

FLORENCE CITY GUIDE

Where®

NOVEMBER 2018

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ALL YOU CAN DO
IN THE CITY

Top events and
places to be

ITALIAN-STYLE
GIFT GUIDE

Our pick of the best
seasonal trends



Made in
Florence

Journey into art
and craftsmanship

SIGHTSEEING | MUSEUMS | SHOPPING | DINING | ENTERTAINMENT | MAPS

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Florence | November 2018



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The fleur de lis of Florence, local symbol of the city (Santa Maria del Fiore - Giotto's bell tower). © Shutterstock.com

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WELCOME TO FLORENCE |



Andrea Jarach
Publisher
Where® Italia

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Top in town

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DUOMO AND CUPOLA

Completed in 1436, at the time the Duomo in Florence was the largest Christian church in the world. Today the religious building, the official name of which is "Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore", is third in terms of dimensions after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Brunelleschi's Dome, still the tallest construction in the city, is a symbol known all over the world. ①

CAMPANILE DI GIOTTO

84.70 metres high and around 15 wide, the Giotto's bell tower is one of the four main components of the complex of Santa Maria del Fiore. Lined with white, red and green marble, the majestic square-based bell tower, designed by Giotto in 1334, can be visited by climbing no less than 414 stairs up to the top, from where you can enjoy extraordinary views of Brunelleschi's Dome. ②

PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA AND PALAZZO VECCHIO

This is the central square of Florence, the

seat of civil power and social heart of the city. Facing onto it are Palazzo Vecchio (the seat of the Municipal Council of Florence), the splendid Loggia della Signoria, the Tribunale della Mercanzia, Palazzo Uguccioni and Palazzo delle Assicurazioni Generali. Also prominent in the square are the Fountain of Neptune and a series of statues of Renaissance origin, representing one of the most important sculptural cycles in the world. The most famous is certainly Michelangelo's *David* (this is a copy, whereas the original is conserved in the Galleria dell'Accademia). ③

GALLERIA DEGLI UFFIZI

One of the most famous museums in the world on account of its extraordinary collections of ancient sculptures and paintings (from the Middle Ages to the modern age). The Gallery occupies the first and second floors of the large building erected between 1560 and 1580 based on a project by Giorgio Vasari ④

PONTE VECCHIO

The official date of foundation of the current Ponte Vecchio is given as 1345. For the entire Middle Ages the bridge hosted greengrocers', fishmongers' and butchers' shops, who used the river to dispose of their waste in a hurry. At the end of the 16th century, however, when it became the "noble" zone of the city, the goldsmiths and jewellers started to arrive, and they have been there uninterruptedly to this day. ⑤

PALAZZO PITTI AND GIARDINO DI BOBOLI

The symbol of wealth and power, the building was inhabited by the Medici, then by the Habsburg-Lorraines and, after the Unity of Italy, by the Savoy family. The original architecture dates back to the 15th century and "Pitti" is the surname of its first owner. The building is located Oltrarno, at the foot of Boboli Hill. The Boboli Gardens are one of the most important examples of Italian-style gardens in the world. ⑥

WHERE NOW | HOT DATES

NOVEMBER

HOT DATES

Whether it's discovering the events celebrating Italian traditions, art and music or visiting an exhibition, Where® brings you this month's unmissable dates.



MUSEUM

4

BEAUTY IS PRICELESS

Every first Sunday of the month

over 480 museums, galleries,
monuments, archaeological sites,

NOVEMBER parks and gardens throughout Italy
welcome residents and tourists **free**

of charge for a day dedicated to discovering national
cultural heritage. Begun in July 2014, this fine initiative
has seen the participation of over 10 million visitors in
the state museums alone, to which numerous private
museums and galleries that are joining the initiative
have been added. An unmissable opportunity to get
your fill of beauty.

Sunday at the museum

Several locations

www.firenzeturismoit

www.beniculturali.it/domenicalmuseo



WHERE NOW | HOT DATES

JAZZ

23

NOVEMBER



CRAIG TABORN: CONTEMPORARY AND ABSTRACT

▲ The "A Jazz Supreme" festival has eight evenings in its programme devoted to the best of contemporary jazz. The festival's penultimate appointment is the concert for solo piano by US musician Craig Taborn. Born in Minneapolis, Taborn started out in the 1990s with standards and virtuoso modernism, going on to experiment with the sound abstraction of Tim Berne, later followed by new formative experiences to which the more fusion and groovy sounds of saxophonist Chris Potter's band Underground were added. Taborn's performance is followed by duo Samuele Strufaldi & Tommaso Rosati.

A Jazz Supreme: Craig Taborn Solo Piano + Samuele Strufaldi & Tommaso Rosati
Sala Vanni. Piazza del Carmine, 14.
www.musicusconcentus.com



FAIR



RUGBY

10

NOVEMBER

ITALY TAKES ON GEORGIA

▼ Florence is the city that is baptising the Italian national rugby team coached by Conor O'Shea on home soil in the long season leading up to **Rugby World Cup** to be held in Japan in 2019. The Florence match has Italy pitted against Georgia, an emerging team that is claiming its place on the major international scene. The theatre for the clash is the **Artemio Franchi Stadium**, the most capacious in Florence and one of the most important Italian football stadiums, home of the Fiorentina football club.

Cattolica Test Match: Italia vs Georgia
Artemio Franchi Stadium. Viale Manfredo Fanti, 4.
www.federugby.it - www.listicket.com



18

NOVEMBER

TRADITION IN THE SQUARE

"La Fierucola" is a Florentine historical association created to promote and support rural and artisan traditions. Every third Sunday of the month, in Piazza Santo Spirito, it organizes the "Fierucolina", a popular and very appetising open-air market offering seasonal food products made by small local firms, small-scale organic agriculture and local craftsmanship. This month the event takes the name of "Fierucolina dell'olio novo", and is mainly devoted to the production of excellent Tuscan oil.

Fierucolina dell'olio novo
Piazza Santo Spirito, 9am-7pm.
www.lafierucola.org



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LEONARDO

30 | 20

OCTOBER
2018

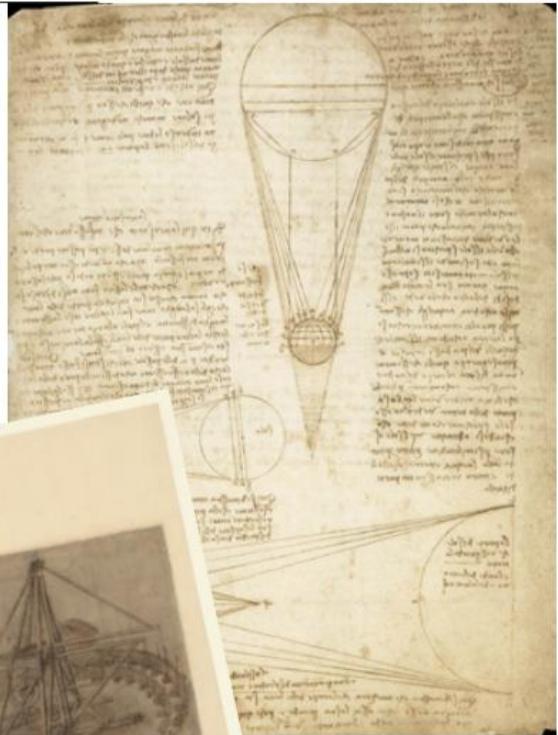
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2019

BETWEEN ART AND SCIENCE

► Thirty-five years after its previous exhibiting in the Palazzo Vecchio, now it is the **Uffizi Gallery** that is welcoming the **Codex Leicester by Leonardo da Vinci**,

which is being loaned exceptionally by its current owner, Microsoft founder (as well as well-known philanthropist) **Bill Gates**. The Codex Leicester arrives in Florence as an extraordinarily significant preview of the celebrations of Leonardo that will take place next year all over the world, on the occasion of the **500th anniversary** of the death of one of the most important and iconic figures in the history of humanity.

The Codex is a collection of **72 sheets of paper** filled with ingenious annotations and extraordinary drawings on the subject of water, which Leonardo created **between 1504 and 1508**, years that for him were filled with intense artistic and scientific activity. The original pages of the Codex are displayed, and thanks to an innovative multimedia support structure, the Codescope, visitors can browse through them on digital screens, access the transcripts of the texts and receive information on the subjects discussed.



The Codex Leicester
by Leonardo da Vinci.
"Water, microscope
of nature"
Uffizi Gallery
Aula Magliabechiana.
Piazzale degli Uffizi, 6.
www.uffizi.it

RUNNING

26 A RACE THROUGH BEAUTY

► It is the **second most important race in Italy** (after the Rome Marathon) and among the top 20 in the world in terms of its popularity and number of participants: in its much vaunted 42 km, the **Florence Marathon** goes through the entire historic centre, passing some of the most beautiful and charming places in Florence. Along the route, to give the right tone as the runners pass through, there are the participants in the Huawei Florence Marathon Clap Contest: musicians of every type and street artists.

The race is preceded by two days of events as part of the Marathon Expo at the Stazione Leopolda, a full-blown fair of fitness and wellness involving the whole city (23-24 November, 9.30am-8pm).

Asics Firenze Marathon 2018

Starts and finishes in Piazza Duomo.

#IruninFlorence #iocorrolaFirenzeMarathon

www.firenzemarathon.it



Made in Florence

What do Leonardo, Michelangelo, Botticelli and Donatello all have in common? They were all born in Tuscany. A land of artists and artisans, of creative, clever people, with remarkable manual skills, it is no coincidence that today Tuscany is still known and appreciated all over the world for its **high-quality craftsmanship**. Each province contains treasures of inestimable value, created by "making a virtue of necessity", as they say, that is, by using the raw materials the territory offers: from gold to silver, from pottery to silk, to paper, leather and even straw, including perfumes and outstanding foodstuffs, such as meat. Florentine artisans, in particular, are a historical and productive community with its roots in the truest soul of the city. The history of Florence is in fact indissolubly linked to the history of its artisans: between the 12th and 13th centuries the guilds of arts and trades began to be founded, bringing together those belonging to the same professional category in order to promote and pursue their common interests. Most of the merit for the extraordinary cultural and economic development that enabled Florence to become one of the richest, most powerful cities in Europe in the Renaissance must be attributed to the birth of the **guilds of arts and trades**, an extremely modern idea for the time. Today, in an increasingly globalized world, Florentines have succeeded in conserving their immense manufacturing heritage. Though maintaining artisan working methods, they have known how to adapt perfectly to today's timescales, methods and aesthetics. Some of them have chosen to keep within the dimensions of the workshop, often family-run, others have created full-blown international companies, though still retaining their manufacturing vocations. Let's discover some of these **Florentine centres of excellence** together.

MASTERS OF GOLD AND SILVER

Today Florence is still one of the main examples of mastery in the working of gold and silver and remains a centre of excellence in the training of master goldsmiths. The secret of the success of Tuscan goldsmithery is partly due to the ancient Etruscans, from whom the Florentines supposedly inherited the "**granulation**" technique, which allows the creation of a particular form of decoration using small aligned gold beads. The goldsmithery tradition developed in the city in the second half of the 14th century, but fully flourished in 1500, under the Medici, when many goldsmiths established their premises on the **Ponte Vecchio**, where it is still possible to admire their shops today. A curiosity: until 1593 the Ponte Vecchio also hosted butchers' shops, but these were replaced by goldsmiths at the wishes of Ferdinando I, who did not appreciate such an ignoble (and malodorous) activity

in such a central and prestigious location, right beneath the Vasari Corridor. If you are attracted by the glittering world of jewellery, you should know that located inside Palazzo Pitti is the **Treasure of the Grand Dukes** (also known as the Silver Museum), hosted in the splendidly decorated rooms of

Florentine craftsmanship has known how to focus on tradition and the excellent features of the territory, also conserving, in addition to quality, the mark of its history and people. That's why, thanks to its blend of innovative techniques and traditional know-how, today it still remains one of the most appreciated in the world.

BY CHIARA ZACCARELLI

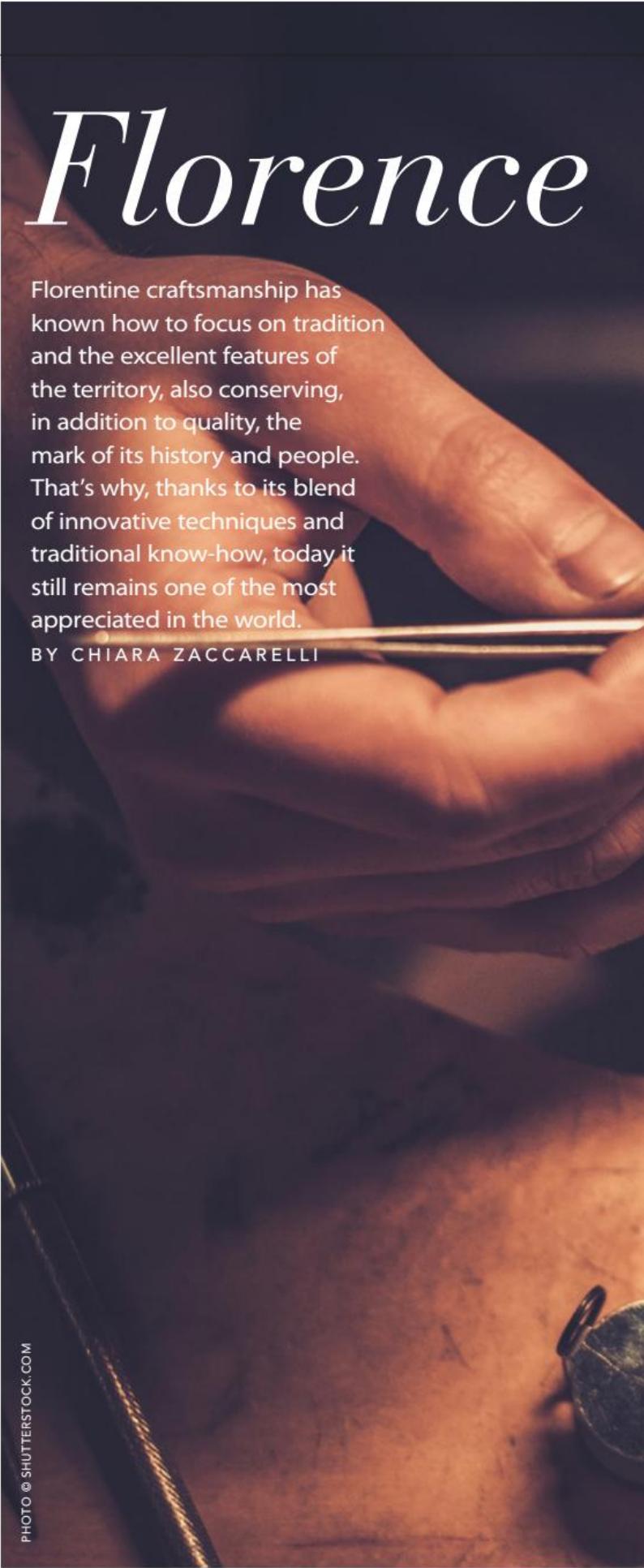


PHOTO © SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Argentiere Pagliai





Chiara Zaccarelli
Travel Editor
Where*Italia



WHERE NOW | FOCUS

» FABRICS AND GOLD

A thin thread made of gold linked the weavers and goldsmiths of 16th-century Florence. This was made by the 'battiloro', the gold-beaters, who in effect wove gold thread. This is how it worked: the merchants acquired silk and gold ingots and entrusted these to the 'battiloro', who literally beat the gold with big hammers till they obtained thin foil sheets, gold leaf, which was then cut into threads and was ready to be woven. Today the few remaining 'battiloro' continue to supply gold leaf and foils to the textile and food industry.

the summer apartment of Grand Duke Ferdinando II de' Medici. Here there are vases, ivories, gems, cameos, jewels, crystal glasses and ambers that were part of the Grand Dukes' collections, in addition to the collections of the prince-bishops of Salzburg and Würzburg and the jewels of Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici. The Museum also conserves a major section devoted to contemporary jewellery (www.uffizi.it/palazzopitti/tesoro-dei-granduchi). After the visit, if you are overcome by an uncontrollable desire to possess a necklace similar to the ones you have just seen, then don't worry, nothing could be easier. In fact, among the contemporary creations exhibited at the Silver Museum are those of **Orafo Pestelli**, a goldsmithery workshop established in 1908 that immediately became a point of reference for the *haute bourgeoisie* of the time. Today Tommaso Pestelli, the founder's great-grandson, still works in the studio, creating exquisite jewels and furnishing items made of gold, silver and semi-precious stones produced following the centuries-old

Florentine tradition (www.pestelli.com). If you wish to take a silver object home then you can go across the Ponte Vecchio and venture into the Oltrarno, where, in the splendid Torre dei Sapiti, you will find **Argenteria Pagliai**, a company founded in 1947 and chosen in the 1960s by Tiffany & Co. to make their own silver creations. Here you can purchase period silver and metals produced by the company, executed in accordance with age-old hand-crafting traditions; furthermore, personalised chandeliers, centrepieces, shells, frames, cutlery and saltcellars are made on request (www.argentierapagliai.it). Would you like to dine in the canteen of an ancient Florentine silver factory? Well, at

Argenteria Pampaloni, established in 1902 in Florence and known throughout the world for its silver creations with contemporary designs, you can. In the evening the room, where the workers eat during the day, is transformed into the restaurant **In Fabbrica**, where, illuminated by the flames of the enormous silver candelabra, surrounded by tablemats and cutlery again made of silver (obviously all made by Pampaloni and all purchasable), you can taste the Sicilian dishes cooked by chef Santo La Macchia (restaurant.pampaloni.com).

ANCIENT AND CONTEMPORARY FABRICS

The art of wool weaving, and subsequently of silk, also gained its maximum prestige and geographical distribution during the time of the Medici, to the extent that luxurious Florentine cloths were requested not only all over the old continent, but also in the Middle East and Asia. The major **wool and silk guilds** therefore became key supporting structures for the economy, holders of political power and also patrons of the arts. The artisans and painters, in



Stefano Ramunno collection for Torre d'Arte

particular, drew extensive inspiration from the luxurious patterns of the fabrics, transferring them into the paintings, statues and frescos that you can still admire in the city today. If you are interested in looking into this subject in more depth, you will find the embarrassment of choice in Florence and its surrounding area. You can begin at the **Textile Museum in Prato**, a town around 20 km from Florence, which can be reached by train or bus from the city centre. Although located outside of the tourist circuit, this museum is among the most important European institutions dedicated to the showcasing of ancient and contemporary fabrics, above all thanks to its exceptional collection of ancient textiles, embroidery and sacred vestments. The building that hosts the Museum is in itself an interesting monument of industrial archaeology (www.museodeltessuto.it). Immersed in the greenery of the hills that embrace Florence, a few minutes by bus from the city centre, the **Fondazione Arte della Seta Lisio** carries forward and teaches the ancient art of weaving through events, seminars, initiatives and educational activities. It was established in 1971 by Fidalma Lisio, the daughter of Giuseppe

PHOTO © PAMPALONI



Argenteria Pampaloni, In Fabbrica restaurant



Museo del Tessuto in Prato

Lisio, the founder, in 1907, of one of the best known hand-worked silk textile factories existing in Italy, which over the years has forged close associations with major fashion houses such as Fendi, Versace, Valentino and Gucci. The Foundation includes a collection of looms, including some from the late 19th century that are still operational, and a collection of ancient textiles and technical drawings, in addition to a specialist library (www.fondazionelisio.org). And if you are fascinated by old looms, you must not miss the **Antico Setificio Fiorentino**, one of the last workshops capable of producing silk in a hand-crafted way: you need only think that among its looms, both hand-operated and semi-mechanical, all from the 18th century, there is even one designed by **Leonardo da Vinci**. In recent years the Antico Setificio Fiorentino has participated in prestigious restoration projects, such as those for the Royal Palace of Denmark in Copenhagen, the Royal Castle of Sweden in Stockholm, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and the Kremlin Palace in Moscow, providing precious textile reproductions created using ancient weaving techniques. Located in the historic district of San Frediano, the Setificio can be visited by appointment (www.anticosetificiofiorentino.com). And shopping? Although both at the Setificio and at the Foundation you can purchase precious woven fabrics, if you prefer something a little more affordable you could go for an evergreen tie, perhaps one of the hand-made ones from the **Cravattificio Stanganini**, made of silk and wool and coming exclusively from the textile factories of Como and Biella (www.angelostanganini.it). And what can we say about the foulards and scarves designed by Florentine artist Stefano Ramunno for **Torre**

d'Arte? This is a collection printed on silk, wool, cashmere and modal, made in Italy and hand-finished, drawing inspiration from iconic Florentine monuments and locations such as the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo and the River Arno (www.torredarte.com). It is not a perfect souvenir?

