

# PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES  
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

## WELCOME

Many consider May the best month of the year to be in Florence. It's not too hot, it rarely rains, the June crowds haven't arrived, and the city is filled with flowers. Take time to raise a toast on the terrace of the Uffizi and wander through the Corsini and Iris gardens and then rest up for the *Estate Fiorentina*. Don't forget to celebrate on May 8th for Italy's Mother's Day, and honour the women who take care of you. Enjoy the sunshine together while there is still a cool breeze, and wishing you a May filled with sunshine and flowers, with best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, LESLIE, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA AND MARISA.

## A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM SUZANNE TO HELP WITH A VERY GOOD CAUSE

A big hello to everyone,

Well here I am in the middle of the Andaman sea having a wonderful time lazing around on an island called Koh Jum. It is quite a large island but very undeveloped, thank goodness. It certainly isn't on the top of the list of "must see and go" tourist destinations. This is the second time I have visited this island and I have to say it is totally suitable for me!!! Not much to do except walks on white sand beaches, some island hopping, reading, eating swimming, drinking BEER (yes believe it or not beer) and sleeping. But enough about Koh Jum, I would actually like to tell you about a project I've got involved in here in Chiang Mai Thailand.

For many years (14) I have asked you to support CORRI LA VITA, the most fantastic fundraising event held in Florence, and I have no doubts you will continue to support me in this fundraising. But now I am asking you to get involved in another exciting project.

In 2016, on my second trip to Chiang Mai, I met a very astute man called Thongin Nuntarut, commonly known as Vin. He told me about his project called PROJECT WIN/PROJECT PROTEIN. This program is run by Vin, with the help of University student volunteers. Its aim is to develop sustainable protein sources for the people of Thailand's remote northern villages. He endeavors to do this through teaching and hands on experiences. He is following the example of "sustainability" set by the late king Bhumibol Adulyadej. He builds fish ponds, mushroom "hotels", chicken coops and vegetable gardens. After which the Agricultural University students proceed to showing the children; who are from the ages of 4 upwards, how to grow, cultivate and SUSTAIN these resources. As an example "don't eat all the chickens keep at least two for breeding".

Mr Nunarut supplies all the necessary materials (including the chicks, fingerling fish, seeds, etc), and with the help of the local villagers, builds the necessary structures (fish ponds, chicken coops etc).

I have had the opportunity of actually visiting one of the programs for myself, and can report first hand: The day I went to visit one of these villages, was a very special day in Thailand called "Childrens Day" a bit like the Italian Befana.....we went on a three hour truck trip to the village of Khun Sab. It was a weekend event, and all the volunteers and villagers stayed overnight sleeping on mats in the school. During the day each volunteer took about 5 children and demonstrated how to maintain the various subjects of the program. After finishing the schooling they then had games, one of which was to learn all the words in English from the so called "learning Tree". "Vegetable" was a wicked word for them.

I was impressed with the attention span of these Thai children. Not only were the children engrossed but also the villagers and the teachers. Which leads me to believe (like the Church teaches us) get them young and you have a better future for the entire community.

Existing funding is raised through Vin's Facebook followers, the students from Mae Jo University who co-operate in the project and various companies have supplied in kind assistance. I have encouraged Vin to try and apply for grants so he can replicate this program and make a significant difference for this area.

So while we are trying to fill in application forms (no easy task) I am asking you to make a small donation to yet again to one of my "causes". This is truly money well spent. I believe the motto is "for so little, so much can be achieved"

At this point I'll sign off. If you wish to send money please send it directly to Vin from his blog, Don't hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

For pictures (even of me!!!!) and short videos go to:

<http://project-vin.blogspot.com/>

## **PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR MAY**

### **BEST EVENT FOR MAY: ARTIGIANATO E PALAZZO XXIII EDITION**

#### **May 18-23**

"FIORI D'ARANCIO" is the theme of the 23rd edition in the 16th century Corsini Gardens of Florence, designed by Gherardo Silvani and open to the public specially for the occasion with a new selection of nearly 80 artisans.

After 23 years of diligent work promoting the excellence of Italian and international hand crafts, comes a testament to this work and its organizers, Giorgiana Corsini and Neri Torrigiani, in the form of support for ARTIGIANATO E PALAZZO from the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation. The foundation is among one of the most important in Europe, started in 2000 in support of projects benefiting human rights, environmental work, scientific research, and educational and cultural enrichment. This support from the Peretti Foundation, in addition to that of Fondazione CR Firenze and others such as Richard Ginori and Fondazione Ferragamo is indicative of the quality of the small scale yet large impact of Made in Italy artisan tradition.

"Fiori d'arancio" is the theme of the 23d edition in collaboration with the Florence Convention and Visitors Bureau, Tuscany for Weddings division. The new initiative, that will be proposed to wedding planners from around the world, was created to promote Florence not only as a city famous for its artistic and culinary beauty. Instead, it is also as a place where couples will find an ample selection of handmade

goods created by master artisans, where they can create their wedding gift lists, personalised party favours, and find all they need to start a new life together.

The brainchild of food journalist Annamaria Tossani, and among the most successful initiatives of ARTIGIANATO E PALAZZO, "Ricette e Famiglia" will be held for its 4th time this year with a wedding theme. As a part of this year's theme, at the book talk tent we will have some celebrities retelling their wedding stories. Every day, meetings will be organized between chefs from DESINARE at Riccardo Barthel (Luisanna Messeri, Arturo Dori, Cristian Giorni, Maria Valiani) and celebrities during a tasting by Richard Ginori held in the Rose Garden. During these tastings the chefs will propose a new take on plates from the wedding menus of engaged visitors to the exhibition. The last session will be dedicated to the winning couple of the wedding cake photo facebook competition. This couple will be invited to ARTIGIANATO E PALAZZO to relive, together with the exhibition's visitors, their special moment and taste a reproduction of their cake made by a master baker.

The BLOGS AND CRAFTS initiative, with the support of Fondazione Ferragamo in collaboration with Starhotels and Source, will celebrate its 4th anniversary as a unique opportunity for growth and recognition offered to young artisans under 35. The 10 talented artisans chosen to exhibit for free will receive coverage from 10 bloggers in the fields of artisan crafts, tourism, fashion, lifestyle, and food, as the bloggers follow the events of the show.

May 18-23, 2017 - 10am to 8pm

Giardino Corsini, 115 Via della Scala, Florence

More information: [www.artigianatoepalazzo.it](http://www.artigianatoepalazzo.it)

## **BEST SPRING GARDENS FOR MAY: INTERNATIONAL IRIS GARDEN AND THE ROSE GARDEN**

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. In May, gardeners from all over the world flock to Florence to admire the stunning blooms, as the renowned Iris Garden opens its gates to the public for the International Iris Competition. The closing prize-giving ceremony is held at Palazzo Vecchio. The winner of the first prize receives a Gold Florin. A special prize offered by the Florence Council is awarded to the red variety, thanks the Iris depicted on the banner of the City.

The Iris Garden of Piazzale Michelangelo was created in 1954. The Garden, initially designed by the architect G. Zetti, was inaugurated in May 1957. It was enriched, in the meantime, by donations made by numerous foreign growers and also by a large collection of historic Irises from the Presby Memorial Garden of Montclair (New Jersey), USA. In 1967, a small lake was constructed in the lower area of the garden to allow cultivation of the Japanese and Louisiana irises in the surrounding boggy land. Specialists, botanists, hybridisers and horticulturists from all over the world visit and work in the Garden.

Web: [www.irisfirenze.it](http://www.irisfirenze.it)

Piazzale Michelangelo, Cnr of Viale dei Colli and Piazzale Michelangelo

Opening Hours: Daily 10am-12.30pm & 3pm-7pm

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.

