



PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

WELCOME

The Christmas lights are glittering in the streets, and the festive German market is filled each night with people enjoying mulled wine, sausages, and all the wonderful treats and treasures. Via Tornabuoni has caused a splash with their new Christmas bauble installation, so it's definitely the time to rug up, venture out, and enjoy the festive streets. Be sure to taste the delicious *castagnaccio* chestnut cake that sweetens the winter season, and have a look at our special Christmas Markets listing in the full length newsletter. The city is filled with music and activity this month, to help us close 2019 with beauty and magic. The city is at its finest. With best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, LESLIE, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

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PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR DECEMBER

BEST EVENT: THE ANNUAL A.I.L.O. CHRISTMAS BAZAAR FIERA DI BENEFICIENZA, November 30 and December 1

The best bazaar of Christmas is here! Come and replace everything you donated and have fun doing it! There will, of course, be food and drinks, as well as all the wonderful items for sale to make it a special Christmas for everyone.

THE PLACE: Giardino dell' Orticoltura nel Tepidarium - Vittoria Emanuele 2, 4 Ponte Rosso ATAF numero 25 da Piazza San Marco firmata Via Bolognese - and for parking Parterre Piazza della Libertà.

Free entry! Saturday November 31st 15.30-18.00 and Sunday December 1st 10.00-18.00

Please look at our AILO website at: www.ailoflorence.org for more information about this wonderful event to raise funds for Florentine charities.



BEST P&F RENTAL: AMAZING VIEWS WITH A BRIGHT, CLEAN AND OPEN LIVING SPACE ON VIA PANDOLFINI

Via Pandolfini is on the north side of river Arno, very centrally located in the historic centre of Florence and within a few minutes' walk from all of Florence's major museums and historical sights. Nearby is a supermarket, post office, theatre, hospital and the open-air food market of Sant'Ambrogio. There are several Italian language schools in the vicinity. Enjoy the clean and uncluttered contemporary decorations and furnishings, with a few antique pieces. There are four bedrooms and three bathrooms, and a large dining table that seats eight with a fireplace and a view of the Duomo. [More information and photos here.](#)



BEST TRADITION: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CHRISTMAS, AND SANTO STEFANO FEATURING THE DUOMO CHRISTMAS TREE AND NATIVITY SCENE,

December 8

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's blessing in Rome.

BEST FESTIVAL: "F-LIGHT YOUR MIND": THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT THAT ILLUMINATES FLORENCE, December 8 to January 6

From December the 8th to January 6th Florentines and tourists will be invited to take part in a light journey, an imaginary trip from the city's squares to the celestial vault. After the great success of the last editions, Florence is preparing to light up with "F-Light": the Florence Light Festival will shed new light on the monuments and squares of the city. The event will offer video-mapping, projections, light games, artistic installations, educational activities, special visits to museums, shows and cultural meetings. As usual, many spaces of the city will be involved: on all Ponte Vecchio, Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Piazza Santa Maria Novella and the Oltrarno, with particular attention to the Towers and the city gates and the neighborhoods outside the historic center. The lights of F-light 2018 will be jointly turned on Saturday, December 8th when the Christmas tree in front of the Duomo is switched on.

BEST MARKET: MERCATO TEDESCO DI NATALE OPENS THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, November 26 - December 22

Hot mulled wine, great beer and a salty, smoky wurstel – all can be found in Piazza Santa Croce starting at the end of November, at the Mercato Tedesco di Natale (German Christmas Market). 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.

BEST EXHIBITION: ENIGMA PINOCCHIO: FROM GIACOMETTI TO LACHAPELLE, Until March 22

(from theflorentine.net)

Pinocchio's adventures are known the world over. A symbol of both Italy and Tuscany, Carlo Collodi's 19th century creation has been the subject of works by Giacometti, LaChapelle, Munari, Paladino, McCarthy, Venturino Venturi and more. A dedicated exhibition demonstrates his influence and looks into why he is so often favoured by artists as a character worth exploring. Perhaps he represents veiled malevolence, or the spiritual search for enlightenment, in either case, Pinocchio is open to interpretation. Complex, elusive, and certainly enigmatic, a thousand eyes interpret a

thousand different Pinocchio's, which is what the exhibition invites us to reflect upon. Location: Villa Bardini, Costa San Giorgio 2-4. Learn more at www.villabardini.it.