FOOD IS ALSO ART AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

Those who have had the good fortune to taste Florentine specialties cannot but agree with the view that eating good food is a must when you are in Tuscany. In the Middle Ages, included among the so-called "Lesser Arts" was that of the "beccai", a guild that had figures such as butchers, fishmongers and tavern owners

among its members. After being evicted from the Ponte Vecchio in 1593, the butchers moved to the Mercato Vecchio (what is now Piazza della Repubblica) and remained there until the

upgrading of the area in the 19th century. To try one of the many Florentine specialties, why not go to the **Antica Macelleria Salumificio Anzuini**

Anzuini, in the historic centre? It produces high-quality artisan meats such as Finocchiona IGP, Sbriclolona or Salame Toscano, to mention just a few, in addition to select fresh meat from the best Italian farms, such as Bistecca alla Fiorentina or cuts of Chianina beef. Even the



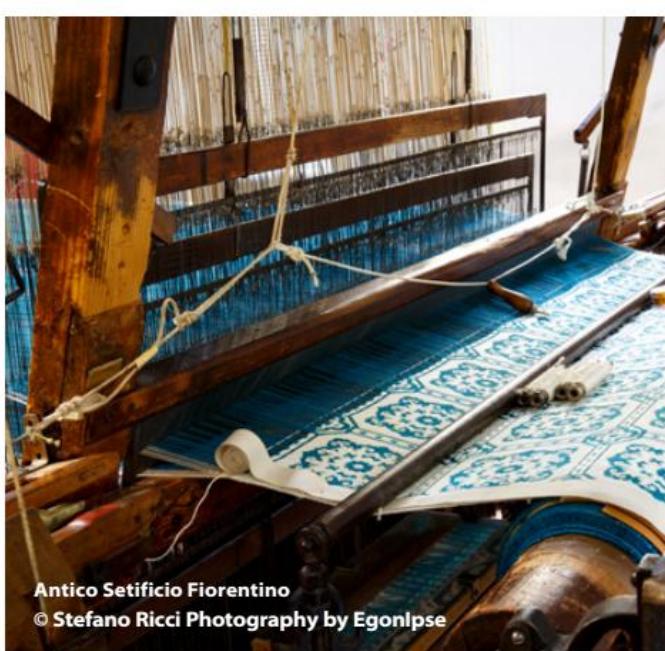
Vin Santo, Tenute Marchesi Antinori

Antica Macelleria Salumificio Anzuini



furnishings, the original ones from the 19th century, evoke ancient arts and wisdom (www.salumificioanzuini.it). If you have a car, or if you are already planning a tour of the Chianti region, you cannot miss a visit to the **Antica Macelleria Cecchini**, in the picturesque village of Panzano in Chianti. This is the shop of Dario Cecchini, a larger-than-life character belonging to a family of butchers for eight generations, who made the news at the time of "mad cow disease" as a stalwart defender of Florentine steak. Maybe you would like to try his meat but are on the road and so obviously cannot purchase it. Have no fear, because "the best butcher of the world" - as Cecchini was defined by the *New York Times* - has also opened two restaurants next to the shop, with different formulas, where - obviously in addition to the Bistecca alla Fiorentina - you can also taste specialities such as 'Tonno del Chianti' (pork macerated in oil). Furthermore, if you have always dreamed of literally putting yourself in a butcher's shoes, then put on an apron and participate in one of Cecchini's butchery lessons, including a visit to a Chianina breeding farm (www.dariocecchini.com).

After all this meat, what you need to properly conclude a Tuscan meal is a nice glass of **vin santo with cantucci**. These oblong biscuits containing flour, sugar and almonds are another cornerstone of the Tuscan culinary tradition. The classic combination is with what is called "vin santo", a fortified dessert wine, also because the consistency of cantucci is too hard to chew unless they are soaked in wine. In short, the two are made to be together. If you wish to immerse yourself in the history (and the aroma) of these biscuits, then go to the **Bottega Museo Antonio Mattei**. Located in the historic centre, it includes the historical archive of the Biscottificio Mattei, which in the 19th century revisited the recipe of the traditional cantuccio bringing it back into vogue, and a small shop where it is possible to purchase and taste cantucci in their various styles and flavours, in addition to other confectionery specialties made by Mattei. (www.antoniomattei.it).



Antico Setificio Fiorentino
© Stefano Ricci Photography by Egonipse

Discovering Ponte Vecchio

It is one of the undisputed symbols of Florence and, as such, is one of the most photographed sites in the world. Here are some details so you can get to know it better. BY AMAL ANGELOTTI

First of all, it must be said that Ponte Vecchio (literally "Old Bridge") is indeed "old". The first to identify a ford in the Arno were the Etruscans. The Roman founders of the village of "Florentia" built a wood and stone bridge there, the forerunner of the current one, which dates back to around 1345. Since then, with all the various restorations and modifications, this passage across the Arno has remained in its place, actively participating in the history of the city.

ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURE

The bridge is characterised by a solution with **lowered arches**, never previously seen, which makes it particularly stable and its profile unmistakable. From the very beginning, it was understood to be a natural continuation of the road, and so it has **shops and porticos** along both sides facing towards the centre, each with a single shop window closed by strong wooden doors, and often with a picturesque backroom protruding over the river.

Then, grafted onto the high part of the bridge is the **Vasari Corridor**, the strategic passageway that was built at the wishes of Cosimo de' Medici



PHOTOS © SHUTTERSTOCK

in 1565 to connect the administrative buildings to his private residence, without exposing the sovereign to any danger.

A UNIQUE HISTORY

The change of identity of the zone during the Renaissance is due precisely to the Vasari Corridor. The traditional shops of greengrocers, butchers and fishmongers, who had a preference for the bridge on account of the ease with which they could throw their waste into the river, were evicted en bloc: it was preferred to offer the sovereign **goldsmiths' and jewellers' shops**, which were more appropriate for his gaze (and his nose), and they have continued their presence there ever since for the pleasure of tourists. Since then, Ponte Vecchio has been an assiduous witness – and sometimes a protagonist – of the history of

the city: considering it a source of great pride, Mussolini invited Hitler there in 1938, opening up new larger, more panoramic windows for his benefit. One rather romanticised version claims that Hitler himself, cherishing the memory of such beauty, would decide to save the bridge from the terrible bombing campaigns of 1944. Unfortunately, the historical reconstruction seems to prove that this merit cannot be ascribed to the German dictator.

LUXURY SHOPPING

For more than four hundred years, Ponte Vecchio has therefore been inhabited by artisans creating admirable gold and silver objects. Still today, this remains the commercial vocation of the neighbourhood, which is nevertheless not lacking in other luxury trades, starting with **artisan leather goods**. Obviously, the accesses and areas surrounding the Bridge, between via Por Santa Maria and Lungarno degli Archibusieri on one side, and between Borgo San Jacopo and via de' Giucciarini on the other, are also swarming with points of interest and high-quality shops. Bear in mind, however, that sometimes you need only turn into an unknown alley to get away from the bustling crowds and enjoy a carefree stroll.

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Finally, you should know that there is also life under the bridge: the historic **Società Canottieri Firenze**, as well as bringing together sporting rowers, is a point of reference for the activities that take place on the banks of the river. Today, the Circle also offers a stupendous location for aperitifs, lunches and dinners.



GIFT GUIDE

Take advantage of a stroll through Florence to treat yourself to several outstanding products made in Tuscany. Where® brings you a pick of the best high-quality artisanal items and guarantees that you won't leave empty-handed!



Giulia Minero
Lifestyle & News
Editor
Where®Italia



▲ DARIO CECCHINI

Among the typical products of the Antica Macelleria Cecchini, this sea salt with perfumed aromatic herbs aiding digestion (sage, lavender, thyme, rosemary, laurel, fennel flower, juniper) is excellent to salt meat or for a bread and oil bruschetta. www.dariocecchini.com

► BISCOTTIFICO ANTONIO MATTEI

To give as a present or simply keep as a souvenir of a taste of Tuscany: this biscuit tin contains the typical 'Biscotti di Prato' and all the tradition of Antonio Mattei since 1858. www.antoniomattei.it



◀ PESTELLI

For over a century the Pestelli workshop has been making elegant jewellery entirely by hand, transforming metals and precious and semi-precious stones into unique pieces, also made-to-measure. Here noble materials are transformed within the Florentine tradition and with a touch of originality. www.pestelli.com



▼ CRAVATTIFICO STANGANINI

Since 1932 the workshop in Santa Croce in Florence has been making ties, bow ties, ascot ties, cummerbunds and clutch bags. With silk, wool and other fabrics, also including a 'vintage' selection, hand-crafted accessories are created such as this sky blue silk jacquard tie with floral pattern. www.angelostanganini.it



▲ MARCHESI ANTINORI

Deep ruby in colour, lively and inviting to the palate, the 'Marchese Antinori Chianti Classico DOCG Riserva' is only produced in the best vintages exclusively from the best grapes of the properties of the Antinori family, such as this 2011 from the Tignanello estate. www.antinori.it

Not just Florence

Tuscany's soft rolling hills

If Florence offers tourists an unrivalled cultural and historical heritage, its surrounding area no less so. Here are some suggestions for trips outside the city that are able to satisfy any need. For more details ask your concierge.

If you choose Florence as your base, the good news is that around an hour away by train, bus or car you will find UNESCO heritage cities of art, dreamy countryside, natural thermal springs (see page 49), medieval towns and abbeys and kilometres of coastline for bathers.

CITIES OF ART

If you love cities of art then you've chosen the right region. Indeed, within an hour's range from the Tuscan regional capital there are architectural wonders that will catapult you into medieval and Renaissance Tuscany. About an hour by train from Florence is **Lucca**, one of Tuscany's most fascinating historic centres, surrounded by ancient 16th-century walls, today still practically fully intact and walkable in their entirety. You can cycle along the tree-lined walls, stop for a tasty ice cream or simply cool down on the benches. The picturesque historic centre has remained almost intact, including countless medieval churches, which have earned Lucca the nickname of "city of the 100 churches", Renaissance squares and buildings and Roman amphitheatres.

The famous Leaning Tower of **Pisa** can also be easily reached from Florence in about an hour by train. Loved by tourists from all over the world for its peculiar tilt, the Tower of Pisa is in reality the bell tower of the Cathedral, which stands in a unique monumental context, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site: Piazza dei Miracoli. Once you've completed your visit to this unbelievable square, if you have a little time left, you can relax with a walk along the Arno to the historic centre and Piazza dei Cavalieri, the political fulcrum of medieval Pisa. Facing onto the square is Palazzo della Carovana, with graffiti by Giorgio Vasari, which today houses the Scuola Normale Superiore, one of the most prestigious universities in the world. With a brief trip by coach from Florence you reach **Siena**, one of the most loved medieval centres in Italy, which is also included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The city's nerve centre is Piazza del Campo, which is renowned for its unique shell shape, for its architectural integrity, and because twice a year (2 July and 16 August) it holds the Palio di Siena, a horse race that is of fundamental importance for the Sienese, which sees the



Chiara Zaccarelli
Travel Editor
Where*Italia

seventeen historic districts that comprise the city compete against each other. The square is dominated by a series of buildings of inestimable historical and architectural value, including the 14th-century Palazzo Pubblico and the attached Torre del Mangia, with its characteristic red colour, the Cappella di Piazza, the Loggia della Mercanzia and Palazzo Sansedoni. But Siena is not just Piazza del Campo: lose yourself along the picturesque medieval alleys, where you can purchase the local hand-crafted goods or taste the traditional panforte, the typical Sienese spiced bread with almonds, candied fruit and pepper. And a few kilometres from Siena, another town declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO awaits you with its towers and its characteristic medieval architecture. It is the unmissable **San Gimignano**, situated in the heart of the Tuscan countryside. Walking round this small town, the 13th/14th-century appearance of which is still practically unchanged, is almost like going back in time. San Gimignano is famous above all for its medieval towers, which were as many as 72 at one time and today are just fifteen, including some in ruins and without their tops but still visible as part of the urban fabric.

NATURALISTIC ITINERARIES

Florence is surrounded by hills, gentle valleys and luxuriant vineyards. Climbing them is easy, both on foot and on the numerous buses departing from the city centre. Over the years the hill of **Fiesole** has been the source of inspiration for artists, spiritual figures, noble families, writers and entrepreneurs. From this privileged observatory, dotted with villas,



PHOTOS © SHUTTERSTOCK

museums, archaeological excavations, churches and convents, you can enjoy beautiful views of Florence and the Florentine countryside. If you love panoramas, another unmissable spot is the small town of **Settignano**.

The very famous **Chianti zone**, renowned for its vineyards, verdant valleys, rows of cypresses, olive groves, towns and abbeys built on hilltops, is around half an hour by car from the centre of Florence. If you are lucky enough to be there between September and November you can witness two key events for the economy and culture of the territory: the harvesting of grapes and olives.

Let's now leave this idyllic setting and move towards a wilder, more barren territory, that of the **Crete Senesi**. Located in the area south-east of Siena, the crete are clay hills, the result of the continuous erosion of the sea sediments. These bare, softly undulating hills, with their characteristic grey-blue colour and almost lunar

appearance, are dotted with cypresses and farmhouses and still encapsulate the essence of the most authentic Tuscany; they are far removed from the tourist routes, rich in traces and remains of ancient civilisations, picturesque medieval towns and culinary festivals.

TUSCANY BIKING

Would you like to discover the area around Florence from a different perspective, more on a human scale and in contact with nature? Then you can opt for a **bicycle tour**. Pedalling along the romantic olive groves, vineyards, medieval town and Medici villas, taking in the perfumes and colours of the Tuscan countryside in ways that would otherwise be impossible. After the effort of pedalling, almost all the tours envisage rest and refreshment with **visits to wine cellars** and the tasting of wines, olive oils and local specialities. If you are not particularly sporty but would still like to visit the outskirts of Florence from this unique perspective, then you can choose a **tour by Vespa**, with that irresistible vintage touch that is undoubtedly less tiring. Ask your concierge.



San Gimignano





What's your Dodo?

The new collection 2018 is Dodo 'Zodiaco': a series of adorable pink gold charms, now three-dimensional for the first time, which play with the stars, poised between destiny and irony. By **Elena Binda**

In Florence's traditional goldsmithery district, in the beating heart of the most precious shopping experience, are the shop windows of the **Boutique Dodo**, a non-conformist space where a large green lawn grows not on the floor but the ceiling, immediately clarifying the playful spirit of the brand.

Here, amid the violet and orange poufs, you will be able to fall in love with the latest collection of Dodo charms, which represent the **twelve signs of the zodiac** of the Western tradition, reinterpreted with both aesthetic finesse and irreverent irony. The symbol of Leo become a crown, with a clear allusion to the sign's majesty (or delusions of grandeur?); Virgo has eaten already her apple in Eden

long ago; and Pisces, as always, can be easily hooked. All are expressed in attractive, highly elegant objects: twelve pendants in perfect Dodo style, available in captivating 9-carat pink gold and, for the first time, with an unprecedented three-dimensional design. The collection offers something for all tastes: ready-to-wear **bracelets** and **necklaces** or **pendants** to be composed, joined together or combined with others to tell a story. A perfect souvenir if your Italian holiday was truly "written in the stars".

But in the Florentine boutique, of course, you will also find all the other collections by Dodo, the brand that ever since 1994 has been enriching the Pomellato universe with a touch of lightness.

>> www.dodo.it
Via de' Tornabuoni, 39/41r.
T: 055 2741573.



Dodo Zodiaco bracelet

The **where**® Guidelines

This directory, grouped by category, is a list of establishments recommended by the editors of *Where Magazine* and includes regular advertisers.

MAP LOCATIONS-Note that references in **bold** at the end of each listing (**A1**, **B5** etc.) refer to the coordinates on the street map (pages 62-63).

SHOPPING-Shopping hours are generally from 10am to 7pm; less centrally located shops still take the traditional lunch break. Most shops are closed on Sundays (except those located in central Florence) and on Monday mornings.

Ask your concierge.

Visitors should note that VAT is 22% and it is generally included in the price of goods.

TAX-FREE SHOPPING

By law, **non-EU residents** are entitled to reclaim the VAT paid on **items purchased and exported from the EU**: before finalizing a purchase, they should ask the shop assistant whether they are eligible for a tax refund.



UnionPay Service Hotline:
00 800 800 95516
e-mail: europe@unionpayintl.com

UnionPay is an international bankcard association based in China and serves the world's largest cardholder base. With more than 7 billion cards issued worldwide, UnionPay has become the major payment method of the outbound Chinese. By March 2018, almost 600,000 merchants in Italy accept UnionPay card for payment, among which 9,000 merchants are located in Florence. This allows hundred of thousands of affluent Chinese customers to shop with their favourite cards. UnionPay also actively work with famous retail groups, such as the Rinascita department stores, The Mall, SINA hotels, Aspesi fashion boutiques, to provide special discount or services for UnionPay cardholders.

DINING

Reservations for most restaurants are strongly advised. In Italy, service is included in the price meaning that although tipping is not compulsory, it is obviously appreciated as a sign of satisfaction. Some menus include the word "coperto", a small surcharge corresponding to the cost of the service and bread. Although no dress code exists in Italy, semiformal clothing is usually considered de rigueur at restaurants. All restaurants and bars are non-smoking unless a separate smokers' area is specifically offered.

Set meals: prices are per person and usually refer to a 3-course meal (beverages excluded). **€ - 30€ or less / €€ - 31-50€ / €€€ - 51-100€ / €€€€ - 101-150€ / €€€€€ - 150€ and above.**

SIGHTSEEING

The information provided on museums and monuments is verified as meticulously as possible. However, data such as telephone numbers, opening hours, prices and the accessibility of sites are all subject to change, on a seasonal basis and also due to restoration work, museum loans or changes of management. Ask your concierge.

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

Angela Caputi Giuggiù

The boutique offers an extraordinary selection of clothing items for every type of woman. In addition, hats, bags and other accessories from all over the world enrich these collections. Stylist and designer Angela Caputi chooses these articles personally to combine with and complete her exclusive resin jewellery with its unique, elegant design. www.angelacaputi.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-1pm/3.30pm-7.30pm. Borgo SS. Apostoli, 44-46/r. T: 055 292993. **Map E4**

Anichini

CHILDREN A traditional tailor's shop for children where skilled artisan hands create elegant items for newborns, children and youngsters using the best Italian fabrics. For each model it is possible

to vary the choice of fabrics, colours and details. A century-old workshop of hand-crafting culture, located in 15th-century Palazzo Ricasoli. www.anichini.net. Open Mon 3.30pm-7pm; Tues-Sat 9.30am-1.30pm/3.30pm-7.30pm. Via del Parione, 59/r. T: 055 284977. **Map D3**

Aspesi

The cult brand, created in 1969 by fashion veteran Alberto Aspesi, features quirky, tailored lines, elegant details and natural materials. His current collections are still based on the original "no frills" philosophy and will appeal to all those who like their outerwear without flashy labels. www.aspesi.com. **Women**. Open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm/3pm-7pm; Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via di Porta Rossa, 85/r. T: 055 287987. **Men**. Open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm/3pm-7pm; Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via Porta Rossa, 51/r. T: 055 287931. **Map E4**



Valdichiana Outlet Village, the convenience of shopping

Valdichiana Outlet Village, the Tuscan "Land of Fashion", lies in one of the most beautiful, distinctive and evocative corners of Tuscany, between the provinces of Arezzo and Siena, at the intersection of important communication routes such as the A1 (Valdichiana exit) and the Siena-Perugia dual carriageway (Bettolle exit). Inside the village, which is reminiscent of a **typical Tuscan town** with its porticos to shelter you pleasantly from the sun and rain, you can find the most famous clothing labels from **fashion and sport**, in addition to footwear, accessories, jewellery, items for the home and much more besides. There are **140 stores** present, with discounts of between 30% and 70% throughout the year, for a complete commercial offer with a very high quality level. For instance, it is possible to find Adidas, Asics, Baldinini, Borbonese, Brooks Brothers, Calvin Klein, K-way, Gant, Gap, Guess, Geox, Levi's, Liu Jo Uomo, Lindt, Nike, Piquadro, Rebel Queen by Liu Jo, Replay, Samsonite, Skechers, Swatch, Timberland, Tommy Hilfiger, Villeroy&Boch, Under Armour, Us Polo e many more besides. At the Valdichiana Outlet Village it is also possible to benefit from numerous other services, such as beauty centre, children's playground, bookshop, pharmacy and many dining options with the very best Tuscan and Italian wine and food. **For all information: www.valdichianayoutlet.it**

[FASHION DESIGNERS]

Luxury Top Brands

ALBERTA FERRETTI PHILOSOPHY—

www.albertaferrretti.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via Porta Rossa, 107.
T: 055 212995. **Map E4**

ASPESI—www.aspesi.com. Women.

Open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm/3pm-7pm; Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via di Porta Rossa, 85.
T: 055 287987. **Men** Open Mon-Fri 10am-2pm/3pm-7pm; Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via di Porta Rossa, 51/r.
T: 055 287931. **Map E4**

BALENCIAGA—www.balenciaga.com.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm.
Piazza Santa Trinita, 1/r.
T: 055 287931. **Map E4**

BOGGI MILANO—www.boggi.com.

Open Mon 3pm-7.30pm; Tues-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 10.30am-1.30pm/3pm-7.30pm.
Via della Vigna Nuova, 27.
T: 055 219179. **Map E3**

BORSALINO—www.borsalino.com.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm. Via Porta Rossa, 40/r. T: 055 218275. **Map F4**

BOTTEGA VENETA—www.bottegaveneta.com.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 2pm-7pm.
Via degli Strozzi, 6n. T: 055 284735.

Map E3

BRUNELLO CUCINELLI—

www.brunellocucinelli.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via dei Pecori, 16.
T: 055 285832. **Map F3**

BULGARI—www.bulgari.com. Open daily

10am-7.30pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 56/r.
T: 055 2396786. **Map E4**

BURBERRY—it.burberry.com. Open daily

10.30am-7.30pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 29/r.
T: 055 293811. **Map E4**



Refined details reinterpret the shape of the classic derby: **BRUNELLO CUCINELLI** presents this laced casual shoe in chamois.