Piazzale Michelangelo, Viale Giuseppe Poggi

Opening Hours: Daily 9.00 - Sunset

## **P&F RENTAL PICK FOR MAY: ANTIQUE FILLED APARTMENT FOR THREE NEAR THE OLD THEATRES OF FLORENCE**



Borgo Allegri is in the heart of the Santo Croce area takes its name from the ancient Medici dye house which has recently been restructured into modern apartments. It is within an easy walk from most of the city's most famous museums and monuments. 10 minutes walk leads to the Sant'Ambrogio open-air fruit and vegetable market. General shopping is close by. The apartment is situated near several theatres ("Il Teatro Verdi" and "La Pergola") which host numerous concerts throughout the year. This area is becoming very well known for its famous restaurants:- Enoteca Pinchiorri, Cibreo, Alle Murate and Baraonda, all within easy walking distance.

Furnishings are mostly antiques with terracotta tiles floors, wooden ceilings with beams in the living/dining room, both bedrooms face an internal courtyard.

Located on the 2nd floor, 44 steps without elevator, 95 sq.mts. (approx. 1000 sq.ft) and consists of: Living area (with non-working fireplace), Dining area (table for 4/6), Kitchen, 2 bedrooms (1 double, 1 single), 2 bathrooms (1 tub, 1 shower stall), Laundry, Walk-in closet

## **BEST PARADE/SPECTACLE FOR MAY: NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND THE HISTORIC FLAG THROWING CONTEST**

### **May 1**

It's the Labor Day holiday in Italy and across Europe, in honour of the workers of the world. Italians will be enjoying the day off, and there will be less buses and trains than usual. But there's no reason to stay home, because there is the incredibly exciting flag throwing competition, where expert flag throwers compete for the Marzocco Trophy! The Marzocco is the heraldic lion that represents the free Republic of Florence, with the most famous Marzocco located in Piazza della Signoria where the contest is being held. The original statue was created by Donatello in the 15th Century, and is now housed in the Bargello, while a copy rests in its place in the piazza. The lion is carved with his paw placed protectively over the symbol of Florence, the red lily.

The flag throwing demonstrates extremely talented choreography, creating a stunning visual effect as the flags twirls and fly through the air. The performances are accompanied by live music, and the whole event is a colourful spectacular. An exciting display that can be enjoyed by children and families.

Piazza della Signoria at 3.30pm

## **BEST SPORTING EVENT FOR MAY: 100 YEARS OF GIRO D'ITALIA, SEE THE STAGE 11 BIKE RIDE ACROSS BAGNO DI ROMANA**

### **May 17**

“The national sporting event of the year: Giro d'Italia (by bike of course!!) This stretch doesn't include one single flat road passing over the mountains that separate Florence from Bagno di Romagna: Passo della Consuma, Passo della Calla, Passo del Carnaio and Monte Fumaiolo. You can join at the starting line in the town of Ponte a Ema, easily reached with public transport from the city center of Florence.”

From: <https://www.discovertuscany.com/tuscany-events/may-in-tuscany.html>

GIRO D'ITALIA 2017: 100 is a round and historical number. And Giro d'Italia 100 could only be the modern synthesis of itself. 107 years have gone by since that morning of 13th May 1909, when the first 127 adventurers paved the way for a race which at that time bordered on chance. It is also a pleasure to realise that in not being standardised, the route includes towns and mountains that have the power to evoke some of the champions who have made the Giro into a legend.

STAGE 11 - Passing near Florence on May 17

This queen stage across the Apennines takes in 4 consecutive categorised climbs, with not even a single flat stretch in between: Passo della Consuma, Passo della Calla, Passo del Carnaio and Monte Fumaiolo. After clearing Passo del Carnaio, the route takes a first pass on the finish line in Bagno di Romagna (for the first time stage town at the Giro). Then comes a long ring (approx. 52 km) that takes the riders to clear the Monte Fumaiolo categorised summit. A long drop then leads all the way to the finish. The roadway is narrow on average, and the road surface is worn out at points. Starting from 3,500 m from the finish, the last kilometres either descend, or are a false flat up. The route drops down quickly on wide roads, with several curves and hairpins, and briefly touches the centre of San Piero in Bagno. The final kilometres are dotted with roundabouts. The last bend is 5,900 m from the finish line, followed by a long home straight, just bending slightly, on 6-m wide and perfectly level asphalt road.

Official Website: <http://www.giroditalia.it/eng/>

## **BEST LIVE PERFORMANCE FOR MAY: MURRAY LACHLAN YOUNG BRINGS HIS SLAM**

## **POETRY FROM LONDON TO TASSO HOSTEL, FLORENCE**

**May 4 and 6**

“A Noel Coward for the Noel Gallagher generation” - The Times

Ignoring the boundaries between poetry, music and comedy, Murray Lachlan Young's career has been a roller-coaster ride over three decades and he brings his special brand of performance poetry to Florence for the very first time. A regular contributor to BBC Radio 4 & BBC 6 Music, and currently touring his latest collection *How Freakin' Zeitgeist Are You?*, Murray's dry, sometimes outrageous and often surreal writing will be a pleasure to witness in the intimate setting of the Hostel Tasso Theatre over two nights.

Performance in English, with opening support from Tim Daish, begins at 2100.

Entry 10 Euro. (15Euro with drink incl.)

Tasso Hostel Florence, Via Villani 15, Piazza Tasso

## **BEST EXHIBITION FOR MAY: BILL VIOLA: ELECTRONIC RENAISSANCE AT PALAZZO STROZZI**

**Until July 23**

The Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi introduces the Florentine public to Bill Viola. *Electronic Renaissance*, a significant exhibition celebrating this unchallenged master of video art.

A single, comprehensive exhibition occupying both the Piano Nobile and the Strozzi will immerse you in space, music and sound as you track the career of this artist from his early experimental work in the 1970s right up to his monumental installations of the 21st century.

Exploring spirituality, experience and perception, Viola probes humanity: people, bodies and faces are the leading players in his work with its poetic and strongly symbolic style in which man interacts with the forces and energies of nature such as water and fire, light and dark, the cycle of life and the cycle of rebirth.

But more importantly, the Renaissance setting of Palazzo Strozzi fuels mesmerising interaction between the classic and the contemporary by fostering innovative dialogue between Viola's work and the masterpieces of the great masters of the past, from which he has drawn his inspiration and which have marked the development of his artistic vocabulary and style.

Thus the exhibition is a celebration of Bill Viola's special relationship with Florence, where his career in video art began when he was technical director of *art/tapes/22*, a video production and documentation centre, from 1974 to 1976. His bond with Tuscan history and art is further enhanced by the exhibition's intense interaction with such museums and institutions as the Grande Museo del Duomo, the Gallerie degli Uffizi and the Museo di Santa Maria Novella in Florence, as well as with the cities of Empoli and Arezzo.

Daily including holidays 10.00-20.00, Thursdays: 10.00-23.00

Bookings: Tel +39 055 2645155 or [info@palazzostrozzi.org](mailto:info@palazzostrozzi.org)

Information: <http://www.palazzostrozzi.org/mostre/bill-viola/?lang=en>

## **BEST DINING OUT FOR MAY: KOTO RAMEN BRINGS JAPANESE TASTES TO FLORENCE**

“Florence is starting to get a taste for Asian food. While there are *some* dumplings around town (a far cry

from New York's dumpling scene), Florence is putting its stakes instead in decent Japanese ramen, freshly made in-house. Koto Ramen is led by a team of ramen enthusiasts careful to respectfully procure tasty bowls of the iconic Japanese noodle soup. At lunch, pickings are slim and limited to three varieties of ramen, but at night, the menu opens up to a few more, including *tantan* flavored with hot chili and sesame paste, and appetizers to match like edamame, gyoza, and tempura. Ramen is first come, first serve until they run out.”

