just come back for this.

I also spotted Vietnamese bánh on the menu, this is a Vietnamese sandwich with baguette bread topped with pork pate, roasted pancetta, carrots, daikon, cucumber and coriander. We didn't try it this visit but I am very intrigued to sample this delicious-sounding treat another time."

Open 9am-11pm Wednesday-Sunday.

9am-8:30pm, Tuesday, Closed Mondays.

Address: Via Pisana 9c, Florence, Italy.

BEST OF THE REST FOR DECEMBER

DINING WITH PRODUCERS SERIES AT SIMBIOSI December 6, 14, and 20

Enjoy dinners with wine producers featuring a menu of three dishes from the kitchen, paired with wines offered and vividly narrated by the people who produced them. 35 euro per person. Begins at 7pm and runs late.

December 6: Barolo Cerrati della Tenuta Cucco, Piedmont

December 14: Nobile di Montepulciano del Podere Il Macchione, Tuscany

December 20: Brunello di Montalcino di San Polino, Tuscany

SimBIOSi

via de' Ginori 56r

Tel. 0550640115

CAROLING AT ST. MARK'S

December 9

Join St Mark's for their annual Carolling around the Oltrarno, followed by mince pies and mulled wine back in St Mark's. Don't forget to dress up well and bring a candle, if you can. Free entrance and all welcome. Please come to St Mark's at 5.45pm, bringing a candle/torch, and don't forget to wrap up well!

From 6:00pm - 7:00pm

St. Mark's English Church, Via Maggio, 16

More details on the website: www.stmarksitaly.com

FIRENZE WINTER PARK AT THE OBIHALL

Until February 25

Go skiing, ice skating and tobogganing on the banks of the Arno at Obihall. After heading down the 80-metre piste on skis or a snowboard or trying your luck on the ice rink, indulge in some après-ski at the bars, enjoy a hearty meal at the restaurant or join in the many children's activities. The park will remain open over the Christmas period (and on Christmas Day from 2:00pm until 1.00am).

See www.firezewinterpark.it for details.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, December 31, put your warmest coat over your fanciest clothes (and perhaps some long undies) and head to central Florence for at least three free outdoor concerts. While the final schedule is yet to be announced, traditionally Piazza della Signora hosts a classical concert starting around 11:15 pm. This year look for jazz, pop and rock to be happening in Piazza della Repubblica, Piazza della Stazione, Piazza Santa Maria Novella and Piazza SS. Annunziata.

Ring in the New Year at the Fortezza da Basso at a celebration from 10 p.m. on December 31 to 8 a.m. on the first day of 2018. With different rooms of the centre featuring different music styles and international DJs and performers, you choose the ambience right for you to celebrate the New Year in Florence.

#DOMENICOALMUSEO : STATE MUSEUMS FREE FOR EVERYONE, AND CIVIC MUSEUMS FREE FOR RESIDENTS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

First Sunday of the 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. It's a fantastic initiative to reward the people who call Florence home, and make it easier for them to enjoy the city's treasures.

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 the **civic museums also 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.

Make a note that you still have to visit the ticket offices to collect a free ticket, and they close an hour before the museums close. Some offer special guided visits or tours, but you'll need to reserve those in advance. You'll find more information at: www.musefirenze.it

EXHIBITIONS IN DECEMBER

500 YEARS OF MARTIN LUTHER AT THE UFFIZI GALLERY

Until January 7

From: visitflorence.com

“500 years later. The Uffizi presents an the exhibition in “Sala Detti”, of a precious core of Lutheran paintings belonging to the Medici collections. The icons of the new reformed Church will be displayed highlighting the work of Lucas Cranach il Vecchio (Kronach 1472 – 1553 Weimar), who also worked on image engravings, accompanied by reformed sacred texts, which he published himself partly as a publisher. For the first time, three series of high quality engravings that illustrate sacred topics such as the Passion of Christ, the Apostles, Martyrs of the Apostles, and other single prints are exhibited for the first time.”

Le Gallerie degli Uffizi, Piazzale degli Uffizi 6

I NIPOTI DEL RE DI SPAGNA AT PALAZZO PITTI

Until January 8

This presentation will feature the recent acquisition of an important painting by Anton Raphael Mengs by the Uffizi Gallery. The canvas depicts two of the children of Pietro Leopoldo di Lorena, Federico and Maria Anna.

Pitti Palace, Piazza de' Pitti, 1, 50125 Florence

LA RIVOLUZIONE DELLE IMMAGINI: SERGEI EISENSTEIN AT THE UFFIZI

Until January 8

Text from: theflorentine.net

“Director of Battleship Potemkin and cinema trailblazer Sergei Eisenstein.

The Renaissance museum par excellence hosts a cinema-centred exhibition for the first time. Soviet film director Sergei Eisenstein is spotlighted in Eizenstejn: La Rivoluzione delle Immagini, a show marking the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The moving image pioneer behind such famed works as Battleship Potemkin, Eisenstein introduced montage to the film world and, incidentally, made reference to 13th-15th century art in select films, adding further dimension to this unprecedented collision of genres at the Uffizi. The exhibition features drawings on loan from the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art and several rooms of film clips.”

Galleria degli Uffizi, Sale di Levante

Tel. 055 2388651

info@polomuseale.firenze.it

www.uffizi.it

LEONARDI BRUNI AT THE BIBLIOTECA MEDICEA LAURENZIANA

Until January 18

From: visitflorence.com

“The exhibition with the library at the San Lorenzo church pays homage to Leonardo Bruni, born in Arezzo and Chancellor of the Republic of Florence, was a leading humanist of his time. Over sixty Laurentian manuscripts with works by Bruni are divided into eight sections: humanist writings, controversial writings, biographical writings, political writings, historical writings, translations, erasable writings and biographies.”