CARTIER—www.cartier.it. Open Mon-Sat

10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm.
Via degli Strozzi, 36/r.
T: 055 292347. **Map E4**

CHANEL—www.chanel.com. Open Mon-Sat

10am-7pm. Piazza della Signoria, 10.
T: 055 2989699. **Map F4. Fragrance & Beauty** Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm. Via dei Calzaiuoli, 49.
T: 055 298181. **Map F3**

CHOPARD—www.chopard.com. Open

Mon-Sat 10.30am-7pm; Sun 11.30am-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 30-32/r.
T: 055 2670157. **Map E4**

DAMIANI—www.damiani.com. Open Mon-

Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 7/r. T: 055 290208. **Map E3**

DIOR—www.dior.com. Women.

Open daily 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 15/r.
T: 055 2669101. **Map E3**

DOLCE&GABBANA—www.dolcegabbana.it

Open daily 10.30am-7.30pm. Via degli Strozzi, 12-18/r. T: 055 281003. **Map E4. Baby.** Open daily 10.30am-7.30pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 18/r. T: 055 2399909. **Map E4**

EMILIO PUCCI—www.emiliopucci.com

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 20-22/r.
T: 055 2658082. **Map E4**

ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA—www.zegna.com

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 10.30am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 3/r.
T: 055 264254. **Map E3**

ETRO—www.etro.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-

7pm; Sun 2pm-7pm. Palazzo Rucellai-via della Vigna Nuova, 50/r.
T: 055 2670086. **Map D3**

FENDI—www.fendi.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-

7.30pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 40/r.
T: 055 212305 **Map E3**

FURLA—www.furla.com. Open Mon-Sat

10am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7.30. Via de' Calzaiuoli, 10/r (corner of piazza della Signoria).
T: 055 2382883. **Map F4**

GIORGIO ARMANI—

www.armani.com
Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm;
Sun 10am-2pm/3pm-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 83/r. T: 055 219041.
Map E3



'Dionysus' model **GUCCI** shoulder bag made of GG Supreme fabric with buckle with tiger and patch heads inspired by the 'NY Yankees' baseball team. From this season's ready-to-wear collection.

GUCCI—www.gucci.com. Open Mon-Sat

10am-7.30pm; Sun 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 73-81/r. T: 055 264011. **Map E3**

• **Duomo.** Open daily 10-19. Via Roma, 32/r.
T: 055 75923803. **Map F3 • Garden.** Open daily 10-19.30. Piazza della Signoria, 10. T: 055 75927010. **Map F4**

HERMÈS—www.hermes.com. Open Mon-Sat

10.15am-7pm. Piazza degli Antinori, 6/r.
T: 055 2381004. **Map E3**

HOGAN—www.hogan.com. Open Mon-Sat

10am-7.30pm; Sun 2pm-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 97/r. T: 055 2741013.
Map E3

HUGO BOSS—www.hugoboss.com. Open daily 10.30am-7.30pm. Via Por Santa Maria, 70.

T: 055 294909. **Map F4**

LORO PIANA—www.loropiana.com.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 34-36/r.
T: 055 2398688. **Map E4**

LOUIS VUITTON—www.louisvuitton.com.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30; Sun 11am-7.30pm.
Piazza degli Strozzi, 10/r. T: 055 266981.
Map E3

MAX MARA—it.maxmara.com. Open

Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7pm.
Via de' Tornabuoni, 66-68-70/r.
T: 055 214133. **Map E3 •** Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30; Sun 11am-7pm. Via de' Pecori, 23/r.
T: 055 287761. **Map F3**

MICHAEL KORS—www.michaelkors.com.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30; Sun 10.30am-7.30pm. Piazza della Repubblica, 43.
T: 055 290284. **Map F3**

MISSONI—www.missoni.it. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via Porta Rossa, 77-79/r. T: 055 215774. **Map F4**

MIU MIU—www.miumiu.com. Open Mon-Sat 10.30am-7.30; Sun 10am-7pm. Via Roma, 8/r. T: 055 2608931. **Map F3**

MONCLER—

www.moncler.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7; Sun 11am-7pm. Via degli Strozzi, 3/r. T: 055 2657583.

Map E3



The patterns designed by historic Florentine fashion house **EMILIO PUCCI** have a strong presence in the outfits on the catwalk for the autumn-winter 2018/2019 season, on each occasion transforming themselves into a patchwork of fabrics.

For him: the **ETRO** wool and silk jacquard scarf is characterized by geometric motifs embellished by Lurex inserts.

MONTBLANC—www.montblanc.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7. Via de' Tornabuoni, 63/r. T: 055 292050. **Map E3**

PRADA—www.prada.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via Roma, 27/r. T: 055 287066. • Open daily 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 53-67/r. T: 055 267471. **Map E3**

SAINT LAURENT—www.ysl.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 43-45. T: 055 9040100. **Map E3**

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO—www.ferragamo.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 4-14/r. T: 055 292123. **Map E4**

STEFANO RICCI—www.stefanoricci.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm. Palazzo Tornabuoni - Via dei Pescioni, 1. T: 055 210856. **Map F3**

SWAROVSKI—www.swarovski.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-8pm; Sun 10am-7.30pm. Via dei Calzaiuoli, 43/r. T: 055 216227. **Map F3**

TOD'S—www.tods.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 2pm-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 60/r. T: 055 219423. **Map E3**

VALENTINO—www.valentino.com. Women. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 23/r. T: 055 293142. **Map E4**



Sizing

Women's clothes

| IT | EUR | US | UK |
|----|-----|----|----|
| 36 | 32 | 1 | 4 |
| 38 | 34 | 2 | 6 |
| 40 | 36 | 4 | 8 |
| 42 | 38 | 6 | 10 |
| 44 | 40 | 8 | 12 |
| 46 | 42 | 10 | 14 |
| 48 | 44 | 12 | 16 |

Women's shoes

| IT | EUR | US | UK |
|----|-----|-----|----|
| 36 | 36 | 6 | 3 |
| 37 | 37 | 6.5 | 4 |
| 38 | 38 | 7.5 | 5 |
| 39 | 39 | 8.5 | 6 |
| 40 | 40 | 9 | 7 |
| 41 | 41 | 9.5 | 8 |

Men's clothes

| IT | EUR | US | UK |
|----|-----|----|----|
| 50 | 46 | 36 | 36 |
| 52 | 48 | 38 | 38 |
| 54 | 50 | 40 | 40 |
| 56 | 52 | 42 | 42 |
| 58 | 54 | 44 | 44 |
| 60 | 56 | 46 | 46 |

Men's shoes

| IT | EUR | US | UK |
|----|-----|------|----|
| 40 | 40 | 7.5 | 6 |
| 41 | 41 | 8 | 7 |
| 42 | 42 | 8.5 | 8 |
| 43 | 43 | 9 | 9 |
| 44 | 44 | 10.5 | 10 |
| 45 | 45 | 11.5 | 11 |
| 46 | 46 | 12 | 12 |

SHOPPING

Brunello Cucinelli

The world of Brunello Cucinelli can be summed up as a compendium of art, traditions and Italian craftsmanship. The brand, which came about in Umbria forty years ago from an idea by founder Brunello Cucinelli, represents excellence in the production of high-quality cashmere knitwear and today boasts top-level production with total look men's and women's collections. Today it is seen as a model enterprise all over the world for its support for the dignity of work and craftsmanship, defining itself as "a humanistic company". www.brunellocucinelli.com. Open daily 10am-7pm. Via dei Pecori, 16/r. T: 055 285832. **Map F3**

Elena Mirò

An Italian prêt-à-porter brand dedicated to curvy women, for over 30 years Elena Mirò has been synonymous with perfect-fit clothing items that enhance every woman's look with a contemporary, refined and ever new style. From dresses to outerwear, from trousers to accessories, to beachwear, the brand expresses

the pleasure of dressing a woman's shape with style. www.elenamiro.com.

Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7.30pm. Via dei Tosinighi, 8/r. T: 055 2657725.

Map F3

Giovanni Raspini

In the beating heart of the fashion district, the boutique of the Tuscan jewellery brand based in Valdichiana (between Siena, Arezzo and Florence) is a genuine concept store that boasts a personalized layout design where a 15th-century tapestry stands out. Fine jewellery - with a unique personality, often animal-themed, sometimes oversized or limited edition - silverware, objects for the home, hand-crafted white bronze creations, always having a style that is midway between minimalism and classicism as the common denominator. From the design to the wax model to "lost-wax" casting, to diamond-setting, each piece is entirely hand worked. Open daily 10am-9pm. www.giovanniraspini.com. Via Porta Rossa, 82/r. T: 055 2741501. **Map E4**

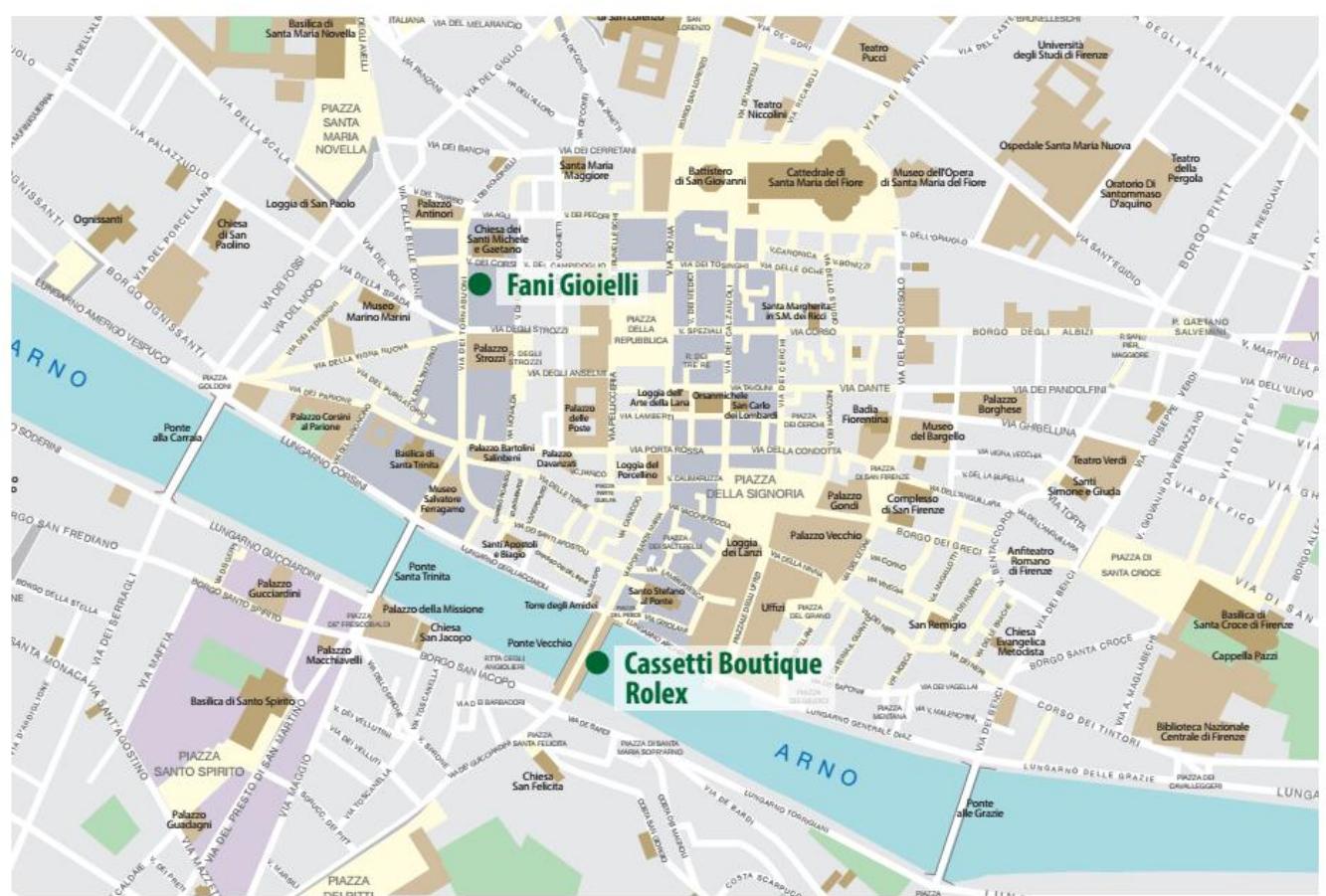
Luisa Via Roma

MULTIBRAND STORE Founded in the early 1930s by Luisa Jaquin, today Luisa Via Roma is a landmark for lovers of fashion and luxury the world over. A global powerhouse of e-commerce with 5 million visitors a month, its Florence store also offers a digitalized purchasing experience: instead of displaying the garments, they have been replaced with interactive installations. Don't miss the elegant terrace designed by Patricia Urquiola. Open Mon-Sat 10.30am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7.30pm. www.luisaviaroma.com. Via Roma, 19-21/r. T: 055 9064116. **Map F3**

Marina Rinaldi

Renowned for its tasteful, plus-size apparel for fashionable women, Marina Rinaldi offers a wide range of collections, featuring both contemporary and classic lines that are updated on a seasonal basis. These include dresses, jackets, coats, bags and accessories for a total look that exudes class and elegance. it.marinarinaldi.com. Open Mon-Sat 9am-9pm;

Luxury shopping



Official Retailers in Florence

Cassetti Boutique Rolex
Ponte Vecchio, 29/r
T: 055 2741044
www.cassetti.it

Fani Gioielli
Via de' Tornabuoni, 72/r
T: 055 212075
www.fanishop.it

Sun 10.30am-8.30pm c/o Rinascente-Piazza della Repubblica. T: 055 219113.

Société Anonyme

An independent shop of North-European conception inspired by the underground atmospheres of the hot-lazy neighbourhoods of London, Berlin and New York (the name is a homage to Marcel Duchamp and Peggy Guggenheim, who founded an avant-garde art gallery in New York called Société Anonyme in the 1920s). Located in the literary artistic district of Sant'Ambrogio, it offers labels of international renown and niche brands, as well as its own men's and women's collection that is only sold in-store and online. www.societeanonyme.it. Open Mon 3.30pm-7.30pm; Tues-Sat 10am-7.30pm. Via G.B. Niccolini, 3/f corner of via della Mattonaia, 24/a/b/c/d. (Sant'Ambrogio District). T: 055 3860084. Map L3

Stefano Ricci

Tailoring and Italian tradition "Made in Florence", with the purest male elegance as the watchword. These, in short, are the values of the company founded in 1972 by Stefano Ricci and his wife Claudia, which, now in its second generation, has become a successful international group. From clothing (jackets, suits and high-fashion sports items, but also shirts and ties) to jewellery, from leatherwear to perfumes and the SR Home and SR Junior collections, Stefano Ricci represents Italian excellence all over the world, making production entirely handmade by qualified Italian craftsmen its strong point. Faithful to the values of the manufacturing tradition and the roots of the territory, in 2010 the firm acquired the Antico Setificio Fiorentino, a historic silk factory in the San Frediano district that has produced precious fabrics since 1786 and today still uses the original ancient hand looms. www.stefanoricci.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm. Palazzo Tornabuoni-Via dei Pescioni, 1. T: 055 210856. Map E3

DEPARTMENT STORES

Rinascente

In the heart of the city, Rinascente is the ideal place to discover the best of fashion, accessories, beauty, home and design items. For women, proposals of the best Italian and international brands range from the classic to the contemporary and for men from formal to smart casual. Rinascente is a point of reference

for luxury shopping and for new brands, exclusive products and the unveiling of innovations. www.rinascente.it. Open Mon-Sat 9am-9pm; Sun 10.30am-8.30pm. Piazza della Repubblica. T: 055 219113. Map F3

FINE ART

Antico Setificio Fiorentino

The Antico Setificio Fiorentino is the heir to a great tradition of Renaissance textile art and history, thanks also to its famous warping machine based on a design by Leonardo da Vinci. Since 1786 the workshop has been producing some of the most sumptuous silk brocades, damask, taffeta, and lampas in the world, 100% made in Italy. www.anticosetificiofiorentino.com. Open Mon-Fri 10am-6pm (by appointment only). Via L. Bartolini, 4. T: 055 213861. Map B3

Galleria Romanelli

The Galleria Romanelli has been handing down precious sculpture artwork for six generations in one of the most picturesque neighbourhoods of Florence, Borgo San Frediano. An artistic workshop, a meeting place for buyers and artists, where sculptors and their students carry out their work daily surrounded by the ancient tools of the trade. Work is done by commission on original sculptures, chalk replicas, bronze and Carrara marble and restorations. www.raffaelloromanelli.com. Open Mon-Fri 10am-1pm/2pm-6pm. Borgo San Frediano, 70. T: 055 2396047. Map C4

Leone Cei & Sons

Since 1902, an exceptional firm specializing in dressing tables, appliqués, consuls, chairs and armchairs faithfully reproduced from antique models from a rare and abundant archive. The production, entirely made in Florence, is destined for private homes, hotels and private clubs all over the world. The carving, gilding, burnishing and lacquering work is performed rigorously by hand following traditional procedures and using natural products and pigments. A huge department is dedicated to fabrics for furnishings, with a collection of fabrics still produced on ancient looms or limited editions, or produced on request and based on customers' designs. Qualified consultancy service provided on antiques and on the reproduction of period items. www.leonecei.com. Headquarters & Showroom: Via dei Federighi, 15. T: 055 2381870. Map D3 •

Antiques: Via dei Fossi, 47/r. T: 055 2396039.

Map D3

Papiro (Il)

Established in 1976 in Florence, Il Papiro produces objects drawing their inspiration from the Florentine tradition of marbled paper (diaries, address books, photo albums, articles for the desk) in addition to a line of classic leather accessories. www.ilpapirofirenze.eu. Open Mon-Sat 10am-1pm/2pm-7pm; Sun 10am-6pm. Via C. Cavour, 49/r. T: 055 6499151. Map G1

Pitti Mosaici

Since the early 1980s this studio right opposite Palazzo Pitti keeps alive the ancient Florentine tradition of marquetry with marble, hard and semi-precious stones. Unique hand-made items to provide coverings for walls, framed items and furnishings recalling the atmospheres and style of the Renaissance. Today the art studio creates entire made-to-measure residential projects all over the world. www.pittimosaici.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-8pm. Piazza de' Pitti, 23/24. T: 055 282127. Map E6

Richard Ginori 1735

Tradition and excellence in the high-quality artistic manufacture of porcelain. The Richard Ginori "artistic factory", of 18th-century origin, still produces accessories for the table and living room and works of art in its Doccia Factory (20 km from Florence) using ancient working techniques. Italian style and international trends. richardginori1735.com. Open Mon-Wed 10am-7pm; Thurs-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 12 noon-6.30pm. Via ei Rondinelli, 17/r. T: 055 210041. Map E2

Torchio (Il)

Inspired by the ancient Florentine hand crafting tradition, Il Torchio creates bookbinding products with refined materials such as Florentine leather, hand-marbled paper and coloured cloths, also devising new artisan articles with contemporary materials and techniques. www.legatorailtorchio.com. Open Mon-Fri 10am-1.30pm/2.30pm-7pm; Sat 10am-1pm. Via de' Bardi, 17. T: 055 2342862. Map G6

JEWELLERY & WATCHES

Angela Caputi Giuggiù

COSTUME JEWELLERY The brand is renowned throughout the world. Sophisticated, original creations made from unusual materials such as



ANGELA CAPUTI GIUGGIÙ

In the centre of Florence, in an old 17th-century building known as "Palazzetto Medici", a few steps from the Ponte Vecchio, are the boutique and the creative heart of Florentine designer Angela Caputi's brand Giuggiù. Her imaginative plastic jewellery items, much loved by international customers, are genuinely unique pieces of fine craftsmanship. In the Borgo SS. Apostoli boutique it is also possible to purchase a selection of clothing items and accessories that complete the brand's collections.

www.angelacaputi.com

Borgo SS. Apostoli, 44/46. T: 055 292993. Map F4

Via S. Spirito, 58/r. T: 055 212972. Map D4



Stylish creations

Angela Caputi Giuggiu's innovative, elegant jewels are the perfect addition to the wish list of every woman.

Featuring a blend of art and fashion, her creations are characterized by a continuously evolving creative process. Also known by the nickname Giuggiu, the **Florentine designer** has become a byword across the globe. Her stunning creations have been showcased at several of the most important museums worldwide. The creative heart of Angela Caputi's bijoux is her workshop in Oltrarno, located in the picturesque Florentine district.