Via Giuseppe Verdi 42

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

+39 055 247 9477

Text from: <http://www.eater.com/maps/best-new-restaurants-florence-italy>

## **BEST OF THE REST FOR MAY**

### **FABBRICA EUROPA ARTS AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL: 24TH EDITION**

**May 4 - June 15**

Florence, Stazione Leopolda and other venues

For lovers of theatre, dance, contemporary performance, installation, art, and everything in between.

A great laboratory with focus on the whole world to find new visions of the future.

The programme of the 24th edition of the Fabbrica Europa Festival moves between artistic communities and rituals of tomorrow that come alive in the atmosphere created by some of the top performing artists from all over Europe and beyond – Middle East, India, China, the Mediterranean... – that will transform the Stazione Leopolda in Florence and other spaces involved in the festival into a place to imagine and meet other possible worlds.

A map of the contemporary where one navigates with a compass driven by the eye and the curiosity, between famous names and emerging youth of the finest performing scene, between styles and signs of a rich landscape of today that shows new creative and social paths.

See the full program here: <http://fabbricaeuropa.net/en/festival-fabbrica-europa/>

### **VIA ROMANA GARDEN THEMED STREET CELEBRATION**

**May 6**

““Un bosco per la città mostra di fiori e piante” one of my favorite streets in the Oltrarno, Via Romana, will be closed to the public on May 6th (around 10am-7..) for a special garden and flower themed block party which will involve many of the local shops. Check out their FB event for more details.”

FB link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/445792975773241/>

Text from: <http://girlinflorence.com/2017/04/30/enjoying-may-in-florence-a-few-of-my-personal-suggestions/>

### **FLORENCE COCKTAIL WEEK**

**May 1-7**

“Cocktail lovers will welcome the second edition of Florence Cocktail Week from May 1st until May 7th, an exciting week of mixology and quality booze, organized by Paola Mencarelli and Lorenzo Nigro. 16 of the best bartenders around town will present their signature cocktails at a special price and there will be interesting events all over Florence. The finals will take place on May 6th at Mercato Centrale in Florence where you can see the best of the best face off with a shake-worthy competition where only the best drinks reign tall! You can download the full calendar of events here: [https://thecuriousappetite.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Calendar-Events\\_FlorenceCocktailWeek2017-1.pdf](https://thecuriousappetite.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Calendar-Events_FlorenceCocktailWeek2017-1.pdf)

or check out the round-up by Curious Appetite: <https://thecuriousappetite.com/2017/04/26/florence-cocktail-week-second-edition/>

I'm joining the “4 stops, 4 drinks cocktail tour” on Thursday but I've been told that the places are filling up fast, try and see about reserving your spot by calling 055-2476956 or emailing [info@essenziale.me](mailto:info@essenziale.me)."

Text from: <http://girlinflorence.com/2017/04/30/enjoying-may-in-florence-a-few-of-my-personal-suggestions/>

## **SPRING GELATO FLAVOURS: AT ALL THE GELATERIE!**

It is definitely the season to dive head first into the heavenly spring gelato flavours! So here is a quick list of our favourite gelaterie around the city.

**I CUGINI** - Borgo Pinti 69

A Bar Latteria that is popular among locals, and recommended by our own Suzanne Pitcher. Very good ice cream, not many flavours but high on the list for quality.

**GELATERIA DE' MEDICI** - NEW LOCATION in Piazza Beccaria 7R, original location Via dello Statuto 3-5/R

Boasting a delicious ginger ice cream, they have been voted in the top 10 gelaterie in Florence. With two locations to choose from, there's no excuse not to indulge.

**MY SUGAR** - Via de' Ginori 49/R

A serious contender for best gelato in town, who just picked up two medals at the recent Gelato Festival. Try their Dark chocolate and Chianti, or the Cinnamon Cream. Dairy Free gelato available for the lactose intolerant.

**CARAPINA** - Piazza G. Oberdan 2/R

A particular favourite of foodies in Florence. Seasonal fruit sorbets and indulgent flavours like Pinenut, Amaretto, Pasitera, and Pecorino. Seriously good gelato.

**CANTINA DEL GELATO** - Via dei Bardi 31

One of my personal favourites, I am constantly poking my head in to see if their irresistible peanut butter gelato is in store. The flavours are made fresh every day, and they aren't afraid to experiment with wild flavours like Brazilian fruits or Pineapple, Mint and Ginger.

## **LA FIORITA PARADE IN PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA**

### **May 23**

Join the commemoration of Savonarola's death, May 23, in Piazza della Signoria and parade in historic centre from 10am until noon. The annual commemoration of Fra' Girolamo Savonarola's death with La Fiorita, a floral ceremony, will begin with mass at 10am in the priori chapel of Palazzo Vecchio and

continue with a traditional costume parade that will loop the historic centre and return to Piazza della Signoria at 11am. After a brief speech on this Florentine tradition, flowers will be left on Savonarola's tomb, and the parade will proceed to the Arno, where flowers will be symbolically thrown into the river.

Girolamo Savonarola Dominican friar and puritan fanatic, became moral dictator of the city of Florence when the Medici were temporarily driven out in 1494. A visionary, prophet and formidably effective hellfire preacher, obsessed with human wickedness and convinced that the wrath of God was about to fall upon the earth, he detested practically every form of pleasure and relaxation. His opponents called Savonarola and his followers 'Snivellers' and he grimly disapproved of jokes and frivolity, of poetry and inns, of sex (especially the homosexual variety), of gambling, of fine clothes and jewellery and luxury of every sort. He denounced the works of Boccaccio, nude paintings, pictures of pagan deities and the whole humanistic culture of the Italian Renaissance. He called for laws against vice and laxity. He put an end to the carnivals and festivals the Florentines traditionally enjoyed, substituting religious festivals instead, and employed street urchins as a junior gestapo to sniff out luxurious and suspect items. In the famous 'bonfire of the vanities' in 1497 he had gaming tables and packs of cards, carnival masks, mirrors, ornaments, nude statues and supposedly indecent books and pictures burned in the street.

Savonarola made many powerful enemies. Among them was the Borgia pope, Alexander VI, who eventually excommunicated the rigorous friar. On Palm Sunday in 1498 St Mark's was attacked by a screaming mob and Savonarola was arrested by the Florentine authorities with two friars who were among his most ardent followers, Fra' Domenico and Fra' Salvestro. All three were cruelly tortured before being condemned as heretics. On the morning of May 23rd a crowd of Florentines gathered in the Piazza della Signoria, where a scaffold had been erected on a platform (a plaque marks the spot today). From the heavy beam dangled three halters, to hang the friars, and three chains, to support their bodies while they were subsequently burned to ashes. Wood for the burning was heaped up below. Some of the crowd screamed abuse at Savonarola and his two companions, who were formally unfrocked and left in their under-tunics with bare feet and their hands tied, before their faces were shaved, as was the custom. It is said that a priest standing near asked Savonarola what he felt about this approaching martyrdom. He answered, 'The Lord has suffered as much for me,' and these were his last recorded words. ([www.historytoday.com](http://www.historytoday.com))

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

**May 7**

#Domenicoalmuseo

On the first Sunday of every month, Florence opens up all of its state and civic museums free for residents of the city, or people born here. It's a fantastic initiative to reward the people who call Florence home, and make it easier for them to enjoy the city's treasures.