Piazza San Lorenzo 9, Florence

TESORI DEI GRANDUCHI: LEOPOLDO DE' MEDICI COLLECTION ON DISPLAY AT PALAZZO PITTI

Until January 28

Text from: theflorentine.net

“Marking the 400th anniversary of the Cardinal's birth, "Leopoldo de' Medici: Prince of Collectors" aims not only to showcase key masterworks among his collections, but to demonstrate the vast scope of his interests and the variety of works he collected

Tesoro dei Granduchi, Palazzo Pitti

Piazza Pitti 1

Florence

Leopoldo was a "voracious collector", as Director of the Uffizi Galleries Eike Schmidt called him, with tastes that extended beyond Europe and the West. The exhibition showcases his enthusiastic patronage of the arts and attempts to recreate the lavishness of his expertly curated home.”

RADICAL UTOPIAS OPENS AT CCC STROZZINA

Until January 21

Text from: theflorentine.net

“Get schooled on the radical architectural movement in Florence of the 1960s and 1970s, a machine oiled by political upheaval, pop culture and psychedelia. The undercroft of Palazzo Strozzi shines the spotlight on the revolutionary work of groups and figures including Archizoom, Remo Buti, Gianni Pettena, Superstudio and 9999, but will look beyond architecture. “Radical Utopias” will feature video, design, installation and performance from this productive creative period, which saw young innovators working to squash the status quo in the Renaissance city, which influenced the art world at large. For additional

information, see [Palazzo Strozzi's website](#)."

IL CINQUECENTO A FIRENZE: MICHELANGELO, PONTORMO, AND GIAMBOLOGNA AT PALAZZO STROZZI

Until January 21, 2018

From: visitflorence.com

“An exhibition, and final act in a trilogy of exhibitions curated by Carlo Falciani and Antonio Natali, devoted to the art of the 16th century in Florence showcasing over seventy works of art by such artists as Michelangelo, Bronzino, Giorgio Vasari, Rosso Fiorentino, Pontormo, Santi di Tito, Giambologna and Bartolomeo Ammannati.”

Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza degli Strozzi, 50123, Florence

For Hours and more information, see the [Website](#)

IN FLORENCE: AN INSTALLATION IN PIAZZA SIGNORIA TOGETHER WITH LA BIENNALE INTERNAZIONALE D'ANTIQUARIATO

Until January 21, 2018

From: theflorentine.net

“Swiss artist's contemporary works in piazza della Signoria.

Florence continues to up the contemporary ante in piazza della Signoria, following feather-ruffling shows by Jeff Koons and Jan Fabre. The man of the hour is Urs Fischer, the Swiss artist who first rose to fame in 2011 with a full-size wax replica of Giambologna's The Rape of the Sabine Women, presented at the Venice Biennale. This exhibition will feature two wax candle sculptures placed on the Arengario of Palazzo Vecchio, which will gradually melt over the duration of the show, underscoring the finite nature of our existence. A second highlight will be the 12-meter metal sculpture Big Clay, on loan from the V.A.C. Foundation Collection and in dialogue with the Torre di Arnolfo.”

REVOLUTION 9999 AT MUSEO NOVECENTO

Until January 28

From: visitflorence.com

“The aim of 9999's work was to rethink the forms and languages of architecture at the dawn of the era of electronics and massification of consumption, and in doing so the group developed – within what is known as the Neoavanguardia Architettonica Italiana – a new project form positing the coexistence of the intimacy of the manual process and the broad reach of the media event as transmitted by the television channels, technological progress and environmentalist sentiment.”

Museo Novecento, Piazza Santa Maria Novella 10

PRETIOSA VITREA AT MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO NAZIONALE: THE ANTIQUE ART OF GLASS MAKING

Until January 29

From: visitflorence.com

“Showing over 300 glass vases and fragments, from various epochs and origins - ranging from Egyptians to the Romans, you can appreciate up close the heritage of the ancient art of glass making - which even to this day is virtually almost unknown. Come and admire the charm of their infinite shapes, varied colors, the shimmer of their golden reflections.”

piazza S.S. Annunziata, 9, 50122, Florence

MADE IN NEW YORK: KEITH HARING AT PALAZZO RICCARDI MEDICI

Until February 6

From: visitflorence.com

The Origins of Street Art

“Palazzo Medici Riccardi has put on display the street artist Keith Haring from the private collection of Paolo Buggiani who would describe Haring as a “Genius and talent”. He saved approximately 50 drawings, the first black-and-white chess pieces covering the expired advertisements.”

Via Camillo Cavour, 3, 50129, Florence

LIGHTS BY ADRIAN PACI

Until February 11

(Text from: theflorentine.net)

“Albanian artist Adrian Paci makes his Tuscan debut with *Lights to Serve the Night (Di queste luci si servirà la notte)*, a solo exhibition exploring the concepts of migration, identity and ebbs and flows of populations. For Paci, mobility is an ontological condition of the human race. The Museo Novecento is the main hub of *Lights to Serve the Night*, exhibiting 15 works—three of which have never before been displayed—while clustered work at Le Murate and satellite sites in Pelago and Montelupo Fiorentino will expand the show’s reach. Paci’s central themes are highlighted through rather esoteric means: a highlight of this show will be the “skeleton” of a tentacled boat that was recently sent down the Arno, digging a groove in the river floor to reveal its depths. A video of the installation’s findings and artistic statement will be on display in the Museo Novecento’s Sala Grande. For more information, see the [Museo Novecento website](#).”