BEST MUSIC: STRINGS CITY FESTIVAL IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

December 14 and 15

Strings City is a popular festival dedicated to string instruments, which for two days resounds in the most evocative places of culture in the city. The event presents the finest musicians, composers, and conductors selected by the Artistic Committee: Fiesole Music School, Luigi Cherubini Conservatory, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, and the Orchestra of Tuscany. The program ranges from classical music to more contemporary melodies, giving life to an orchestra of sounds and places that makes the whole of Florence vibrate. But not only. Strings City is a festival of music, art and beauty: a unique experience for a weekend of great emotions.

See the [whole program here](#).

BEST DINING OUT: THE FOOD AND WINE BIENNALE IS BACK, December 6-8

This month we take a pause from enjoying restaurant fare, to celebrate a total indulgence of food and wine at the Food and Wine Biennale, located at Fortezza di Basso (now even easier to reach thanks to the new tramline!). Born as a Florentine food and wine biennial in 2008, it has grown over the years to the national level. From an event destined to a final public of enthusiasts and gluttons, this year it will also be an event for the operators, with the whole day of Monday dedicated to B2B among producers and operators in the food and wine sector. Fortezza da Basso (FI)

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Full program and more: www.biennaleenogastronomica.it

BEST OF THE REST

FIRENZE WINTER PARK AT THE OBIHALL, Until February 23

The winter park is back for the season! 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.

ARTOUR, BEAUTY IN THE SQUARE - TRAVELLING TRADE FAIR OF ITALIAN ARTISTIC HANDICRAFT, December 6-8 and 20-22

Returning to Piazza Strozzi, in the heart of Florence, ARTour - beauty in the square, the exhibition / market dedicated to the artistic and traditional crafts of Florence and Tuscany. In a context of absolute prestige, the most characteristic products of craftsmanship are put on display. Come for an alternative and original shopping experience. A variety of products by master craftsmen and young

designers await you. From 10:00-20:00, Piazza Strozzi.

FOOD AND WINE IN PROGRESS AT STAZIONE LEOPOLDO, Nov 30 and Dec 1

Indulge in the appointment that has blossomed to be a centrepiece of the food industry: cooking shows, wine master classes, in-depth seminars, conferences on the future of the sector, on innovations and experiments, and a major exhibition in the Leopolda spaces in Florence. The event was created with the aim of promoting Tuscany's wine and food production, stimulating culture, knowledge and craftsmanship in a continuously growing historical and socio-economic context, in which the professionalism of the sector becomes the protagonist of the evolutions and of the change. Master Classes, Tastings and Cooking Show with the best sommeliers and cooks in the area, together with guests of national importance, are the main activities of the event that become moments of in-depth analysis of the professions in which new trends are highlighted. food and wine respecting the growing consumer demand. [More information here.](#)

LA DEMOCRAZIA DEL CORPO FESTIVAL, Until December 29

Performances, practices, residences, co-productions, site-specific creations: internationally-known artists intersect with actions and reflections developed by a productive group of young choreographers, with the intention of engendering an organic framework of encounters and experiments. Each residence is conceived as a period consisting of transmission processes aimed at dancers and citizens for the creation of a site-specific performance, and the public presentation of one of the artist's performances with his or her company. The October-December 2019 program gathers 19 artists, 20 titles, 32 performances, 8 co-productions, 6 residences and 6 laboratories for professional and amateur dancers. [See the program here.](#)

#DOMENICOMUSEO : 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

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Mercatino in a Palazzo: "Natale per file" kicks off at the Palazzo Corsini from December 6-8

One of the most treasured events of the December calendar, this Christmas market raises funds for charities held every year in Palazzo Corsini. 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.

Open day at the Four Seasons in Florence, Gherardesca's Garden, December 15

The historic garden of the Gherardesca in Florence for a day comes to life with a Christmas market, children's entertainment, tastings of good food and performances by flag-wavers, choirs and the Company of Santa Claus. The luxury hotel is organizing this solidarity initiative for twelve editions now, to raise funds for a non-profit association. This year the proceeds go to the Patrizio Cipollini Foundation. 10.00 - 16.00 with entrance from piazzale Donatello 12, Borgo Pinti 97 and via Gino Capponi 54. Entry with donation of 1 euro.