Here's a list of the state museums free to all: Uffizi

Accademia

Bargello

Medici Chapels

Pitti Palace (all museums) San Marco

Palazzo Davanzati Medici Villas

And the civic museums also free to residents:

Palazzo Vecchio

Arnolfo Tower

Santa Maria Novella

Stefano Bardini Museum

Fondazione Salvatore Romano

Museo del Novecento

Brancacci Chapel in Santa Maria del Carmine.

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

## EXHIBITIONS IN APRIL

### VISIONS OF THE NORTH AT MUSEO NOVECENTO

#### Until May 21

Special exhibition for the first time in Florence - works from the Kunila collection, one of the largest private collections of modern art in Europe. The city is gearing up to discover the secrets of the pictorial tradition of the Baltic.

Read more: <http://www.museonovecento.it/mostre/visioni-dal-nord-pittura-estone-dalla-collezione-enn-kunila-1910-1940/>

### PLAUTILLA NELLI TAKES THE UFFIZI BY STORM

#### Until June 4

In 2017, the Uffizi Galleries have begun a long-term path for promoting female artists. One of the first initiatives is the Uffizi exhibition devoted to Sister Plautilla Nelli (1524 - 1588), considered the first female Florentine painter.

The exhibition, entitled Plautilla Nelli: Convent Art and Devotion in the Footsteps of Savonarola, is curated by Fausta Navarro and will open on March 8, 2017. It will be open until June 4th.

Polissena de' Nelli entered the convent of Santa Caterina at fourteen. Here, she learnt by herself the art of painting by copying works and drawings and by using other nuns as models. Plautilla produced works of high quality and led a true art workshop, with many students.

Plautilla painted above all religious-themed works: people who owned a painting by a nun, assigned to the object an almost magical power. Plautilla's works were thus not only very popular, but also considered very precious.

The Uffizi exhibition presents not only Plautilla's paintings, but also some codes illuminated by her, testimony of the great artistic vitality of her monastery.

The rediscovery of Plautilla and the first restoration of her works are due to AWA (Advancing Women Artists Foundation), a US organization and in particular to its founder, Jane Fortune.

Galleria degli Uffizi, Piazzale degli Uffizi, 6

Web: <https://www.virtualuffizi.com/plautilla-nelli,-the-first-female-florentine-painter%3A-new->

## **MARIA LASSNIG AT PALAZZO PITTI**

**Until June 25**

“Recognized at the Biennale in Venice in 2013.

Another exhibition highlighting contemporary artists in Florence, this time focusing on Maria Lassnig (1919-2014). She was an Austrian artist whose work consisted mainly of painted self-portraits and her theory of "body awareness" - thus the name of the exhibition Women Power. The exhibition will take you on a journey of her artistic development over the years which culminated in the receiving several awards from her home country and in Venice.”

Text from: VisitFlorence.com

Palazzo Pitti: Andito degli Angiolini Room

## **PALMIRO MEACCI AT VILLA BARDINI**

**Until July 7**

“Pietro Annigoni Museum of Villa Bardini in Florence renews hosting, starting tomorrow, for a year, a group of 40 works by Annigoni belonged to Palmiro Meacham (1928 to 2014) in the exhibition Palmiro Meacham: a season with the Master. The private collection of Annigoni Secretary promoted by the Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze in collaboration with the Foundation Bardini Peyron Monumental Parks.

This collection consists of about fifty paintings, drawings, engravings and blood, as well as a sculpture and a small fresco on tile. Its singularity is represented being illustrative of the entire creative process of Annigoni, from the beginnings in the '30s to the latest impromptu views performed in 1988 shortly before his death.”

Text from: VisitFlorence.com

Museo Pietro Annigoni at Villa Bardini

Costa San Giorgio 2

## **LEONARDO DA VINCI'S MAGIC COSMOS: THE RESTORED ADORATION OF THE MAGI AT THE UFFIZI GALLERY**

**Until Sept 24**

Leonardo da Vinci's Adoration of the Magi is back at the Uffizi after six years of a crafty restoration work and diagnostic inspection carried out by the Opificio delle Pietre Dure, with the financial support of the Amici degli Uffizi. The panel was commissioned from Leonardo by the Austin Friars for their church of San Donato in Scopeto in 1481. The artist's departure for Milan in 1482, however, caused him to leave it unfinished and led the friars to entrust Filippino Lippi with another altarpiece with the same subject, which was completed in 1496. Indeed, after a lengthy preliminary study, Leonardo interrupted the execution and the painting was housed in the Benci family's palace in Florence for some time before entering the Medici's collections. It is the largest panel by Leonardo which has come down to us (cm. 246 x 243). Its restoration not only solved a number of conservation problems but also permitted the recovery of its unexpected colours and full readability, which is extremely rich in enthralling details opening up new prospects with regard to its complex iconographical significance. Alongside Leonardo's Adoration of

the Magi, the exhibition also hosts Filippino Lippi's version of 1496 in a fascinating interplay highlighting both the differences in the two masters' temperament and their different interpretation of the same theme resulting from the political and cultural changes occurred in Florence in just over a decade.

Uffizi Gallery

Website: <http://www.uffizi.it/index.php?en/320/mostre-in-corso/70/il-cosmo-magico-di-leonardo-da-vinci-ladorazione-dei-magi-restaurata>

## LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS IN MAY

### FLORENCE WRITER'S PUBLISHING DAY HOSTED AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

#### May 13

With special panelists Juliet Brooke (editor), James Wills (agent), Marilyn Atlas (literary manager), Shannon Kirk (author), and workshop by David Gaughran (self-publishing expert).

9.30 am Panel Discussion: Help Your Characters Tell the Story.

10.30 am Panel Discussion: Pitching – Be Your Best Ally.

11.30 am Panel Discussion: Intellectual Property – Know Your Rights.

1 pm Light lunch.

2.30-5.30 pm One-on-Ones with Panel Members.

Appointments (10 minutes each) will be scheduled individually and prior to the event.

3.00 pm Workshop with David Gaughran: Practical steps to self-publishing success.

4.00 pm Workshop with David Gaughran: Marketing for self- and traditionally-published authors.

6 pm Farewell Aperitivo.

RESERVATION & INFO: [info@stmarksitaly.com](mailto:info@stmarksitaly.com)

SCHEDULE 9am-6pm

### CONVERSAS FIRENZE: WEEKLY CONVERSATIONS AT L'APPARTAMENTO

#### Until June 14

“Conversas (which means "conversations" in Portuguese) is a series of weekly, informal meetings designed to bring about discussion of a range of topics, projects and interests

Constança Saraiva and Mafalda Fernandes first launched the Conversas project in Lisbon in 2012; it has since expanded to numerous other cities. Three Conversadores (the name for speakers at meetings) share something for thirty minutes each. The dialogue flows naturally and informally, calling for improvised, genuine participation. The synergetic sharing of knowledge, opinions and human experiences on such apparently unrelated themes somehow works wonderfully.

Conversas Firenze happens every Wednesday at 6.30pm at L'appartamento, via dei Giraldi, 11, Florence.

Entrance is free and open to everyone. Conversations will be in English or Italian when necessary. Conversas was launched in Florence by Silvio Palladino and Andrea Paglia.”

