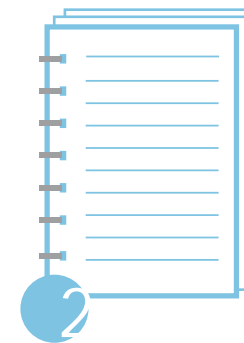
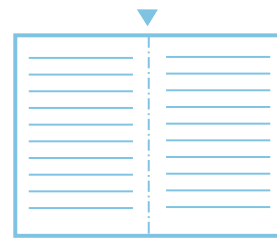
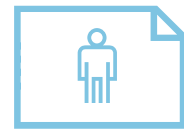


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You can start printing the guide in our comfortable PDF format



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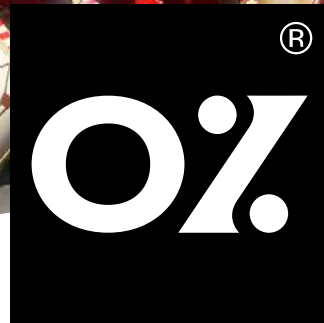
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# FLORENCE

Renaissance heart



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# To remember

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To remember  
Nozio's Charter of Values

## The Charter of Values

**Disintermediation paves the way for sustainable tourism. It means good value, authentic and high-quality travel experiences.**

We are truly passionate about travel and want to pursue our wanderlust showing respect for the destination that welcomes us. To this end we are constantly working to promote tourism that provides a socially and economically sustainable travel experience.

Economically sustainable travel means providing tourist destinations with the **economic resources that are essential for development**, both of the destination and tourism industry operators. These resources enable facilities and attractions to be improved, to the benefit of the destination's competitiveness and the satisfaction of visitors.

We firmly believe in tourism based on **direct relationships**, without intermediaries.

The presence of **intermediaries** between travellers and service providers - hotels, airlines or car hire companies - is increasing, often hidden and with opaque offers that **include significant commissions** of which the traveller is **unaware**. This results in depriving service providers and territories of considerable economic resources because a large slice of the revenues generated from selling services therefore **ends up in the hands of a few**. This is **not economically sustainable tourism**. Travellers could prevent this dissipation of resources and tourism-related economic speculation by large-scale intermediaries by being **more careful and aware of how they spend their money**. This can be achieved by using **Official Websites to purchase trips directly** from hotels, flights direct from airlines and car hire direct from car rentals.

All of this is now easier than ever because the Internet has brought about a radical change in the way all kinds of products and services are purchased, enabling consumers to contact producers directly and **use the opinions of other consumers** to help them before they buy.

Tourism that is **GOOD VALUE** because price are stripped of all useless costs associated with the use of intermediaries, both for the hotelier and the traveller. It guarantees lower rates for travellers and provides a clear advantage for hoteliers;

**AUTHENTIC** because based on real relationships between travellers and those who host them; this ensures clear information and accurate prices;

and of **HIGH QUALITY** because it consists of a high-quality offer that is right for travellers and at the right price.

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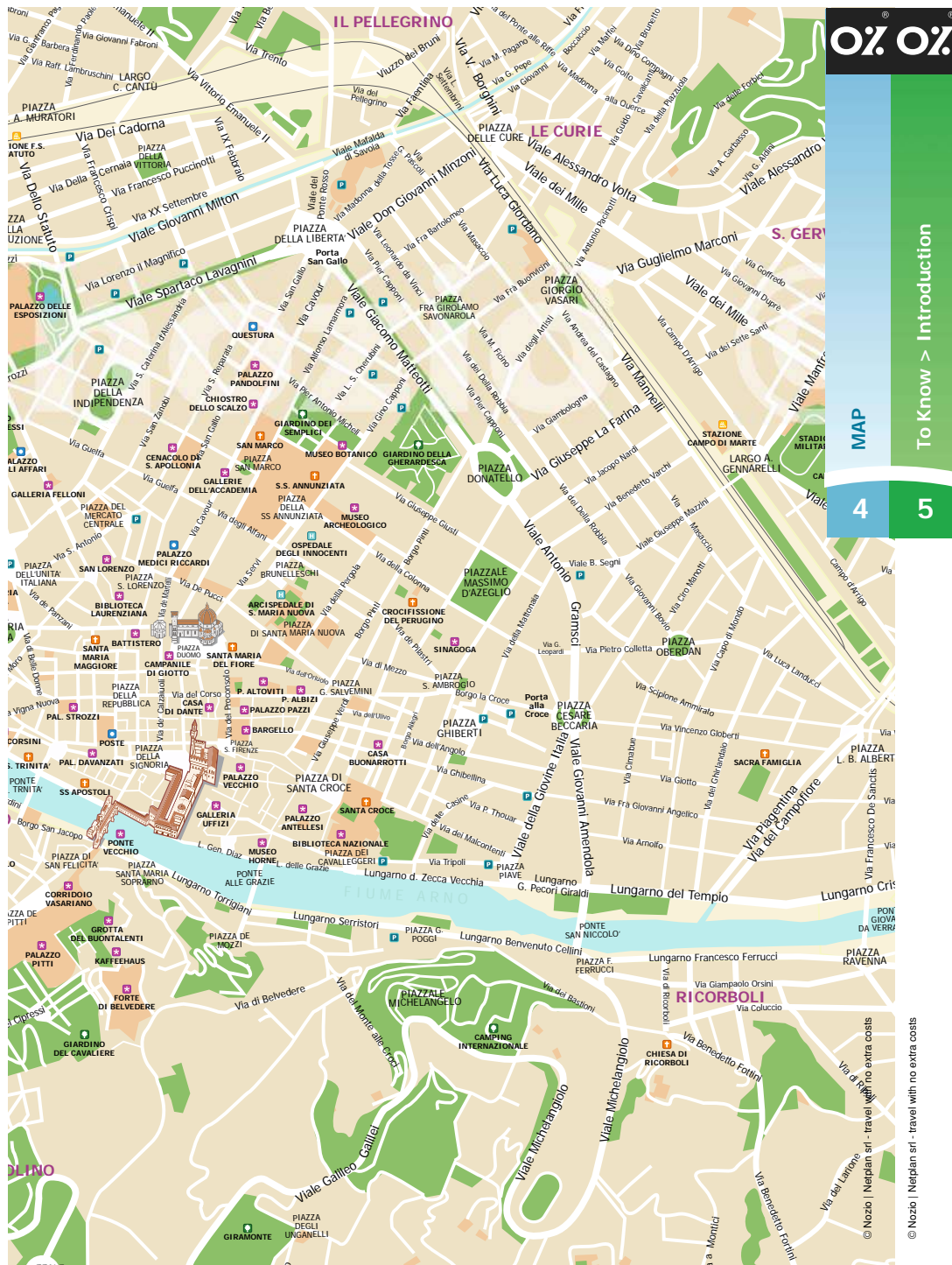
### Legenda