This season, the Italian jewelry designer presents a collection whose elegance, sobriety and rigorous shapes and colours reference a **French-inspired style**. Called '**Pied de poule**', the collection is characterized by unusual geometric shapes in which grey is paired with white and black. At the same time, these bijoux in **synthetic resins** can be interpreted as daring, unconventional elements that break with tradition because they play on strong contrasts between 'pied de poule' and 'a pois' (always in white and black) prints, or highlight a detail of bright red interspersed with transparent geometric elements. www.angelacaputi.com

Borgo SS. Apostoli, 44/46.
T: 055 292993. Map F4
Via S. Spirito, 58/r.
T: 055 212972. Map D4

plastic and resin, combined to create unique objects both in terms of colour and shape. Her creations have been used as accessories by famous television and film producers. The accessory as a focal point, capable of creating a look or dressing up any type of garment. A magical blend of contemporary and classical taste. www.angelacaputi.com. **Shop and workshop:** Open Tues-Sat 10am-1pm/3.30pm-7.30pm. Via S. Spirito, 58/r. T: 055 212972. **Map D4**
• **Boutique:** Open Mon-Sat 10am-1pm/3.30pm-7.30pm. Borgo SS. Apostoli, 44-46/r. T: 055 292993. **Map F4**

Annamaria Cammilli

A Florentine brand of reference in design jewellery, it has been present with its creations in shop windows and display cases all over the world for over 30 years and is synonymous with a unique, unmistakable Italian style. Attention to detail for rings, necklaces, bracelets and brooches, often drawing inspiration from nature and the floral world. www.annamariacammilli.com. Open Mon 3pm-7pm; Tues-Sat 11am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via Vacchereccia, 12/r. T: 055 2608617. **Map F4**

Aprosio

Aprosio came about as a workshop in 1993 and creates jewellery accessories and products for decorating interiors, with glass beads from Murano and Bohemia crystal glass. www.aprosio.it. Open Mon-Sat 10.30am-7pm. Via del Moro 75-77/r, 12/r. T: 055 210127. **Map E2**

Cassetti 1926

In the spectacular context of Ponte Vecchio, the Cassetti multibrand boutique is known for both fine watchmaking and haute joaillerie, and has a studio that develops innovative projects with its own artisan collection. www.cassetti.it. Open daily 10am-7pm. Ponte Vecchio, 54/r. T: 055 287361. **Map F5**

Damiani

Master craftsmen since 1924, Damiani has a long goldsmithing tradition which it has always interpreted with innovative spirit. Line purity, a refined, elegant classic as well as contemporary spirit, are the distinctive values of Damiani jewellery. Their collections are realized by master goldsmiths in full accordance with the best Italian tradition and admired throughout the world. www.damiani.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 7/r. T: 055 290208. **Map E4**

Dodo

The gold Dodo jewellery line, created in 1995 by Pomellato, is by now a classic either for gift or collection purposes. It sells an array of animal charm pieces, each of which has a particular meaning. www.dodo.it. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11.30am-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 39-41/r. T: 055 2741573. **Map E4**

Fani Gioielli

Starting out as a family-run shop over 50 years ago, Fani Gioielli is now an established fine jewellery and luxury watchmaking firm, with two points of sale, in Florence and Siena. An extensive range of prestigious jewellery brands, including Pomellato, Dodo and Vhernier; it is also an official Rolex and Tudor retailer. www.fanishop.it. Open Mon 3pm-7pm; Tues-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 3pm-7pm. Via de' Tornabuoni, 72/r. T: 055 212075. **Map E3**

Massai Orafi

Founded in 1950 by Florentine master goldsmith Franco Massai, it boasts over 60 years in the field of

Florentine fine goldsmithery. With the techniques of the past it produces unique, rigorously hand-made pieces and is a point of reference for Florentines and others besides. **EDITOR'S TIP** A visit to the workshop is a unique experience: on the top floor of a 16th-century tower house, for over 200 years master goldsmiths have practised the ancient fretworking, carving and engraving traditions typical of the Florentine goldsmithery art. www.massaiorafi.it. Open Mon-Fri 9am-1pm/3pm-7.30pm. Via delle Terme, 13. T: 055 294800. **Map F4**

Officine Panerai

Situated in the centre of Florence, birthplace of the fine watchmaking trade, this historic boutique boasts a unique design and a strong identity that Spanish designer Patricia Urquiola has enhanced by working with the idea of the "art workshop". A space on the first floor is devoted to special sales and another is reserved for periodic exhibitions of watches from the historical Museum; on the ground floor, a watchmaker is at customers' disposal to carry out repairs and share his passion with Panerai enthusiasts. www.panerai.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-7pm. Piazza San Giovanni, 14/r. T: 055 9040013. **Map F2**

Rolex Boutique-Cassetti 1926

In the unique and exclusive setting that is Ponte Vecchio, the Rolex boutique has three storeys: the ground floor is dedicated to sales, with three display tables; the first floor has two rooms for reserved sales; the second floor has a fully equipped customer care centre, where qualified Rolex technicians are available to look after the precious timepieces. www.cassetti.it. Open daily 10am-7pm. Ponte Vecchio, 29/r. T: 055 2741044. **Map F5**

Tiffany & Co.

Located in the luxury shopping street par excellence, the Tiffany & Co. boutique is housed in one of the most beautiful Palazzi in the city. There is plenty of space inside for gold and silver fashion collections, such as 'Tiffany City HardWear' and 'Tiffany T', jewels with purest diamonds, the iconic engagement rings, design creations by Elsa Peretti and Paloma Picasso and rigorously Swiss-made men's and women's watches. www.tiffany.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7.30pm. Via de' Tornabuoni 37/r. T: 055 215506. **Map C4**

Vacheron Constantin Boutique

In the unique and exclusive setting that is Ponte Vecchio, this boutique is the oldest fine watchmaking design house in the world, founded in 1755 in Geneva. The façade of the boutique is also known for the tabernacle with a painting of the Madonna with Child and Saint John that marked the presence of an ancient oratory of the Holy Sepulchre, which came under the control of the Knights of Malta in the early 14th century. www.cassetti.it. Open daily 10am-7pm. Ponte Vecchio, 52/r. T: 055 2396028. **Map F5**

LEATHER

Cuoieria Fiorentina

From the famous ancient hand-crafting tradition of the Florentine "pellai" [leather craftsmen], typical of this area of Tuscany, here unique, inimitable products are created with extreme care and top-quality natural materials. A vast range of leather handbags, travel bags and accessories (belts, wallets, briefcases...), for him and for her, offering excellent value for money. Another strong

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Shoppers will find items of the best Italian and international brands. A large area is devoted to **women's fashion** which includes a vast and prestigious range in both classic fashions as well as the latest trends. Special attention is also given to **men's wear** where shoppers can choose from formal attire to smart casual wear. The constant arrival of **new brands**, unique commodities and the latest products exclusive to Rinascente makes the store the focal point for your high-end shopping in the city.

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MILAN

JACKETS
BLAZERS

Kisses from Italy

IL VIAGGIO
NON FINISCE MAI

Rinascente
APERTURA DI STAGIONE

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SHOPPING



RICHARD GINORI

See page 21.



DR. VRANJES

See this page.

point is the personalization of the products, organised to satisfy the tastes and requirements of customers, who can count Michelle Obama among their number. www.cuoieriafiorentina.it. Open Mon-Sat 9am-1pm/3.30pm-7.30pm. Via de' Nicola, 11. T: 055 6505091. **Off Map**

Gianni Chiarini

Established in the 1990s, this brand is the expression of ancient artisan wisdom in the creation of contemporary bags and accessories, with an idea of pure design. A fresh, modern and cosmopolitan brand, but at the same time sophisticated, which has its roots in the heart of Florentine beauty. giannichiarini.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 2pm-7pm. Via della Vigna Nuova, 52/r. T: 055 2654306. **Map D3**

Il Bisonte

Florentine leather goods brand Il Bisonte came about in 1970 thanks to Wanny Di Filippo's passion for leather objects. Housed in the boutique in Palazzo Corsini on the Lungarno are its beautifully hand-crafted bags, travel bags, briefcases, wallets, diaries, belts and other accessories epitomising the best of Tuscan workmanship. The brand's key focus is on materials, including its iconic cowhide: a natural, highly sought-after vegetable tanned leather which has the advantage of improving with age. www.ilbisonte.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11.30am-6.30pm. Via del Parione, 31-33/r. T: 055 215722. **Map E4**

PASSION SHOPPING

AquaFlor

A perfume shop with the charm of past times, dedicated to the hand-crafted manufacture of perfumes made using natural and rare raw materials, personalisable through the choice of fragrances. A studio run impeccably by maître parfumier Sileno Cheloni. www.aquaflorfirenze.com. Open daily 10am-1pm/2pm-7pm. Borgo Santa Croce, 6. T: 055 2343471. **Map H5**

Dr. Vranjes

Home fragrances and elegant furnishing accessories made by hand in Florence for more than 30 years. Florence is home to the laboratories

and the headquarters of the Florentine home fragrance company founded and managed by the "nose", the perfumer, namely chemist and cosmetologist Dr. Paolo Vranjes and his wife Anna Maria. In addition to the traditional production of ambient diffusers and "lamparum" items, the brand has diversified its production with linen, cosmetics, perfumes and gift boxes, also giving a strong Florentine identity to the packaging, inspired by Brunelleschi's Dome. drvranjes.it. Open Mon 3pm-7pm; Tues-Sat 10.30am-2pm/3pm-7pm. Via San Gallo, 63/r. T: 055 494537. **Off Map** • Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7.30pm. Via della Spada, 9/r. T: 055 288796. **Map E3** • Open Mon 3.30pm-7.30pm; Tues-Fri 10am-1.30pm/3.30pm-7.30pm; Sat 10am-7.30pm. Borgo La Croce, 44/r. T: 055 241748.

Map I3

La Ménagère

CONCEPT STORE A delightful concept store of around 1500 square metres that includes a shop with design objects for the home, a florist, in addition to a restaurant and a bistro. Located right in the city centre, in the space that was once occupied by the first Florentine household item shop, it combines industrial and recycled materials and design objects for a contemporary result with a romantic touch. www.lamenagere.it. Open daily 7am-2am. Via de' Ginori 8/r. T: 055 075060. **Map F1**

Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella

UNIQUE The oldest historical pharmacy in Europe (established in 1221), the Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica is housed in a part of the Dominican convent complex of Santa Maria Novella and has been open to the public for over four centuries (since 1612). Its products (perfumes, beauty products, medicinal herbs, herbal teas, sweets and chocolates) are sold all over the world in 75 single brand stores and represent a production par excellence on account of their quality raw materials and centuries-old handicraft techniques, with the aid of modern technologies. The frescoed monumental environments - Sales Room, Green Room, Ancient Apothecary and Sacristy - have been returned to their former splendour thanks

to restoration work. www.smnovella.com. Open daily 9am-8pm. Via della Scala, 16. T: 055 216276.

Map D2

The Merchant of Venice

NEW The new boutique is structured into a vast range of Eaux de Parfum and Eaux de Toilette, completed by products for personal care, for the environment and accessories. The essences are contained in packaging with designs inspired by the glassmaking tradition of Murano. Furthermore, the single-brand store provides a personalized layering service. [www.themerchantofvenice.com](http://themerchantofvenice.com). Open Mon-Thurs 10.30am-1.30pm/2.30pm-7.30pm; Wed-Sat 10.30am-7.30pm. Via degli Strozzi, 28/r. T: 055 216559. **Map E3**

Valli Tessuti Alta Moda

A reference point in Florence that offers its clientele the best made in Italy fabrics inspired by the most beautiful haute couture collections. The store carries a vast assortment of precious, sought-after cuts to make elegant dresses, prêt-à-porter and ceremonial attire both for men and women, but also coats, shirts and bridal gowns. vallitessuti.com. Open Mon 3pm-7pm; Tues-Sat 10am-7pm. Via della Vigna Nuova, 81/r. T: 055 282485.

Map D3

SHOES

Aquazzura

Created in Florence in 2011 and inspired by the luxury hand-crafting tradition, the brand combines a typically European refined aesthetic sensibility with modern Latin American elegance. Aquazzura shoes have been worn by trendsetters, Hollywood stars, European royalty and fashion insiders around the globe. [www.aquazzura.com](http://aquazzura.com). Open daily 10am-7pm. Palazzo Corsini-Lungarno Corsini, 42. T: 055 291242.

Map D4

Salvatore Ferragamo

Situated in Florence's main street for shopping, inside the medieval Palazzo Spini Feroni (the company's historic workshop since 1938 and the site of the Salvatore Ferragamo Museum), the Ferragamo boutique hosts all its fashion men's, women's, accessories and perfume collections. The brand represents Italian quality, contemporary elegance, innovation and tradition. The boutique occupies the entire ground floor of the building, inside large spaces decorated with 18th-century frescoes. The wing of the store that faces onto Piazza Santa Trinita hosts the "Ferragamo's Creations" corner with the exclusive footwear line that revisits some of the brand's iconic models. www.ferragamo.com. Open daily 10am-7.30pm. Palazzo Spini Feroni-Via de' Tornabuoni, 4/r. T: 055 292123.

Map E4

STATIONERY

Pineider

Artisan savoir faire since 1774 in the universe of paper, writing and leather goods. Tradition and design are the distinctive features of this brand, which is unique worldwide: from the printing of precious and embossed paper to articles made of fine leather, to elegant writing instruments. www.pineider.com. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7pm. Piazza de' Rucellai, 4-7/r. T: 055 284656.

Map E3

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Valdichiana is an area that is famous worldwide not only for its landscape, rich in history and culture, but also its exceptional food and wine and its health spas. Life takes on a different pace here, even shopping. Valdichiana Outlet Village lies at the very heart of this land and with its **140 stores**, offering **discounts up to 70% all year round**, it is an unrivalled destination for those who love to shop.



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• WHERE: take the A1-E35 motorway in the direction of Bologna and exit at Barberino. Daily shuttle bus service from Florence Santa Maria Novella train station (4 times a day). Meeting point: City Sightseeing Firenze Line A Stop No.1, Florence SMN Train Station, left-luggage office side.

• WHAT: the perfect location to find your favourite designer brands at up to 70% off, all year round. With more than 120 boutiques, cafés and restaurants, children's play area and free parking, surrounded by wonderful Tuscany countryside and architecture, Barberino Designer Outlet offers something for everyone. McArthurGlen.it/Barberino

CASTEL GUELFO THE STYLE OUTLETS

The point where quality, style and convenience meet: men's, women's and children's clothes, sportswear, accessories and cosmetics with discounts of between 30% and 70% all year round. Castel Guelfo The Style Outlets is located in the Emilia-Romagna region, 1.5 hours from Florence. Open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm; Sat and Sun 10am-8.30pm.

• WHERE: take the A1 Bologna-Ancona and exit at Castel San Pietro Terme. A free shuttle service is available daily from Castel San Pietro Terme railway station.

• WHAT: 110 boutiques by prestigious brands – such as Baldinini, K-way, Flavio Castellani, Guess, Pepe Jeans, Timberland, Trussardi and Vans – of clothing and accessories for the whole family, sportswear, items for the home and beauty products, with discounts of up to 70% on the retail price.

• NOT ONLY SHOPPING: to make the day of shopping even more enjoyable, the centre also hosts art exhibitions, lots of events and initiatives designed to involve the whole family. www.thestyleoutlets.it

FIDENZA VILLAGE

This is one of the 11 Villages in Europe and China by Value Retail and one of The Bicester Village Shopping Collection® Villages: a place where hospitality makes the shopping experience memorable. The Village is located in the Emilia-Romagna region, 2 hours from Florence. Open daily 10am-8pm.

• WHERE: halfway between Bologna and Milan, near Parma. Take the A1-E35 motorway and exit at Fidenza/Salsomaggiore Terme.

• WHAT: an exclusive shopping experience with unique hospitality at the core of the services and with over 130 boutiques of the world's leading fashion and lifestyle brands at reduced prices (up to 70% off), including Versace, Armani, Missoni, Calvin Klein, Diesel, Paul Smith and Michael Kors.

• NOT ONLY SHOPPING: the Village pays homage to the region's rich cultural and gastronomic heritage. After your day of shopping, visit one of its restaurants to indulge in delicious homemade pasta with fresh Parmesan cheese from nearby Parma. www.fidenzavillage.com

THE MALL FIRENZE

The luxury outlet centre The Mall Firenze is a gallery of the world's most exclusive designers at truly advantageous prices, offering customers a unique shopping experience. It is set in the heart of the Tuscan countryside, just 30 minutes from Florence. Open daily 10am-7pm (in June, July, August 10am-8pm).

• WHERE: take the A1-E35 motorway in the direction of Rome. Leave the motorway at the "Incisa-Reggello" exit and proceed on the right towards Pontassieve, as far as Leccio. Direct bus service from central Florence (Busitalia/Sita bus station-Via S. Caterina da Siena, near the central railway station, €7). Exclusive door-to-door minivan service from centrally located hotels in Florence (€35 round trip). Ask your concierge.

• WHAT: over 40 luxury stores (fashion, fragrance and footwear) featuring your favourite brands with discounts of up to 70% year-round: Gucci, Fendi, Salvatore Ferragamo, Dolce&Gabbana, Jimmy Choo, Saint Laurent, Bottega Veneta and Chloé (June 2018 Opening).

• NOT ONLY SHOPPING: the Gucci Caffè Restaurant, on the top floor of the Gucci store, is the perfect spot for a lunch break or just to savour a moment of relaxation after a day's shopping. www.themall.it

VALDICHIANA OUTLET VILLAGE

An authentic "Shopping Village" in the province of Arezzo (1 hour from Florence), offering a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere and a unique shopping experience characterised by quality and convenience. It has several facilities and services, such as a beauty centre, a playground, the library and several food courts where the

best local food and wines are on offer.

Open daily 10am-8pm.

• **WHERE:** take the A1-E35 motorway in the direction of Rome and exit at Valdichiana Bettolle.

• **WHAT:** 140 designer and brand shops characterized by quality and convenience offering 30% to 70% discounts all year round and further discounts during sale periods: Adidas, Baldinini, Brooks Brothers, Calvin Klein, Diadora, Geox, Guess, Levi's, Massimo Rebecchi, Samsonite, Tommy Hilfiger Under Armour and many others.

• **NOT ONLY SHOPPING:** ample choice of the restaurants and refreshments, a modern playground, the possibility of recharging your electric car, free wi-fi, mobile phone recharge and, in the event of rain, the possibility of walking in the dry beneath the porticoes.

www.valdichianayoutlet.it





PHOTO © ANTONIO GRAVANTE / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

The best Florentine street food

It is cold cuts, cheeses and quality ingredients Made in Tuscany, that have decreed the success of All'Antico Vinaio, which started out with just one shop and has now become a small company. By **Sophia Bertoli**

All'Antico Vinaio is among the most reviewed places in the world on TripAdvisor. But, more than the enthusiastic comments, what speaks volumes is the crowd of people who are always queuing outside the four premises that Daniele Mazzanti has opened in **Via de' Neri**, right next to Piazza della Signoria. The people queuing are all waiting to take a bite of a *schiacciata* filled with Tuscan cured meats, or else taste their succulent meat and cheese boards accompanied by a glass of Chianti. Considered among **the best Italian street-food vendors**, it boasts '*Schiacciata Favolosa*' with *sbriciolona* (a typical Tuscan salami), pecorino, cream of grilled artichokes and aubergines, '*Schiacciata Inferno*' (created to coincide with the shooting of the film based

on the novel by Dan Brown) with roast pork, spicy sauce, aubergines, courgettes and rocket salad, and '*Schiacciata del Boss*' with Tuscan cured ham, pecorino and truffle cream among its bestsellers. Opened in 1991, its renown has grown so much that it has "forced" the owner to open up one new space after the other, resulting in the inauguration, in February, of the fourth, again in that **Via de' Neri** that has earned itself the title of **Florence's food street**. But beware: between 12 noon and 3pm and between 6pm and 10pm it is forbidden to consume food standing on the pavement or in the road, in the doorways of shops and residences, otherwise the penalty is a heavy fine. In that case you can eat your *schiacciata* while you are walking along or sitting in the designated places.