Text from: [http://www.theflorentine.net/event/?id\\_event=523](http://www.theflorentine.net/event/?id_event=523)

## **BRITISH INSTITUTE LECTURE & CONCERT SERIES: SPECIAL CENTENARY EDITION**

Every Wednesday at 18.00, the British Institute presents a lecture, concert or other event in the Sala Ferragamo in the Harold Acton Library, which is followed by an informal drinks reception. The Cultural Programme is open to members of the British Institute of Florence. Membership options range from 24 hours (€5) to Life (€500). The Institute also hosts special events throughout the month. This year the Institute celebrates their centenary, and the month's event program includes:

### **The marvels of Clarence Bicknell: 3 May 2017 - 18:00**

Lecture in English by Graham Avery and Marcus Bicknell

Graham Avery tells the story of Clarence Bicknell (1842-1918) who lived in Bordighera from 1878 and pioneered the exploration of the prehistoric rock art in the Valle delle Meraviglie. He was a man of wide culture: botanist, artist, Esperantist, and philanthropist, he is remembered today at Bordighera's Museo Bicknell and the Musée des Merveilles in France. Marcus Bicknell introduces a short documentary film on his great-great-uncle.

See an introduction of 3 minutes without narration, to introduce **The Marvels of Clarence Bicknell**, an 18-minute mini-documentary by *Rémy Masségli*.

### **An Englishman in New York: 10 May 2017 - 18:00**

Lecture in English by Bill Jacklin

Bill Jacklin R.A. is an English painter living and working in New York City. He says: 'You are in a space where anything can happen. It's a contradictory arena. I didn't leave to become a New Yorker, but I stay because it still excites me'. His images of skaters at Rockefeller Center, Coney Island bathers and teeming crowds at Grand Central Station brilliantly capture the city's elemental beauty and drama.

### **Renaissance tapestries and textile diplomacy: 17 May 2017 - 18:00**

Lecture in English by Jeremy Boudreau

The head of History of Art at the British Institute of Florence, Jeremy Boudreau explores the founding of Florence's tapestry workshops under Duke Cosimo I de' Medici and the earliest tapestries commissioned to furnish the renovated spaces of Palazzo Vecchio based on cartoons designed by the leading artists of the mid-sixteenth century. Dr Boudreau recently gave a version of this lecture at the Italian embassy in London.

### **The mysterious Maurice de Bosdari, a would-be agent for Stefano Bardini: 24 May 2017 - 18:00**

Lecture in English by Lynn Catterson

The Florentine dealer Stefano Bardini probably met Maurice de Bosdari, an Italian banker from Ancona, in 1900. Material from the Bardini archive reveals Bosdari's machinations to buy art objects from Bardini with the intention of selling them to J. Pierpont Morgan. He was successful, but he was also shady. Drawing on this material, Lynn Catterson of Columbia University examines the intricacies of the various agents and double-agents involved in the market competition for Morgan's business and for the promise of providing the decoration for the soon-to-be built Morgan Library.

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

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

## **EVENTS AT MUSEO NOVECENTO: FLORENCE'S CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM**

The Museo Novecento is dedicated to the Italian art of the 20th Century, and offers a selection of around 300 works which are located across 15 exhibition areas, along with a study room, a cabinet of drawings and prints, and a room for conferences and projections. The museum is located in the ancient Spedale of the Leopoldine in Santa Maria Novella square. Museo Novecento also hosts special exhibitions and events:

**VISIONS of the NORTH special exhibition, until 21 May.**

For the first time in Florence Kunila collection works, one of the largest private collections of modern art in Europe. Still a few weeks to see the exhibition which is mesmerizing Florence.

**No Art PAGES. Notes on Contemporary Self Portrait: 3 May at 17.30**

Presentation of the book by Laura Vecere.

Speakers: Carlo Sisi and Franco Speroni.

The author will be present.

**VISIONS OF THE NORTH.**

**Hõbevalge. Sulla rotta del vento, del fuoco e dell'ultima Thule: Friday 5 may at 17.30.**

On the occasion of the visit to Florence of the President of the Republic of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid, 20th-century Museum hosts the presentation of the book "Hõbevalge" by Lennart Meri, politician, writer, documentary filmmaker, former President of the Republic of Estonia.

**VISIONS of the NORTH Sügisball,/Autumn Ball, 2007: a Film by Veiko Õunpuu.**

**Friday 5 may at 21.00.**

Autumn ball won the Orizzonti award at the 64th Edition of the Mostra internazionale d'Arte cinematografica di Venezia, and he received numerous nominations and awards in various international film festivals. Free admission subject to availability. We recommend that you arrive 10 minutes prior to start time.

**THE GREAT ARTISTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY.**

**Mario Mafai and Antonietta Raphael: Sunday 14 may at 15.00.**

Husband and wife, between the wars, Raphael Mafai and grow from their apartment in via Cavour in Rome an intimate view and tonal of the eternal city. By the views in the sunset light to still life where every object speaks of the life of the couple, the production of the two came voluntarily to the Antipodes of official art.

**21st EDITION OF OPEN MIC NIGHT AT TASSO HOSTEL FLORENCE**

**May 3**

Twenty-one months old Open Mic at Hostel Tasso can finally drink legally! We invite you to come, celebrate, read, recite, sing, tell, recount, or merely listen and be inspired this coming Wed., May. 3rd, at the Hostel Tasso. The words begin flowing at 9 pm sharp.

This month's host will be the inimitable Tim Daish, star of the Medici Dynasty Show and actor extraordinaire.

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

inspired by the performers.

Enjoy the Hostel's full bar! Bring a plate of food to share if you like. Let's exchange ideas over wine and nibbles and expand the community of writers (and listeners!) here in Florence.

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

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

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

## **NEW SONG AND WRITER SHOWCASE MONTHLY AT THE GOOSE**

New at The Goose, "Song/Writer Showcase" to be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Come along to enjoy all original material by songwriters, authors, and poets!

To perform or be the Featured Artist, contact host, singer-songwriter Patti DeRosa at [pattiguitar@gmail.com](mailto:pattiguitar@gmail.com)

The Goose Bistro, Via delle Oche 15

## **FILM EVENTS IN MAY**

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

#### **Ongoing through the year**

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

The film for May:

#### **Monday 22 May (21.00): THE THIRD MAN**

Il terzo uomo (UK, 1949, 104') – Un film di Carol Reed, con Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten, Alida Valli

Pulp novelist Holly Martins travels to shadowy, postwar Vienna, only to find himself investigating the mysterious death of an old friend, Harry Lime.

The full program is available here: <http://www.odeonfirenze.com/british-100-film-festival/>

## **ORIGINAL LANGUAGE FILMS: ODEON CINEMA**

The stunning Odeon Cinema was opened in 1922, built into the interior of Renaissance treasure, Palazzo Strozzi. The original palazzo design was by Filippo Brunelleschi, and this is one of the most beautiful cinemas you will ever find in the world. The Odeon hosts a long-running program of Original Language films throughout the year.

This month's English language films include: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2, The Circle, Alien: Covenant, Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales, On The Milky Road.

This month's special events: Bolshoi Babylon, Il Giardino degli Artisti: L'Impressionismo Americano, Manhattan, Food Revolution, Maurizio Cattelan: Be Right Back.

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

## DANCE AND THEATRE FOR MAY

### SHOWS AT TEATRO VERDI

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

May 4: Orchestra della Toscana directed by Garry Walker

May 5: Dream Theatre in Concert

May 11: Orchestra della Toscana directed by Daniele Rustione

May 12: NEK in Concert

May 13 and 14: Fiorella Mannoia in Concert

For more information and to book tickets: <http://www.teatroverdionline.it/>

### THEATRE AT TEATRO DELLA PERGOLA

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

May 2-7: Aspettando Godot: Waiting for Godot

May 9-14: Morte di Danton

May 23-28: Teatro del Porto

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

## MUSIC FOR MAY

### OPERA DI FIRENZE: 80th EDITION OF MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO

The Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Orchestra was founded in 1928 by Vittorio Gui as the Stabile Orchestrale Fiorentina. One of Europe's oldest and most prestigious opera, symphonic music and ballet festival, along with Bayreuth and Salzburg festivals. Its year of birth is 1933.

