

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

WELCOME

Easter fills Italy with colour and pageantry, as the spring flowers reflect the honouring of rebirth and renewal. This Sunday the city will gather outside of the Duomo to celebrate the Exploding Cart, the beloved Florentine Easter tradition that is over 350 years old. Enjoy time with your loved ones, sharing special easter bread and eggs with surprises inside. Music and art fill the city as Tuscany warms up beneath the sunshine, and the nights remain cool. Revel in laughter for April Fools Day and seek out the gardens of Florence as they come into bloom. “Buona Pasqua” from all of us, with best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, EGLA, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

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PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR APRIL

BEST EVENT: SCOPPIO DEL CARRO ON EASTER SUNDAY

The Scoppio del Carro, The Explosion of the Cart, has been celebrated in Florence for more than 350 years, dating back to the First Crusade. A thirty-foot carved and painted wooden cart (the present version is over 150 years old) is pulled by flower-bedecked white oxen from Porta al Prato to Piazza del Duomo. A very special Easter Sunday mass is held, a ritual that includes one of the best daytime fireworks displays in the world. During the singing of the Gloria of the Easter Mass, the deacon lights a holy fire, kindled from three historic stone chips that were obtained during the crusades of 1099 from the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The ‘colombina’ - a mechanical bird shaped like a dove with an olive branch in its beak, representing the Holy Spirit - ‘flies’ down a line through the open doors of the cathedral, where the Holy Fire is used to light a fuse attached to the dove. It flies back to the cart where it ignites the explosion, erupting fireworks into the Easter sky with plumes of purple smoke - the unofficial colour of Florence. The Procession starts at 10.00, and the Explosion of the Cart is at 11.00. For more things to do over the Easter weekend, check out this article by [The Florentine Magazine](#).

BEST P&F RENTAL: A LIGHT AND SPACIOUS APARTMENT IN A QUIET RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

A two-level apartment with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a lovely light-filled living room. Piazza Beccaria is located in a residential area on the edge of the historical center of Florence, near the Synagogue and the Sant’Ambrogio market. It is within walking distance of the Santa Croce church and the centre of town with all of its monuments and museums. There are many shops, restaurants, a gym, and post office. It is well serviced with numerous municipal buses. [More images and information here](#).



BEST ANNIVERSARY: LIBERATION DAY NATIONAL HOLIDAY, April 25

“E questo è il fiore del partigiano ... morto per la libertà!

“Bella Ciao”

“On April 25, you’ll hear this refrain throughout every corner of Italy, sung on street corners by small groups, played on the radio or performed by bands in parades and local plazas. Set to the melody of a traditional folk song, “Bella Ciao” was the anthem of the Italian resistance movement

during World War II, often sung by the left-wing anti-fascist rebels who fought against the atrocities of the Nazis and the leader of Italy, Benito Mussolini. Even today, the lyrics are symbolic of the sacrifices made for freedom.

While Italy has been a democratic republic since 1946, many Italians remember a time when they did not have such freedom. That history is honored throughout Italy on April 25 with La Festa della Liberazione, or Liberation Day, festivities. Every year, the entire country joins together to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis and pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the fight to free their country.” [Read more about the history of Liberation Day here.](#)

BEST SPRING GARDENS: INTERNATIONAL IRIS GARDEN AND THE ROSE GARDEN, Reopening on April 25

The Iris is the symbol of Florence, the deep red of the Giglio di Firenze! Until May 20, you should spend part of every day in **the Iris Garden above Florence**, breathing in fresh air, avoiding the crowds and restoring your spirits. Expect beautiful flowers, meticulously refined over generations by the careful hands of their keepers. Even if you're not passionate about flowers, it is a refreshing splash of early summer colour in a beautiful city.

While you are so close, it is the perfect time to visit **the stunning Florence Rose Garden**. Open all year around, the roses are in full bloom throughout May, and with over 350 different types of roses to enjoy, this is a heavenly treat for your senses. The scent of roses and their velvety bursts of colour are a great backdrop to enjoying the view of the city, or taking a book to enjoy on the grass. Also in the rose garden are sculptures by Belgian artist, Jean Michael Folon, which sit against the Florence city backdrop beautifully. There is also a Japanese Garden with a waterfall and tea pagoda that was a gift to Florence from the city of Kyoto.