>> **Via dei Neri, 74/R. T: 055 2382723.**
www.allanticovinaio.com



PHOTO © TIPAVANA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

FOOD SHOPS

Galanti

Delicatessen and wine shop. Classic dishes as well as soups, pappa al pomodoro, ribollita, chicken galantines, to eat in, under the porticoes outside or to take away. Wide selection of wines and home-made jams. Everything made with extra-virgin olive oil and prime quality ingredients. www.gastronomiagalanti.com. Open Mon-Sat 8.30am-8pm. Piazza della Libertà, 31/r. T: 055 490359. **Off Map**

Giumella

VEGAN With recipes based on the products of the Florentine countryside, this delicatessen offers organic zero miles food, made the same day. Recipes with cereals and legumes, seeds and seasonal products. Among the specialties: reseitan – stone-ground Tuscan durum wheat semolina with water, salt and lentils – plus vegan cheeses based on walnuts, almonds, sunflower seeds, oats or rice flour. www.giumellavegan.it. Open Mon-Fri 10.30am-8pm. Via Lorenzo di Credi, 12/r. T: 393 8221084. **Off Map**

Pegna

With over 150 years behind it, this shop has become part of Florentine history. Just steps from the Duomo, a historic drugstore with all kinds of Tuscan, Italian and international specialities: rare cheeses, salumi and prosciutti. Plus a vast choice of wines and imported products like spices, coffee, tea and chocolate. Open Mon-Sat 10am-7.30pm; Sun 11am-7.30pm. pegna.it. Via dello Studio, 8. T: 055 282701. **Map G3**

STREET FOOD

All'Antico Vinaio

If when walking along Via de' Neri you happen to come across a queue of people with a hungry air, there can be no doubt: they are waiting for a schiacciata at the Antico Vinaio. Just a stone's throw from Piazza della Signoria, it is considered among the best street food available in Italy: its filled schiacciata and boards of Tuscan cured meats, accompanied by a glass of Chianti, are eaten at the counter, on stools or walking around Florence. €. www.allanticovinaio.com. Via Dei Neri 65/r. T: 055 2382723. **Map G5**

Cucciolo

PAstry SHOP Bar-patisserie in Via del Corso, famed in the city for more than 40 years for its "bomboloni" (fried doughnuts) baked on the spot, dunked in sugar and filled with cream or chocolate. Worth a visit just for the show: the freshly made bomboloni are carried up from the kitchen on a ramp in full sight before depositing them directly in the sugar. Open Tues-Thurs 7.30am-10pm; Fri-Sun 7.30am-midnight. Via del Corso, 25/r. T: 055 287727. **Map G3**

Pescepane

FISH Panini, fish & chips, mozzarella in fried bread, fried fish ... all some of the specialities of this itinerant Street Seafood food truck. The delicious and creative menu varies each day depending on the availability of ingredients, using sustainable and high quality produce, often organic, with vegetables of the season and home-made sauces. Apart from the great food there is the visual appeal of the historic Italian Aperac

Classic. To find out where Pescepane will be stopping, check the website www.pescepane.it. It recently opened "La Cucina di Pescepane" in via Carducci, where you can find the same specialities. Open Tues-Sun 12 noon-3pm/7.30pm-10.30pm. Via G. Carducci, 3 (Sant'Ambrogio district). T: 055 2344397. **Map L3**

Pugi

Florentine's favourite bread shop since 1925. Known for its schiacciata (a type of sponge cake), reputed to be one of the best in town, in classic or rustic versions, and for delicious stuffed focaccia, pizza, fritters and a vast range of breads and pastries. www.fornopugi.it. Several locations: Piazza San Marco, 9/b. T: 055 280981 (open Mon-Sat 7.45am-8pm); Via San Gallo, 62/r. T: 055 475975 (open Mon-Fri 7.45am-3.15pm); Via G. Orsini, 63-65. T: 055 689763 (Open Mon-Sat 8.45am-7.45pm). **Off Map**

WINE SHOPS

Caffè 19.26

This bistro in the Sant'Ambrogio district does a selection of Tuscan wines, Italian spumanti and champagne, served in a Bohemian atmosphere

amidst little tables and large windows. Huge selection of over 380 makes of rum, unique in the whole of Florence. Open from lunch to after-supper, also hosts events. cafe1926firenze.com. Via G.B. Niccolini, 30/r (Sant'Ambrogio district). T: 055 2346296. **Map L2**

Enoteca Bonatti

Opened in Florence in 1934, this family-run wine shop offers a wide selection of wines and spirits from all over Italy and abroad, with a particular focus on France. www.enotecabonatti.it. Open Mon 3.30pm-7.30pm; Tues-Sat 9.30am-1pm/3.30pm-7.30pm. Via V. Gioberti, 66-68/r. T: 055 660050. **Off Map**

Signorvino

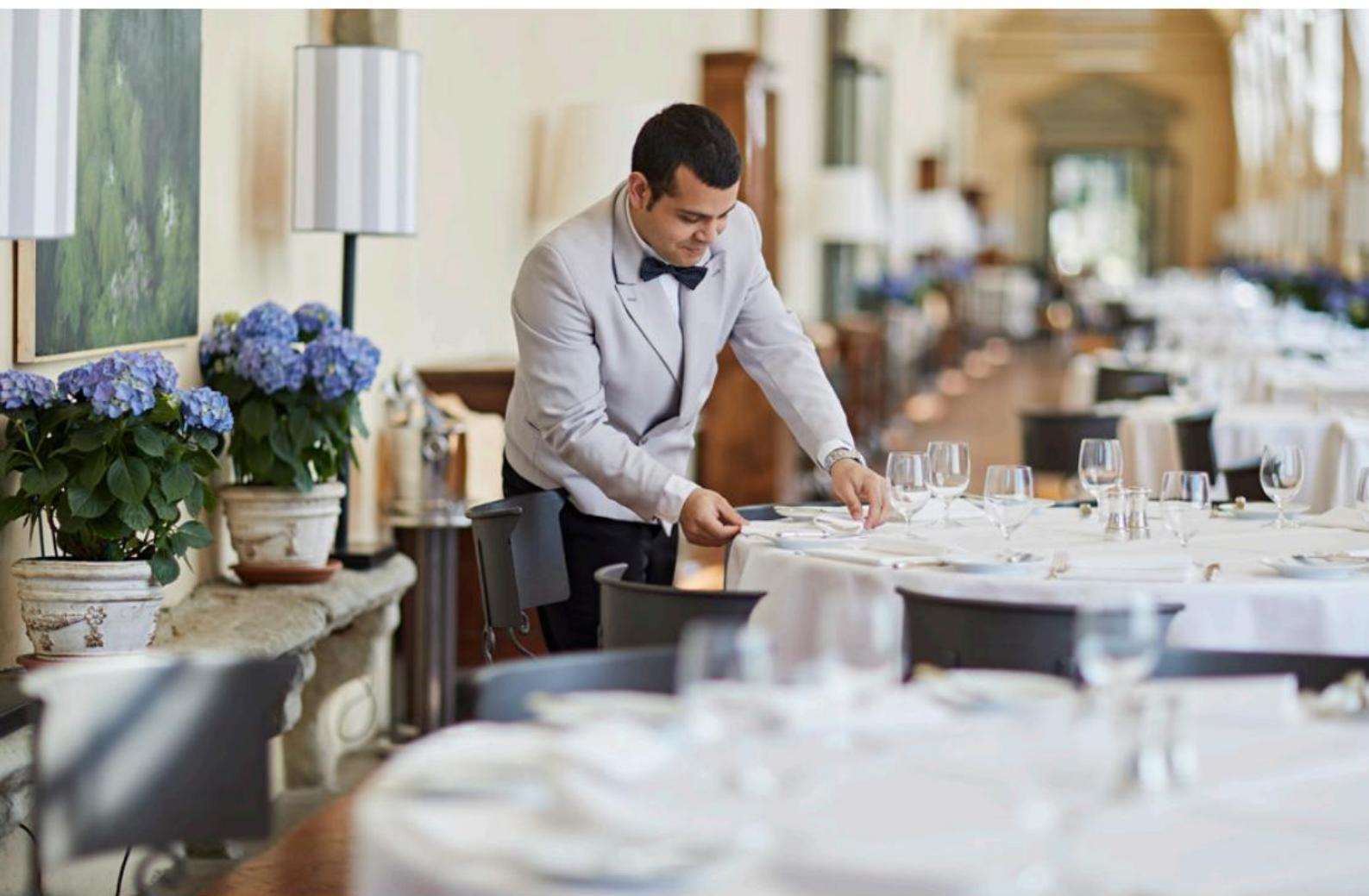
In the heart of the city just steps from Ponte Vecchio, the shop has a choice of 1500 labels of selected wines from the best Italian cantinas, applying the same formula used in its 15 outlets across the country. It also does simple quality food from the various regions. The terrace has a wonderful view of the Arno and Ponte Vecchio. www.signorvino.com. Open daily 9.30am-midnight. Via de' Bardi, 46/r. T: 055 286258. **Map F5**



The perfect place for a wine experience

Immersed in the extraordinary Chianti landscape, the **Cantina Antinori nel Chianti Classico** welcomes you with its ultramodern architecture and all the ancient know-how of the Antinori Marquises. The family has been dedicated to producing wines for **more than 600 years now**, managing the activity directly with innovative choices, but always maintaining an unchanged respect for the traditions and for the territory. About 45 minutes by car from Florence, this low environmental impact, high energy-saving structure overlooks the surrounding countryside where Sangiovese grapes are grown and is practically invisible from the outside, if not for two long horizontal "fissures" corresponding to the front of the construction. Here it is possible to experience delights of the senses by immersing yourself in an itinerary that is architectural, gustatory and emotional at the same time, revealing the **majesty of the wine cellar** and the elegance of Antinori wines.

Via Cassia per Siena, 133 (Loc. Bargino) - San Casciano Val di Pesa (25 km from Florence). T: 055 2359700. antinorichianticlassico.it



Dining amid the Florentine hills

In a magnificent location, with views of Florence and the surrounding countryside, you can dine up in a 15th-century loggia inside a boutique hotel that was formerly a convent. By **Chiara Zaccarelli**

Dinner with views of the Italian-style gardens, the Fiesole hills and, beyond, the splendour of Florence and the cupola of the Duomo. Just 15 minutes by car separate the **La Loggia Restaurant** at the Hotel Belmond Villa San Michele from the city centre, but the calm and tranquillity that are breathed here make it seem like a world away. This is also thanks to the monks who decided to build their convent in this panoramic position back in the 15th century.

At the La Loggia Restaurant **chef Attilio Di Fabrizio** draws strength from Michelin-star experiences such as that at the prestigious Enoteca Pinchiorri and from important collaborations with Walter Marchesi, Roger Vergé, Paul Bocuse and Raymond Blanc, proposing a

cuisine based on the freshness of the ingredients and the use of top-quality raw materials, with a predilection for those from the surrounding territory, without forgetting a creative touch of his own. After all, in a place such as Florence it is easy to be inspired, in the kitchen too. «Of course Belmond Villa San Michele has a strong bond with the history of Florentine and Italian art, but generally speaking I don't think you should ever allow yourself to become too conditioned» – says the chef. “The respect for the context into which my cuisine fits, on the other hand, is unquestionable, and is present in my work every day». Di Fabrizio also runs the Cooking School at the Belmond Villa San Michele, which in a short time has earned itself a reputation of excellence all over the world.

**>> La Loggia Restaurant c/o Belmond Villa San Michele, Via Doccia 4, Fiesole (15 minutes from the centre of Florence). T: 055 5678200.
www.belmond.com**



TUSCAN CUISINE

Benedicta

EDITOR'S TIP The Benedicta restaurant, to which the Michelin Guide 2017 assigned 3 forks, is a pearl hidden away in a side street near Santa Maria Novella, inside the Rivoli Boutique Hotel. Italian and Tuscan cuisine revisited in a contemporary vein, with a menu based on locally sourced ingredients that changes every two months depending on the season. Open 7.30pm-11pm; closed on Sun. From late April to October you can dine in the romantic flower garden. €€. www.ristorantebenedicta.it. Via Benedetta 12/r. T: 055 2645429. **Map D2**

Bordino Trattoria

High up in a little street just a stone's throw from the Ponte Vecchio, the Trattoria Bordino is always crowded with both locals and tourists because of its quality food at very affordable prices. The dishes are traditional, with bistecca alla fiorentina grilled directly on wood charcoal the speciality. A wide selection of Italian wines accompanies the dishes in a pleasant, relaxed environment. €€. www.trattoriabordino.it. Via Stracciarella, 9/r. T: 055 213048. **Map F5**

Cammillo

A historic Florentine trattoria not far from Ponte Vecchio. Inside it is as if time stood still: the (very long) menu has practically all the classic Tuscan recipes, plus a few you wouldn't expect like prawn curry with pilaf rice, actually one of Cammillo's signature dishes. Also very good are the crotons with chicken livers, the ribollita, tripe, bistecca alla fiorentina and stuffed rabbit. €€. Borgo San Jacopo, 57/r. T: 055 212427. **Map E5**

Cibrèo Ristorante

In Florence and in the area near the Market of Sant'Ambrogio, Cibrèo is a trademark for eating well. The Cibrèo Restaurant offers territorial and regional cuisine that is sincere and vigorous, with no fear of strong ingredients such as olive oil, garlic or Tuscan kale, drenched in personality, in the image of its founder Fabio Picchi. The products are strictly seasonal and arrive from rigorously selected farm, fisheries, sheep and cattle breeders. €€€. www.cibreo.com/ristorante. Via Andrea del Verrocchio, 8/r. T: 055 2341100. **Map L3**

Cibrèo Trattoria

A few yards from the Cibrèo Ristorante (see listing), if you turn the corner, you find the trattoria that the Florentines call "Cibrèino". Here you will find a substantial Tuscan menu, not very different from that of the restaurant, but with an atmosphere and a service that are more informal and at decidedly lower cost. Remember that it is not possible to book in advance here, so take into account that you will have to wait a while before being seated to eat. €€. www.cibreo.com/trattoria. Via de' Macci, 122/r. **Map L3**

Da Burde

The menu changes with the mood of the kitchen, and the seasons. Here you'll find crotons with chicken livers, fiorentina, pappa col pomodoro, and ribollita. Highlighted by the Michelin Guide as excellent value for money, the atmosphere has remained that of the early 1900's, as has the food, simple but rich in flavour. A well-stocked cantina, with Tuscan and Piedmontese wines but also French, including some fine champagne. €€€. www.vinodaburde.com. Via Pistoiese, 154. T: 055 317206. **Off Map**

10 Osteria Personale

In the neighbourhood of San Frediano, which still conserves the charm of the most authentic Florence, surrounded by wooden ceilings and brick walls, a modern tavern that has a preference for the products of the territory, reinterpreting them in an innovative way. Among the titbits are crispy vitel toné, ravioli of wild salmon, whipped cream, ginger, herring caviar and dill or tagliatelle with raw red shrimps and seasonal mushrooms. €€. www.io-osteriapersonale.it. Borgo San Frediano 167/r. T: 055 9331341. **Map B4**

La Ménagère

A concept restaurant not far from Battistero, combining restaurant, bistro, florist and design store. In an ambiance of industrial design, the restaurant offers a high quality menu at affordable prices, combining traditional dishes based strictly on seasonal products, with a penchant for experimentation in the mix of flavours and textures. €€. www.lamenagere.it. Via De' Ginori, 8/r. T: 055 0750600. **Map F1**

Latini (II)

Historic trattoria near Santa Maria Novella highlighted in the Michelin Guide. Besides bistecca alla fiorentina, there are pork chops and ribs on the II Latini grill, as well as roast beef or lamb. Also available are Florentine tripe and peposo (peppery Tuscan beef stew), depending on the season. The cantina is well stocked with the best Tuscan wines, autochthonous and non, as well as the big French labels. €€€. www.illatini.com. Via dei Palchetti, 6. T: 055 210916. **Map D3**

Locale Firenze

A restaurant steeped in history, in an ancient building where by just descending a few steps you can travel - like in a time machine - from the Renaissance to 13th-century Florence, to the wine cellars that conserve Roman remains. It is possible to stop for just an aperitif with sophisticated cocktails, accompanied by small snacks, or stay for dinner with dishes from the tradition revisited in a contemporary vein. €€€. www.localefirenze.it. Via delle Seggiola, 12/r. T: 055 9067188. **Map H3**

Lungarno23

In the splendid setting of Lungarno Torrigiani, this restaurant is famous for its Chianina meat hamburgers, which are certified with the I.G.P. mark and come from small local farms. Forget the image of fast food, because here the hamburger is accompanied by fresh ingredients, hand-made sesame seed bread, freshly fried potatoes and browned onions. €€. www.lungarno23.it. Lungarno Torrigiani, 23. T: 055 2345957. **Map G6**

L'Ortöne

Situated in the emerging San Ambrogio foodie district, opposite the charming street market, the menu is based on typical Tuscan dishes, with a focus on traditional first courses and grilled specialities, including of course the fiorentina. If you want to try something more adventurous you can't go wrong with the pork liver confit with kale and Boretto onions. €€. www.lortone.it. Piazza Lorenzo Ghiberti 87/r. T: 055 234 0804. **Map L4**

Marione Trattoria

The atmosphere of an old-fashioned trattoria in the historic centre of Florence. Here it is possible to taste the typical dishes of Tuscan cuisine surrounded by barrel vaults and baked brick floors. Ribollita, taglierini with truffle, bistecca alla fiorentina and

The "fiorentina"



Buca Mario

Bistecca alla fiorentina is one of the most iconic dishes in Florence cuisine. But be careful: to recognize the original and tell it apart from the hundreds of impostors, there are a few tips you need to know.

Cooking a "fiorentina" is a genuine ritual with unwritten rules that the visitor needs to know to avoid falling foul of the restaurant owner, paying over the odds and to make sure they get the real thing.

WHAT. This succulent steak is obtained from a specific cut of a young Chianina cow, a part of the loin near the backbone which has a T-bone in the middle. It should be grilled at a very high temperature, so that a fine crust forms rapidly on the meat. All the flavour of this dish depends on the cooking: the meat must be brown on the outside but red, soft and juicy on the inside, hot, but not cooked through. This is the first vital rule: a fiorentina must be eaten rare.

HOW. It should also be at least 3 or 4 cms thick, and weigh between 1.2 kg and 1.5 kgs, although bigger steaks are easily available. And here is another sore point. At a restaurant you pay for a fiorentina by weight. An average price to be sure of getting the real thing is around 50 euros a kilo.

WITH. The traditional accompaniment is usually cannellini beans, washed down with a glass of Chianti.

WHERE. Here are four restaurants where you can't go wrong: Il Latini (www.illatini.com), Buca Lapi (www.bucalapi.com), Da Burde (www.vinodaburde.com) and Perseus (www.casatrattoria.com/ristorante-perseus-firenze).

(C.Z.)

Michelin-starred restaurants



In addition to the historic and well established Enoteca Pinchiorri, with its prestigious three Michelin stars, there are seven other Florentine restaurants that have been awarded one star. Let's enjoy them together.

By Sophia Bertoli

Borgo San Jacopo

c/o Hotel Lungarno
Borgo San Jacopo, 62/r
T: 055 281661

www.borgosanjacopo.com

Overlooking the banks of the Arno, with a picture postcard view of Ponte Vecchio, the restaurant Borgo San Jacopo is perfect for a romantic evening. In this case the winning recipe is one that blends creativity, tradition and quality ingredients (lamb in sea water or Bresse rooster and octopus are an example of this), all washed down with wines chosen from a cellar of 900 labels. You can opt for the tasting menu (the potato-based one is unmissable) or à la carte.

Bottega del Buon Caffè

Lungarno Benvenuto Cellini, 69/r
T: 055 5535677

www.borgointhecity.com/it/la-bottegadel-buon-caffè

Zero food miles products gathered from the organic vegetable garden that the restaurant possesses in the Florentine countryside, meat reared by local farms and fresh fish. These are the strong points of the Bottega del Buon Caffè. On the Lungarno, in the shadow of the medieval Tower of San Niccolò, chef Antonello Sardi proposes a cuisine based on the use of seasonal ingredients, with a predilection for herbs and spices to bring out the flavours. The seasonal tasting menus include gems such as amberjack served in three ways (tartare, 'ventresca', fillet) or home-made cappelletti with pigeon, butter and thyme.

Enoteca Pinchiorri

Via Ghibellina, 87
T: 055 242757
enotecapinchiorri.it

How do you manage to be honoured with three Michelin stars, the highest recognition, which is only achieved by a hundred restaurants worldwide? In the case of the Enoteca Pinchiorri, it comes from the winning combination of prime quality raw materials, the search for innovation, yet without forgetting the territory's (great) culinary tradition, obsessive attention to every detail and an unrivalled wine menu, which includes highly prized labels, along with others that are little known but equally interesting. Then we can add the fact that the restaurant is located inside the 18th-century Palazzo Jacometti-Clofi and that its desserts are a delight for the senses.

Il Palagio

c/o Four Seasons Hotel Firenze
Borgo Pinti, 99
T: 055 2626450
www.ilpalagiotorante.it

Inside the Hotel Four Seasons, in a sophisticated environment with tables both indoors and outdoors, Il Palagio bases itself on a culinary proposal that looks to the Italian and regional tradition with a touch of modernity, as in the terrine of foie gras with Vin Santo gelée or cheese and pepper cavatelli with red shrimps and baby squid. Chef Vito Mollica offers a menu that is a symphony of flavours, raw materials and colours, at times

venturing far beyond the confines of Tuscany with dishes based on truffle, wagyu beef or three kinds of caviar. The wine menu includes more than 400 labels, 50 of which also served by the glass.

La Leggenda dei Frati

in Villa Bardini (Costa San Giorgio)
Costa S. Giorgio, 6/a
T: 055 0680545
www.laleggendadeifrati.it

Inside the Villa Bardini museum complex in Costa San Giorgio is the one-star restaurant La Leggenda dei Frati. A breathtaking view over Florence and across vineyards at the rear, these are just the cherry on the cake of a creative culinary proposal, which in this case too draws its inspiration from the local tradition, with a propensity for quality meat (the boiled sausages and 'soppressata' are self-produced), but also for vegetables picked directly from the restaurant's own vegetable and herb garden and for the hand-made bread using flour from ancient grains.

Ora d'Aria

Via dei Georgofili 11/r
T: 055 200169
www.oradaristorante.com

An hour of air to escape from culinary boredom. We don't know if the owner had this in mind when he gave this name to his restaurant, just a stone's throw from Ponte Vecchio, but it certainly gives that impression. Tuscan chef Marco Stabile is playing at home with dishes that are a reminder of granny's recipes but tending towards a more creative contemporary style. Lovers of strong flavours can delight in dishes such as soft-crisp piglet or pigeon cooked in three ways. For lunch the choice of the "tapas" formula allows you to try a selection of small portions of gourmet dishes. The wine cellar boasts Tuscan wines, but also prized Italian and French labels and a highly select menu of beers.

Winter Garden by Caino

c/o Hotel Saint Regis
Piazza Ognissanti, 1
T: 055 27163770
www.wintergardenbycaino.com

Steeped in the fin-de-siècle atmosphere of the Hotel Saint Regis Florence, the Winter Garden by Caino has come about from the creative liaison between chef Valeria Piccini and executive chef Michele Griglio. Their menu brings the territory's great cuisine back to the limelight in an innovative way, with elements from every part of the globe, ranging from classic Tuscan dishes for strong stomachs such as tripe and lampredotto to more refined proposals, such lobster tail on topinambour and mandarin cream. Also the desserts, particularly the 'Diversamente Tiramisù', are a joy for the eyes and the taste buds.