First established as a three-year event, in 1937 it became a yearly festival held in the month of May as a tribute to and in memory of the ancient Calendimaggio festivity, when Firenze (the ancient Fiorenza, the flower city) celebrated the month of flowers with dancing, music and plays, and the streets were decorated with laurel festoons and garlands of flowers (Dante saw Beatrice for the first time during the 1274 Calendimaggio "dressed in the noblest color").

The first home of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Festival, which is made up of an orchestra conducted by Zubin Mehta since 1986, a chorus and MaggioDanza ballet company, was the Comunale Theatre. This will be the last year: the Teatro Comunale will close and the Maggio Festival will be held at the new opera theater, Nuovo Teatro dell'Opera di Firenze.

Among the names who have participated in the festival over the years are von Karajan and Muti, Maria Callas, Pietro Mascagni and Richard Strauss, Igor Stravinskij, and stage designers of the caliber of Luchino Visconti, Franco Zeffirelli and Giorgio De Chirico.

The special music program, "Maggio Musicale Fiorentino" is spread across multiple venues including: Opera di Firenze, Teatro Niccolini, Teatro della Pergola. The 2017 season continues with:

Until May 6: Opera: Idomeneo by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

May 10: Concert: Zubin Mehta and Pablo Ferrandez

May 13: Concert: Zubin Mehta and Avi Avital

May 5-14: Opera: Don Carlo by Giuseppe Verdi

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

## **THE SOUNDS OF EUROPE: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATIES OF ROME**

**May 6, 18, 26**

"A cross-generational concert series paying tribute to the diversity of European music, in the spirit of showcasing young talent, and in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. Between March and May, more than 150 young musicians ages 14 to 25 will take part in concerts in various venues across the city, under the mentorship of internationally known musicians including Alain Meunier, Anne Le Bozec, Stuart Patterson, Nina Uhari, Antonino Siringo and Edoardo Rosadini, the director of the Orchestra dei Ragazzi. Many of these leading musicians are involved on a volunteer basis.

All concerts offer free admission. The first is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1 at 9pm, and will be put on by the Orchestra dei Ragazzi della Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, who recently won the gold medal at the World Orchestra Festival in Vienna.

The project runs in collaboration with the Dipartimento politiche europee - Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, with financing by the Fondazione CR Firenze and by the EUI Historical Archives of the European Union (directed by Dieter Schlenker)."

**May 6, 4.30pm:** Orchestra Cupiditas, Conducted by Pietro Mazzetti

Location: Villa Salviati, via Salviati (via Bolognese)

**May 18, 8pm:** Datura Brass

Location: Le Murate, piazza delle Murate

**May 26, 8pm:** Guitar: Gabriele Putzulu

Location: Centro de lengua española, borgo Ognissanti 9

Text from: [http://www.theflorentine.net/event/?id\\_event=472](http://www.theflorentine.net/event/?id_event=472)

## **ROMANTIC ITALIAN OPERA WITH DINNER IN SANTA MONACA CHURCH**

**May 3, 10, 17**

Hear the most famous opera arias by Bellini, Puccini, Verdi and many more in the unique atmosphere of the Santa Monaca Church in Florence. The talented singers will be accompanied by a piano. Make this evening into a proper Italian treat and enjoy a dinner at a typical Italian restaurant before the concert.

Before the concert, a typical Tuscan dinner awaits you at the 'Trattoria Napoleone', situated at Piazza del Carmine 24, only two minutes from Santa Monaca Church.

Bookings and to read the menu options:  
[https://www.classictic.com/en/romantic\\_italian\\_opera\\_with\\_dinner/35242/305506/](https://www.classictic.com/en/romantic_italian_opera_with_dinner/35242/305506/)

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

Situated in the heart of Florence, between the San Frediano and San Spirito districts, the 15th-century Church of Santa Monaca offers an intimate and attractive location for classical music and opera performances. The interior includes sculptures and paintings by Baccio da Montelupo, Giovanni Maria Butteri, and Cosimo Ulivelli. The church plays host to a wonderful program of Opera, Classical Music, and Concert events, often pairing the evenings with Tuscan styled dinner at a nearby restaurant.

The program for this month includes: Italian Baroque Opera, The 3 Sopranos, Sacred Arias, Italian Opera and Classic Italian Opera.

For more information about each event, including the dinner menus, and for ticket bookings:  
[https://www.classictic.com/en/florence/chiesa\\_di\\_santa\\_monaca/294/](https://www.classictic.com/en/florence/chiesa_di_santa_monaca/294/)

## **TEA AND OPERA EXPERIENCE AT RELAIS, SANTA CROCE**

**May 1, 8, 15**

Add a taste of Italian lyricism to your afternoon tea break: This opera recital invites you to enjoy great music as well as an exclusive selection of gourmet tea. In the magnificent Music Hall of Relais Santa Croce, a vocal soloist will perform with accompaniment from the grand piano. The program features opera arias by Verdi, Puccini, Mozart, and other renowned composers.

The Music Hall is an impressive 18th century grand ballroom, where the fireplace, the ceiling fresco, and the wide windows generate a majestic and aristocratic atmosphere. The crystal chandelier in the middle of the Music Hall is supported by wooden roof trusses based on a design by Leonardo Da Vinci.

Bookings: [https://www.classictic.com/en/tea\\_and\\_opera\\_experience/34585/289450/](https://www.classictic.com/en/tea_and_opera_experience/34585/289450/)

## **THE THREE TENORS: AUDITORIUM AL DUOMO**

**May 2, 9, 16**

Add a taste of Italian lyricism, combined to traditional Neapolitan songs, to your stay in Florence: Three tenors offer a performance featuring opera arias and famous traditional Neapolitan songs in the heart of Tuscany's beautiful capital.

This fusion of different musical forms takes place in the heart of Florence. The soloists are accompanied by a chamber ensemble of mandolin, cello, and grand piano. Famous arias from "La Traviata", "Rigoletto", and "Tosca" share the program with Neapolitan favorites like "O sole mio", "Funiculi Funiculà", and "Torna a Surriento".

Bookings:

[https://www.classictic.com/en/the\\_three\\_tenors\\_with\\_dinner\\_auditorium\\_al\\_duomo/32183/284899/](https://www.classictic.com/en/the_three_tenors_with_dinner_auditorium_al_duomo/32183/284899/)

## **THE THREE TENORS: AUDITORIUM SANTO STEFANO AL PONTE VECCHIO WITH DINNER**

**May 5, 12**

Add a taste of Italian lyricism to your stay in Florence: Three tenors offer a performance featuring opera arias and famous traditional Neapolitan songs in the heart of Tuscany's beautiful capital.

In the Auditorium Santo Stefano al Ponte Vecchio, the soloists are accompanied by a chamber ensemble of mandolin, cello, and piano. Famous arias from 'La Traviata', 'Rigoletto', and 'Tosca' share the program with Neapolitan favorites like 'O sole mio', 'Funiculì Funiculà', and 'Torna a Surriento'.

Before the show, indulge in Tuscan cuisine and breathtaking views at the Vista Wine Bar. Located on the Panoramic Terrace of Hotel Laurus al Duomo, the Wine Bar offers views of Brunelleschi's Dome and Giotto's Bell Tower.