Museo Novecento and Le Murate, Florence

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS IN DECEMBER

BRITISH INSTITUTE LECTURE & CONCERT SERIES: SPECIAL CENTENARY EDITION

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. The Cultural Programme is open to members of the British Institute of Florence. Membership options range from 24 hours (€5) to Life (€500). The Institute also hosts special events throughout the month. This year the Institute celebrates their centenary, and the month’s event program includes:

Italian political rhetoric: 6 December 2017 - 18:00

Lecture in English by Franco Andreucci

The 20th century gave rise to mass political parties and their language entered the public arena. The rhetoric of politics altered in order to conform to this new environment which together with its dreadful conflicts, engendered totalitarianism. The rhetoric and the propaganda of both Italian Fascism and Communism are great examples of this phenomenon. Franco Andreucci's talk is an historian's analysis, with personal observations regarding Italian politics and its representations from Fascism (1922) to the dissolution of the Communist party (1990).

Noel, Noel: 13 December 2017 - 18:00

Christmas event with readings and carols by our staff and members

Staff and members of the British Institute read Christmas-related poetry and prose, interspersed with the singing of traditional Christmas carols.

For more information: <http://www.britishinstitute.it/en/news-events/events/cultural-programme>

For membership: <http://www.britishinstitute.it/en/library/harold-acton-library/membership>

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT TASSO HOSTEL FLORENCE

December 6

This month's host is a Florence-based writer with a flair for short stories and running marathons: David Orr

If you're a poet, novelist, performer, playwright, storyteller, or a scrawler of slogans on walls--whatever form your words take--please come to enlighten us! The only limit is time: you get eight minutes in the spotlight. You can also come simply to enjoy the atmosphere, a tasty cocktail, and be surprised and inspired by the performers.

The mic will be open from 9pm until 11pm--be sure to sign up with the host before 9 or during the intermission. This event was conceived in English, but all languages are welcome.

The first Wednesday of every month. Tasso Hostel Florence, Via Villani 15, Piazza Tasso

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/openmicflorence/>

FILM EVENTS IN DECEMBER

100 YEARS OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE: CENTENARY FILM FESTIVAL

Ongoing through the year

The British Institute of Florence reaches a milestone in 2017: its 100th anniversary! To celebrate this important event, the Institute is organising, together with the Odeon Cinema, the BRITISH 100 FILM FESTIVAL. For the entire year, one or two events a month will be dedicated to British movies and culture, all in their original versions with subtitles in Italian.

The film for December:

Wednesday 6th of December at 21.00

[MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS | Assassinio sull'Orient-Express – Special 1920s Night](#)

(USA, UK, 120') – Un film di Kenneth Branagh, con Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench, Michelle Pfeiffer, Penelope Cruz, Johnny Depp, Willem Dafoe

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, and this is one of the most beautiful cinemas you will ever find in the world. The Odeon hosts a long-running program of Original Language films throughout the year.

This month's English language films include: The Mountain Between Us, Murder on the Orient Express, Loving Vincent, Star Wars: The Last Jedi

This month's Special Events/Screenings include: Saturday Night Fever, Walk With Me

Find the whole schedule here: <http://www.odeonfirenze.com/original-sound/>

DANCE AND THEATRE FOR DECEMBER

ANNUAL AUTUMN DANCE FESTIVAL: LA DEMOCRAZIA DEL CORPO

October 10 - December 30

From: theflorentine.net

“To paraphrase Dana Gould, our bodies all enter this world in the same way. They may not be equalizers, but they help us empathize: celebrate these democratic instruments and their many capabilities at the Virgilio Sieni dance and choreography company's annual autumn festival, La Democrazia del Corpo. The program features workshops, conferences and meetings with international artists, dancers, choreographers and members of the art world, along with performances and lectures. Site-specific installations are set up and around 30 far-flung individuals and dance companies take part. The full program is still being defined at publication of this article; for details, see the [Virgilio Sieni company's website](#).”

SHOWS AND SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES AT TEATRO VERDI

The ‘Teatro Pagliano’, which assumed its current name, ‘Teatro Verdi,’ in 1901, was built during the Grand Ducal period in Florence on the former site of the fourteenth century Stinche Prison. During the nineteenth century, Florence – which was also the capital of Italy - witnessed the construction of many theatres. The Teatro Verdi is the only one still in operation, having lived through a century and a half of history and tremendous change. For Florence and the whole Tuscan region, this theatre represents the focal point for special events and occasions, musical events, and popular performances. The Teatro Verdi was the dream project of Girolamo Pagliano. Pagliano was a former baritone and successful pharmacist who invented an elixir for long life. One of the seven largest theatres in Italy, its importance was clear from its inauguration on September 10th 1854. Viscardello, the original title of Verdi's Rigoletto, was the theatre's inaugural performance. The tradition continues today, with wonderful events and concerts at the stunning venue.

This month, see:

December 1: Fiorella Mannoia Concert

December 9: Nel Giardino Degli Archi, theatre show for children

December 7-10: La Febbre Del Sabato Sera, Saturday Night Fever the Musical

December 16-17: Robin Hood the Musical

December 19: Swan Lake Ballet, by Russian Stars and the Moscow State Classical Ballet

December 21-22: The Massimo Lopez and Tullio Solenghi Variety Show

December 24: Christmas Classical Music Concert with Daniele Rustioni and Alessandro Taverna

December 17: Paolo Ruffini Variety Show

December 29-31: Grease the Musical

THEATRE AT TEATRO DELLA PERGOLA

The Teatro della Pergola is a historic opera house in Florence, Italy. It is located in the centre of the city on Via della Pergola, from which the theatre takes its name. It was built in 1656 under the patronage of Cardinal Gian Carlo de' Medici to designs by the architect Ferdinando Tacca, son of the sculptor Pietro Tacca. The inaugural production was the opera buffa, *Il potestà di Colognole* by Jacopo Melani. The opera house, the first to be built with superposed tiers of boxes rather than raked semi-circular seating in the Roman fashion, is considered to be the oldest in Italy, having occupied the same site for more than 350 years. It has two auditoria, the Sala Grande, with 1,500 seats, and the Saloncino, a former ballroom located upstairs which has been used as a recital hall since 1804 and which seats 400.