**oz** NozioSpy > Suggestions from Nozio for a travel with an higher value and a lower price



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Firenze

## > RENAISSANCE HEART

Famous worldwide, heart of the **Renaissance**, home of fine arts and literature, [Florence](#) contains in its corners some of the most brilliant examples of Italian and Western culture, such as Michelangelo's **David**, Brunelleschi's spectacular dome, Giotto's bell tower and the romantic **Ponte Vecchio**.

It is also the city that gave birth to Dante Alighieri and witnessed the creation of genius work by artists such as Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci.

Surrounded by green hills and crossed by the Arno, [Florence](#) is a jewel in the heart of [Italy](#), the destination for those who enjoy good food, **art** and culture.

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MAP

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# NozioSpy



THE VOICE OF THE FLORENTINES: **ROCCO**, hotel manager, age 58.

**What adjective would you choose to describe Florence?**

I'd pick at least three: beautiful, exciting and impenetrable. Beautiful, it's self-explanatory. Exciting due to the sinuous shapes in Florentine artwork, from Michelangelo's David to Botticelli's Venus. Impenetrable because it doesn't show its true colors at first sight and you need time to discover its true essence.

**And its people?**

The best definition of people from Florence is "master debaters": champions of debate used to arguing, even and especially because they have fun doing it!

**How has the city most significantly changed in recent years?**

Surely, the city's loss of identity especially on the right bank of the Arno river, with the gradual imitation of other European and international cities where you'll always find the same stores and same fashion labels in style throughout the world.

Recently, the new mayor proposed substantial initiatives to revitalize the right bank, starting with the transformation of some city areas into pedestrian zones. As usually, city-dwellers initially grumbled (squabbling) but later began to reap the benefits in terms of better city living conditions.

**How have Florence's tourists changed over the years?**

Unfortunately, there's been a mass invasion of poorly educated, distracted and hasty tourists. Many tourists only stay for 1 day when no less than 3-4 days are needed.

**What is the best time of year to visit Florence?**

Florence is at its prime when the lily, the city's symbol, blooms: spring. This is also the season when it's the most crowded and visiting can be stressful. If you want to see it less frenetically, the best time is the late fall, when the weather is still good and there are less tourists around.

**Where do you always suggest your guests should go?**

Oltrarno or, as we like to call it, the "diladdarno", where the city has regained its identity. It's the Florence of Vasco Pratolini's "Ragazze di San Frediano", where the true Florentine heart beats and where you go to have shoes custom-made by traditional shoemakers and where we love to dine in the evening.

**And if we just want to relax in Oltrarno?**

There's a really characteristic square where I recommend by guests go to relax. It's called Piazza della Passera (LOL). And don't forget the magnificent Boboli Gardens that offers great views and, in the gardens, the Granduca citrus fruit orchard where you'll feel like you're in Sicily.

**Give me 3 things you must do to experience Florence...**

1) Walk across the Vasari Corridor which connects the Palazzo Vecchio, former political seat of the Grand Duke, to the Pitti Palace, his private home.

The elevated corridor is 1 km long and once crossed the Arno river, dominated most of the city. Now it is an interesting art gallery you can tour on reservation. 2) Reserve a "room with a view" just like the one in James Ivory's movie based on E. D. Forster's novel, "A Room with a View".

Here, I'm biased: the room with a view is the one at the hotel I manage, the Eden Rock Resort! A small treasure nestled in the face of one of the hills that overlooks the city providing one of the famous views in the world. The city's monumental skyline is the perfect background for an exciting postcard. 3) Dine out on a steak at the Troia or Latini restaurants or lunch on

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"Iampredotto" and a glass of red wine at one of the typical tripe stands that dot the city.

Trattoria Sostanza (Il Troia) - (editor's note) Via Porcellana 25/r Tel. +39 055 212691

Il Latini Via dei Palchetti 6/r (Palazzo Rucellai) - (editor's note) Tel. +39 055 210916 [www.illatini.com](http://www.illatini.com)





## HOW TO GET THERE

Getting to [Florence](#) is very easy from any Italian city since the city is an important railway and highway center. The last few years has seen an increase in direct flight connections from abroad.

### BY CAR

From Rome (274 Km) or Naples (472 Km) highway A1 will conveniently get you to your destination; exit at Firenze Sud. From Milan (305 Km) the same highway A1 will bring you to Florence going by Bologna (110 Km). From Venice (261 km) and from the Northeast take A13 Padova-Bologna and continue on A1 up to Florence. Those coming from the Tyrrhenian coast, from Genoa, Pisa or Lucca, must take A11 Pisa-Florence.

### BY TRAIN

Florence is situated on the Milan-Rome line, with frequent and rapid connections both ways. From Venice there are two direct connections, otherwise you have to change in Bologna. Florence is connected to Pisa by many direct trains; those coming from Genoa or from the Tyrrhenian coast must usually change in Pisa. For times please consult the **Trenitalia** website.

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To know > How to get there To know > How to get around

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## BY PLANE

**Florence Airport Amerigo Vespucci (FLR)** connects with all major Italian airports and 13 European destinations: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Brussels, Bucharest, Frankfurt, Geneva, London Gatwick, Madrid, Monaco, Paris, Timisoara, Tirana and Vienna.

**Pisa Airport "Galileo Galilei" (PSA)** is the most important in Tuscany: it links the city with major Italian and European destinations. The airport of Pisa is connected to Pisa Central Station by many routes, among which there are eight direct trains from the airport of Florence.