Approximate duration (min.): 90

Tickets and more information:

[https://www.classictic.com/en/the\\_three\\_tenors\\_auditorium\\_santo\\_stefano\\_al\\_ponte\\_vecchio\\_with\\_dinner/34548/285107/](https://www.classictic.com/en/the_three_tenors_auditorium_santo_stefano_al_ponte_vecchio_with_dinner/34548/285107/)

## **OPERA & BALLET WITH DINNER: AUDITORIUM SANTO STEFANO AL PONTE VECCHIO**

**May 4, 11**

In the heart of Florence, opera singers, joined by a classical dancer, and accompanied by a chamber ensemble, will perform famous opera arias for an unforgettable experience. The most suggestive Opera arias by Verdi, Puccini, and other renowned romantic composers, performed by masterful soprano and tenor voices, are enriched by charming choreographies featuring a classical dancer from Florence Opera and Ballet Academy. The melodies of a Chamber Ensemble, consisting of oboe, strings and piano, will delight the public with the magic of Opera and Ballet.

Before the concert, indulge in Tuscan cuisine between the 18th-century walls of Guelfi and Ghibellini Restaurant at Relais Santa Croce in the heart of Florence. Enjoy your meal among fine furnishings and frescoed ceilings, and take advantage of the opportunity to admire the wooden roof trusses based on a design by Leonardo Da Vinci. Situated in Relais Santa Croce, they were installed in 18th century to

support the great chandelier of the Music Hall.

Approximate duration (min.): 90

Tickets and more information:  
[https://www.classictic.com/en/opera\\_ballet\\_with\\_dinner\\_auditorium\\_santo\\_stefano\\_al\\_ponte\\_vecchio/34599/289589/](https://www.classictic.com/en/opera_ballet_with_dinner_auditorium_santo_stefano_al_ponte_vecchio/34599/289589/)

## **CLASSICAL CONCERTS AND OPERA AT ST MARK'S CHURCH**

In the beautiful and intimate setting of St Mark's Church, the performances are complete operas, apart from one or two slight adaptations to suit the intimate setting.

This month's program includes: La Traviata, Carmen, Love Duets, Madame Butterfly, The Barber of Seville, La Boheme, and Rigoletto.

Time: 8:30pm

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

Info: 340 8119192

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

## **EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE FOR MAY**

### **LE ETA'DELL'ORO IN AREZZO**

**Until May 7**

"The Reflections of Piero della Francesca, music images, and jewelry presented on an innovative video guide concentrating on the magical work of Piero della Francesca.

The presentation of an exhibition in the format of a high resolution video, animated with images and details from the most important work of Piero della Francesca. You will find the amazing copies of the jewelry represented in his artwork, pieces that were executed by Giulio Manfredi in 1992 and which now make up part of the Museum treasures.

After almost 25 years of their first showing, the Casa Ivan Bruschi has them on exhibition in honor of the 600th anniversary of the birth of Piero della Francesca."

Text from: <http://www.discovertuscany.com/tuscany-events/exhibits-in-tuscany.html>

Casa Museo Bruschi, Piazza San Francesco, 1

## **VOLAREARTE IN PISA: PARK EUN SUN SCULPTURES AT PISA AIRPORT**

**Until June 15**

Well into the third edition of this initiative by the Henraux Foundation together with the Tuscany Airports, you will find a collection of 9 sculptures from Park Eun Sun gracing the Pisa airport.

This renowned Korean artist, a long time resident of Versilia, arrived in Italy to satisfy his desire to work with Apuane marbles. His artwork, known on an international level, is remarkable for the pure geometric forms composed of bi-color slabs of marble.

Text from: [www.discovertuscany.com](http://www.discovertuscany.com)

Galileo Galilei Airport, Pisa

## **IL BUON SECOLO IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OF SIENA**

**Until June 30**

“The Beauty of the Paintings from Siena: This exhibit strives to pull together the vast beauty of a century’s worth of art and combine it with the timelessness of its landscape. You are invited to set into towns like that of Sarteano, Montepulciano, Pienza, Asciano, Trequanda and San Quirico d’Orcia on a virtual treasure hunt. Starting from the beginning of the 16th to the middle of the 17th century, when art in and around Siena was experimenting with “maniera moderna” and the light of Caravaggio, this exhibit is filled with excellent and singular artistic personalities who are completely discovered by the general public. Check out the website, and insert a stop or two on your itinerary while visiting Val d’Orcia and the Valdichiana area. Not only does this exhibit offer a tour through a century’s worth of artistic styles but also a landscape that shouldn’t be missed. The towns of Montepulciano, San Quirico d’Orcia and Pienza are each going to host a section of the exhibition dedicated to an important artist from the area and to his environment, inspired by a masterpiece already present in the towns.”

Text from: [discoverytuscany.com](http://discoverytuscany.com)

Website: <https://ilbuonsecolodellapitturasenese.wordpress.com/>

## **LA BELLEZZA FERITA IN SIENA**

**Until October 29**

“Italy rallies and embraces the zones that were devastated by the earthquake on the 24th of August. Siena, following a long tradition of giving refuge to those in need, has opened the crypt of its Duomo to house several important pieces of art while their original homes (churches, monasteries and convents) are repaired.

On exhibition will be various pieces rescued from the debris immediately following the tremors that have left a permanent mark on the central region of Italy. A collection of paintings, sculptures rescued by the Protezione Civile, the Corpo Nazionale Vigili del Fuoco, and the Comando Carabinieri will be open to the public to admire together with videos showing the rescue efforts and their damaged homes.”

Text from: [discoverytuscany.com](http://discoverytuscany.com)

Event Website: <http://www.santamariadellascala.com/mostre/la-bellezza-ferita-norcia-earth-heart-art-quake-la-speranza-rinascere-dai-capolavori-della>

## **CHIANTI SCULPTURE PARK**

Pievasciata, a tiny village in the heart of the Chianti region, has been transformed into a contemporary art centre. The focal point, the Chianti Sculpture Park, a permanent exhibition of sculptures and installations, is an integral part of a mystical wooded area.

There are three distinctive characteristics of the Park: integration of art and nature; diversity of cultures, represented by artists from all over the world; and a variety of materials. Each artist has been invited to visit the wood in order to choose a location and subsequently submit a site-specific proposal. This accounts for the harmony of the sculptures with the trees, the sounds, the colours, the light, and other elements of the wood. In fact, these man-made works do not extend beyond the limits of nature; rather,

they integrate with it and enhance it. Inside the Park an Amphitheatre has also been created to offer visitors a rich program of concerts and cultural events.

The Chianti Sculpture Park is an indispensable stop not only for art lovers, but also for anyone who wishes to experience the delights of a walk through nature while admiring fascinating works of art. The visit is suitable for persons of every age on foot along a walking path of 1 km, but is also accessible with a child's pushchair or a wheelchair.

Parco Sculture del Chianti, S.P. 9, Loc. La Fornace 48/49, 53010 Pievasciata (Siena)

Tel. +39 0577 357151

Web site: <http://www.chiantisculpturepark.it/en-index.htm>

## **FUN, FESTIVALS AND FOOD OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE FOR MAY**

### **42nd EDITION OF THE MOSTRA MERCATO DELL'ARTIGIANATO DELLA VALTIBERINA**

**April 22 - May 1**

Also known for the famous Battle of Anghiari, in the last week of April the city holds a large artigiani fair. There are a wide range of traditional hand-made goods on sale, as well as demonstrations of their manufacture. A very successful event, featuring a range of trades including antique furniture, goldsmiths, craftsmen of iron, wood, and stone, as well as many more artisan skills. Worth a visit!

Anghiari, Upper Tiber Artisans Market

Last week of April, 10:00 - 19:30

Website: <http://www.mostramercatovaltiberina.it/>

### **PISTOIA: CULTURAL CAPITAL OF ITALY FOR 2017**

**Throughout the year**

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

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

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

### **SAGRA DELLA CIPOLLA: ONION FESTIVAL IN BAGNONE**

**May 1, 6-7**

“In the shadow of the Castello. Enjoy a delicious food festival based on local recipes for the Treschietto onion; a culinary festival dedicated to a particular variety of onions which have been cultivated in this territory for many years. The Treschietto onion, distinguished for its flattened shape, ruby red color on the outside and white with red streaks on the inside, it is the main Ingredient both cooked and raw in many dishes,. Come out and try a few.”