Tuscan cured meats are among the most popular dishes. If you go at the weekend it is advisable to book in advance, because there is usually a long queue of people waiting outside. €€. www.casatrattoria.com/trattoria-mariione. Via della Spada 27/r. T: 055 214756. **Map E3**

Opera

Situated inside the Grand Hotel Adriatico, a few steps from the coolest "Oltrarno" district, the Opera restaurant offers dishes from both the Italian and the typical Florentine and Tuscan culinary traditions. In a relaxed and elegant atmosphere, with a music background of the most important operas, you can taste tortelli, tagliata, steak alla Fiorentina and the traditional Florentine dessert 'zuccotto'. Its wine cellar deserves a special mention. Open 7.30pm-10.30pm; closed on Sun. €€. www.hoteladriatico.it. Via Maso Finiguerra, 9. T: 055 294447. **Map C2**

Osteria Badalì

Located in the heart of a rather quiet district, San Niccolò. A culinary proposal that revisits the traditions of the past, all about long cooking times and essentials, starting with the study of old cooking texts found on the second-hand book stalls and based above all on homemade pasta and traditional soups, as well as pork products. €€. www.badalosteria.it. Via dei Renai 11/r. T: 055 2264422. **Map H6**

Touch Bistrò Toscano

Three young entrepreneurs who met over the hobs of the hotelier institute have made their dream a reality by opening this bistro that favours the use of seasonal ingredients selected from the nearby market of Sant'Ambrogio in the neighbourhood of the same name. The menu, which gives a touch of freshness to the Tuscan tradition, proposes, among other things, ravioli di ossobuco, fried egg and fagioli all'uccelletto, but also monkfish and squid. €€. touchflorence.com. Via di Mezzo 42/r. T: 055 2466150. **Map I3**

Tuscani 3 (I)

If you love "ciccia" (which is what Tuscans call red meat), you must not miss this steakhouse and delicatessen that is very famous in the city. Located in the heart of the historic centre, a few steps from Piazza della Repubblica, it obviously offers the typical bistecca alla fiorentina but also selections of Tuscan pork, cured meat boards or steak tartare and hamburger made rigorously with Chianina meat. €€. <http://ituscani3.com>. Via Dante Alighieri 18/r. T: 055 285356. **Map F4**

Zeb

Just moments away from Piazzale Michelangelo and the Giardino delle Rose, Zeb - highlighted by the Michelin Guide - serves a host of traditional Tuscan dishes such as cappellacci, tripe, lampredotto, meat balls and stuffed rabbit. A tiny place, the diners eat at the bar, like a delicatessen (actually, its former identity). There is a large selection of Italian wines, with a special focus on small local producers. €€. zebgastronomia.com. Via San Miniato, 2. T: 055 2342864. **Map H6**

CANTINE

Antica Mescita San Niccolò

Ever wanted to eat lunch in a 1000 AD Romanesque crypt? In Florence you can, at the Antica Mescita San Niccolò, which also used to serve as a customs

post for wine originating from Chianti. Naturally, the wine is excellent and predominately Tuscan and the food also reflects the season and the local territory, with dishes such as cold cuts and mixed cheeses, ribollita, bistecca alla fiorentina and lampredotto, to name just a few. €€. www.osteriasannicolo.it. Via San Niccolò, 60/r. T: 055 2342836. **Map H6**

Buca Lapi

This is one of Florence's oldest eating places. Crafted out of the wine cellars of the Renaissance Palazzo Antinori, it still preserves traces of over a century of history thanks to the meticulous restoration of the internal frescoes. Buca Lapi is particularly popular with lovers of the real fiorentina, but the other local Tuscan dishes are worth trying too, such as croutons, ribollita or wild boar with polenta. €€€. www.bucalapi.com. Via del Trebbio 1/r. T: 055 213768. **Map E3**

Buca Mario

For years ordinary folk have rubbed shoulders with famous names beneath the bare brick ceilings of Buca Mario to enjoy simple, genuine Florentine cuisine (although you can still request a private room for up to ten people in classic 16th-century Florentine style). The bistecca alla fiorentina is excellent, as is the ribollita or pappardelle with Maremma boar ragù. €€. www.bucamario.com. Piazza degli Ottaviani, 16/r. T: 055 214179. **Map D3**

Buca Poldo

A few yards from Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio, Buca Poldo serves characteristic Tuscan dishes including ribollita, pappa al pomodoro, fiorentina and boar stew, as well as a few forays into other regional cuisines. Although the majority of the courses are meat based, some fish dishes are also available. The kitchen is open on two sides, so that diners can watch the chefs at work. www.bucapoldo.com. Chiasso degli Armagnati, 2/r. T: 055.239.6578. **Map F4**

Buca San Giovanni

Buca San Giovanni is another of Italy's historic restaurants. Originally the sacristy of the nearby Baptistry of Saint John opposite Florence cathedral, it was also the Rosicrucian masons' secret initiation venue and countless notables from Florence and elsewhere have enjoyed a meal under its ancient vaults. There is no lack of classic dishes such as ossobuco alla Fiorentina (oxtail) and stracotto al Chianti (beef braised in Chianti), but the cuisine also stretches to other Italian regional

specialities, such as bucatini all'americana, spaghetti alla carbonara or linguine al pesto. www.bucasangiovanni.it. Piazza San Giovanni, 8. T: 055 287612. **Map F2**

Fiaschetteria Nuvoli

Just a few steps from Piazza Duomo is an obligatory destination for anyone who has ever wondered what Florence's old wine cellars were really like in the past. Open from 8.30 in the morning until evening, it serves typical Tuscan specialities such as chicken liver croutons, cold cuts, tagliatelle al ragù, fried chicken or brains, ribollita, pappa col pomodoro and roast porchetta. There is also a vast choice of Tuscan wines, also available for aperitifs. Piazza dell'Olio, 15/r. T: 055 239 6616. **Map F2**

PIZZA

O'Munaciello

Housed in a 17th-century monastery in the historic Santo Spirito quarter, it recreates the atmosphere of a Naples street, complete with hanging washing and masks typical of Neapolitan Commedia dell'arte. Besides wood oven pizzas, here you can try other traditional Campania dishes, with products from small producers and consortiums situated along the coast. Every Wednesday night there's live music (Neapolitan). €. www.munaciello.com. Via Maffia 31/r. T: 055 287198. **Map D5**

Pizza Man

Right in the city centre, this colourful Neapolitan school pizzeria with a fun atmosphere does gluten-free and 100% vegan pizzas as well as the traditional variety. Now those with a food intolerance or special dietary needs don't have to go without a tasty pizza. €. www.pizzaman.it. Via dell'Agnolo 105/107r. T: 055 2480200. **Map H4**

Pizzaiuolo (II)

Just steps from the Sant'Ambrogio market, this is one of Florence's oldest pizzerias. Here again the pizza is Neapolitan: wood oven cooked, with quality in-season toppings, mostly sourced from Campania. The rest of the menu also follows Neapolitan tradition, with first courses of fish and local desserts such as babà and pastiera. €. www.ilpizzaiuolo.it. Via dei Macci, 113/r. T: 055 241171. **Map I3**

Pizzeria Spera

One of Florence's favourite pizzeria's even won the world's pizza championship a few years ago. This simple and intimate little place just outside the old centre serves a light crispy pizza with a choice of different types of bread dough and a full range of quality toppings. €. www.pizzeriaspera.it. Via della Cernaia, 9/r. T: 055 495286. **Off Map**

Santarpia

In a room decorated with blue and brown hand-painted tiles, the wood oven turns out pizzas made with choice, slow-rising flours, tomatoes from Vesuvius and mozzarella from Campania cheese makers. All accompanied by craft beers or wines from small producers. €. www.santarpia.biz. Largo Pietro Annigoni, 9/c. T: 055245829. **Map L3**



A unique mix of tradition, innovation and elegance created by one of Italy's leading chefs and his passionate team at Florence's starred **ORA D'ARIA** restaurant.

Top hotel restaurants



Tradition, innovation and creativity: Where® highlights some culinary destinations to whet your appetite in several top hotels in Florence.

By **Jasmine Piazza**

Borgo San Jacopo

c/o Hotel Lungarno
Borgo San Jacopo, 62/R. T: 055 281661
www.borgosanjacopo.com

On the banks of the Arno, with a postcard view of Ponte Vecchio, the Borgo San Jacopo restaurant is the perfect place for a romantic evening. The traditional Italian dishes are reinterpreted using fine quality ingredients by Michelin-starred chef Peter Brunel, accompanied by collector wines from a cantina of 900 labels.

Capriccio Restaurant

c/o Hotel Montebello Splendid
Via G. Garibaldi, 14. T: 055 27471
www.montbellosalopid.com

The restaurant is designed to ensure tranquility, out of the tourist circuit, and to satisfy you with class service and haute cuisine dishes. Quality products and absolute freshness for a couple's candlelight dinner or a special event.

Flora & Fauno

c/o Hotel Ville sull'Arno
Lungarno Cristoforo Colombo 3/5. T: 055 670971
www.hotelvillequalsullarno.com

Facing the river and immersed in the lovely garden of the Hotel Ville sull'Arno, Flora & Fauno offers a peaceful spot with a vintage country feel in which to explore the flavours and aromas of Tuscany. Classic traditional recipes revisited in a contemporary accent. The protagonists on the menu are the local ingredients, juxtaposed sometimes in new and unexpected ways, at other times sticking to tradition.

Golden Restaurant

c/o Golden Tower Hotel & SPA
Piazza Strozzi 11/r. T: 055 287860
www.goldentowerhotel.it

The cuisine is based on the authentic flavours of Florentine and Italian wine and food, whose trump card is the guaranteed freshness and quality of the ingredients, chosen personally by the chef. Intimate and refined atmosphere, with high class furnishings and fittings.

Il Giardino Restaurant

c/o Sina Villa Medici
Via Il Prato, 42. T: 055 2771891
www.sinahotels.com

Tuscan specialities reinterpreted in a contemporary vein. A temple of flavours in the sophisticated ambience of the Sina Hotel Villa Medici, an aristocratic 18th-century palace, recently renovated and restored to its former splendour.

Hostaria Bibendum

c/o Helvetia & Bristol
Via dei Pescioni, 8/r. T: 055 2665620
www.starhotelscollezione.com

This restaurant located in a magnificent 19th-century palace offers a menu inspired by tradition with a penchant for local producers and ingredients. Alongside more contemporary Italian dishes, a fully-rounded experience of Florence has to include Tuscan specialities such as panzanella, Chianti salumi and cheeses, pappa al pomodoro and honey-lacquered duck, as well as desserts like cantucci with Vin Santo and Florentine sponge cake with Buontalenti gelato and vanilla topping.

Il Conventino a Marignolle

c/o Villa Tolomei Hotel & Resort
Via di Santa Maria a Marignolle, 10. T: 055 3920425
www.ilconventinoamarignolle.com

A very romantic view and frescoed rooms in a wonderful 12th-century villa surrounded by a vast estate comprising 20 hectares of olive groves, vineyards and orchards. The kitchen proposes

traditional Tuscan and Italian dishes, prepared with seasonal products from the estate or the nearby countryside. Regional specialities typical of Tuscany, as well as the favourites of Italian cuisine.

Il Palagio

c/o Four Seasons Hotel Firenze
Borgo Pinti, 99. T: 055 2626450
www.ilpalagioristorante.it

A sophisticated ambiance with tables both inside and outside, Il Palagio is a Michelin-starred restaurant whose culinary offering looks to Italian and regional tradition with a modern touch. Chef Vito Mollica ventures far beyond the confines of Tuscan cuisine with dishes based on truffles, wagyu beef and three types of caviar. The wine list comprises more than 400 labels, of which 50 are also served by the glass. The hotel also has two other restaurants: La Magnolia and Trattoria al fresco.

Irene

c/o Hotel Savoy
Piazza della Repubblica, 7. T: 055 273 5891
www.roccofortehotels.com

Inside the Hotel Savoy, a sumptuous fin-de-siècle building with an extraordinary collection of art works, the restaurant boasts a menu inspired by chef Fulvio Pierangelini, who together with head chef Giovanni Cosmai has designed a series of classic and new versions of Tuscan tradition, using the best local and seasonal products.

J.K. Lounge Restaurant & Bar

c/o JK Place Firenze
Piazza di Santa Maria Novella, 7. T: 055 5321910
www.jkplace.com

Here are Tuscan and Italian specialities made with local and seasonal ingredients, preferably organically farmed. In the summer months the elegant dining room, styled as a cosy living room, opens onto the terrace in the marvellous Piazza di Santa Maria Novella.

La Cucina del Salvati

c/o Il Salvati
Via del Salvati, 21-Fiesole (FI). T: 055 9041111
www.salvati.com

Majestic 15th-century villa in the hills of Fiesole, with a captivating view of Florence. Cuisine with strong links to the local territory and the seasons, with a prevalence of meat courses, though there is no shortage of fish and vegetarian dishes. The historic orchard and organic vegetable garden ensure zero food miles.

Le Bistrot

c/o Villa Cora
Viale Machiavelli, 18. T: 055 22 87 90
www.villacora.it

The location in itself is extraordinary: an ancient park that dominates the Boboli Gardens, the aristocratic residence that once hosted princess Eugenia, wife of Napoleon III, and the French pianist Claude Debussy, among others. The menu, created by Executive Chef Alessandro Liberatore, offers traditional Tuscan dishes made exclusively with seasonal and for the most part

locally sourced products. In winter the restaurant occupies the exquisite oriental Sala Moresca with its frescoed cupola ceiling, while in the summer it moves poolside to the winter garden.

Relais Le Jardin

c/o Hotel Regency
Piazza M. D'Azeglio, 3. T: 055 245247
www.regency-hotel.com

Located in the elegant Sala Zodiaco, amidst huge mirrors, candles and a veranda that in summer opens onto the private garden, the restaurant's chef Sandro Baldini proposes a rich array of Italian and Tuscan dishes (home-made pasta and regional specialities such as truffles, porcini mushrooms, costelette alla fiorentina and others besides) that vary depending on the season's ingredients, always fresh and of the highest quality.

Ristorante La Chiostrina

c/o Bernini Palace
Piazza San Firenze, 29 (Piazza della Signoria). T: 055 288621
hotelbernini.duetorrihotels.com
One of the most elegant and sophisticated restaurants in the historic centre, housed under a 16th-century portico. The menu draws on the most genuine local flavours, such as the celebrated pappa

al pomodoro, for a sensory journey through Tuscan cuisine. Besides regional specialities, the menu also offers international dishes.

Ristorante La Loggia

c/o Belmond Villa San Michele
Via Doccia, 4 - Fiesole (FI). T: 055 5678200
www.belmond.com

This imposing 15th-century loggia is worth the visit just for its magnificent position looking over Florence. Regional Tuscan specialities and classic Italian dishes.

Savini Tartufi Truffle Restaurant

c/o NH Collection Firenze Porta Rossa
Via Porta Rossa, 19. T: 055 3995913
www.savinitartufi.it/restaurants/savini-firenze

Palazzo Bartolini houses one of the three restaurants in Italy run by Savini Tartufi, a family-owned business famed for nearly 100 years for its exclusive selection of truffles. Truffles are served all year round: from antipasto to dessert, savour the best varieties of fresh Tuscan truffles, from the Black Truffle and Tuber Borchii, to the more expensive White Truffle and Tuber magnatum Pico. Classic truffle items are flanked by other sophisticated dishes: tagliolino, egg, tartare. The menu also includes classic Tuscan dishes.

Se-Sto on Arno

c/o The Westin Excelsior Florence
Piazza Ognissanti 3. T: 055 27152783
www.westinflorence.com

Local flavours and seasonal products for a Tuscan cuisine with a touch of innovation and an unforgettable view of Florence. On the sixth floor of The Westin Excelsior, SE-STO on Arno combines a restaurant, lounge, bar and garden enclosed by sweeping picture windows that make the most of the unique position and breathtaking view over the city.

Villa La Vedetta

c/o Villa La Vedetta
Viale Michelangiolo, 78. T: 055 681631
www.villalavedettahotel.com

Just moments away from the Piazzale Michelangelo belvedere, with a breathtaking view over Florence, is this discreet and elegant restaurant with a rich wine list, mainly focused on fine Tuscan reds. Local cuisine, with products and recipes typical of the region, so with meat, though there are plenty of vegan and vegetarian options too.

Winter Garden by Caino

c/o The Saint Regis Florence
Piazza Ognissanti, 1. T: 055 27163770
www.wintergardenbycaino.com

Immersed in the fin-de-siècle atmosphere of the Hotel Saint Regis Florence, the Michelin-starred restaurant Winter Garden by Caino, was born out of a creative liaison between chef Valeria Piccini and executive chef Michele Griglio. Their menu shines an innovative spotlight on the wonderful local cuisine, with suggestions from all parts of the globe. It ranges from the classic Tuscan dishes for strong stomachs such as tripe and lampredotto to more refined proposals like lobster tail on cream of topinambour and mandarin. The desserts, too, are a joy for both eyes and palate, in particular their original take on tiramisù.



Il Conventino a Marignolle



Savini Tartufi Truffle Restaurant



Borgo San Jacopo



Michelozzo's courtyard

The first Medici house

The Renaissance began here: Lorenzo the Magnificent lived in Palazzo Medici Riccardi and the greatest artists worked there. Today it is experiencing a second life as a cultural venue. By **Elena Peverata**

A new ticket office, a new bookshop, a new logo – the classical shield with six “bezants”, commonly known as “palle” [balls] – and new services for visitors: this is the first, recently implemented stage of the renovation that is awaiting **Palazzo Medici Riccardi**, an iconic building of **Florentine Renaissance architecture** and a treasure chest of masterpieces that until now have been rather underappreciated. The building was the first house of the Medici family and saw Cosimo the Elder and **Lorenzo the Magnificent** walk along its corridors; a building where artists such as Donatello, Michelangelo, Paolo Uccello, Benozzo Gozzoli and Botticelli worked, it remained the family’s until 1540, when Duke Cosimo I decided to leave the austere abode for the more strategic

Palazzo della Signoria. Taken over by Marquis Gabriello Riccardi, in the 17th century the building benefited from an enlargement of its spaces and the arrival of other masterpieces. Unmissable from the Medici period are the **Magi Chapel**, frescoed in the 15th century by Benozzo Gozzoli, a work of rare beauty, as are the famous “Madonna with Child” by Filippo Lippi, the elegant **Michelozzo’s courtyard** and the Medici Gardens with the Limonaia [Lemon House]. The Riccardi were also responsible for the gallery of mirrors, with its majestic vault frescoed by Luca Giordano depicting the “Apotheosis of the Medici”, the collection of heads of the Roman Age in the Marble Museum and, recently reopened for visits, the winding elliptical staircase designed by Ferdinando Tacca.