Nov 28 - December 3: *Il Nome della Rosa*

December 5-10: Musica Ribelle

December 31: Drusilla Foer presents Eleganzissima

December 3 - May 6: In Sua Movenza è Fermo

December 14 - April 21: I Racconti Del Terrore

For more information and to book tickets: <http://www.teatrodellapergola.com/>

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER

MUSICA DEI POPOLI: ETHNIC MUSIC FESTIVAL AT FLOG

Until December 16

The festival “Musica dei Popoli”, born in Florence in 1979, was the first international gathering of ethnic and folk music in Italy, and one of the first festivals of ethno-music in the world. The festival’s goal is to share the knowledge of world’s musical cultures. For this reason, it has been promoting and “giving a voice” to the most distant populations, geographically and culturally speaking, inviting hundreds of artists from all over the world. In its 30 editions, Musica dei Popoli has been presenting more than 300 artists, coming from 80 nations and five continents, among which soloists, and ensembles of vocal and instrumental music, as well as evening of music and dance, or music and theatre.

The artistic program of the “Musica dei Popoli” features folk and ethnic music, both from Italy and beyond. Throughout the years the festival proved that “music” is not only classical music, Anglo-American pop/rock or jazz, and that folk and ethnic music offers a rich cultural and artistic patrimony which is not marginal or inferior to Western-made music.

At the venue 'FLOG' in via Michele Mercati, 24b

For the full program: <http://www.flog.it/MdP%202017.htm>

AMICI DELLA MUSICA AT THE PERGOLA THEATRE

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.

The concerts for December:

December 2: Jin Ju on Pianoforte

December 3: Jin Ju on Pianoforte with the Quintetto di Fiati Italiano

December 4: Kuss Quartett with Avi Avital on Mandolino

December 9: Benedetto Lupo on Pianoforte

December 10: Marco Rizzi on Violino, Diemut Poppen on Viola, and Manuel Fischer-Dieskau on Violincello

December 11: Quartetto di Cremona with Anddrea Lucchesini on Pianoforte and Riccardo Donati on Contrabasso

December 16: The King's Singers

December 17: Ensemble Zefiro, with Alfredo Berdanini as Direttore

See the full program at: <http://www.amicimusica.fi.it/stagione/>

OPERA DI FIRENZE: MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO

One of the most successful annual opera festivals in Florence that was founded in 1933 by conductor Vittorio Gui. Now the “Maggio Musicale Fiorentino” continues to this day, and is spread across multiple venues including: Teatro dell'Opera di Firenze, Teatro Niccolini, and Teatro della Pergola.

The Operas and Concerts for December:

December 7-10: The Ballet: Sleeping Beauty

December 21: Christmas Concert

December 31: Year's End Concert

Tickets and more information: <http://www.operadifirenze.it/en/>

MONTHLY SONG AND WRITER SHOWCASE IN A NEW LOCATION AT SUPERFOX BAR

First and Third Tuesday of the month

The Song/Writer Showcase is held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Come along to enjoy all

original material by songwriters, authors, and poets. Florence is filled with creative and talented performers and The Song/Writer Showcase is a bi-weekly event designed to give them a unique and special stage. The Showcase is hosted by Florence singer-songwriter Patti DeRosa and presents the original works of musicians and writers (as well as original interpretations) and all singer-songwriters, poets, and authors are invited to come and share their material in the intimate setting of Superfox bar, well known for its live music and great drinks.

This Dec. 19: come for the Holiday Party!

To perform or be the Featured Artist, contact host, singer-songwriter Patti DeRosa at pattiguitar@gmail.com

Superfox, Via della Vigna Vecchia 27

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/showcaseflorenceitaly/>

CLASSICAL CONCERTS AND OPERA AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

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.

This month's program includes: Love Duets, La Bohème, Madame Butterfly, La Traviata, The Marriage of Figaro, Carmen, and a Gala Concert for New Year's Eve.

Time: 8:30pm

Price: 30 €, seniors 25 €, students 15 €

Info: 340 8119192

For the complete schedule: <http://concertoclassico.blogspot.it/p/programme.html>

OPERA AND CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH DINNERS AT THE ICONIC CHIESA DI SANTA MONICA, FIRENZE

Throughout December

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. The interior includes sculptures and paintings by Baccio da Montelupo, Giovanni Maria Butteri, and Cosimo Ulivelli. The church plays host to 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: **Classic, Italian, and Romantic Italian Opera selections, New Year's Eve Dinner and Opera Gala.**

For [more information about each event, including the dinner menus, and for ticket bookings.](#)

THE THREE TENORS IN CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH DINNER AT AUDITORIUM SANTO STEFANO AL PONTE VECCHIO

December 7, 12, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28

Celebrate Christmas while listening to beautiful opera arias and famous Neapolitan songs performed by three talented tenors. Accompanied by an instrumental ensemble, you can enjoy arias from La Traviata and songs like Torna a Surriento, Funiculi Funicula, and O Sole Mio. Before the concert, enjoy a

delicious dinner at the Guelfi e ghibellini restaurant of the Relais Santa Croce.

Approximate duration (min.): 90

[Tickets, Menu, and more information.](#)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: OPERA AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE

December 25

Celebrate Christmas with the most beautiful and famous opera arias, sung by internationally renowned artists, in the enchanting atmosphere of the church 'Chiesa Battista' in Florence.

Soprano and tenor, accompanied by the ensemble, will lead a journey in the magical world of opera with arias from La Traviata, La Boheme, The Barber of Seville, Tosca, and much more.

Approximate duration (min.): 80

[Tickets and information.](#)

NEW YEAR'S EVE OPERA GALA: OPERA AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE

December 31

Celebrate the New Year with the most beautiful and famous opera arias, sung by internationally renowned artists, in the enchanting atmosphere of the church 'Chiesa Battista' in Florence.