The Croce Rossa Italiana Christmas Market from November 29 to December 2

The 2019 edition of the Christmas market will be held at the historic headquarters of the Florence Committee of the Italian Red Cross, at Palazzo Capponi, (with entrance also from Via Borgo san Frediano 12). Also for this year, the entire proceeds of the Christmas Market will be exclusively dedicated to the assistance of needy families in the Florentine territory. Organised by the Florence women's committee of the Italian Red Cross, and open each day between 10.30-18.30. Enjoy free entry and browse the vintage, antiques, clothing, gifts, jewellery and curiosities. Located at: Lungarno Soderini, 11

Grand Bazaar Christmas Market at the Tasso Hostel, December 21 and 22

The biggest Christmas market hosted at Ostello Tasso, this time in a vintage key: Gran Bazar, which also organizes the Visarno market among other things, transforms the main hall and the rooms of the structure into a temporary shop with stalls and exhibitors for two days. On the weekend before Christmas, the Grand Bazaar Christmas Market offers a market show of fashion design, accessories, vintage, ceramics, small jewels, illustrations, natural cosmetics, floral concussions. There is also a barber shop, DJ set, and food area. SO much fun! 11.00 - 21.00 at Ostello Tasso, via Villani 15.

WIC Women In Charge Christmas Bazaar at Hostel Tasso, November 30 and December 1

From virtual group, on Facebook, to a real event. The Wic of Florence, which stands for "Woman in Charge", are organizing their first Christmas market at Ostello Tasso, during the weekend of December 1st. 60 exhibitors present as artisans, designers, artists and entrepreneurs who are part of this group, born of women to team up with women, with job opportunities and offers of mutual help. During the "Wic Christmas Bazaar" in Florence there will also be an aperitivo (Saturday 6.30 pm) and a free babysitting service by Labsitters. Saturday 10.30am - 9.30pm; Sunday 10.30 - 20.00

Where: Ostello Tasso, via Villani 15 (Piazza Tasso area). Free admission

The Etsy Made In Italy Christmas Market at The Student Hotel on November 30 and December 1

ETSY Made Local returns to Florence, with the Christmas Market! During the event you will have the opportunity to discover more than 40 artisans, designers, and local artists who are part of our

Etsy community. You can buy directly from them and you will find a wide selection of illustrations and graphics, fabrics and clothing, ceramics, household items and jewelry. It will be an excellent opportunity to find unique and totally handmade gifts, ready to be put under the tree. All handmade, locally! From 10:30 to 20:00, The Student Hotel in Viale Spartaco Lavagnini n70-72. Free admission.

Natale in Villa: Mostra Mercato di Alto Artigianato at Villa Le Piazzole on December 7 and 8

Strana.mente events hosts "Natale in Villa", a "high-handicraft market" and now an annual Florentine Christmas event. All the finest Made in Italy goods will be on sale in the elegant setting of Villa Le Piazzole at Poggio Imperiale. Exhibitors – from both Tuscany and elsewhere – will have booths touting bijoux and jewelry, clothing and accessories, perfumes and cosmetics, refined home decorations, furnishing accessories and high quality food products. A [series of side events](#) will also take place, for both adults and children. All events are free entry. 10:30-19:30 each day, Villa Le Piazzole via Suor Maria Celeste 28 (entry from via Gherardo Silvani 149a). Parking with free shuttle available.

Christmas Fair at the Harold Acton Library, December 6

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 and refreshments. Join our Raffles and support the Library. Buy 1 ticket for €1 or 6 for €5, you can win a *Christmas at Highgrove* Fortnum & Mason hamper, a beautiful handmade box by Ann Hepper or a very special Capponi wine. Tickets are available at the Library front desk. Entrance to the fair is from Lungarno Guicciardini 15, from 15:00-18:00.

Christmas Advent Outdoor Market at Le Cascine, Sundays December 15 and 22

Special Sunday editions of the regular Le Cascine weekly market (usually on a Tuesday), so you can rummage all the treasures and find everything you need. This is truly a market that has everything, and all at the best low prices.

Viale Abramo Lincoln, Le Cascine Park from 8.00-18.00. Tram T1, stop Cascine/Carlo Monni.

Christmas Fair at Campo di Marte, December 8

The special Christmas edition of the big market that takes place around the area of the football stadium "Artemio Franchi", a real happening for your Christmas shopping. Find it at Viale Pasquale Paoli from 9.00-19.00.

Christmas Fair with organic and local hand made products in Piazza del Carmine, December 15

Come and see what Santa and his elves have been creating ready for Christmas! This is the Christmas edition of the special fair that takes place in Piazza Santo Spirito throughout the year on the third Sunday of the month. For Christmas, you'll find your favourite stallholders in Piazza della

Carmines for this special Sunday. 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. Open from 9.00-19.00

The Creative Factory Market, presented by Associazione Heyart on December 14 and 15

The Creative Factory, a project by the Heyart Association, is a market of hand made products aimed at promoting creativity and youth enterprise. Discover 30 makers from all over Italy, whose common denominators are uniqueness and handmade production. They will present their products in Piazza Ciompi in the district of S. Ambrogio in Florence, home to numerous studios, ateliers, artisan laboratories. In addition to the market, the event is known for its rich program of workshops, workshops and entertainment activities for the public. For this pre-Christmas weekend, enjoy free workshops and workshops for children on the theme: care of the gift. The perfect market for lovers of quality handmade products in the city.