Iris Garden: Piazzale Michelangelo, Cnr of Viale dei Colli and Piazzale Michelangelo

Opening Hours: Daily 10am-12.30pm & 3pm-7pm, Web: www.irisfirenze.it

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

EVEN MORE BEST SPRING GARDENS: 170 YEARS OF THE TUSCAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, April 25 - May 1

A favourite for all those with a green thumb! This year the Spring Plant and Flower Market Exhibition, always held in the charming Giardino dell'Orticoltura from April 25 to May 1, 2024, coincides with the 170th anniversary of the Tuscan Horticultural Society. More than 70 specialized exhibitors will offer a wide range of products in the fields of floriculture, horticulture and fruit growing, along with gifts and handicrafts. During the event, visitors will be able to participate in a rich cultural program, including courses, workshops, talks, book presentations, lectures and free seminars. [Website.](#)

BEST EXHIBITION: ANSELM KIEFER ON SHOW AT PALAZZO STROZZI, Until July

Palazzo Strozzi presents a major exhibition dedicated to one of the greatest masters of the 20th and 21st century art, Anselm Kiefer. The exhibition allows direct contact with the art of the German artist thorough new and historical works that engage in a profound dialogue with the Renaissance architecture of Palazzo Strozzi, including a new work especially created for the palace's internal courtyard. Fallen Angel is a journey that reflects on topics such as identity, history, and philosophy.

Through painting, sculpture, installation and photography, Kiefer's art offers deep introspection into the human condition, in a complex weaving of connections between the past, present and future. [Website](#).

BEST DINING OUT: OLTRARNO OSTERIA

San Niccolo has a new dining hot spot. Oltrarno Osteria is the newest offering from the team at Enoteca Pitti Gola e Cantina and the Osteria dell'Enoteca. Edoardo Fioravanti, Manuele Giovanelli, Lorenzo Ricci and Zeno Fioravanti are the proud owners behind this project. Assisted by Shannon Fioravanti they dreamed to open the type of place they wanted to go on their days off. The Osteria offers traditional Italian dishes accompanied by traditional Italian wines in a comfortable yet refined environment. A refined Tuscan menu prepared with fresh, local ingredients brought to you by Chef Nicola Chiappi, paired to a carefully curated wine selection. The food is indulgent and elegant, the artwork and atmosphere are warm and inviting, and the wines, as always are top notch. [Website](#).

BEST OF THE REST

THE BELOVED FIRENZE FLOWER SHOW RETURNS TO THE CORSINI GARDENS, April 6 and 7

Spring has finally arrived and, here in Florence, so has the annual flower show loved by all the Florentine community. Held at the beautiful Corsini Garden, this year's exhibition of rare flowers and plants will surely be unforgettable. With gardening tips and demonstrations, workshops, food and drinks, there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Florence in bloom is one of the best parts of Spring. Find more information [here](#).

CREATIVE PEOPLE IN FLORENCE OPEN A COMMUNITY SPACE

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)) A little over a decade ago, American artists Sara Amrhein and Anna Rose founded the cultural association Creative People in Florence. Last autumn, Scottish potter Kirstie Mathieson joined the team. Together, they are excited to announce a creative space in the Oltrarno at via dei Serragli 58R. After many years of building a network of artists, designers and artisans, the cultural association now has a space where they will organize and curate an exciting lineup of hands-on workshops and demos for adults and children, as well as pop-up events, art exhibitions and many other creative activities. The group will also host meet-ups, feedback sessions and panel discussions about a variety of topics to help Florence's creative community flourish and thrive. The new location will also provide a space for those who are looking for a way to exhibit their work on a short-term basis or to teach individual classes in their medium. [Read more here](#).

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

An event which has hosted the most important master craftsmen of history inside a privileged space, where tradition and innovation merge to create extremely valuable handmade products. Every year, you can admire the works of the ancient Florence workshops, as well as remote arts which are being rediscovered through the fair itineraries, following a harmonious path among the Italian regions and

the countries of the whole world. Unique pieces, modelled by experienced hands, dedicated to people who want to stand out. Classical, modern, ethnic, contemporary, feasible - any kind of style here finds its ideal dimension. Opening Times: everyday from 10.00 to 22.30 (last day closing at 20.00). See more information at the [website](#).

ONLINE EVENT: RESTORATION CONVERSATIONS, WOMEN ARTISTS AND THE PRE-RAPHAELITES, April 8 Online

Join presenter Linda Falcone on location in Forlì and meet nineteenth-century artists Marie Spartali Stillman, Evelyn Pickering De Morgan and Elizabeth Siddal, during our online broadcast of the exhibition 'Pre-Raphaelites: Modern Renaissance', with co-curator Peter Trippi. As art models, these women gave their faces to the larger-than-life characters of world literature, captured on canvas by the Brotherhood's original artists. Yet their own paintings depicted the same dreamscapes as their male counterparts: think chivalry and Botticelli's palette, think Royal-Academy rebellion and angels on high... and then imagine 350 artworks that encompass fifteenth-century Florence, and England's evocative artistic response to the evils of the Industrial age. [Event Link](#).