## HOW TO GET AROUND

Florence is best enjoyed on foot. It's easy to get around its streets and discover secluded corners, porticoes and enchanting courtyards without overlooking the more captivating areas like Piazza della Signoria and Piazza del Duomo. We suggest you forget about driving. There are practically no free parking spaces and it's best to leave your car at one of the large park & ride lots. Moreover, almost all of the center is a restricted traffic area and, if you come by train, the Santa Maria Novella station is right downtown. The green-orange ATAF public buses cover the entire city and are on time, always stopping at the Santa Maria Novella train station. Buses run until 1:50 in the morning. A single fare costs € 1.20 while a full day ticket costs € 5.50. Downtown Florence is not very big and easy to tour by bike since there are many bike racks scattered through the city.

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#### TRANSPORTATION, SAVINGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Whoever wants to experience Florence and fully enjoy the city's extraordinary attractions should use public transportation. Specifically, the ATAF buses are ecological, on time and a convenient way to get around town. When staying for several days, you should by the weekly pass or Carta Agile carnet - 35 90-minute tickets priced at € 30.00 - you can use on the over 100 routes that connect the various parts of Florence to the wee hours of the morning.

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### WHEN TO GO



Florence blossoms in the spring, when the lily, the city's symbol, blooms. Visiting in this period is a real pleasure: the fresh air, clear skies and surrounding green hills enhance the charm of this enchanting city. However, it's peak season and flooded with tourists. We suggest you come in late fall when the weather is still good and you can enjoy a more relaxing yet still exciting vacation. Most of the leading exhibits and shows are held in the winter and, although the days are cold, they're just as exciting.



NozioSpy > When to go / Free wi fi

To know > History

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### > HISTORY

Florence's origins date back to the Etruscan era, when **Fiesole**, an important center in Etruria, dominated the valley. Before conquering Fiesole in the first century B.C., the Romans set up camp by the River Arno in a place that then became **Florentia**, "destined to flower". Florence survived the dark centuries of the Middle Ages and then became an important city, until it became a Municipal Borough in 1115.

The rivalry was famous between the **Guelphs**, loyal to the Pope, and the **Ghibellines**, loyal to Emperor Frederick II, which led to the exile of the Guelphs from the city. With the death of the emperor, the Guelphs once again took the upper hand and Florence enjoyed a period of prosperity. Great importance was given to the "Corporazione delle Arti" (**Arts Guild**) and creation began of works that made Florence a unique city in the world. Art and culture were in turmoil, and the people's desire to educate themselves gave life to the first works in the vernacular language, in the poetic style of **"Dolce Stil Novo"**, after which came Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio and finally, a century later, the Accademia della Crusta. It was Boccaccio himself who documented the tragedy of the plague in Florence which laid the foundation for popular discontent, reaching its climax during the "Tumulto dei Ciompi", riots that took place in 1378.

Art and culture were in great ferment and the people's desire to educate themselves gave rise to the first work in the vernacular language, in the poetic



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### FREE WI-FI



The Town provides free Wi-Fi internet access for your Smartphone, laptop, iPad, etc. in some key areas in Florence. You can surf the web 1 hour a day (300 Mb) or Florence's official Town and Province sites for as long as you want. Connecting is simple: after choosing the network with the best signal (Firenze Wifi1, Firenze Wifi2, Firenze Wifi3 or Firenze Wifi4), enter your first and last names and mobile phone number to register (NB: only Italian providers and without hidden numbers).

Areas covered by Wi-Fi: Piazza Signoria - Piazza S.Croce- Piazza S.Spirito - Piazza SS. Annunziata – struttura polifunzionale Parterre - via Canova c/o Anagrafe - Piazza Ghiberti e Annigoni - Piazza Alberti Villa Arrivabene -Piazzale Michelangelo - Piazza Bambini e Bambine di Beslan - Piazzale delle Cascine - Parco di San Donato.



style of "Dolce Stil Novo", which then brought about the works of **Dante**, **Petrarca**, Boccaccio and finally, a century later, the "Accademia della Crusca". It was **Boccaccio** who documented the plague of Florence, a tragedy that started off the people's dissatisfaction, which culminated in the "tumulto dei Ciompi" riots in 1378.

After a short period in which the people ruled the city, the **Medici dynasty** then took over, first with Cosimo and then with **Lorenzo il Magnifico**, who brought the Humanist Age to Florence, together with the wonderful architecture by **Brunelleschi**. After Lorenzo il Magnifico's death (1492), and in later centuries, the city oscillated between Republican agitation and Medici revenge, while geniuses such as **Michelangelo** and **Leonardo Da Vinci** became famous names in art and literature.

In 1865, Florence was chosen as the capital of the **Kingdom of Italy** and remained so until 1871. In the following years, until the early twentieth century, the city was known for its literary happenings, with works like **Pinocchio** bringing writers to the forefront such as Papini, Palazzeschi and Pratolini, who gathered in the historical cafe, "**Giubbe Rosse**".



David - Michelangelo

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 Da sapere > Storia  
 NozioSpy > The voice of the florentines  
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THE VOICE OF THE FLORENTINES:  
**ANTONELLA**,  
 hotel manager,  
 age 41.

*What adjective would you choose to describe Florence? And its people?*

Florence is a "magical" city due to the artistic beauty it offers. Whenever I walk downtown, the Cathedral, the Brunelleschi Dome, Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio always leave me breathless. It's like walking in a dream. I really love this city. To describe its people, I'd use a slogan that was popular on t-shirts awhile back: "We're the most beautiful in the world". That says it all, we're very narcissist!

*How has the city most significantly changed in recent years?*

Recently, more precisely I'd say in the last year due to the young mayor we elected, the city is taking a new turn especially due to the numerous new cultural and environmental initiatives. For example, Piazza Duomo was made into a pedestrian area, desired by the mayor and practically forced upon the city, but something for which we are now proud.

*How have Florence's tourists changed over the years?*

Unfortunately, we've recently seen a lot of tourists who zip in and out, visiting the city in just one day. I think these tourists should pay an extra tax. In my opinion, you need at least 3 days to visit Florence. A day trip just doesn't make sense. We like "slow" tourists, the ones that take it easy.