>> www.palazzomediciriccardi.it
Palazzo Medici Riccardi. Via Cavour, 1



Benozzo Gozzoli, "Viaggio dei Magi" (1459)

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO MUSEUMS AND EVENTS ARE BY



Elena Peverata
Lifestyle & Culture
Editor
Where*Italia

ATTRACTIOnS & MONUMENTS

Duomo and Cupola

Completed in 1436, at the time the Duomo in Florence was the largest Christian church in the world. Today the religious building, whose official name is "Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore", is third in terms of dimensions after St. Peter's in Rome and St Paul's Cathedral in London. The most important artists of the period participated in its creation (the bell tower is by Giotto), while the famous multi-coloured marble façade dates back to the 19th century. Brunelleschi's Dome, still the tallest construction in the city, is a symbol known all over the world: it is possible to climb to the top (exclusively on foot) up its 463 steps. www.ilgrandemuseodelduomo.it. Piazza del Duomo, 3/5-6. T: 055 2302885. **Map F2**

Battistero

Located opposite the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, the Baptistry of St. John the Baptist is the building that completes the considerably striking appearance of the square. Its origins are uncertain, but its first official dating is at least in the 12th century. It is characterised by an octagonal plan, lined with a dome of eight segments, covered by a pyramid roof. The outside is decorated with white marble from Carrara and green marble from Prato, characteristics of the Florentine architecture of the Romanesque period. It has three famous doors, sumptuously decorated, and an interior that, with its marble and mosaics, is reminiscent of that of the Pantheon. Used in antiquity for the investiture of knights and poets, its praises are sung by Dante in the Divine Comedy. www.ilgrandemuseodelduomo.it. Piazza di San Giovanni, 8. T: 055 2302885. **Map F2**

Campanile di Giotto

84.70 metres high and around 15 wide, a manifestation of 14th-century Florentine Gothic architecture, the Giotto's bell tower is one of the four main components of the complex of Santa Maria del Fiore, in piazza del Duomo. Lined with white, red and green marble, like that adorning the Cathedral, the majestic square-based bell tower, designed by Giotto in 1334, can be visited by climbing no less than 414 stairs up to the top, from where you can enjoy extraordinary views of Brunelleschi's Dome. www.ilgrandemuseodelduomo.it. Piazza del Duomo. T: 055 2302885. **Map F3**

Piazza della Signoria

This is the central square of Florence, the seat of civil power and social heart of the city. L-shaped, it is located at the centre of medieval Florence south of the Cathedral. Already important in the Roman Age, the square has been gradually enhanced over the centuries; facing onto it are Palazzo Vecchio (see entry), the splendid Loggia della Signoria, the Tribunale della Mercanzia, Palazzo Uguccioni and Palazzo delle Assicurazioni Generali. Also prominent

in the square are the Fountain of Neptune and a series of statues of Renaissance origin, representing one of the most important sculptural cycles in the world. The most famous is certainly Michelangelo's *David*: the one on display in its original position is a copy, whereas the original is conserved in the Galleria dell'Accademia. **Map F4-G4**

Palazzo Vecchio

Located in piazza della Signoria, today it is the seat of the Municipal Council of Florence. It is the finest synthesis of 14th-century civil architecture and is one of the best known civic buildings in the world. Its imposing façade, abounding in history, the charm of its magnificent courtyards and its precious interiors make it a site visited daily by hundreds of people. www.museicivici.fi.li.it. Piazza della Signoria. T: 055 2768325. **Map G4**

Ponte Vecchio

There has been a bridge at this point of the River Arno ever since before the year one thousand; yet, between floods and reconstructions, the official date of foundation of the current Ponte Vecchio is given as 1345. For the entire Middle Ages the bridge hosted greengrocers', fishmongers' and butchers' shops, who used the river to dispose of their waste in a hurry. At the end of the 16th century, however, when it became the "noble" zone of the city, the goldsmiths and jewellers started to arrive, and they have been there uninterruptedly to this day. To celebrate this history, on prominent display on the bridge is a bust of Benvenuto Cellini, the greatest goldsmith of the Renaissance. Access is gained to the bridge between via Por Santa Maria and Lungarno degli Archibusieri and between Borgo San Jacopo and via de' Guicciardini. **Map F5**

Corridoio Vasariano

The Vasari Corridor is a raised walkway connecting Ponte Vecchio with Palazzo Pitti. It is a rather narrow passage the entrance to which is at the beginning of the second corridor of the Uffizi Gallery; it then stretches along the Arno, over the Ponte Vecchio, finally arriving at Palazzo Pitti. It was built in 1565 by

the great Florentine architect Giorgio Vasari. On display along the Corridor are over 1000 paintings created between the 17th and 19th centuries and an important collection of self-portraits by great artists including Filippo Lippi, Rembrandt, Velázquez, Delacroix and Ensor. www.uffizi.it. Piazzale degli Uffizi, 6. T: 055 294883. **Map E6-E5-F5-G5**

Palazzo Pitti and Giardino di Boboli

The symbol of wealth and power, the building was inhabited by the Medici in the period of their maximum splendour, then by the Habsburg-Lorraines and, after the Unity of Italy, by the Savoy family. The original architecture dates back to the 15th century and "Pitti" is the surname of its first owner. The building is located Oltrarno (on the left bank of the river), at the foot of Boboli Hill. It is from the latter that the famous Boboli Gardens take their name; they are one of the most important examples of Italian-style gardens in the world and are considered a genuine open-air museum on account of their admirable architectural and landscaped layout and their collection of sculptures, attracting approximately 800 thousand visitors a year. Currently they are the site of four different museums: the Treasury of the Grand Dukes, the Palatine Gallery and the Royal Apartments, the Gallery of Modern Art and the Museum of Fashion and Costume. They are connected to Forte di Belvedere. www.uffizi.it/palazzo-pitti. Piazza de' Pitti, 1. T: 055 294883. **Map E6**

Piazzale Michelangelo

Piazzale Michelangelo is the most famous and appreciated panoramic point in Florence, with its views seen all over the world in million of postcards and reproductions. The design of the square dates back to 1869, when Florence was capital of Italy. Dedicated to the city's most famous artist, the square has bronze copies of some of Michelangelo's most famous sculptures. Access to the Piazzale can be gained by car, along the tree-lined Viale Michelangelo, or on foot, by climbing the monumental flight of steps known as the "Rampone

FIRENZECARD



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- 1 entry ticket + 1 exhibition supplement + 1 priority ticket for each museum on the **Firenzecard** circuit
- Priority access to museums without needing to book
- 72 hours available

www.firenzecard.it

del Poggi", which start from piazza Poggi in the neighbourhood of San Niccolò. **Map I7**

San Miniato al Monte

Not far from Piazzale Michelangelo, in via delle Porte Sante, stands the Abbey of San Miniato al Monte, a medieval religious building situated at one of the highest panoramic points in Florence. The most spectacular access is gained via the monumental flight of steps (which is not advisable, however, for those with problems walking). The outside of the church is decorated with green and white marble, typical of Florentine Romanesque, while a 12th-century mosaic decorates the central part of the façade. The interior, which is unusual and of great beauty, boasts one of the city's best conserved original floors. www.sanminiatoalmonte.it. Via delle Porte Sante, 34. T: 055 234 2731. **Off Map**

Mercato Centrale

Built at the end of the 19th century in the period in which Florence was capital of Italy, the Central Market is a building of a certain architectural merit located between piazza del Mercato Centrale and via dell'Ariosto, via Sant'Antonino and via Panicale. The project was entrusted to Giuseppe Mengoni, the architect of the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in Milan, who was inspired by Les Halles in Paris. Since 2014, on the first floor of the historic covered market there has been a complex containing dozens of small restaurants, leisure activities and street food options, and this has now become a point of reference for informal but good quality cuisine for both Florentines and tourists. www.mercatocentrale.it. Piazza del Mercato Centrale/Via dell'Ariosto. T: 055 2399798. **Map F1**

Santa Croce

Together with Santa Maria Novella, San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito, it is one of the "great basilicas", a point of reference of the Franciscan order: a

radiant example of Tuscan Gothic, it owes its sober appearance of wooden trusses and terracotta floors to Franciscan charisma. Giotto painted some of his great masterpieces here and the French writer Stendhal experienced that profound artistic agitation that has been known since then as the "Stendhal syndrome". The basilica contains the monumental sepulchres of Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli and for this reason was celebrated by the Italian romantic poet Ugo Foscolo as a temple of "italic glories". www.santacroceopera.it. Piazza Santa Croce, 16. T: 055 2466105. **Map H4**

Santa Maria Novella

Together with Santa Croce, San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito, it is one of the "great basilicas", a point of reference of the Dominican order. Its foundation dates back to the end of the 13th century but work on it continued for centuries, so the church, with its elegant façade by Leon Battista Alberti, is a harmonious synthesis of Gothic and Renaissance styles. The church of Santa Maria Novella hosts exceptional works of art by Masaccio, Giotto, Brunelleschi, Filippino Lippi, Domenico Ghirlandaio and Paolo Uccello. www.smn.it. Piazza Stazione, 4 - piazza Santa Maria Novella, 18. T: 055 219257.

Map D2-E2

Santo Spirito

Together with Santa Croce, San Lorenzo and Santa Maria Novella, it is one of the "great basilicas", a point of reference of the Augustinian order. The church has given its name to the entire surrounding neighbourhood, "Borgo Santo Spirito", located "Oltrarno", that is, on the left bank of the river. A jewel of Renaissance architecture, the church was the last great project by Filippo Brunelleschi and conserves elegant and austere rationality in its architectural plan. In the interior there is also a wooden crucifix carved by a young Michelangelo.

www.basilicasantospirito.it. Piazza Santo Spirito, 30. T: 055 210030. **Map D5**

San Lorenzo

Together with Santa Croce, Santo Spirito and Santa Maria Novella, it is one of the "great basilicas" of Florence, founded, according to the tradition, by Saint Ambrose, the first bishop of Milan, in the fourth century AD: it is therefore one of the oldest churches in the city. Its current appearance, however, is the result of the last major reconstruction work that took place in the 15th century at the wishes of the Medici and under the direction of the great architect Filippo Brunelleschi. Its bare stone façade was intended to receive a rich marble decoration designed by Michelangelo, which unfortunately was never executed. The interior is a masterpiece, also embellished by sculptures by Donatello of rare expressive intensity. www.operamedicealaurenziana.org. Piazza di San Lorenzo, 9. T: 055 216634-055 214042. **Map F2**

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITION SITES

Basilica di San Lorenzo

This is one of the "great basilicas" of Florence, the oldest (see "Monuments & Attractions"), the current appearance of which is the result of the radical renovation begun in 1418 by Giovanni di Bicci, founder of the Medici dynasty. The complex conserves key works by Brunelleschi, Donatello, Michelangelo, miniaturized codices, sacred goldsmithery and paintings from the 15th to the 20th century, and is structured into the Basilica (with the Old Sacristy and the Treasure Museum), the Medici Chapels (which form a separate museum, see the relative indications) with the New Sacristy and the Museum, in the Laurentian Library (see entry). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Sundays: from 1 March to 31 October 1.30pm-5.30pm. Closed: Sundays from 1 November to 29 February, 1 and 6 January, Easter, 10 and 15 August, 8 and 25 December. Full ticket price: Basilica €6, Basilica + Medici Library €8.50. www.operamedicealaurenziana.org. Piazza di San Lorenzo 9. T: 055 216634-214042. **Map F2**

Basilica di Santa Croce

A splendid example of Tuscan Gothic (13th century), it owes its sober appearance, with wooden trusses and terracotta floors, to the Franciscan order. The Basilica, the cloisters, the Sacristy, the Pazzi Chapel and the Museum of Opera are all part of the visitors' itinerary. Mention must be made in particular of the sepulchres of Michelangelo Buonarroti and Galileo Galilei, the masterpieces by Giotto (Bardi and Peruzzi Chapels, Baroncelli Polyptych), by Taddeo Gaddi (*The Last Supper, The Tree of Life*) by Donatello (*The Annunciation, Crucifix, Saint Louis of Toulouse*), by Agnolo Gaddi (Alberti and Castellani Chapels) and by Cimabue (the famous Crucifix). Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm; Sun and holidays 2pm-5.30pm. Closed 1 January, Easter, 13 June, 4 October, 25-26 December. www.santacroceopera.it. Piazza Santa Croce, 16 (visitors' entrance: Largo Bargellini). T: 055 2466105. **Map I5**

Biblioteca Marucelliana

A precious archive of rare pieces established between the 17th and 18th centuries by Abbot Marucelliani, it conserves 500,000 volumes, manuscripts and prints. The ancient reading rooms, including the magnificent and spectacular "Salone", are visitable during opening hours or with a guided visit (by booking in advance). Open Mon-Thurs 8.30am-6pm, Fri 8.30am-4pm. Closed Sat-Sun, 1 and 6 January,



UFFIZI GALLERY - LEONARDO ROOM

Before leaving for Milan in 1482, Leonardo had taken his first artistic steps in Florence in the workshop of Verrocchio. Three precious works from this formative period are held in the Uffizi and now find a new location in the museum's renovated Room 35, the layout design of which recalls the walls of the churches of the period for which the paintings were created. www.uffizi.it

Easter, 25 April, 1 May, 2 June, 24 June, 15 August and 2 weeks in the second half of August, 1 November, 8 and 25-26 December. www.maru.firenze.sbn.it. Via Cavour, 43-45. T: 055 2722200. **Map G1**

Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana

Part of the museum complex of the Basilica di San Lorenzo (see entry), it is one of the finest examples of the architecture of Michelangelo. Commissioned by Pope Clement VII (a Medici) and completed at the wishes of Grand Duke Cosimo I in 1571, entry is gained by ascending the monumental staircase designed by Michelangelo and built by Bartolomeo Ammannati in 1559. The stained-glass windows were created by Flemish craftsmen from designs by the Vasarian school. The Library conserves approx. 11,000 Greek, Latin and Oriental manuscripts, often richly miniated, dating from the 5th to the 19th century, in addition to papyrus and rare print editions. Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-1.30pm. Closed Sat, Sun and holidays. Full ticket price: Basilica + Medici Library €8.50. www.bmlonline.it. Piazza di San Lorenzo, 9. T: 055 2937911. **Map F2**

Cappella Brancacci

The Church and the Convent of Santa Maria del Carmine, dating back to the mid-13th century, house the Brancacci Chapel, a masterpiece that is universally renowned for the frescos of the cycle of *Scenes from the Life of St. Peter* by Masaccio and Masolino da Panicale. Executed in 1425-1427, they were left unfinished and were eventually completed by Filippino Lippi between 1481 and 1482. Access is permitted to the chapel by groups of a maximum of 30 people and the stay time is 30 minutes. You are advised to book (T: 055 2768224-8558). Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun and holidays: 1pm-5pm. Closed on Tues and 1 January, 7 January, Easter, 16 July, 15 August, 25 December. Full ticket price: Wed-Fri €6; Sat-Sun-Mon: Brancacci Chapel+Fondazione Salvatore Romano €7. www.museiciviciflorentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza del Carmine, 14. T: 055 2768224-558-2382195. **Map C5**

Cappelle Medicee

Since 1869 the Medici Chapels have been a state museum, but their history is closely associated with that of the Basilica di San Lorenzo, of which they are part (see entry). The museum consists of the New Sacristy, designed and conceived as regards its sculptural furniture by Michelangelo, the Chapel of the Princes, a monumental mausoleum built using semi-precious stones, the Crypt, where the Medici Grand Dukes and their relatives are buried, and the Lorenese Crypt, which, in addition to the remains of the Lorenese family, contains the funeral monument to Cosimo the Elder, founder of the dynasty. The museum also holds a part of the Treasure of the Basilica: sacred vestments and magnificent shrines. Open daily 8.15am-1.50pm; from 9 April to 4 November 8.15am-5pm. Closed: 1st, 3rd, 5th Monday and 2nd, 4th Sunday of the month, 1 January, 1 May, 25 December. Full ticket price: €8. www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it/musei/2/medicee | www.operamedicealaurenziana.org. Piazza Madonna degli Aldobrandini, 6. T: 055 282984. **Map F2**

Cenacolo di Sant'Apollonia

In around 1447 Andrea del Castagno frescoed the back wall of the refectory of the ancient Benedictine monastery of Sant'Apollonia (1339) with *The Last Supper*, *The Crucifixion*, *The Deposition* and *The Resurrection*. Other outstanding frescos by Andrea del Castagno and paintings from the monastery are also on display in the museum. Open daily 8.15am-1.50pm. Closed 1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday and

Palazzo Pitti Museums



PHOTO © SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

A palace for three dynasties, this extraordinary building (see Attractions&Monuments) is located in the Oltrarno, at the foot of Boboli Hill. The famous Boboli Gardens, which are the park of the palace, a genuine open-air museum (see **Museo Giardini di Boboli**), take their name from this hill. Palazzo Pitti currently contains four different museums.

Treasures of the Grand Dukes (ground floor and mezzanine)

Conserved in what were the summer apartments of the Medici family are the precious "Treasures of the Medici": vases made of semi-precious stones, rock crystals, ambers and ivories, the exceptional collection of Oriental porcelains; there is also the silverware of the so-called "Treasure of Salzburg", an important collection of jewels created between the 17th and 20th centuries, and a significant section dedicated to contemporary jewellery.

Palatine Gallery and Monumental Apartments (noble floor)

The 14 sumptuously furnished rooms of the Royal Apartments offer a fascinating blend of styles telling of the daily lives and tastes of the various periods and families that lived there. The "Quadreria",

the Picture Gallery, established between the 18th and 19th centuries by the Lorena family, includes the world's largest concentration of works by Raphael, as well as paintings by Titian, Tintoretto, Caravaggio and Rubens.

Gallery of Modern Art (second floor)

Today the sumptuous environments that were once the residence of the Lorena family house paintings and sculptures, mostly Italian, from Neoclassicism to the 1930s, with an important group of paintings by the Macchiaioli school.

Museum of Fashion and Costume (Palazzina della Meridiana)

This museum possesses a stock of six thousand items, including ancient clothing, theatrical costumes and fashion accessories from the 18th century to today, in addition to underwear, jewels and costume jewellery. Included among the costumes are the 16th-century burial clothes of Cosimo I de' Medici, Eleonor of Toledo and their son.

Open Tues-Sun 8.15am-6.50pm. Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 1 May, 25 December. Museum full ticket price: €16 (1 Mar/31 Oct)/€10 (1 Nov/28 Feb). www.uffizi.it/palazzo-pitti. Piazza de' Pitti, 1. T: 055 294883.

Sunday of the month e 1 January, 1 May, 15 August, 25 December. Free entry. www.polomusealetoscana.beniculturali.it. Via XXVII Aprile, 1. T: 055 2388608/610.

Off Map

Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi

Palazzo Strozzi is one of the finest examples of private architecture of the Renaissance and a dynamic cultural centre that hosts international level exhibitions, ranging from ancient art to the Renaissance, to contemporary art. Always present are an exhibition devoted to Palazzo Strozzi, the café and the museum shop, which looks out onto the Renaissance courtyard, where concerts, performances, contemporary art installations and theatrical plays are organised. Open daily and holidays 10am-8pm, Thurs 10am-11pm. Museum full ticket price: €12. www.palazzostrozzi.org. Piazza Strozzi. T: 055 2645155. **Map E3**

Fondazione Salvatore Romano

The museum is housed in the ancient Cenacolo (14th century) of the convent, built beside the church of Santo Spirito, the ancient function of which is recalled by the imposing fourteenth-century fresco by Andrea Orcagna that decorates its eastern wall, with fragments of a *Last Supper* at the bottom and a superb *Crucifixion* at the top. The museum houses works donated to the Municipality of Florence in 1946 by collector and antiquarian Salvatore Romano, a precious collection of sculptures, fragments of architectural decoration, detached frescos and furnishings of various origins and from periods between the ancient Roman Age

Roman Age



and the 17th century. Entry to the Cenacolo is gained directly from Piazza Santo Spirito, to the left of the

façade of the church. The museum is contained entirely within the vast setting of the Cenacolo. Open Mon and Sat 10am-5pm, Sun and holidays: 1pm-5pm. Closed 1 January, 7 January, Easter, 16 July, 15 August, 25 December. Full ticket price: Brancacci Chapel+Fondazione Salvatore Romano €7. www.museiciviciforentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza Santo Spirito, 29. T: 055 287043. **Map D5**

Forte di Belvedere

At the end of the 16th century, Ferdinando de' Medici commissioned Bernardo Buontalenti to design a fortress on the top of Boboli Hill, to incorporate a villa to be used as a "belvedere" by the Grand



The bronze statue of Perseus holding the head of Medusa (Benvenuto Cellini, 1545-1554) is located at the **LOGGIA DEI LANZI** in **PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA**.

Duke's court. Despite its strategic position, it was never used for defensive purposes; however, a vault was created in the underground floors to house the state treasury. The fort currently hosts top-level events and exhibitions. Open exclusively on the occasion

f temporary exhibitions. Full ticket price: €3. www.museiciviciforentini.comune.fi.it.

Via San Leonardo, 1. **Map F7**

Galleria degli Uffizi

The Gallery occupies the whole of the first and second floors of the large building erected between 1560 and 1580 based on a project by Giorgio Vasari; it is one of the most famous museums in the world on account of its extraordinary collections of ancient sculptures and paintings (from the Middle Ages to the modern age). The collections of paintings from the 14th century and the Renaissance contain a number of absolute masterpieces of the art of all time: from Giotto to Simone Martini, Piero della Francesca, Beato Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Botticelli, Mantegna, Correggio, Leonardo, Raphael, Michelangelo, Caravaggio and Canaletto. There are also important collections by German, Dutch and Flemish painters, including Dürer, Rembrandt and Rubens. The Museum also houses the famous Department of Drawings and Prints and the Classical Antiquities Collection. Open Tues-Sun 8.15am-6.50pm. Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 1 May, 25 December. Museum full ticket price: €20 (1 Mar-31 Oct)/€12 (1 Nov-28 Feb). www.uffizi.it. Piazzale degli Uffizi, 6. T: 055 23885. **Map F5**

Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze

The Galleria owes its vast popularity to the presence of a number of sculptures by Michelangelo: the *Prisoners*, *St. Matthew*, but above the famous *David*, transported here from Piazza della Signoria (where it was replaced by a faithful copy) in August 1873. Housed in the adjacent premises, which were originally two convents, are works coming from the Academy of Design, the Academy of Fine Arts and the convents themselves, which were abolished in the Napoleonic Age. And also, the Gipsoteca, or Hall of Models, the collection of Russian icons and musical instruments of the courts of the Medici and Lorena families. Open Tues-Sun 8.15am-6.50pm. Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 1 May, 25 December. Museum full ticket price: €8 (from January 2019: full ticket price €12). www.galleriaaccademiafirenze.beniculturali.it. Via Ricasoli, 58/60. T: 055 2388609/612. **Map G2**

Museo degli Innocenti

The Museum is located in the ancient Spedale degli Innocenti, a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture designed by Brunelleschi. Opened in 1445 as a refuge for abandoned children, today it continues its function as the "Institute of the Innocents". The museum itinerary combines the documentary and historical-artistic heritage, and in its Gallery hosts precious artworks by Sandro Botticelli, Domenico Ghirlandaio, Bartolomeo di Giovanni, Piero di Cosimo, Neri di Bicci and Luca and Andrea della Robbia. **EDITOR'S TIP** On the terrace the elegant

Caffè del Verone offers beautiful panoramic views. Open daily 10am-7pm. Closed 1 January, 25 December. www.istitutodeglinnocenti.it. Piazza Santissima Annunziata, 13. T: 055 2037308. **Map H1**

Museo del Bigallo

The headquarters of two ancient benevolent institutions, the Compagnia della Misericordia and the Compagnia del Bigallo, the so-called Loggia

del Bigallo is a complex the construction of which was begun in 1352. A precious record of the history of Florence, the museum conserves wonderful frescos from the 14th century, including the *Virgin of Mercy* (1342), presenting the first famous view of Florence and precious panels from the 14th and 15th centuries. Access only for pre-booked guided visits (T: 055 288496): Mon-Sat 10am, 12 noon, 3pm; Sun and holidays 10am and 12 noon. Free entry. www.museiciviciforentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza San Giovanni, 1. T: 055 288496. **Map F3**

Museo dell'Opificio delle Pietre Dure

An elegant collection of works made of semi-precious stones and multi-coloured marble and scagliola, paintings on stone and oil paintings, instruments, plus an extensive collection of stone samples. The works are displayed in chronological order from the early 17th century to the 1880s. Open Mon-Sat 8.15am-2pm. Closed on Sundays and holidays. www.opificiodellepietredure.it. Via degli Alfani, 78. T: 055 218709. **Map H1**