[See the program here](#). The laboratories are free on reservation: info.heyart@gmail.com

The annual Christmas Fierucola dell'Immacolata in Piazza SS. Annunziata, December 7-8

Another traditional event in the calendar of Florentine Christmas markets is the Fierucola of the Immaculate in Piazza Santissima Annunziata which brings the stalls of local producers to the historic center. Space then for rural crafts, hand-made and zero-kilometer food, as well as voluntary associations. Under the loggia are planned weaving and self-construction games, open to children and adults. 9.00 am - 7.00 pm in piazza SS. Annunziata. Free admission.

The Mercato di Natale al Parco d'Arte Pazzagli, held within the Enchanted Garden of Santa Claus, Dates to be announced

The "EcoRinascimento" Association has invited artisans and hobbyists to participate in their 2019 Christmas Market, where you'll also find locals setting up stalls to sell second hand items. A wonderful family friendly choice for a day out. The Mercatino will be held during the exhibition "The Enchanted Garden of Santa Claus". Where: Pazzagli Art Park, via Sant'Andrea a Rovezzano, Florence. Check the dates at: ecorinascimento.com

And last, but most definitely not least: The Famous and Favourite Mercato Tedesco di Natale in Santa Croce until December 20

Hot mulled wine, great beer and a salty, smoky wurstel – all can be found right now in Piazza Santa Croce. It started in late DECEMBER and runs until December 20, 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.

EXHIBITIONS

CORPO A CORPO, FIGURATIVE ARTS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD AT VILLA BARDINI, Until January 12

On show 35 works (including paintings and sculptures) by as many artists from 12 countries (Australia, United States, China, Fed. Russia, Greece, Spain, Poland, Israel, Ireland, United Kingdom, Sweden and Italy) who have in common the training course at the academies and art schools of classical tradition present in Florence but also in other countries. An unprecedented cross-section of some excellences in the field of the figurative arts is thus presented to the general public, an expression of which Pietro Annigoni, whose permanent museum is located at Villa Bardini, is one of the greatest representatives in Italy.

Tuesday-Sunday 10.00-19.00 at Villa Bardini Costa San Giorgio 2 [More information](#).

NATALIA GONCHAROVA, A WOMAN OF THE AVANTE-GARDE WITH GAUGUIN, MATISSE, AND PICASSO, AT PALAZZO STROZZI, Until January 12

Palazzo Strozzi celebrates Natalia Goncharova, a leading female artist of the 20th century, in a major retrospective. The exhibition will explore her unconventional life and career, presenting her rich and multifaceted artistic output with masterpieces from major international collections by celebrated artists including Gauguin, Matisse, Picasso, Balla and Boccioni. Taking visitors on a journey from the Russian countryside to Moscow and Paris, two of the most important cities to Natalia, the exhibition features 130 artworks and gives an account of the unorthodox life of a woman who lived for her art and successfully forged her own unique fusion of tradition and innovation, of East and West, making her own work a unique example of experimentation with artistic genres and styles ranging from New-Primitivism to Rayonisme, painting and graphic art to her work for the theatre. [More information here](#).

NEO RAUCH. PAINTINGS FROM 2008 TO 2019, AT PALAZZO PITTI until January 12

Neo Rauch's dreamlike realism casts its spell on the Pitti Palace. From today until 12 January, in this erstwhile Medicean abode the 19th-century rooms of the Andito degli Angiolini will be hosting the first Italian retrospective devoted to the famous Leipzig-born artist's work. Curated by Max Seidel and Serena Calamai, the exhibition displays 37 paintings of various sizes that Rauch executed between 2008 and 2019. The multi-faceted and enigmatic aesthetics of Rauch mixes, not seldom in the same painting, elements and landscapes borrowed from German figurativism and Romanticism with both the artistic lexis of Socialist realism and the abstract and primeval forms of Surrealism. He therefore succeeds in fusing such aesthetics with the geometrical spaciousness of the architecture and decorations of the Pitti Palace in order to gain a unique visual alchemy. In fact, Rauch has been pursuing such a fusion over time by realizing several paintings among the ones on display in this exhibition, that - as he himself admits - he has conceived specifically for this Medicean abode's premises. [More information here](#).