*What is the best time of year to visit Florence?*

You should avoid the months of May, June, September and October when, as we say in Florence, "The world's here!"! The best time is at the beginning of spring, March and April, or November. The weather is usually still good, not too cold, and you can calmly visit the city. I even love Florence in the middle of the summer even if it's really hot. They recently held a lot of outdoor events you shouldn't miss.

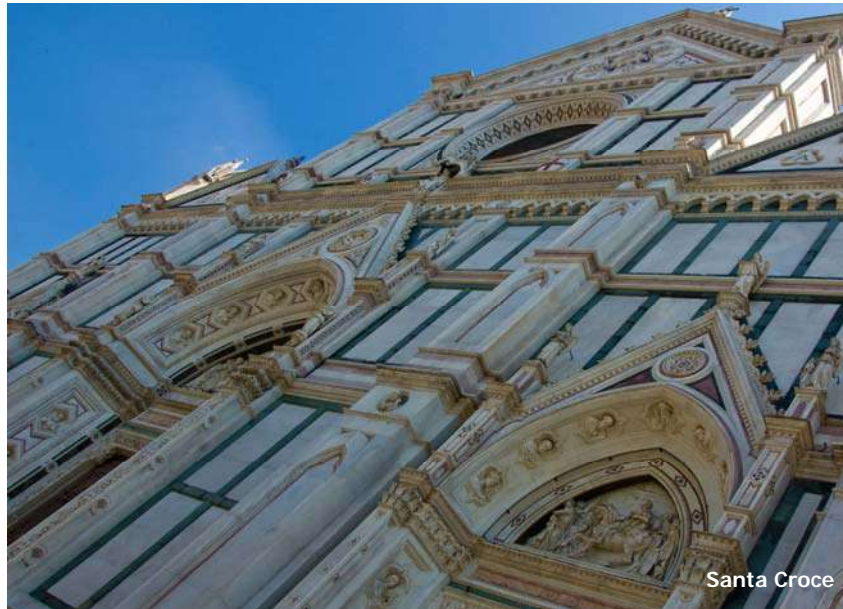
*Where do you always suggest your guests should go?*

It goes without saying that when you come to Florence, you always have to tour the Uffizi museum to get your full of art! What's more, I suggest you stop at the central market. It's a wonderful jumble of fragrances, perfumes, flavors and shouting... Give me 3 things you must do to experience Florence.... A stroll through Oltrarno, a quarter that still preserves the old Florence atmosphere. A "lampredotto" sandwich at one of the Florentine tripe stands and, last but not least, to repeat myself: visit the Uffizi museum!



Mercato di San Lorenzo

Bongio Vongio



## > CHURCHES

### SANTA MARIA DEL FIORE

Work on the Gothic cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore began in 1296 and was completed by Brunelleschi in 1436 with the famous Dome, which was painted inside with frescoes by Vasari and Zuccari. The square bell tower designed by Giotto in 1334 stands on the right-hand side of the Cathedral and is covered in white, green and red marble. The Baptistery of San Giovanni, one of the oldest monuments in Florence (1128), is located opposite the Cathedral and is built in Florentine Romanesque style.

Piazza del Duomo  
[www.operaduomo.firenze.it](http://www.operaduomo.firenze.it)

### BASILICA DI SANTA CROCE

This church in the Gothic-Florentine style was built in the second half of the 12th century. Santa Croce contains several masterpieces: the frescoes by Giotto, the Crucifix by Cimabue and the Cappella dei Pazzi, a chapel built by Brunelleschi. The Basilica is famous throughout the world because some famous people are buried inside it, such as Alfieri, whose tomb was sculpted by Canova.

Piazza Santa Croce  
[www.operadisantacroce.it](http://www.operadisantacroce.it)

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### THE BASILICA DI SAN MINIATO

Climb its staircase and turn towards Florence to enjoy what is probably the most astonishing view of the city! It is one of the most enchanting churches in Florence. Boasting Florentine Romanesque style, the basilica was built between

the sixth and the eighth century and still preserves magnificent frescoes and works of undisputable value. The Cappella del Cardinale del Portogallo, the marble facade and vestry are magnificent. The building is dedicated to the Christian martyr Minas, beheaded in the third century following Emperor Decius' persecutions. Under Medici rule, the monastery became a fortress and was later returned to the monks in the nineteenth century. A visit you surely won't regret!

Basilica di San Miniato, Via del Monte alle Croci, Viale Galileo Galilei, Piazzale Michelangelo, Tel. +39 055 234 2731

To see > Churches

To see > Churches

14 15

### BASILICA DI SAN LORENZO

The interior of this church was completed by Brunelleschi and later, by Michelangelo. The Basilica di San Lorenzo's façade is still not finished.

There are some works of art inside: the two pulpits built by Donatello when he was already 74 years old, The Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana and the Tombe Medicee, works by Michelangelo, the Cappella dei Principi chapel with its magnificent decorations in marble and semiprecious stones.

Piazza San Lorenzo  
[www.operamedicealaurenziana.it](http://www.operamedicealaurenziana.it)

### SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

Built in the 13th century according to the wishes of the Dominican monks, the Church's façade is built in the Gothic-Romanesque style, with white and green marble. Important works of art inside are the frescoes by Masaccio portraying the Holy Trinity, the Crucifix by Brunelleschi and the one by Giotto.

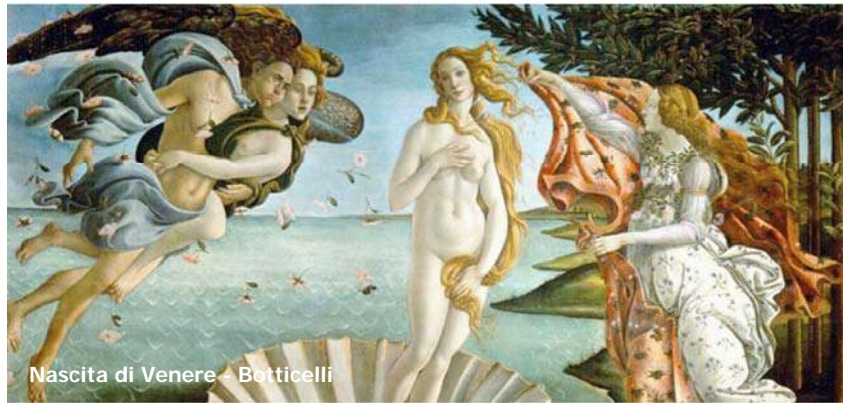
Piazza Santa Maria Novella  
[www.chiesasantamarianovella.it](http://www.chiesasantamarianovella.it)

### CHIESA DI ORSANMICHELE

This church was built with the intention of becoming the people's grain market, but was immediately used as a place of worship.