Museo di Palazzo Vecchio

For over seven centuries Palazzo della Signoria, or Palazzo Vecchio, has been the symbol of the city's civil power, and today it is still the seat of the Municipal Council of Florence. Built in 1299, over time it has undergone numerous enlargement and transformation projects. Along its labyrinthine routes are rooms and private environments sumptuously decorated by some of the most famous artists of the Florentine Renaissance, with period furnishings and exceptional masterpieces such as *Judith and Holofernes* by Donatello, *The Genius of Victory* by Michelangelo and Verrocchio's *Cherub*. Open daily, from 1 April to 30 September: 9am-11pm; from 1 October to 31 March: 9am-7pm. Thursdays throughout the year: 9am-2pm: Closed on 25 December. Museum full ticket price: €10. www.museiciviciforentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza della Signoria. T: 055 2768325. **Map G4**

Museo di Santa Maria Novella

The complex of Santa Maria Novella includes the 13th-century Dominican Basilica and the monumental cloisters. The church contains extraordinary works such as Giotto's *Crucifix*, Masaccio's *Holy Trinity*, Brunelleschi's *Crucifix*, the Tornabuoni Chapel by Ghirlandaio and his workshop and the Strozzi Chapel by Filippino Lippi. The cloisters present rare examples of the Florentine painting of the 14th and 15th centuries. The Ubriachi Chapel and ancient Refectory house a permanent exhibition of gold jewellery, sacred furnishings and liturgical vestments, part of the church's ancient Treasury, plus a series of paintings. Open: Mon-Thurs 9am-7pm (from 1 April to 30 September); 9am-5.30pm (from 1 October to 31 March). Fridays throughout the year: open from 11am. Saturdays throughout the year 9am-5.30pm; Sundays and Holidays 1pm-5.30pm. Closed on 25 December. Full ticket price: €7.50. www.smn.it, www.museiciviciforentini.comune.fi.it. Piazza Stazione, 4 - piazza Santa Maria Novella, 18. T: 055 219257-055 282187. **Map E3**

Map E3

Museo Giardini di Boboli

Stretching out behind Pitti Palace are the marvellous Boboli Gardens. It was the Medici who were first responsible for designing their layout, creating the model of the Italian-style garden that was to become an example for many European courts. Populated by ancient and Renaissance statues, adorned with grottos - including the famous Buontalenti Grotto - and large fountains, such as

those of Neptune and the Ocean, they are a genuine open-air museum. The terraced area includes the Rococò pavilion known as the Kaffeehaus and the Limonaia, the Lemon House. At the centre of the Rose Garden is the Palazzina del Cavaliere, which houses the Porcelain Museum (see entry). Open daily 8.15am-6.30pm (Apr-May-Sept), 8.15am-4.30pm (Jan-Feb-Nov-Dec), 8.15am-9.30pm (Jun-Jul-Aug), 8.15am-5.30pm in March, 8.15am-6.30pm in October. Closed first and last Monday of the month. Closed 1 January, 25 December. Full ticket price: €10 (1 Mar-31 Oct)/€6 (1 Nov-28 Feb). www.uffizi.it. Piazza Pitti, 1. T: 055 23885. **Map E6**

Museo Nazionale del Bargello

This imposing building, built between the 13th and 14th centuries as the seat of the Podestà and the Council of Justice, was a lowly prison between 1574 and 1858 (the "Bargello" was the head of the Grand Duke's Guards). The Museum conserves a highly important collection of Renaissance sculptures, with masterpieces by Donatello, Luca della Robbia, Verrocchio, Michelangelo, Cellini and Giambologna, and prestigious collections of "lesser arts" (bronzes, Majolica ware, jewellery, ivories, medals, fabrics and antique weaponry). Open daily 8.15am-1.50pm. From 9 April to 4 November 8.15am-5pm. Closed: 1st, 3rd, 5th Monday and 2nd, 4th Sunday of the month, 1 January, 1 May, 25 December. Museum full ticket price: €9. www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it/musei/1/bargello. Via del Proconsolo, 4. T: 055 282902. **Map G4**

Museo Novecento

The Museum is housed in the ancient Spedale di San Paolo (13th century), which was later the Scuole Leopoldine (18th century). Dedicated to the Italian art of the 20th century, it offers a selection of around 300 works representing that unrepeatable artistic season that saw Florence at the centre of the international cultural scene. Structured in reverse chronological (from the 1990s to the early 20th century), thematic and interdisciplinary order, the immersive museum itinerary includes multimedia workstations, sound devices and video rooms along with the works themselves. From 1 October to 31 March: open daily (except Thurs) 11am-7pm, Thurs 11am-2pm. From 1 April to 30 September: Mon-Tues-Wed-Sat-Sun 11am-8pm, Thurs 11am-2pm, Fri 11am-11pm. Closed on 25 December. Full ticket price: €8.50. www.museonovecento.it. Piazza Santa Maria Novella, 10. T: 055 286132/055 217158.

Map D3

Museo Salvatore Ferragamo

This is a museum devoted to the history of the Ferragamo company, to the life of its founder, Salvatore Ferragamo, and to his creations. Every year it organises exhibitions that investigate the relationship between fashion and art. The museum is situated in Palazzo Spini Feroni (1289) – which was purchased by Ferragamo in 1938 to make it the headquarters for his company and his workshop – and in its rooms it displays masterpieces of Florentine art from the 17th and 18th centuries. Open daily 10am-7.30pm. Closed 1 January, 1 May, 15 August, 25 December. Full ticket price €6. www.ferragamo.com/museo. Palazzo Spini Feroni, Piazza Santa Trinita, 5/r. T: 055 3562-846/466. **Map E4**

Museo Stefano Bardini

A connoisseur of art and an unbridled merchant in antiquities, Stefano Bardini (1836-1922) donated his private collection to Florence, where it was displayed in the Neo-Renaissance building (formerly the church and convent of San Gregorio della Pace)

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that housed his antiquarian gallery. There are over 2000 items there, including sculptures, paintings and objects of applied arts, from ancient art to that of the 18th century, with a major presence of works from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Among its most significant works are *St. Michael the Archangel* by Antonio del Pollaiolo, the *Madonna of the Ropes* by Donatello and Guercino's *Atlas*. Open Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon 11am-5pm. Closed on 1 January, Easter, 1 May, 15 August, 25 December. Full ticket price €6. www.museicivicifirenzi.comune.fi.it. Via dei Renai, 37 (Ponte alle Grazie). T: 055 2342427.

Map G6

Orsanmichele

A unique, extraordinary monument, in which civil and religious functions are combined. Built as a granary, in the mid-14th century it was consecrated for Christian worship. On the ground floor the Church houses a grandiose marble tabernacle by Orcagna. The originals of the numerous sculptures (works by famous Florentine artists from the 15th and 16th centuries) that adorned the niches outside on the four sides of the imposing stone cube are conserved in the museum on the first floor. On the second floor you can enjoy a fine panoramic view of Santa Maria del Fiore. Classical music concerts are held here. Church (ground floor): open daily 10am-4.50pm. Museum of Sculptures (first and second floor): open Mon (10am-4.50pm) and Sat (10am-12.30). Free entry. www.bargellomusei.beniculturali.it/musei/3/orsanmichele. Via dell'Arte della Lana, 1. T: 055 2388606. **Map F4**

Santa Maria del Fiore

The monuments of the complex of Santa Maria del Fiore, the symbol in Florence throughout the world, are a single large open-air museum,

a unique combination of art, faith and history located in the city's main square, the religious, historical and artistic centre of Florence. The Duomo (Santa Maria del Fiore), Brunelleschi's Dome, the Baptistry of Saint John, Giotto's Bell tower (see all in "Attractions&Monuments"), together with the Crypt of Santa Reparata and the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo (see entry) are all visitable with a single ticket that can be purchased online (full price €18), with prior booking necessary for the Dome. The visiting times of the monuments are different and vary depending on the day. www.ilgrandemuseodelduomo.it. Piazza del Duomo. T: 055 2302885. **Map G2-G3**

Villa Bardini and Gardens

The most beautiful view of Florence earned it the name "Villa Belvedere". Today Villa Bardini, a place rich in history, art and culture, has become an exhibition centre, which, along with temporary exhibitions, also hosts the Pietro Annigoni Museum (www.museoannigoni.it), dedicated to the great realist painter, and the Roberto Capucci Museum (www.fondazionerobertocapucci.com, currently being restructured). In addition, there is also a Michelin-starred restaurant inside it, La leggenda dei Frati (see "Dining"), and surrounding it are four hectares of woodland, an Italian-style garden and a kitchen garden and orchard. Open Tues-Sun 10am-7pm. Closed on Mondays. Full ticket price €8. Bardini Gardens: open daily 8.15am-4.30pm (Nov-Feb); 8.15am-5.30pm (Mar); 8.15am-6.30pm (Apr-May, Sept-Oct); 8.15am-7.30pm (Jun-Aug). Closed first and last Monday of the month, 1 January, 1 May, 25 December. Full ticket price €10 (with Boboli Gardens and the Porcelain Museum). www.villabardini.it. Costa San Giorgio, 2 - Via dei Bardi, 1/r. T: 055 20066233. **Map G6-G7**



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The museum city

Within its historic centre (declared a "UNESCO world heritage site" en bloc) Florence contains a unique concentration of historical and artistic attractions. Here is some guidance for you to enjoy it.

Florence's labyrinthine plan, made up of alleyways and sidestreets, derives from its medieval origins. Yet the city's period of maximum splendour was undoubtedly the **Renaissance**, of which countless masterpieces remain. With less than four hundred thousand inhabitants and covering an area of little more than a hundred square kilometres, Florence is practically impossible to tour by car, and in fact the centre is to a large extent prohibited to vehicle traffic. We suggest, if possible, that you **tour it on foot**, to best enjoy its beauties, but you can also count on quite an efficient **public transport** network (which, however, is severely limited during the nighttime hours, so take care after midnight). Taxis and bikes can reach all the strategic points, whereas private cars are usually

only allowed into the centre to load and unload your luggage at your hotel (but always ask your concierge, also so you can receive indications of where the car parks are located in the centre). To find your way around the city, it is a good idea to keep well in mind that Florence is developed along the **two banks of the River Arno**. All the roads that run alongside the river, on both sides, are called "**Lungarno**" and it is only the second part of the name that changes. Lungarno degli Archibugieri, for example, is right in the centre: it is there that the Vasari Corridor passes and the Uffizi looks out over it. The whole area on the other side of the river, to the south, is called "**Oltrarno**" by the Florentines. It was originally outside the historic centre, but today it contains important attractions, such as Pitti Palace, the

Boboli Gardens and Borgo Santo Spirito, the city's most bohemian neighbourhood. For decades the Florentine naming system has had a peculiarity that is gradually disappearing, but some traces of it can still be found: the civic numbers, in fact, were divided between "black", which denoted he residences, and "red", for businesses. Some red numbers still remain, so bear that in mind. Finally, some suggestion for improving your visit. The Tuscan regional capital is one of the cities with the highest tourist density on the entire planet: wherever you wish to visit, **book in advance** (or have them book for you at your hotel). You should also bear in mind that the serious overcrowding takes place around mid-morning, so if you are an early bird then that could give you a significant advantage. (E.B.)

Emergency

AMBULANCE - T: 118

POLICE - T: 055 3285

FIRE SERVICE - T: 115

PASSPORTS Questura di Firenze, Via Zara, 2.

T: 055 49771.

Taxi

TAXI FIRENZE 4242.IT T: 055 4242 - www.4242.it

TAXI FIRENZE 4390 T: 055 4390 - www.4390.it

www.apptaxi.it/firenze: available for iOS and Android, it has more than 4045 licensed taxi drivers.

Fixed taxi fares to airports

From Amerigo Vespucci Airport to Florence (city centre):

€22 (plus baggage supplements and extra fee for night or holiday travel).

From Florence (city centre) to Pisa: €140 / Bologna: €180 / Rome Fiumicino: €550 / Milan Linate: €550 / Milan Malpensa: €650

Trains

The most important railway station is **Santa Maria Novella (SMN)**, in the central Piazza della Stazione, and regional, interregional, high-speed and international trains arrive at and depart from there.

Florence offers fast-track access to major cities across Italy thanks to its **high-speed trains**:

- Bologna: 35 min • Rome: 1 hour 20 min • Milan: 1 h 40 min • Venice: 2 hours 5 min • Naples: 2 hours 52 min • Turin: 2 hours 55 min

TRENITALIA Railway Company - Info T: 892021. www.trenitalia.com.

ITALO - Info T: 060708. Italo Assistance T: 892020. www.italotreno.it.

Airports

AEROPORTO DI FIRENZE PERETOLA

"**AMERIGO VESPUCCI**" (FLR) - (4 km from the centre of Florence). The airport, to the North-West of Florence, lies between the "Firenze Nord" exit from the freeway and Florence's industrial area near Prato. Call centre T: 055 30615. www.aeroporto.firenze.it

• Connections to the airport

VolInBus Shuttle Service (www.fsbusitalia.it) from S.M. Novella Station (Piazza della Stazione). Every 30 min, travel time approx. 30' (5am-8pm) and approx. 1 h (10pm-midnight). Tickets can be purchased on board, at the Busitalia-Sita Nord ticket office near the S.M. Novella Station (Via S. Caterina da Siena) or at ATAF ticket offices (www.ataf.net). One-way ticket: €6 - round trip ticket: €10.

AEROPORTO DI PISA "GALILEO GALILEI" (PSA)

(- 80 km from the centre of Florence). Call centre T: 050 849300. www.pisa-airport.com

• Connections to Florence-S.M. Novella

Station and Aeroporto di Firenze Peretola

Shuttle Services: 1) Terravision – One-way ticket: €4.99 - round trip ticket: €9.98. Every 30 or 60 min, travel time approx. 70' (9am-midnight) and approx. 1 h (10pm-midnight). www.terravision.eu 2) Autostradale – T: 02 30089000. One-way ticket: €7.50 - round trip ticket: €13.50. Every 30 or 60 min, travel time approx. 70' (9am-midnight) and approx. 1 h (10pm-midnight). www.autostradale.it



Getting around Florence

ATAF - Azienda Trasporti dell'area Fiorentina/

Local Public Transport Company - www.ataf.net. Infoline daily 6am-9pm. Green Line T: 800 424500; from mobile: T: 199 104245. **ATAF Point-Customer**

Care Railway Station Firenze S.M. Novella - Offices no. 8 and no. 9. Open Mon-Sat 6.45am-8pm. **Lost and Found on ATAF vehicles:** Mon-Wed-Fri 9am-12.30pm; Tues-Thurs 2.30pm-4pm. Via Veracini, 5 (int. 5). T: 055 334802.

Purchase your ticket **before you get on the bus or the tram**: the ticket must be validated using the machines on the bus.

Ordinary ticket (€1.20) valid for 90 minutes.

Can be used on buses, trams or trains.

Ticket 2x90' (€2.40). **Ticket 4x90'** (€4.70).

90 minutes onboard ticket (€2, no change given).

Daily ticket: 24-hour ticket (€5). 3-day ticket (€12).

7-day ticket (€18). **Daily Family:** one-day ticket for one family of 4 (€6). **Nottetempo Ticket:** one-day ticket from 10pm to 3am (€4, by phoning T: 055 5650555).

The **T1 Tram** connects S.M. Novella Station in Florence to Scandicci (www.gestramvia.com)

Electric buses move around the historic centre and also reach the pedestrian areas. There are four lines: C1-C2-C3-D. **WHERE TIP Route C1** is convenient for visiting the most important museums in Florence.

The entire historic centre of Florence (which is approximately the part located within the 19th-

century ring-roads or *viali*, which is a protected UNESCO heritage site) is a "Zona a Traffico Limitato" (ZTL), or restricted traffic zone. Bicycles, electric vehicles, motorcycles and scooters are allowed to enter.

Tourist Information

INFOPOINT FIRENZE TURISMO -

www.firenzeturismo.it

1. **Train Station Infopoint** > Piazza della Stazione, 4. T: 055 212245. Open Mon-Sat 9am-7pm; Sun and holidays 9am-2pm. Multilingual tourist information and sales point for **Firenzecard**.

2. **Tourist Information Office** > Via C. Cavour, 1/R. T: 055 290832. Open Mon-Fri 9am-1pm. Free brochures and complaints service. Sales point for **Firenzecard**.

3. **Bigallo Infopoint** > Piazza San Giovanni, 1. T: 055 288496. Open Mon-Sat 9am-7pm; Sun and holidays 9am-2pm. Quick information service.

4. **Airport Infopoint** > Piazza San Giovanni, 1. T: 055 315874. Open daily 9am-7pm.

TOURIST CONTACT CENTRE - T: 055 000

Info about services for tourists, exhibitions, events, opening times of museums, how to move around the city. Available daily 9am-7pm in Italian, English, French, German and Spanish. Via email (touristinfo@comune.fi.it) you can ask for information in any language, including Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Arabic (answers within 24 hours).

Opera di Firenze

Florence Map

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- 1 DUOMO AND CUPOLA
- 2 BATTISTERO
- 3 CAMPANILE DI GIOOTTO
- 4 PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA AND PALAZZO VECCHIO
- 5 GALLERIA DEGLI UFFIZI

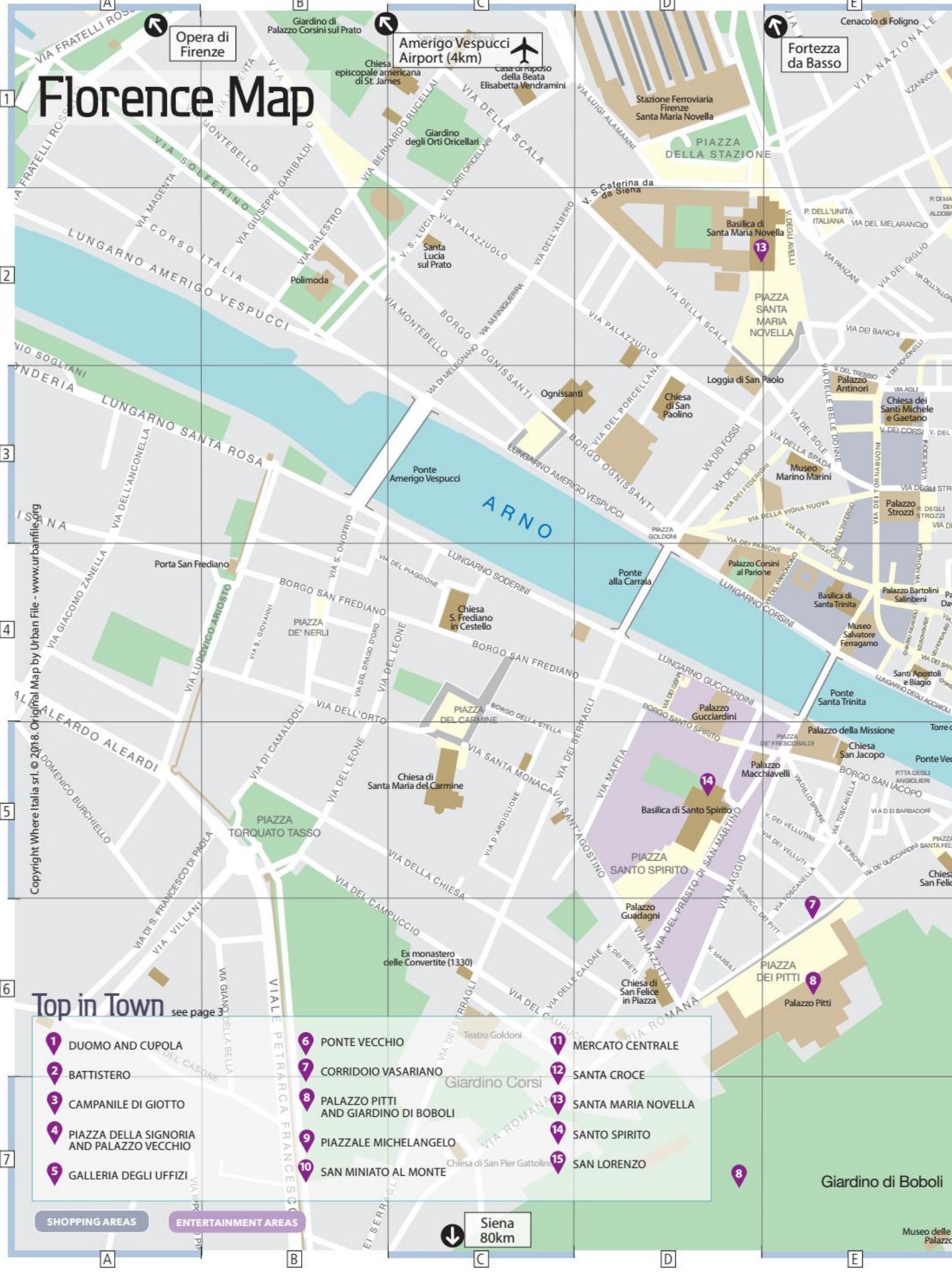
- 6 PONTE VECCHIO
- 7 CORRIDOIO VASARIANO
- 8 PALAZZO PITTI AND GIARDINO DI BOBOLI
- 9 PIAZZALE MICHELANGELO
- 10 SAN MINIATO AL MONTE

- 11 MERCATO CENTRALE
- 12 SANTA CROCE
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- 14 SANTO SPIRITO
- 15 SAN LORENZO

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5 STAR

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