Soprano and tenor, accompanied by the ensemble, will lead a journey in the magical world of opera with arias from La Traviata, La Boheme, The Barber of Seville, Tosca, and much more.

Approximate duration (min.): 80

[Tickets and information.](#)

MUSICA IN MASCHERA: LA TRAVIATA WITH DINNER

December 2, 23, 30

Discover the frescoed halls of the historic Palazzo Gaddi Arrighetti and the magic of Verdi's 'La Traviata'. The ensemble 'La Lirica Di Firenze' performs in the main hall of the palace.

Start your evening with a typical Tuscan dinner at the restaurant of the Palace. Then, before the opera, travel back to the 18th century with a guided introduction to the secrets of the palace interior. The ensemble of a harp, two violins, and a cello, with artists from prominent Italian theaters, will offer an intimate performance of 'La Traviata' featuring stunning scenery and costumes.

'La Traviata' is the tragic tale of the courtesan Violetta, who is forced to sacrifice the love of Alfredo in order to preserve his honor. The love story is told with some of the most famous and beautiful melodies of the opera repertoire.

[Tickets and Information.](#)

EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE FOR DECEMBER

NATIVITY SCENES ALL THROUGHOUT TUSCANY FOR CHRISTMAS

Throughout December

Text from: discovertuscan.com

“This is a tradition that celebrates the very origins of the Christian holidays, the physical representation of the birth of “bambino Gesù”. The Italian word for nativity scene or crib is “presepe”, and it is here in Italy that the tradition of representing the Holy Family at Christmas time became popular. Though the nativity scenes in themselves vary as to the size, the material they are built with, even the number of elements, people, animals, dress, and activities that are figured - the main concept is always the same: la Madonna, Joseph and baby Jesus and though not mentioned in the original story, tradition will frequently add an angel presiding over everything, an ox and a donkey to the image. Sometimes it is located in a manger, sometimes a cave - sometimes with shepherds, and frequently with the three wise men.

Another common variation, is a "live presepe", a solemn event where real people dress and pose in “character and parade through the city streets before establishing themselves in a ready made stable or cave.” Both of these traditions are very much alive during the holiday season, especially in the period between the 25th of Dec and the 10th of January.

Where did it all Start? In Bethlehem.

The earliest re-enactment of the nativity scene we have on record is that of Saint Francis, who spent quite a bit of time in Tuscany. After having visited Bethlehem, he was compelled to ask the Pope for special permission to recreate the nativity scene, thus offering us the first “presepe vivente. It was set in a cave, with only a manger, straw, a cow and a donkey; San Francesco celebrated Christmas in 1223 in the small town of Greccio, and where they have built the Santuario di Greccio. Shortly thereafter, we have a 3D representation by Arnolfo di Cambio, the man responsible for Palazzo Vecchio, the Castle of Poppi as well as many other pieces of artwork as can be seen in the Museo del Duomo and the Uffizi.

The scene was commissioned by Pope Niccolò V with the idea to imitate that which San Francesco created in Greccio. It started as a “bas rilievo” (attached to a wall or stone slab) and over the years was re-worked by other artists to give it a “tutto tondo” look - meaning a stand alone sculpture look. It can now be seen at Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.

Where to find these Amazing Scenes

In Tuscany, you are bound to find a presepe in every church you visit, many times though you will note that the manger or crib remains empty until the night of the 24th of December. However, some places go beyond the call of mere decoration and have poured heart and soul into creating an image that will express all their emotions during this very special time of the year.

Here is a list of [some our favorite places to visit.](#)”

ANTON DOMENICO GABBIANI AT THE MUSEO CIVICO DI PISTOIA

Until January 28

Text from: discovertuscan.com

“This museum collects the most significant testimonies from churches and convents suppressed or abolished in the city, from purchases and donations. The artist Anton Domenico Gabbiani was among those who were active in the Academy of Florence in the 17th and 18th centuries, and many of the frescoes of the most important palaces of Florence. His work was also highly appreciated in the Medici Court, where he worked as a portraitist. The piece on display is “The presentation of Jesus at the Temple”, which comes from the Benedictine Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Sala, was commissioned to the artist in 1709 but delivered only ten years later after careful study and methodical

preparation by the painter.”

Museo Civico, del Duomo, 1

MARINO MARINI WITH PASSIONI VISIVE AT PALAZZO FABRONI IN PISTOIA

Until January 7

Text from: discovertuscan.com

“Marini, a sculptor born in Tuscany, has never adequately been studied in terms of the historical and stylistic context of his production. This exhibition sets out to rectify this omission, and in consequence establish Marini’s proper place in the history of twentieth-century Modernism. A composite of a selection of masterpieces in bronze, plaster and terracotta by Marino Marini and other artists on display in the exhibition.

Other museums where you can see a display of Marino Marini masterpieces include the [Marino Marini Museum in Pistoia](#) and the unique setting in Florence where the [Marino Marini Museum in Pistoia](#) and the Rucellai Sepulchre reside under the same roof.”

Palazzo Fabroni, Via Sant’ Andrea, 18

CAPALBIO TAROT GARDEN

November until March

Text from: discovertuscan.com

“Look with a medieval eye

This is Niki de Saint Phalle's esoteric sculpture garden based on the Tarot cards, located in Tuscany created with a medieval look. November, December, January, February & March, specifically the first Saturday in the month, from 9am to 1pm, the park's founder Niki de Saint Phalle has decided to grant all visitors free entry. If this Saturday falls on a public holiday, the Giardino will open the following Saturday.”