14 niches can be seen in the church's outer walls containing the same number of statues of saints who are patrons of the arts and work "Corporations".

Via dell'Arte della Lana  
[www.uffizi.firenze.it/musei/orsanmichele](http://www.uffizi.firenze.it/musei/orsanmichele)



Nascita di Venere – Botticelli

## > MUSEI E GALLERIE

### UFFIZI GALLERY

The Uffizi Gallery is one of the largest museums in the world, It was built in the mid-sixteenth century, following a project by the architect Giorgio Vasari and still houses some of the most famous works of art by Italian and foreign painters from the 13th to 19th centuries, such as Tiziano, Cimabue, Giotto, Masaccio, Tintoretto, Leonardo, Botticelli, Michelangelo, Piero della Francesca, Raffaello, Caravaggio, Rubens, Rembrandt, Dürer and Goya.

Loggiato degli Uffizi

### GALLERIA DELL'ACCADEMIA

This Gallery was founded in 1784 by the Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo, who decreed that all the schools of painting should be joined together in a single Academy. One of the most popular museums in Florence, the Gallery houses many sculptures by Michelangelo, including the famous David.

Via Ricasoli, 58-60,

### BARGELLO MUSEUM

The National Museum, housed in a building that was the city prison dating back to 1200. It contains some of the best sculptures from the Tuscan Renaissance era. Some of the works of art in the Bargella are: the David by Donatello, Mercury by Gianbologna, and the bust of Brutus by Michelangelo.



To see > Museums and galleries

To see > Museums and galleries

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Via del Proconsolo, 4

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The collection of artifacts on show in the Museum belonged to the Medici family, especially to Cosimo il Vecchio, and comprises objects from the Etruscan period: terracotta ornaments and sculptures in marble and bronze, including the Chimera di Arezzo and l'Arringatore. The Egyptian section, that was created thanks to the collection from another important family, the Lorena, is not to be missed.

Via della Colonna, 38

### SCIENCE HISTORY MUSEUM

This is an important collection of scientific instruments that are proof of the interest that 13th century Florence had in science. The collection includes sun dials and night-clocks, compasses, microscopes and a series of original instruments made by Galileo Galilei.

Piazza dei Giudici, 1

### CASA BUONARROTI

This palace was renovated in 1612 by Michelangelo Buonarroti "il giovane", who decorated all the interior area of the building on his own, as a tribute to his ancestor. It is possible to see some early masterpieces by Michelangelo such as the Madonna della Scala and the Battaglia dei Centauri.

Via Ghibellina 70

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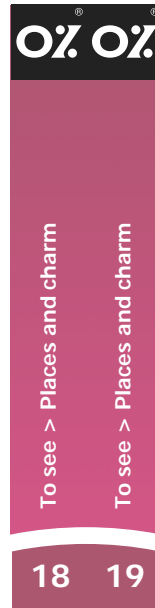
### EXPERIENCING THE 1500'S



Florence is the Renaissance capital, surrounded by glorious lands that has won the heart of many a traveler including Herbert Percy Horne, English architect and art historian. His art collection has been housed at the Palazzo Corsi since 1916:

paintings, sculptures, drawings and superb period furniture make it a captivating home and the chance to relive the atmosphere, practices and customs of the sixteenth century.

Museo Horne, Via dei Benci 6, tel. +39 055244661 [www.museohorne.it](http://www.museohorne.it)



## > PLACES AND CHARM

### PONTE VECCHIO

As its name suggests, this splendid Bridge is the oldest in Florence: the first construction already existed before the 11th century, but was destroyed by a flood of the Arno. The bridge was rebuilt in solid stone in 1345. Its banks are still full of goldsmiths', silversmiths' and jewelers' laboratories whose art has been passed down from generation to generation.

Ponte Vecchio

### PIAZZA DELLA SIGNORIA

The magnificent Piazza della Signoria is a real open-air exhibition: Palazzo Vecchio, with its sixteenth-century hall full of frescoes by Vasari, the Fountain of Neptune by Ammannati, and the copy of Michelangelo's David all welcome the visitor when he enters the square. On the right-hand of the square there is the Loggia della Signoria that contains some fine statues such as the bronze Perseo by Cellini and il Ratto delle Sabine by Gianbologna.

Piazza della Signoria

### GIARDINO DI BOBOLI

The Boboli Gardens spread out alongside Palazzo Pitti. They were both created on the wishes of the Medici family in 1500.

If we take a walk through these wonderful Renaissance gardens, we can see some charming monuments such as the amphitheater, the Grotta del Buontalenti, and the small island with the statues of the dancing country-folk.

Piazza Pitti, 1

### CENTRAL SAN LORENZO MARKET

The Central San Lorenzo Market is housed inside a huge iron and glass building that was built in 1874. Even though it is now a tourist attraction, the Market has preserved a part of its charm. On the ground floor there are several delicatessens, selling Florentine and Tuscan delicacies, where it is possible to stop for a bite to eat. On the first floor there are flower stalls and fruit and vegetable stalls where all the local seasonal produce is displayed.

Piazza San Lorenzo

### SPEDALE DEGLI INNOCENTI

This building was opened in 1445, and was the first orphanage in Europe. A part of the building is still used for this purpose today.

The portico, built by Brunelleschi, is decorated with glazed terracotta spheres that represent new-born children. It is still possible to see the "wheel" in the

portico, a turning stone cylinder where mothers placed their unwanted children, who were then turned round to the inside of the building.

Piazza Santissima Annunziata

## PALAZZO PITTI

This palace was built for the banker Luca Pitti halfway through the fifteenth century. After he went bankrupt, the building became the Medici family residence.