FLORENCE TANGO DAYS, THE FIRENZE TANGO FESTIVAL, April 24-28

This edition of Firenze Tango Week is titled "Florence Tango Days, Tango, Art, and Good Life", a week long program of tango-themed events including dances, DJs, and performances. There are numerous events you can sign up for, including music and dance workshops and lessons. A week to keep you on your toes, and put rhythm into your body... some sizzle for Spring! See the [website](#) for the full program.

VIVICITTA HALF MARATHON FLORENCE, April 7

(from: visitflorence.com) If you're a runner more than a cyclist, you'll surely want to participate in one of the most traditional Florentine non-competitive race of the annual calendar: the Vivicità Half Marathon Florence. A wonderful opportunity to mix sport and culture, surrounded by a one-of-a-kind artistic and cultural background, more info about the race story, registration fees on the official website, where you'll also find information about the other non-competitive races that will be organized as part of the same manifestation, like that dedicated to kids and the guided tour. [Official Webpage](#)

LA DEMOCRAZIA DEL CORPO DANCE FESTIVAL, Until May

Until May, enjoy the international Festival La Democrazia del Corpo ("Democracy of the Body") by Virgilio Sieni. The "Democracy of the Body" proposes a cycle of performance works intended as excursions exploring the body. This year the festival returns to the central theme of the artists themselves, those who research and build bridges with history: passages that are understood as meeting places that are always open and poetically in mutation, where the reference to the body, to musical form, to gravity, to the philosophy of space, to its care and way of hosting the other, creates the initiatory gesture of encounter and relationship. Please click here to get the whole [programme](#).

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

On the first Sunday of every month, Florence opens up all of its state and civic museums free for residents of the city, or people born here. Here's a list of the state museums free to all: Uffizi, Accademia, Bargello, Medici Chapels, Pitti Palace (all museums), San Marco, Palazzo Davanzati, Medici Villas. And civic museums free to residents: Palazzo Vecchio, Arnolfo Tower, Santa Maria Novella, Stefano Bardini Museum, Fondazione Salvatore Romano, Museo del Novecento, Brancacci Chapel in Santa Maria del Carmine. You'll find more information at: www.musefirenze.it

EXHIBITIONS

LAST CHANCE TO SEE ART NOUVEAU ON DISPLAY AT THE MUSEO DEGLI INNOCENTI, Until April 2024

The first exhibition in Florence dedicated to Alphonse Mucha, the most important Czech artist, father of Art Nouveau and creator of iconic images. In the late 19th and early 20th century, Paris was considered the capital of art world. It was the period of the so-called Belle Époque, there was great enthusiasm, and Alphonse Mucha, also thanks to his meeting with Sara Bernhardt, became the most famous and disputed artist of the time. His works, illustrations, theatre posters and nascent advertising became available to all. It is to this exceptional artist that Arthemisia and the Museo degli Innocenti are dedicating the upcoming great Florentine exhibition. [Website](#).

ART OF UZBEKISTAN ON SHOW AT PALAZZO PITTI, April 17 - July 27

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)) Art of Uzbekistan: Avant-garde in the Desert

150 works, mainly paintings on canvas, reveal the flourishing of the avant-garde in Uzbekistan in the early to mid 20th century. Visitors can also explore the Uzbek textile tradition with works on loan from the National Museum in Tashkent and the Savitsky Museum in Nukus. [Website](#).

LEDIESIS - CORPUS DOMINAE, ART SHOW AND CONFERENCE AT LE MURATE ART DISTRICT (M.A.D.), April 19 - May 31

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)) The famous (anonymous) street artists display a new work, A timeless struggle, created specifically for the exhibition along with other works exploring bodies in all varieties, expressed through both real and imaginary figures. The art show is presented on the occasion of the Women – A timeless struggle exhibition, 70 years after the first national conference for women who work, in addition to talks and concerts at the Caffè Letterario at Le Murate. [Website](#).

DIVINA SIMULACRA AT THE GALLERIE DEGLI UFFIZI, Until June

The main statues of the ancient Medici collection are now on display on the ground floor of the Uffizi. The Uffizi's most beautiful ancient statues on display in the rooms of the Vasari Museum: in these spacious rooms, visitors will be able to see and admire them up close, in all their beauty. This is the great exhibition 'Divina Simulacra. Masterpieces of Classical Sculpture from the Gallery'. On display for the first time are individual replicas of classical marble groups that, in the historical setting, are located in different places in the Gallery. [Website](#).