MUMMIES: JOURNEY INTO IMMORTALITY AT THE MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO OF FLORENCE, Until February 2020

The leitmotif of the exhibition is the Egyptian concept of life after death and the meaning of the

objects that were placed in the tomb with the deceased that, according to Egyptian culture, would have been helpful to them once they reached the afterworld. In order to preserve the body, the Egyptians used the embalming method so as to allow them to reincarnate. The exhibition is divided into two sections: the first one displays artefacts concerning the mummification technique while the second deals with the grave goods that accompanied the deceased on their journey to the afterlife. This last part gathers both the objects with strictly funerary functions, like the ushabti or the offering tables, and the everyday items that were placed in the tomb to recreate the home environment of the deceased, for example furnishings or jewellery. [More information here](#).

INSIDE MAGRITTE, MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION AT THE CHIESA DI SANTO STEFANO AL PONTE, Until March 1

An experience between the real and the imaginary, between the evocation of a dream world and the story of the concrete life of one of the greatest painters of the twentieth century, one of the greatest exponents of surrealism. "Inside Magritte" is a multimedia exhibition dedicated to the great surrealist master René Magritte (1898 - 1967), conceived and signed by Crossmedia Group and Hepco who produce the event directed by The Fake Factory. The exhibition will animate the Cathedral of the Image in Santo Stefano al Ponte with a suggestive immaterial, visual and sound architecture, which will reconstruct the pictorial universe of Magritte. [More information here](#).

MULTISENSORY MUSEUM EXPERIENCE TAKES YOU THROUGH THE SCENTS AND PERFUMES OF FLORENCE IN THE LABORATORY OF LORENZO VILLORESI

(From: [LonelyPlanet.com](#)) Lorenzo Villoresi, the famed Florentine perfume maestro, has opened a 'museum of scent' within his 15th century palazzo which also houses his [atelier](#) and an education centre complete with a secret garden. Over three floors, and across 1000 square metres, Museo Villoresi is divided by themes to create a 'study of the senses' in the heart of Florence. Villoresi is renowned for his bespoke perfumes made in his laboratory nestled within his ancestral family home. The Osmorama room is a library of essences and aromatic materials preserved within a monitored air-conditioned system. Here, visitors can explore over 1000 scents via olfactory booths, an interactive map and original films to understand the complexity of perfume-making. In the Perfume Centre, courses, events and seminars unveil the ancient secrets, myths and legends of perfumery, with the library a research centre and showroom complete with a Conversation Salon to host talks. [Read more here](#).

DANCE AND THEATRE

PERFORMANCES AT TEATRO VERDI

The 'Teatro Pagliano' assumed its current name, 'Teatro Verdi,' in 1901. Built during the Grand Ducal period in Florence on the former site of the fourteenth century Stinche Prison. This is truly one of the most stunning theatres in Europe, and their program is full of music, dance, musicals, and variety shows.

OUR PICK: A CHRISTMAS CAROL, December 13-15

Ready to get into the Christmas spirit? Enjoy this wonderful Italian version of the musical inspired by the novel that was written by Charles Dickens. A Christmas Carol recounts the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man. This version is presented by the Compagnia dell'Alba in co-production with the Teatro Stabile d'Abruzzo. Directed and Choreographed by Fabrizio Angelini. Starring Roberto Ciufoli. [Buy tickets here](#).

To see the full list of events in this stunning venue, go to: <http://www.teatroverdifirenze.it/en/>

THEATRE AND MUSIC AT TEATRO DELLA PERGOLA

The Teatro della Pergola is a historic opera house 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.

OUR PICK: [SHAKESPEARE'S CLASSIC, THE TEMPEST](#)

"In Shakespeare's masterpiece, apparently, everything seems destined for conciliation, not surprisingly it is a fairy tale. Yet, even in the Tempest the tone of the retrospection dominates, but the author transfuses a new spirit of compassionate serenity, and makes it coincide with the metamorphosis of the human beings who are represented there. It is the return of romance and the parable. There are the cracks and fissures of which Adorno spoke about the last Beethoven, but the landscape in disrepair becomes an opportunity for salvation and regeneration."

Director, Roberto Andó

To see the whole program and to book tickets: <http://www.teatrodellapergola.com/>

FILMS, LECTURES, AND PRESENTATIONS

EVENTS AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE

ART STORIES SERIES - [To Giorgio with Love: Vasari's Lives of the Artists in the Age of Academic Painting](#), 3 December 2019 - 18:30, by Jeremy Boudreau

Join Head of History of Art Jeremy Boudreau for the final installment of **Art Stories**, devoted to tales of Florence's leading artists as compiled by the 16th-century architect and art historian Giorgio Vasari.