The family improved the building, starting with the large courtyard designed by Ammaniti. The Medici collected their Baroque and Renaissance art collections here, which can now be viewed in the Palatina Gallery. The Palace contains other important museums too: the Gallery of Modern Art, the Silver Museum and the Costume Gallery.

Piazza Pitti

## CAFFÈ GIUBBE ROSSE

To fully experience Florence's scholarly and artistic atmosphere, nothing beats breakfast at the legendary Giubbe Rosse literary cafe in Piazza Repubblica nr. 13. Opened at the end of the nineteenth century by two German brothers, it became a haunt for both Italian and foreign avant-garde artists and authors in the early 1900's. The heated discussions between Marinetti and Papini, Prezzolini and Campana, Gadda and Boccioni, Montale and Quasimodo came to life at its tables where plans for some legendary futuristic magazines like "La Voce" were set in motion. The cafe still organizes key cultural events that stir Florence's intelligentsia.

Caffè Giubbe Rosse Piazza della Repubblica 13 [www.giubberosse.it](http://www.giubberosse.it)



## > TOURS

Florence's surroundings are a great way to discover history, relax, have fun and try some of the many specialties offered by Tuscan cuisine. We'd like to suggest three itineraries, three ways to come into contact with the heart of Florence and its surroundings.

## FIESOLE [8 KM]

The Florence area has solid Etruscan roots, and the people are very proud of this fact.

Fiesole is just 8 km from Florence on a hill that overlooks the entire valley. This is a much older city than Florence: the latter was founded by the Romans after they conquered the Etruscan city in the 1st century A.D. Many famous writers, from Boccaccio to Carducci have sung the praises of this beautiful town where the Etruscan and Roman ruins have survived the wearings of time.

Don't miss: the archeological area with the 1st century B.C. Roman theater, the Baths dating back to the reign of Sulla, the third century B.C. Etruscan Temple and the Archeology Museum that houses numerous finds from the fifteenth and fourteenth century B.C.

## VINCI [38 KM]

A place that is popular with tourists from all over the world, the Leonardo Museum at Vinci (38 km from Florence) is housed in the Castello dei Conti Guidi and includes collections of machines and models designed by the great Tuscan scientist, such as the amazing parachute, and many drawing of incomplete projects. After visiting the museum, find a bit of time to walk along the Vinci streets, a charming place that was only made into a town in the 1950s, during the five hundredth anniversary of the birth of Leonardo.

Information about the **Leonardo Museum**:  
Tel. 0571/56055

## GREVE IN CHIANTI [30 KM]

Greve is 30 km from Florence and is considered the "gate to Chianti", the area where the grapes of the famous Tuscan wine are grown, that are protected by the DOCG label in this area. Greve in Chianti has always been an important commercial and agricultural center and is also known for the production of excellent Tuscan extra-virgin olive oil and the many delicatessen shops spread around the town where it is possible to buy local products such as finocchiona and marzolino cheese. Don't miss Piazza Matteotti, the old asymmetric market square surrounded by porticoes and flower-filled terraces, and a glass of **Chianti Classico** in one of the picturesque wine cellars in the town.



Francesco Sgroi ©



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**THE VOICE OF THE FLORENTINES:**  
**MASSIMO, manager and freelance photographer, age 44.**

**What city event or tradition can't a good native of Florence miss?**

Most probably the "Scoppio Del Carro", the flight of the dove from the "Brindellone" to the cathedral altar and back. It's held every year at Easter. The dove's successful flight through the cathedral was considered a good omen for the harvest and trade. What's more, even if I've never seen it, the most fanatical event is "Calcio Fiorentino", a sport that dates back to the 1500's but which has now gone beyond being simply fanatical since it has become rather violent, to the point of debauchery. The fireworks on St. John's Day are also a significant local tradition held in June.

**Can you suggest an unconventional Florence we could discover?**

I think Florence is a gem, a treasure, an architectural and cultural rarity and so I don't think there is an "unconventional Florence". What you find here makes sense because it's included in a unique and unrepeatable context and, as such, cannot be unconventional. It should be taken all in together.

**What do you think are the best dishes in Florentine cuisine?**

Meat dishes with the Florentine steak and "lampredotto" at the lead, soups like "ribollita" or "pappa col pomodoro", all doused with a lot of quality oils and wines.

**What restaurant would you take a dear friend to in Florence?**

This is not an easy question since there are a lot of restaurants in Florence. Downtown, many have adjusted to international cuisine to tailor to the large amount of tourists that crowd the city throughout the year. But there are still places that serve traditional Florentine cuisine. The Osteria dei Pazzi or the small diner at the San Lorenzo or Sant'Ambrogio markets come to mind. I also like the Trattoria da Mario, in Piazza San Lorenzo, where you are seated at long tables with other diners. These are authentic restaurants which fortunately uphold our identity against the growing number of fast-food joints managed by foreigners.

**Trattoria da Mario** - (editor's note) Via Rosina 2r (corner of Piazza del Mercato Centrale) Tel. + 39 055 218550 [www.trattoria-mario.com](http://www.trattoria-mario.com)

**THE VOICE OF THE FLORENTINES: ANDREA, business planner, age 34.**

**What habit or custom can't a native of Florence do without? A joke!**

What would you organize for a Saturday night out on the town in Florence for friends visiting for the first time? I'd take them out to eat "Lampredotto" at one of the downtown dives and then I'd show them the city by walking from downtown to Piazzale Michelangelo to enjoy a beautiful view of Florence.

**Where do you go in Florence when you want to relax? Without a doubt: Boboli Gardens!**

What is your favorite theater in town? And the movie theater you like best? When considering location, the theaters I like best are the Teatro della Pergola and the

Teatro del Sale, both very elegant. This first is really chic with a classic line up, the second is a more "radical chic" with even its own restaurant and is famous because



the actors are paid with a dinner here instead of money... Since I belong to a theater company, I just had chance to try if for myself and I must say, it was great! As for listings, I think the best theaters in town are the Puccini theater, where some of the comedians from Zelig perform, and the Rifredi, famous for its Florentine theater company productions. As for movie theaters, there are two I like that show art films: the Fiorella in Via Gabriele D'Annunzio and the Flora in Piazza Dalmazia. The best in terms of location is the Odeon, in Piazza Strozzi, behind

Piazza della Repubblica, that shows foreign language films and less mainstream "blockbuster" films.