RETURNS: FROM MODIGLIANI TO MORANDI AT MUSEO NOVECENTO, Until September

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)) Museo Novecento celebrates ten years since its inauguration in 2014 with a major exhibition titled Returns: From Modigliani to Morandi dedicated to the history of one of its most prized ensembles, the Alberto Della Ragione Collection. Donated to the City of Florence following the devastating flood in 1966, the works are now reunited with the invaluable masterpiece by the Livornese artist, Amedeo Modigliani. The idea conceived by the director of the museum, Sergio Risaliti, sees the rooms of the former Leopoldine on the second floor of the museum transformed for the occasion, with the exhibition curated by Eva Francioli, Chiara Toti and Sergio Risaliti on show until September 15. [Website](#).

DANCE, THEATRE, CINEMA AND MUSIC

THE CATTEDRALE DELL'IMMAGINE PRESENTS IMMERSIVE CONCERTS

In the heart of Florence, the deconsecrated church of Santo Stefano al Ponte is one of the unknown masterpieces of the Florentine architectural heritage. In 2015, the church was reborn with the name "the Cathedral of the Image", transforming itself into the first permanent Italian center for Immersive Art Experiences. A space where art, culture and customs find a new life. This month, the events include La Traviata, Inside Van Gogh, and Starry Night. Find out the dates and more information [here](#).

FREE CONCERT IN PIAZZA DEGLI ANTINORI

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)) The Davidson High School Choir and Orchestra from Georgia, USA perform a free concert at 9pm on April 8 at Chiesa dei Santi Michele e Gaetano (piazza degli Antinori), with pieces by Ernesto Herrera, Jeffery Ames, Carold Nunez, Norman Luboff and more. performancesbooking@gmail.com

"SARANNO FAMOSI" - FAME THE MUSICAL AT TEATRO VERDI, April 12, 13, 14

The 'Teatro Pagliano' assumed its current name, 'Teatro Verdi,' in 1901. It was built during the Grand Ducal period in Florence on the former site of the fourteenth century Stinche Prison. This month enjoy Saranno Famosi: Saranno Famosi is a legendary and timeless phenomenon of pop culture. A title so famous that it has entered people's imagination as synonymous with the desire to realize one's dream in the world of entertainment. Hard work, artistic competition, sweat, passion, loves, defeats and successes. In addition to featuring the very famous song "Fame", winner of an Academy Award, the musical has a soundtrack with new songs, modern orchestrations, new choreographies in collaboration with a team of extraordinary talents from Italian TV and musical theatre. [More information and bookings here](#).

AMICI DELLA MUSICA

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

[and more information.](#)

MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO

The Theatre of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino owes its name to the prestigious Maggio Musicale Festival, the oldest in Italy, a first that it shares in Europe with the festivals of Salzburg and Bayreuth. Founded in Florence in 1933, the festival quickly became a centre of dissemination of the great European musical culture indicating and proposing new and unconventional ideas, in regards to classical repertoire and contemporary compositions. See the full program [here at the website.](#)

FILMS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

“POOR CREATURE” AND MORE AWARD WINNING FILMS SHOWING THIS MONTH AT CINEMA LA COMPAGNIA

(From [The Florentine Magazine](#)) [Cinema La Compagnia](#) screens the 2024 Oscar award-winning documentary 20 Days in Mariupol until April 5. Take advantage of the opportunity to view the photographic exhibition titled Vse Bude Ukraine in the foyer that documents the ongoing war. The lost souls of Syria will be screened from April 18 to 22. The Cinefilante short film series for young cinema goes aged 2 and over holds its final screenings at 5.30pm on April 7, 14 + 21, with the entrance fee of 7 euro including a snack and a 10% discount at Lilà Toys. [Website.](#)

CINEMA A PALAZZO: FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL AT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE

Since 1915, the cinema of the French Institute of Florence has contributed to spreading the French language and culture in the heart of Florence. Until May 30th, on Mondays, the "Cinema a Palazzo" cycle returns, which programs French and Francophone films in V.O. with subtitles in Italian and/or English; Thursday is instead dedicated to the "Cineclub", a new cycle of screenings introduced by director Augustin Martinez. [Website.](#)

WEEKLY SOCIAL LIFE DRAWING SESSIONS AT SOTTO AL BRITISH

Every Monday night from 19:00-21:00 (except public holidays), a life drawing session led by artist Tom J. Byrne. A social, life drawing event prepares the spirit for a creative week and is a great way to meet new and interesting people. There is no instruction given but through sharing insights and discussion over a glass of wine after drawing, people can exchange drawing methods. The session is from 19:00 - 21:00 and consists of short warm up poses followed by longer poses as the evening moves along. [More information here.](#)

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE CULTURAL PROGRAM IN THEIR STUNNING HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY

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

APRIL WISHES

The hills of Florence are bursting into colour, as the landscape awakes after winter. May your wishes for the year bloom along with the flowers of Spring!

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

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CLASSIFIEDS

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