

PITCHER & FLACCOMIO

RENT, SELL AND MANAGE PROPERTIES
IN FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

WELCOME

May is one of the best times to be in Florence. The rain finally leaves, but the weather is not too hot and the gardens are spectacular. Music fills the air throughout the city. There are more events happening than we could possibly fit into one newsletter, but we have done our best to cover the highlights! Take in the spring blooms, honour the women who take care of you for Mother's Day, and enjoy the sunshine together while there is still a cool breeze. With best wishes from SUZANNE, CORSO, BEI, EGLA, VANNI, ANNA PIA, RAFFAELLA, AND MARISA.

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PITCHER & FLACCOMIO PICKS FOR MAY

BEST EVENT: 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. 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 twirl 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 P&F RENTAL: AN EXTREMELY QUIET APARTMENT IN A VERY CONVENIENT CENTRAL AREA OF FLORENCE

Totally refurbished at the start of this year, this apartment has two double bedrooms across two floors. An extremely quiet apartment in a very convenient location with outdoor space...nearby you'll find a food and clothing market, the exhibition hall (Fortezza del Basso), language schools, and artisan shops. This conveniently located apartment is nestled midway between the Santa Maria Novella train station and the San Lorenzo Church area and food market, in San Antonino in front of the house of Galileo. The Central Market is only 3 minutes walk and the vicinity to the train and bus stations make this apartment especially well positioned. [More information and photos.](#)



BEST ANNIVERSARY: LA FIORITA PARADE IN PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA: REMEMBERING THE DEATH OF SAVONAROLA, May 23

The Dominican friar Girolamo Savonarola, prior of San Marco and a stern moralizer, was burnt at the stake in Piazza della Signoria on 23 May 1498. Every year, on the anniversary of that date, a Mass is celebrated in Palazzo Vecchio in his memory, and flowers – the Fiorita – are laid on the spot where he was burnt. The ceremony is accompanied by music and a performance by flag-wavers. Don't miss the traditional "Fiorita": the homage starts at 9:30 am from piazza della Signoria with the "Infiorata" and the historical procession arriving at Ponte Vecchio at 10:00am where petals of roses are symbolically thrown on the Arno river.

BEST TRADITION FOR MAY: GIORNO DELLA MAMMA, 2nd Sunday in May

It is Mother's Day in Italy, the day to celebrate mothers everywhere or any special woman who

raised you. For those travelling with their mother in Florence on May 13th, remember to give her an extra hug and wish her the happiest of days, Italian style of course... with an Aperol Spritz toast, springtime flowers, or an extra-large, double scoop of gelato!

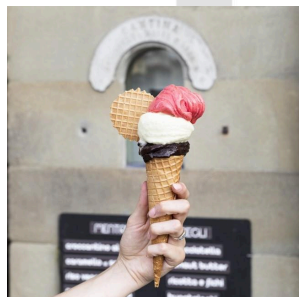
BEST SPORT: 100KM INTERNATIONAL WALKING RACE FROM FLORENCE TO FAENZA, May 25-26

The 100 km of the Passatore is an ultramarathon running competition that takes place annually on the last Saturday of May, starting from Florence and finishing in Faenza. The race, which was held for the first time in 1973, is named after the Passatore, a popular figure from the history and folklore of Romagna. The 100 km international walking race from Florence to Faenza starts from Via Calzaiuoli in Florence and continues along the via Faentina, passing through Fiesole, Borgo San Lorenzo, Marradi, Brisighella . The arrival of the winner at Faenza (Piazza del Popolo) is due at 9.45pm. For more information, see the [website](#).

BEST EXHIBITION: MIDA, THE MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DELL'ARTIGIANATO AT FORTEZZA DI BASSO, Until 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](#).

BEST DINING OUT: SPRING GELATO FLAVOURS AT ALL THE GELATERIE!



Now is the time to indulge in gelato, as the spring flavours erupt with flavour. Be sure to choose your gelateria well, as not every store is alike. The number one tip is to avoid any giant piled-up heaps of gelato. No! Gelato or a great sorbet should be so heavy with cream, fruit, and deliciousness, that it could never sustain such a tower. For the best tips on how to spot a great gelato, as well as where to find the best gelateria around town, read this fantastic article by our favourite food blogger, [The Curious Appetite](#).

BEST OF THE REST

THE SEASON AT VILLA LA PIETRA, PRESENTED BY NYU, Until July 5

New York University Florence proudly announces the 18th edition of The Season at Villa La Pietra, an enchanting summer celebration of creative collaborations set throughout the grounds of the 15th-century villa and its breathtaking gardens. From May 23 through July 5, 2024 World-renowned actors, musicians, scholars, and artists will convene to work collaboratively across disciplines, offering an array of events and performances: exhibitions, readings, classical compositions,

concerts, film screenings, dance, and theatrical productions all within this picturesque and culturally vibrant setting. Click [here](#) for the PDF version The Season 2024.

GIARDINO DELL'ARTECULTURA, May until September

The Giardino dell'ArteCultura is one of the most popular summer spaces in Florence and offers every day a rich program of events for all tastes and all ages. This well-equipped space, inside the Garden of Horticulture in Florence, offers every evening various art and entertainment initiatives for adults and, for children, in the park not far from Piazza della Libertà. Events schedule available on the [official Website](#).

SPRING GARDENS: 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. 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. Take 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. Daily 10am-12.30pm & 3pm-7pm, Web: www.irisfirenze.it

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

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](#).