[Official link](#)

VOLAREARTE AT PISA AIRPORT: NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR

Until 2019

Text from: discoverytuscan.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

GIOVANNI BOLDINI AND THE SEASONS OF THE FAMILY FALCONIERA ON DISPLAY IN PISTOIA

Until January 6, 2018

Text from: discoverytuscany.com

“The exhibition aims to bring back the extraordinary creative moment of the master of Ferrara, when moving between Pistoia, Florence and Castiglioncello. The pictorial cycle invites you to probe the mystery around Mrs. Falconer's origins, her role as patron of the unhappy but genius Boldini and the Macchiaioli style.”

Musei dell'Antico Palazzo dei Vescovi

Pistoia

LEGATI DA UNA CINTOLA, THE IDENTITY OF A CITY AT PRATO

Until January 14

Text from: discoverytuscany.com

“The Virgin's belt, housed in a Chapel of the Duomo of Prato, will be at the center of the new exhibition in the Palazzo Pretorio Museum. The Sacred Belt, about 80 centimeters of finely green wool and gold-plated brocade, has, since the 13th century, been a precious symbol of the city's identity value and the engine of Prato's artistic events.”

Museo di Palazzo Pretorio,

Piazza del Comune, Prato

DUTCH MASTER ESCHER ON DISPLAY AT PISA

Until January 28, 2018

Text from: discoverytuscany.com

“The exhibition will present a full review of all the hypnotic, astonishing and overwhelming masterpieces of the great Dutch, with the help of some curious exhibition solutions designed by the architect Cesare Mari and thanks to the use of technologies and multimedia, one of the characteristics of organized exhibitions at Palazzo Blu.

While remaining a long-standing landscape interpreter, Escher explores more and more the horizons of visual illusion, through geometric compositions, or creating "impossible" architectures.”

Palazzo Blu (Palazzo d'Arte e Cultura), Pisa

For Hours see [Website](#)

FROM THE CAVERN TO THE MOON: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE COLLECTION OF THE CENTRO PECCI, PRATO'S WORLD CLASS CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTRE

Until January 28

Works by sixty Italian and international artists represent in this occasion a non-exhaustive but particularly significant summary of the art of the last half century, conceived and curated by Stefano Pezzato in collaboration with Umberto Borella for the exhibition design and the artistic area of the Pecci Centre which during the last ten years has provided to organize, preserve and promote the collection, presenting different parts of it.

This new exhibition presents an itinerary through artistic forms that occupy and become part of the environment; an experience which seems a true immersion among works of art that develop and repeat over time in the form of videos, actions and performances. It is an invitation to partake in a direct experience and evolve like the heritage of the contemporary art museum of Prato and Tuscany. The public will have the opportunity to enter the collection to be stimulated by the encounter with the works or to let the proposed combinations engage them on an art tour full of suggestions and revelations. The exhibition develops between the ancestral time evoked by the legendary Caverna dell'antimateria by Pinot Gallizio and the cosmic space of Luna by Fabio Mauri, passing through the energy proliferation that emerges in La spirale appare by Mario Merz, the feasible habitat of Supersuperficie imagined by Superstudio, the integration between art and architecture experimented in Intercamera plastic by Paolo Scheggi.

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

AMBROGIO LORENZETTI, AMAZING ARTIST FROM THE XIV CENTURY, ON DISPLAY IN SIENA

Until January 28

Text from: theflorentine.net

“Exhibition explores works beyond "The Allegory of Good Government"

The Santa Maria della Scala complex in Siena has opened “Ambrogio Lorenzetti”, an exhibition funded by the City of Siena and dedicated to one of its most prominent artistic masters.

Scholarly studies on 14th-century painter Lorenzetti have focused overwhelmingly on his best-known work, the Allegory of Good Government fresco cycle in the Palazzo Pubblico. The exhibition aims to broaden the public view of Lorenzetti's prolific output through showcasing a range of works from throughout Siena along with loans from the Louvre, the National Gallery, the Uffizi, the Vatican Museums, Yale University Art Gallery and the Städel Museum, among others.

“Ambrogio Lorenzetti” is the culmination of a project launched in 2015 during Siena's year as Capital of Italian Culture. Various Lorenzetti works in need of closer study, conservation efforts or full restorations were moved to the Santa Maria della Scala complex as part of a MiBACT-funded initiative, “Dentro il restauro”. Detached frescoes from the chapel of San Galgano in Montesiepi and a polyptych from the church of San Pietro in Castelvecchio in Siena were placed under an “open restoration” process on view to the public. Successive olorenzettipen restorations took place on Lorenzetti's frescoes in the chapter room of the church of San Francesco and his Saint Catherine and articles of the Apostle's Creed cycles in the church of Sant'Agostino.”

Crypt of the Duomo Santa Maria della Scala, Siena

For Hours see [Website](#)

IL CAPRICCIO E LA RAGIONE: FASHION EXHIBITION AT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF PRATO

Until April 29

From: discovertuscany.com

“The Fashion Elegance of Europe in the 1700's.

Whimsy and Reason. Staged in the museum's historical textiles room, the exhibition is a journey into the

style and trends of eighteenth-century artistic culture, through fashion, textiles and the decorative arts. A unique and unprecedented exhibition stretching over a hundred years, one which is so rich and complex like that of the eighteenth century. More than 100 objects will be exhibited including fabrics, women's and men's clothing, porcelains, shoes, buttons, gloves, headgear, paintings and engravings that will tell the continuous and significant style passages that follow this historic period, from exotic "whims" of the first half of the century up to the classical austere forms of the neoclassical."

Museo del Tessuto, Via Puccetti 3

For hours check out the [Website](#)

FUN, FESTIVALS AND FOOD OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE FOR DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS MARKETS ALL OVER TUSCANY

Throughout December

Italy loves nothing more than a Christmas market in the streets, filled with twinkling lights, hot food, and festive wine and drinks to share amongst friends and family. These markets are spread all over Tuscany so wherever you are staying in the countryside, you are sure to find something nearby. A special mention has to go to Siena, whose Christmas markets and events are truly spectacular and an entire calendar just on their own. Other towns to visit include: Arezzo, Marradi, the Mugello, Radda in Chianti, Abbadia San Salvatore, Montepulciano, Pisa, Lucca, Nozzano, Massa Carrara, and Grosseto. Discover Tuscany have put together a list of all the festive events across the countryside.