**Can you give us a tip on a great day trip around Florence?**

I suggest you take a trip to Fiesole where you can admire the Tuscan hills and countryside in all their glory, just 5-6 kilometers from Florence.

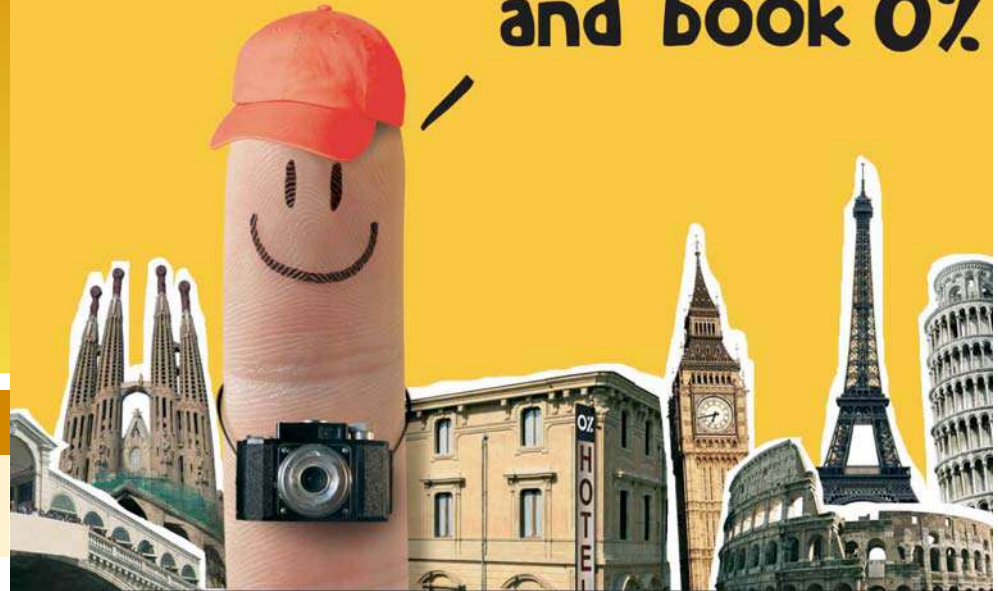
**What is the people of Florence's main flaw? And best virtue?**

As for flaw, our arrogance which, in some cases, if pushed to the limit, may make us seem a bit cold. On the other hand, our virtue is undoubtedly our irony! po' chiusi. Il nostro miglior pregio invece è senza dubbio l'ironia!



NozioSpy > The voice of the florentines

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## > TIPS ON WHERE TO STAY

There is no end of choice of accommodation in Florence. Depending on the budget you have available, you can choose from several options. Let's look at some of them together. A stone's throw from the old city center, you can choose one of the many [hotels](#) in Florence, shown in our [guide to Florence](#), for all budgets and needs. For anyone planning to stay longer, we recommend renting an **apartment in Florence** or nearby. Many agencies provide a wide range of possibilities, so that you can choose the one most suitable to your needs. Are you traveling on a tight budget? Don't worry, there are many **Bed & Breakfast in Florence** where you can stay without spending too much, and without having to go without service or comfort.

Have you got an even smaller budget? You can stay in a hostel or in any of the **campsites near Florence**, which don't cost too much. In winter you can rent a caravan, or you can spend even less by bringing your tent with you during the warm season. If instead you want to go on trips **outside the city** and want to set up base in the Chianti hills, why not choose one of the **rural country-house near Florence**. You can find castles, old farmhouses, farms and country houses that are all perfectly equipped to welcome guests and ready to seduce them with the **food and wine specialties of the area**.

### Hotels without useless costs

Review [the list of hotels in Turin on Nozio](#) and book the hotel you prefer on their Official Site!

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To try > Tips on where to stay

To try > Shopping

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## > SHOPPING

Florence has an ancient tradition of **craftsmanship**. At one time every area of the city was characterized by a particular activity, each controlled by the **powerful Arts Guild**: from the sculpting workshops to the skin and leather shops, from the blacksmiths to the master goldsmiths. The guilds were based on strict rules and only the legitimate children of members could enter the profession. In this sense, art and technique have been passed down from generation to generation to this day. Some old stores are still more or less intact, such as the **Antica Officina di Santa Maria Novella**, one of the oldest pharmacies in the world, where you can buy perfumes and essences made to formulas that were created in the sixteenth century for Caterina de' Medici, and liqueurs that are still made today following the antique formula used by the Dominican monks.

When walking along the **Ponte Vecchio** you can see the famous Florence goldsmiths' shops, while the artisanal **shoemakers** are spread around the city. This Florentine tradition was made famous by **Salvatore Ferragamo**, shoemaker to the stars, whose creations can be admired in the museum carrying his name. Whoever is planning a trip to Florence cannot forget its thriving food and wine culture. If you want to buy local products, there is no end of choice: tasty cheeses and sought-after salami attract food-lovers from the delicatessen shop windows; it is possible to taste and buy refined wines and fine extra-virgin oils in the many wine-cellars around the city. Don't miss out on a trip to **San Lorenzo Market**, located inside the splendid liberty-style building.



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### DIRECT SALES

Local Tuscan products are famous throughout the world! Take advantage of the St. Ambrogio market stands and buy products directly from Florentine farmers. Or visit [www.comproinfattoria.it](http://www.comproinfattoria.it) to find high quality and natural oil, wine, fruit and vegetable producers. Buy direct without middleman and useless costs!

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### SMALL DEALS

We recommend booklovers stop at the two stands in Piazza Stozzi and Via Martelli, at the corner of Via de' Gori. Florence is an artistic city, it loves culture and boasts it everywhere. You'll find used books, even antique or out of print, along with unique clothing and curious antiques at every local market and at great prices. The Cascine market - really great - and the St. Ambrogio market are musts.

Florence is a city that bids you to walk, to discover its scores of shops, ancient craft stores, fashion boutiques and shops of all kinds that pique every traveler's interest.