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.](#)

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

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.](#)

ART OF UZBEKISTAN ON SHOW AT PALAZZO PITTI, Until 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.), Until 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 86TH EDITION OF THE MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO, Until June 13

The Theatre of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino owes its name to the prestigious Maggio Musicale Festival, the oldest in Italy. Founded in Florence in 1933, the festival quickly became a centre of dissemination of European musical culture, proposing new and unconventional ideas in regards to classical repertoire and contemporary compositions. The festival showcases two months of programming until June 13th with three operas, Turandot, Jeanne Dark, Tosca, five choral symphonic concerts with the Orchestra and Coro del Maggio conducted by Daniele Gatti and Zubin Mehta, the symphonic concerts of Myung-Whun Chung leading the Maggio team and Riccardo Muti with the Wiener Philharmoniker, a ballet and collaborations with the Fiesole School of Music, the Cherubini Conservatory, the Orchestra of Tuscany, the Italian Youth Orchestra. See the full program [here at the website](#).

THE CATTEDRALE DELL'IMMAGINE PRESENTS INSIDE VAN GOGH

In the heart of Florence, the deconsecrated church of Santo Stefano al Ponte was reborn with the name “the Cathedral of the Image”, transforming itself into the first permanent Italian center for Immersive Art Experiences. Now showing is *Inside Van Gogh*, the new immersive multimedia show,

created by Crossmedia and directed by Stefano Fake. A 35-minute digital narrative developed through 360° multiprojection of high-definition images and the Dolby HD audio diffusion of a captivating soundtrack. Enjoy the complex human and artistic story of Vincent van Gogh, one of the most famous and beloved artists of all time. The multimedia experience is enriched by an educational introductory section with infographics and monitors, Oculus stations for experiencing the 3D virtual reality journey inside some famous paintings, and the immersive ‘hall of mirrors,’ an enveloping kaleidoscope of images located within the immersive hall. Find out the dates and more information [here](#).

ERINA YASHANO AND ETTORE PAGANO WITH THE ORCHESTRA OF TOSCANA AT TEATRO VERDI, May 16

In her second program with ORT, Erina Yashima measures herself with Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. Composed in 1888, during a time of personal turbulence for the composer, this symphony explores themes of destiny, struggle and, ultimately, triumph. A good performance for Erina, born in Germany to Japanese parents, currently at the helm of the Komische Oper in Berlin, but contested by the largest orchestras in the world. With her a budding cello talent: Ettore Pagano, born in 2003 and already a star of the international cello. He graduated in 2021 from the Santa Cecilia Conservatory, in Rome, also a student of Enrico Dindo, David Geringas and Antonio Meneses. He has to face one of the most fearsome concertos written for cello, that of Dvořák. [More information and bookings here](#).

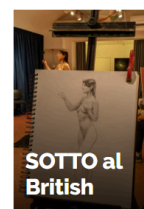
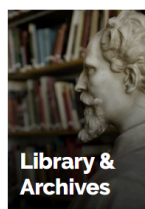
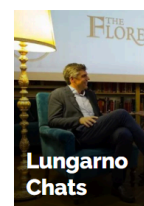
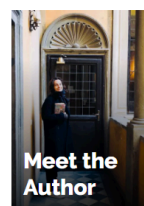
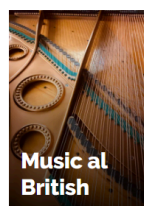
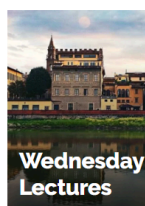
AMICI DELLA MUSICA

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](#).

FILMS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

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](#).



“MAY DECEMBER” 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 goers 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](#).

MAY WISHES

We hope you enjoy the gardens, flowers, and all the delights of Florence this month. The city is in full bloom, ready for enjoyment at every turn.

All the best,

The Staff of Pitcher and Flaccomio

Newsletter written and compiled by Marisa Garreffa.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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SALE - Duomo Attic Apt - Historic Center Refurbished top floor apt with elevator, approx. 55 Sq. Mt. (approx. 550 Sq. Ft.), plus small loft area. 1 bed, 1 bath; autonomous heating, air con., furnished.

Asking Price 650,000 Euro



SALE – Quarrata Farm House– 25 km West of Florence
Free standing stone farm house, to be totally refurbished, approx. 500 sq. mt.(5000 Sq. Ft.), plus 1 hectare (3 acres) of land. Electricity already in place, water well.

Asking Price 460,000 Euro



SALE – Santa Maria Novella – Historic Center
Second floor, with elevator, refurbished, approx. 300 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 3000 Sq. Ft.). 3 bed, 3 bath, plus study; autonomous heating, air con., and centrally located

Asking price 2,200,000 Euro



SALE – via Venezia – Historic Center
First floor with elevator, elegant building, to be refurbished, approx. 250 sq. mt.(2500 Sq. Ft), 4 Bed, 3 Bath. Car parking, small out door space, autonomous heating, quiet street.

Asking Price 990,000 Euro



SALE – Chianti Farm House - 35 Km South of Florence
Farm Complex to be refurbished, approx. 600 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 6000 Sq. Ft.) with 2 acres of land and garden. Electricity and water already in place. Hill top position, easy access.

Asking Price 900,000 Euro



SALE – Ponte Vecchio Apt – Historic Center
Refurbished first floor apt with elevator, approx. 150 Sq. Mt. (aprox. 1500 Sq. Ft.). 2 bed, 2 bath; autonomous heating, doorman, condo terrace on roof.

Asking Price 1,200,000 Euro

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