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

Official Website: <http://www.cipolladitreschietto.it>

## **ASSISI AND THE CALENDIMAGGIO FESTIVAL**

**May 4 - 6**

A sensational three day costume festival in Assisi that is not to be missed!

The origins of the Assisi festival of Calendimaggio, the equivalent to Walpurgis Night, the eve of May Day, are related to the ancient customs of many different European peoples, and especially to the Roman celebrations known as the "Fasti di Maggio" and to the mediaeval tradition of celebrating the arrival of Spring in early May (Kalende di Maggio or Kalenda Maia in the mediaeval latin lyrics) with groups of revellers serenading through the streets of the town.

Calendimaggio opens with the ceremonial handing over of the Keys of the City to the Master of the Field by the mayor, who thus confers on him supreme authority for the duration of the celebrations. Each side has its own beautiful candidates for Festival Queen and the winner is decided during a contest of mediaeval games. The champion obtains the privilege of proclaiming his lady to be "Madonna Primavera". In her honour, the flag-wavers then display their skills and the Minstrels sing Troubadour songs.

After the challenge and acceptance have been read out in the Piazza del Comune, the "Magnificent Parte de Sotto" and the "Right Noble Parte de Sopra" both retire to their own neighbourhoods and costumed figures parade through the narrow streets and the squares to the sound of lutes and serenades, illuminated by flaming torches during the evening procession. During the processions, the progress of the nobles alternates with the passage of gangs commoners, along with jesters, minstrels and singers, trumpeting and drumming. The "encounters" between the opposing sides take place in the Piazza del Comune in a spectacle of colour and banners. On the final evening the choirs of the sides compete before the spectators and the judges who award "Palio" to the winning choir.

More information: [http://www.assisi-info.com/assisi\\_calendimaggio.htm#.VyHdG5N97eQ](http://www.assisi-info.com/assisi_calendimaggio.htm#.VyHdG5N97eQ)

## **MASSA MARITTIMA HOSTS THEIR ANNUAL CROSSBOW FESTIVAL "BALESTRO DEL GIRIFALCO"**

**May 21**

The "Balestro del Girifalco" has taken place since ancient times, twice a year on the first Sunday after May 20 and the 2nd Sunday of August. The Balestro is a crossbow competition between the quarters of the city, named "Terzieri", which consists of hitting the target placed at a distance of 36 meters from the start. Each crossbowman, 24 maximum, shoots an arrow. The crossbowman who is able to put the arrow nearest the target centre is the winner. A gold arrow made by an artist, is the prize for the winning arbalester, whereas, the winning quarter receives the "Palio", a painted silk cloth. About 200 people in mediaeval costumes take part in this pageant.

The event starts at 17:30 and ends about 20:00. Tickets are for sale on the same day starting 10:00 in Museo Archeologico in the main square (same square where the event takes place). Numbered seats cost 16 euro, entry tickets to the square where you can seat on the steps of the cathedral if you find room cost 8 euro.

More information: <http://www.massa-marittima.com/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS TO PUT IN THE DIARY

### **6TH FESTA DELLA CULTURA SAN GIOVANNI BATTISTA**

**15-25 June**

“Agnus Dei... dona nobis pacem”

Following the success of the first five editions of the festival, dedicated to the celebration of the patron saint of Florence, i Buontalenti, creators of the festival, have developed another new programme of unique events. The focus continues on the close collaboration between the various artistic disciplines and the historic places of the city. The calendar comprises ten days of events: an exhibition of contemporary sacred art, five concerts of music from ancient to modern with some of the finest Florentine musicians and two masses in Santi Apostoli e Biagio, one of the city's most significant churches. Participants range from emerging students to established masters. At a time when when the world is searching for peace, this year's festival theme is “Agnus Dei... dona nobis pacem”. The composer Frederick Frahm has been commissioned to create a new work of sacred music based on the Latin text. This will have its world premiere on the opening night on 15th June at Santi Apostoli e Biagio. Following the tradition of the first three festivals, there will be an interdisciplinary conference which will take place in the same building as the exhibition, the Palazzo Rosselli del Turco, thanks to the support of the European School of Economics. In addition, there will be specific workshops dedicated to frescoes, painting and sculpture, as well as a guided visit to the church in collaboration with Ars et Fides. The primary mission of Festa della Cultura San Giovanni Battista is to unite the people of Florence in a spirit of communal cultural appreciation. For further information, please visit our website: [www.festacultura.org](http://www.festacultura.org)

## INVITATION TO NEWSLETTER READERS

### **INVITATION TO NEWSLETTER READERS AND FRIENDS:**

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

Please send an email to [info@pitcherflaccomio.com](mailto:info@pitcherflaccomio.com) or [newsletter@pitcherflaccomio.com](mailto:newsletter@pitcherflaccomio.com)

## MAY WISHES

A proverb says "Spring has come when you can put your foot on three daisies." This May, we hope you will climb through hills of purple irises and skip through fields of red poppies. Spring has arrived in Tuscany.

Best Wishes,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

*Newsletter written and compiled by Marisa Garreffa.*

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P&F



### **SALE – Bagno a Ripoli Modern Villa – 3 Km from Florence**

Free standing, hill top position, 440 Sq. Mt. (aprox 4400 Sq. Ft.) with 4000 Sq. Mt. (40.000 Sq. Ft.) of garden. 5 Bed, 5 Bath. Autonomous heating, parking, stunning views over Florence.

Asking price 2,800,000 Euro



### **SALE – San Niccolo' Apt - Historical Center**

In good condition, 150 sq. mts (approx. 1500 sq. ft.), plus 60 Sq. Mt. (approx 600 Sq. Ft.) of terrace. 3 Bed, 3 bath. Autonomous heating, air. conditioning, car parking, elevator and great location.

Asking price 1,300,000 Euro



### **SALE – Porta Romana Apartments**

Refurbished apartments in Condo, starting with 50 sq. mt. (aprox. 500 sq. ft.) one bedroom to 80 Sq. Mt (800 Sq. Ft.) 2 bedroom units, autonomous heating, air conditioning. Possible Car parking Close to services.

Starting price 235,000 Euro



### **SALE – Volterra Farm House – 60 km from Florence**

Refurbished modern stone farm house, approx. 480 sq. mts (approx. 4800 sq. ft.) surrounded by 1.5 hectares (4 acres) of garden. 4 Bed, 5 Bath; autonomous heating, pool, views, sun light.

Asking price 2,900,000 Euro



### **SALE – Mugello Farm House – 40 Km North of Florence**

Free standing refurbished stone house, approx. 400 sq. mts (approx. 4000 sq. ft.) surrounded by 2 hectares (6 acres) of garden and land. 8 Bed, 5 bath. car parking, autonomous heating, sunny and private.

Asking price 680,000 Euro



### **SALE – Apts in Villa - Impruneta - 10 Km from Florence**

Refurbished apartments ranging from 120 sq. mts (approx. 1200 sq. ft.) to 340 sq. mts (approx. 3400 sq. ft.) Out door spaces, autonomous heating.

Asking price 580,000 Euro



### **SALE – Santa Croce Area – Historical Center**

Refurbished thrid floor, aprox 130 Sq. Mt (1300 Sq. Ft.); 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, autonomous heating system, good sunlight, and quiet.

Asking Price 590,000 Euro