LECTURES - [Building a monument to Dante: Boccaccio as Dantista](#), 4 December 2019 - 18:00, di Jason Houston.

Dr Jason Houston is Director of the Gonzaga University campus in Florence, where he teaches early Italian literature. In this talk he considers the relationship between two of the 'Three Crowns' of Florence: Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) and Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375).

See all the events and [more at the website](#).

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. This month's screenings include: **J'Accuse, A Rainy Day In New York, Knives out, and Star Wars: The Rise of the Skywalker.** [See the full program here.](#)

MUSIC

TEMPO REALE FESTIVAL 2019 "BORDERSCAPE" Z, November 29, 30, December 14

Borderscape is a relatively recent concept located at the intersection of social and human sciences. Section Z concludes the survey over the universe of sonic boundaries, also thanks to the presence of Robert Henke, a leading figure in European mainstream electronics, and of an extremely original Austrian ensemble, who for this concert have formed a collaboration in the field of mixed music. And in conclusion, the second participation in the Municipality of Florence's Strings City project is an opportunity to introduce four research itineraries in recent electronic lutherie, as well as to pay tribute to a great American composer who so far has not been performed enough in this country, Pauline Oliveros. [See the whole program here.](#)

NEXTECH SPECIAL ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL AT FORTEZZA DI BASSO, December 7

This year, Len Faki, Luigi Madonna and Imogen are on the console. Len Faki is an artist whose performances are inspired by passion and aesthetics, and whose technique allows him to anticipate, like a sensor on the Richter scale, the eruptions of the dancefloor to the explosive charge of his sets. Luigi Madonna, Italian DJ / Producer to be counted among the hottest names in the international techno scene, began his adventure as a disc jockey towards the end of the 90s. Finally Luigi Madonna behind the Nextech console! From quirky electro to darker techno, Imogen is already modeling the new generation of electronic music. Her style is already unique but difficult to describe, which must be listened to to be understood. At Fortezza da Basso, Salone Cavaniglia.

[Please look at the website to see the programme.](#)

THE MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE FLORENCE OPERA THEATRE, December 22

A magical christmas concert that is not to be missed! The Choir director and conductors are Lorenzo Fratini, Samuele Zagara, with Gruppo musica d'insieme Astrolabio and Children's Choir of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Presented at the Teatro del Maggio. The program includes wonderful classical pieces alongside special Christmas choir favourites.

[See the whole program and buy tickets here.](#)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY ORCHESTRA REGIONALE TOSCANA AT TEATRO VERDI, December 24

Teatro Verdi is a stunning old theatre and just the place to draw you into the elegance of the festive

spirit in Florence. Enjoy this wonderful Christmas concert, conducted by Paolo Bortolameolli with Dmitry Masleev on piano. The program includes Čajkovskij Concerto n.1 per pianoforte e orchestra op.23, Dvořák Sinfonia n.7 op.70. [Buy tickets here](#).

SPECIAL FUNDRAISING GALA CONCERT AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE, December 10

World class concert pianist Angela Hewitt, and Booker Prize winning novelist Julian Barnes will give a special fundraising concert at the British Institute. The performance will consist of Julian Barnes reading from his own work and other literature, and Angela Hewitt playing pieces in response. A unique opportunity to witness a dialogue of music and words between two artistic superstars. Thanks to generous support from the Capponi Family, great wine will be served after the concert, with some delicious snacks Suggested donation: E. 50 (includes one ticket for the special raffle we will run on the night, with excellent prizes).

Starts at 18:30, Reserve your place: director@britishinstitute.it

NIGHTS OF MUSIC AT THE AUDITORIUM DI SANTO STEFANO AL PONTE VECCHIO

Enjoy a wonderful concert at Auditorium Santo Stefano al Ponte Vecchio, located in the Piazza Santo Stefano just a few steps from Ponte Vecchio and Piazza della Signoria.

OUR PICK FOR THE MONTH: [Christmas Concert with The Three Tenors](#)

Spend a wonderful Italian Christmas with the Three Tenors, listening to opera arias, Neapolitan songs and Christmas carols in the heart of Tuscany's beautiful capital! In the Auditorium Santo Stefano al Ponte Vecchio, the soloists are accompanied by a chamber ensemble of mandolin, cello, and piano. Famous arias from 'La Traviata', 'Rigoletto', and 'Tosca' share the program with Neapolitan favorites like 'O sole mio', 'Funiculì Funiculà', and 'Torna a Surriento'. Before the concert, indulge in Tuscan cuisine between the 18th-century walls of Guelfi and Ghibellini Restaurant at Relais Santa Croce in the heart of Florence. Enjoy your meal among fine furnishings and frescoed ceilings, and take advantage of the opportunity to admire the wooden roof trusses based on a design by Leonardo Da Vinci. Situated in Relais Santa Croce, they were installed in 18th century to support the great chandelier of the Music Hall.