[See the full list of Christmas markets in Tuscany here.](#)

LUMIERE AT SAN GIMIGNANO

December 2 and 3

Text from: [discovertuscany.com](#)

lit up with contemporary lights & images

The city center, the Duomo, the squares and the streets will tell a dream vision thanks to the suggestions created by the works of the artists, the lights, the sounds and the shadows. Free admission.

[Official link](#)

TOSCANA GOSPEL FESTIVAL

December

Text from: [discovertuscany.com](#)

It's been over 20 years that Tuscany has invited gospel groups to perform in the month of December creating a festival atmosphere. Over the course of the month, there are several different concerts for the public to enjoy.

[Official link](#)

GIOCO DEL PANFORTE IN PIENZA

End of December

Text from: discoveruscany.com

A folkloristic competition in Valdorcia

It's a competition where participants have to throw an entire panforte (a typical Christmas treat from Siena) wrapped in paper over a long table, trying to get it to go to the opposite edge or as close as possible. This game has recently become so popular among both inhabitants and tourists, which are also invited to participate. Stop by and try your throw.

[Official link](#)

FESTA DELL'OLIO AT SAN QUIRICO D'ORCIA

December 8-10

Text from: discoveruscany.com

The moment to savor the new olive oil of the season!

<https://lafestadelloolio.com/alla-festa-delloolio-con-il-trenonatura/>

[Official link](#)

ASPETTANDO LE FIACCOLE AT ABBADIA SAN SALVATORE

December 8 - January

Text from: discoveruscany.com

A bit of folklore & good food waiting for the flames

"Le Fiaccole" are pyres (sometimes 7 meters tall) that will be lit on the 24th of December. There are lots of dates to remember in this small town, from the 8-11 of December they start making the pyres which decorate the city streets, the pyres are lit on the 24th with the Sacred Fire and from the 8th of December till the 8th of January everyone can have fun visiting the "Village of Elves".

[Official link](#)

NATALE CON I FIOCCHI IN MONTERIGGIONI

December 8

Text from: discoveruscany.com

"Abbadia Isola ospiterà il magico mondo di Babbo Natale"

The amazing little town of Abbadia Isola brings to life Santa Claus, the Elves and the magic of the holiday season.

[Official link](#)

CENE GALEOTTE AT VOLTERRA

December 15

Text from: discoveruscany.com

Giving back to the community

Volterra will be home to an event whose total earnings will be given to charity. Named after the prison of Volterra where dinner will take place. The event will consist in a collaboration among some of the most renowned Italian chefs from Florence (this year) and the prisoners in Volterra's ancient prison, which means setting up a delightful dinner open to the public with all proceeds going to charity (reservation required).

[Official link](#)

CITTÀ' DELLA CASTAGNA AT CASTELNUOVO GARFAGNANA

December 2 - 3

Text from: [discovertuscan.com](#)

Delicious recipes: Necci, Mondine and Polenta

The "City of the Chestnuts" is ready to tempt your tastebuds with their quality DOP chestnut flour and make some of the special recipes. Local restaurants are participating in offer some of the more traditional and unforgettable flavors for you to try.

NATALECCI AT LUCCA

December 24

Text from: [discovertuscan.com](#)

Bringing good luck for the new year

In the historic little town, just outside of Lucca, called Gorfigliano there will be huge bonfires set in several locations of the village, a tradition which illuminates the skies on Christmas Eve.

I GIORNI DI PUCCI AT LUCCA

December 2, 7, 13 & 21

Text from: [discovertuscan.com](#)

A program filled with theater events

For a more cultural experience, head to the center of Lucca for a birthday celebration: 22 December for Pucci and the musical master of the area. The charming setting of Teatro del Giglio will be housing 4 theatre concerts and music performances on the note of this famous Tuscan composer

[Official link](#)

SEGUENDO UN FILO D'OLIO AT MANCIANO

December 8 - 10

Text from: [discovertuscan.com](#)

Following the perfume of olive oil in the south of Tuscany

Three whole days dedicated to local traditions celebrating the new olive oil harvest and all those products that usually come with it - like fettunta, vino novello, bread with salumi as well as chestnuts!

[Official link](#)

DEGUSTAZIONE DI ZUPPE MAREMMANE AT SATURNIA

December 8 - 10

Text from: discovertuscany.com

Test tasting the flavors of the Maremma

It all happens in Piazza Vittorio Veneto of Saturnia: the traditional tasting of typical Maremmane soups. The tastings will be accompanied by fritelle, bruschette with new oil, vin brulé, and other and delicious maremma specialties, served with excellent wine! The tasting schedule is from 12:00 to 19:00

[Official link](#)

POLENTA DOLCE E BALDINO AT FALTONA

December 8

A tradition which has been passed down for centuries

Chestnuts were treasured as a source of nourishment filling in the holes of hunger during the long, cold winter months. Now they are a source of delicious treats - roasted, boiled, ground and made into flour for desserts. Come and taste them in every form in the valley of Casentino.

<http://www.ilbelcasentino.it/feste-talla-seq.php?pag=91>

SCARPERIA: COLLEZIONISTI IN PIAZZA

1st Sunday of the month

Text from: <http://www.visitflorence.com/florence-events/events-in-november.html>

Antiques in the Square

The first sunday of month heralds this event in Scarperia. Just imagine a stroll through this picturesque town center to find a wide range of goodies including vintage, antiques, clothing, and more, Stands are set up from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm.

FIERA ANTIQUARIA: THE OLDEST AND BIGGEST ANTIQUE FAIR IN AREZZO

First Saturday and Sunday of the month

Text from: discovertuscany.com

“Many years ago, Ivan Bruschi gave life to one of the oldest and biggest antique fairs in Tuscany...maybe even all of Italy. He transformed his love for the old, unique and precious into an event that fills the streets of Arezzo every first Sunday of the month and the Saturday that precedes it that month.”

Website: <http://www.fieraantiquaria.org/>

ORGANIC AND ARTISAN MARKET AT GREVE IN CHIANTI

Last Sunday of the month

From VisitFlorence.com: Piazza Matteotti is filled with locals who feature goods from their gardens, their

kitchens and their workshops. Often you will find not only great bargains, but music and opportunities to do some taste testing.

Greve in Chianti | IL PAGLIAIO | Every 4th Sunday of the month | Organic and Artisan Market

VINTAGE AND HANDCRAFTS MARKET AT PANZANO IN CHIANTI

First Sunday of the month

From VisitFlorence.com: We know they call the fair "April"ante, but it really goes all year round! This monthly market in the streets of this charming town in Chianti is where you will find hand crafts, vintage and delicious typical foods and all of it this is just outside in the countryside surrounding Florence.

Panzano in Chianti | APRILANTE | 1st Sunday of the Month: Handcrafts & Vintage

PISTOIA: CAPITALE CULTURALE D'ITALIA: CULTURAL CAPITAL OF ITALY FOR 2017

Throughout the year

“Celebrate together with Pistoia! Between classical music concerts, art exhibits, cultural activities, blues & jazz in the town squares and so much more, this stunning little Tuscan town is prepared to show the world their true colors when it comes to their cultural prowess. Each month they are planning over 200 events including theater, music, book presentations, learning labs and more. Check in here every month to see select highlights from the Pistoia calendar.”

Text from: <https://www.discoveruscany.com/tuscany-events/may-in-tuscany.html>

Official Website: <http://www.pistoia17.it/en/>

BARGA: MERCATINO ANTIQUARIATO

2nd weekend of the month

Text from: discoveruscany.com

Head into the Garfagnana

It's not all about the food, in fact just north of Lucca in the area known as the Garfagnana you will find fall colors, flavors and an antique fair that merits a visit.

INVITATION TO NEWSLETTER READERS

INVITATION TO NEWSLETTER READERS AND FRIENDS:

The Pitcher & Flaccomio Newsletter would like to invite readers and friends of readers to submit announcements of upcoming events that may be of interest to visitors and residents of Florence and Tuscany, provide shopping tips, and/or comments on what's "right" or "wrong" in Florence (or the Newsletter). We can't promise to put every announcement in the newsletter, but we appreciate your support, interest and messages.

Please send an email to info@pitcherflaccomio.com or newsletter@pitcherflaccomio.com

DECEMBER WISHES

We hope that you spend December in the warm circle of family, chosen family, and friends. Remember to spend some time strolling through the glittery streets of Florence after dusk and enjoy welcoming in the New Year. Each year's end is a chance to appreciate what has past, while looking ahead to the new year with all its seasons of change to come.

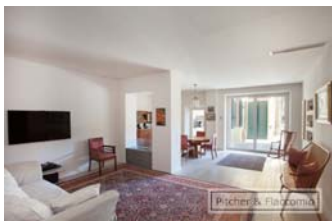
All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

Newsletter written and compiled by Marisa Garreffa.

Pitcher & Flaccomio Newsletter: Direttore responsabile Raffaella Galamini - Pubblicazione con iscrizione n. 5697 del 23\01\09 presso il Tribunale di Firenze.

P&F



SALE – S.tssa Annunziata– Historic Center

Ground floor, refurbished, 240 Sq. Mt. (aprox 2400 Sq. Ft.), plus 360 Sq. Mt. (3600 Sq. Ft.) of private garden. 4 Bed, 2 Bath. Autonomous heating, air conditioning, quiet and natural light.

Asking price 1,480,000 Euro



SALE – Piazza Carmine – Historic Center

First floor (17 steps), good conditions, 110 sq. mt. (aprox. 1100 sq. ft.). 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, spacious living area, autonomous heating, good natural light.

Asking price 440,000 Euro



SALE – Farm House Complex – 2 Km South of Florence

Free standing farm house, in great conditions, aprox. 450 Sq. Mt (4.500 Sq. Ft.) with aprox 3 hectares (9 Acres) of garden and land; 7 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms; Quiet, private and close to Florence

Asking Price 2,000,000 Euro



SALE – Bagno a Ripoli - Rosano – 15 Km from Florence

To be totally refurbished farm complex, for a total of approx. 500 sq. mts (approx. 5000 sq. ft.), surrounded by aprox. 4 hectares (12 acres) of graden and land; water and electricity already in place

Asking price 550,000 Euro



SALE – P.zza Azeglio – Historic Center

Ground floor refurbished apt. 80 sq. mts (approx. 800 sq. ft.), plus 10 Sq. Mt (100 Sq. Ft.) of out door. 2 Bed, 1 bath. Central heating, high decorated ceilings and floors, sunny and easy access.

Asking price 520,000 Euro



SALE – Piazza Liberta' Apts – Historic Center

Refurbished apartments in a nice elegant building ranging from of aprox. 80 Sq. Mts (approx. 800 sq. ft.), to aprox. 250 Sq. Mt. (2500 Sq. Ft.). High decorated ceilings, elevator, air. conditioning and autonomous heating.

Asking price 350,000 Euro



SALE – Chianti Portion of House – 15 Km South of Florence

Free standing on three sides, in good conditions of aprox. 120 Sq. Mts (approx. 1200 sq. ft.), plus 20 Sq. Mt (200 Sq. Ft.) of barn and 4 hectares (12 acres) of land. 2-3 Bed, 1 bath. Autonomous heating, garage.

Asking price 390,000 Euro