[See the whole program for the Auditorium here](#).

CLASSICAL CONCERTS AND OPERA AT ST MARK'S ENGLISH CHURCH, INCLUDING SPECIAL ITALIAN DINNER ON SELECTED DATES

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. They also have a full Cultural Program that runs throughout the year - a very special place to visit while in Florence.

This month's program includes: **Love Duets, La Bohème, Carmen, La Traviata, The Barber of Seville, The Marriage of Figaro, and a special Gala Concert for NYE.**

[See the complete schedule here](#)

LATE NIGHTS AT THE JAZZ CLUB

One for all the night owls, or well worth having an afternoon siesta in order to stay up late! Jazz Club Firenze is back with a full program every week from Tuesday to Sunday. The jams at the start of the week are a favourite of mine, well worth a drop in. Tuesdays: Jam Blues, Wednesdays: Jam Jazz, Thursdays-Saturdays: Live Music Acts, Sundays: JAMU Poetry Meets Music. Membership is just 7 euro and includes a drink. Events and more announced on their [facebook page](#).

EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE

WERNER BISCHOF. CLASSICS. AT THE L.U.C.C.A. CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Until January 7

Female nudes, investigations on nature, portraits that show an unprecedented use of light, great journeys to remote places, devastated by war or exalted by indigenous culture: these are the main themes that will enliven Lu.C.C.A. - Lucca Center of Contemporary Art, with the exhibition dedicated to Werner Bischof, one of the greatest photojournalists of the twentieth century. One hundred and five shots, with images ranging from 1934 to 1954, divided into 8 sections.

"Werner Bischof, a master of reportage, but above all an artist able to investigate the relationship between man and nature and himself, a seeker of truth, archaeologist of human feelings, narrator of the extraordinary daily life, passionate about life" explains Maurizio Vanni, who is also General Director of Lu.CCA. [More information here](#).

THE ETERNAL MUSE: THE FEMININE UNIVERSE BETWEEN THE '800-'900, AT CENTRO MATTEUCCI PER L'ARTE MODERNA IN LUCCA, Until November 3

The Matteucci Foundation presents a fascinating selection, which moves from the early nineteenth century to the twentieth century, with suggestive plunges in the two post-war years, both harbingers of great changes. In the parade of portrayed or idealized women, none of the prevailing models lacks appeal: the eternal Eve presents herself in a framework under changing conditions of status and mood, angel of the family or bewitching mermaid, common or bourgeois, worker or mistress of the home of good society, happy or melancholy, industrious or reflective. In them we can recognize not only the inspiring Muse, but also the infinite other prototypes stratified in the cultural imaginary of the West. More information [at the website](#).

THE BEST OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT GALLERIA CONTINUA IN SAN GIMIGNANO

A contemporary and international art gallery in the heart of Tuscany. Galleria Continua opened in San Gimignano (Italy) in 1990. Occupying a former cinema, Galleria Continua established itself and thrived in an entirely unexpected location, away from the big cities and the ultramodern urban centres, in a town - San Gimignano - steeped in history, timeless, magnificent. Current Exhibitions:

KIKI SMITH: COMPASS

Kiki Smith (American, b. 1954, Nuremberg, Germany) has been known since the 1980s for her multidisciplinary practice relating to the human condition and the natural world. She uses a broad

variety of materials to continuously expand and evolve a body of work that includes sculpture, printmaking, photography, drawing and textiles.

MOATAZ NASR: PARADISE LOST

Egyptian artist Moataz Nasr explores traditions and new globalism, questioning geopolitical and social development in Africa. The artistic practice for Nasr is a tool and a language that embraces art, sociology, Sufism and history, in order to encourage dialogue across geographical boundaries.

YOAN CAPOTE: SUJETO OMITIDO

Yoan Capote has received distinctions such as the international Fellowship Grant by the Guggenheim Foundation (2006), the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant (2006) and the Vermont Studio Center Fellowship (2002). During the Seventh Biennial of Havana (2000) he received the UNESCO prize, together with the artists' collective DUPP.

All three exhibitions run until January 6. For more information, [see the website](#).

LEONARDO DA VINCI: VISIONS, AT THE MUSEO CIVICO PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA, Until February 2020

The exhibition presents ambitious projects by Leonardo that illustrate his aptitude for experimenting with themes of unprecedented complexity. Flight takes shape in his studies and in the machines he designed. Leonardo gave movement to inanimate objects: the self-propelled chariot and the mechanical lion are eloquent testimony to the highly innovative potential that he achieved. Finally, the gigantic bronze equestrian statue is further proof of the intelligence and tenacity with which Leonardo faced the most daring technological and artistic challenges. Visions is a reworking of the exhibitions The Engineers of the Renaissance (1995), The Automobile of Leonardo (2004) and The Mind of Leonardo (2006). More info [at the website](#).

FUN, FESTIVALS AND FOOD OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE

Here we put **just a taste** of the many, many events that are happening all throughout the beautiful villages of Tuscany - brought to you from our wonderful friends at [Discover Tuscany](#). This month is so special that they have added a few extra calendars that concentrate on all the [Christmas markets](#) and the typical & traditional [Christmas Nativity Scenes or Presepe](#) found throughout the region of Tuscany. Without a doubt, some places merit their own dedicated calendar, for example, [Siena](#). With so much to choose from, you should also **SEE THE FULL LIST** of [special events for December here](#).

IL DESCO AT LUCCA, Nov 29 -30 - Dec 1 & 6 - 8, 2019

The flavors & know-how of Lucca in exhibition. Among all the places hosting a wine-and-food festival in November, Lucca could not be left out of the line-up! Il Desco - Saperi e Sapori Lucchesi is taking place at the Real Collegio in the very heart of the city, every weekend: it's a fair dedicated to food which will highlight typical local (and as of 2018, local and beyond in other regions of Italy) products and offer culinary workshops for both children and grown-ups, tasting stands and more.

Food won't be the exclusive protagonist of this event, art and culture will also play a very important role. [Official link](#)

LUMIERE AT SAN GIMIGNANO, Dec 8

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 ACROSS TUSCANY, Dec 15 - Jan 1

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 in different locations throughout Tuscany - check out the calendar and pick a date & location. [Official link](#)

POLENTA DOLCE E BALDINO AT FALTONA, Dec 8, 2019

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. [Official Link](#)

ASPETTANDO LE FIACCOLE AT ABBADIA SAN SALVATORE, Dec 24, every year

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](#)

DECEMBER WISHES

We hope you spend the last days of the year with those you love, warm in the tastes of winter and the embrace of close community.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flacomio

Newsletter written and compiled by Marisa Garreffa.

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CLASSIFIEDS

P&F



SALE – Duomo Apartment – Historic Center

Third floor, aprox. 160 sq. mt. (aprox. 1600 sq. ft.), with independent small studio and bathroom. 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom, views, autonomous heating, south exposure good natural light.

Asking price 695,000 Euro



SALE – San Lorenzo – Historic Center

First floor with elevator, refurbished, approx. 260 Sq. Mt. (2600 Sq. Ft.). 4 bed (possible second small bedroom), 3 bath; quiet, high decorated ceilings, views

Asking Price 2,100,000 Euro



SALE – Ponte Vecchio Apt – Historic Center

First and top floor, listed with the Fine Arts, refurbished, approx. 120 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 1200 Sq. Ft.). 2 bed, 3 bath plus study on loft; quiet, high decorated ceilings and centrally located

Asking Price 980,000 Euro



SALE – Santo Spirito Studio – Historic Center

Ground and basement floor, good condition, approx. 55 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 550 Sq. Ft.). 2 bed, 1 bath; quiet secondary street, autonomous heating and centrally located.

Asking Price 120,000 Euro



SALE – Santo Spirito – Historic Center

First floor, refurbished, approx. 60 sq. mt.(600 Sq. Ft) 2 Bed, 2 Bath. Modern with all amenities, autonomous heating, air conditioning, quiet street.

Asking Price 375,000 Euro



SALE – Tornabuoni Attic – Historic Center

Top floor with elevator, refurbished, 180 Sq. Mt. (aprox 1800 Sq. Ft.), plus 25 Sq. Mt. (250 Sq.Ft.) of terrace. 3 Bed, 3 Bath. Autonomous heating, air conditioning, views and sunny.

Asking price 2,000,000 Euro



SALE – Via Ginori – Historic Center

Top floor (possible elevator), approx. 120 Sq. Mt. (1200 Sq. Ft.), plus approx 15 Sq. Mt. (150 Sq. Ft.) of terrace. 2 bed (plus studio), 3 bath; quiet, natural light, views.

Asking Price 640,000 Euro