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### FASHION LABELS FOR ANY POCKET!

The hottest fashion label outlets are just outside Florence. First of all, The Mall, 5 km from the Incisa Valdarno highway exit (in Leccio Reggello) open from Monday through Sunday from 10 AM to 7 PM. You'll find a wide range of Armani, Gucci, Sergio Rossi, Bottega Veneta, Tod's and Ferragamo clothing and accessories for last season at The Mall. Prices are truly low with discounts up to 50 %.



To try > Shopping

To try > Bookstore and Libraries

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Il Torchio

## > BOOKSTORES AND LIBRARIES

The Oblate public library (Via dell'Oriuolo 26, [www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it](http://www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it)), built around a cloister in a monastery of the same name, organizes many activities and programs. It has a wide open space dedicated to children where they can play and read, a media room with SAT TV and international channels, internet points and Wi-Fi coverage. The video library, donated by the NICE film association, offers about 1,700 new Italian films subtitled in English, presented by this Florentine institution during international festivals. Cultural events like conventions and debates are held in the library cafeteria and in the covered terraces on the second floor. Here you can also book tickets for the prestigious "Maggio Musicale Fiorentino" event. The library also issues cards to foreigners.

We can't overlook Florence's legendary bookstores: near the Cathedral, the legendary Martelli bookstore (Via Martelli 22, [www.libreriamartelli.it](http://www.libreriamartelli.it)) undoubtedly keeping with the times: while still rooted in twentieth century Florentine culture, it has a surprisingly vast catalogue, with books of every kind and lots of room to meet or participate in literary events. The traditional Libreria del Porcellino (Piazza Del Mercato Nuovo 1, [www.libreriadelporcellino.com](http://www.libreriadelporcellino.com)) provides a large assortment of books, prints and art posters in warm, homey settings. Its near the Loggia del Mercato Nuovo, also called "Porcellino" because near the popular boar fountain.

The Libreria e Cartoleria Baccani (Via Porta Rossa, 99), which magnificently preserves the enchanting atmosphere of the Bartolini - Salimbeni palazzo, hosts cultural events and is specialized in leather crafts and Florentine paper, ranging from book bindings to elegant greeting cards. The Libreria Antiquaria Gonnelli ([www.gonnelli.it](http://www.gonnelli.it)), in the elegant Via Ricasoli, sells antique books, valuable manuscripts, prints and drawing and holds auctions. Info: For bookworms

© Andrea Nanni looking for rare publications, we suggest the Libreria Giorni (Via de' Martelli 35, [www.libreriaigiorni.it](http://www.libreriaigiorni.it) ) and the Libreria Salimbeni (Via Matteo Palmieri 14/16, [www.libreriasalimbeni.com](http://www.libreriasalimbeni.com) ).

"An intelligent bookstore in the heart of Florence" in Via San Gallo, Libri Liberi offers a high quality assortment. The exhibits and presentations, delightful shop window, graphics and illustrators' shows, parties for old and young like Carnival and Halloween, in addition to the pre-school line up by the Teatrino del Gallo make this place better than just a simple bookstore.

"Small is beautiful,,bookshops above all": to exchange books and even ideas, the British-American Paperback Exchange bookstore ([www.papex.it](http://www.papex.it)) near the Florence cathedral is an independent alternative to chain stores. New and used books, polite and knowledgeable personnel.

At the Libreria Caffè Brac (Via dei Vagellai 18, [www.libreria-brac.net](http://www.libreria-brac.net) ) modern art is combined with fine dining, with special focus on vegetarians. The "After Hours" events at this literary cafe includes Dadaist cinema, comic book presentations and the Brac's Art on Table art show. It is in the Santa Croce quarter and has a delightful interior courtyard.

The Città Libreriacafè (Borgo San Frediano 20, [www.lacitelibreria.info](http://www.lacitelibreria.info) ) has a daily line up of jam sessions, jazz, swing, cabaret, seminars, debates, exhibits, book presentations and much more.

The Melbookstore di Firenze (Via de' Cerretani 16, [www.melbookstore.it](http://www.melbookstore.it) ) is a modern and well-stocked megastore. Open until midnight, it offers international books and many off-catalogue books, rare used books, an extensive multimedia department, stationary and relaxing cafe. Highly popular with foreign travelers, Feltrinelli International is on the centrally located Via Cavour, near Palazzo Medici Riccardi ([www.feltrinelli.it](http://www.feltrinelli.it)).

## CASA DELLA CREATIVITÀ

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Whether fashion, architecture, music or publishing, local crafts, information or active participation in a wide range of innovative cultural activities, the Palazzo dei Giovani at the Santa Maria Maggiore cloisters in Viccolo Santa Maria Maggiore offers a new and stimulating meeting and information point. Known for organizing the famous Festival della Creatività every year, this site hosts the Informagiovani offices, organizes cultural meetings and exhibitions in addition to qualified seminars and courses like those organized by the IED Firenze ([www.casadellacreativita.it](http://www.casadellacreativita.it), tel. +39.055. 2381240).

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To try > Bookstore and libraries

To try > Eating and drinking

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## > EATING AND DRINKING

The region that houses the city of [Florence](#) boasts one of the most renowned culinary traditions in Italy, which we have already mentioned in our tourist guide of Tuscany. Now we'll give you a more detailed look, with a range limited to Florence and its immediate surroundings. Florentine cooking is linked to a tradition of simple dishes prepared with genuine, tasty but plain ingredients, which has recently been reconsidered by the world of more sophisticated cuisine. Cereals, bread, vegetable and oil (which must be extra-virgin) are the basis of many recipes that just have to be tried in one of the many **restaurants in Florence**. Simple food, such as cannellini beans and other vaguely repulsive ingredients such as tripe and livers are transformed into pleasant, tasty dishes, served on both stalls and in local inns and also in luxury restaurants.

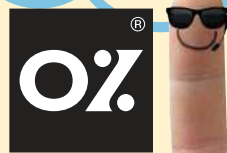
We can therefore find: **fagioli all'uccelletto** (beans), boiled and then fried in oil and tomato sauce; **trippa alla fiorentina**, (tripe) covered in tomato and grated parmesan cheese; **lampredotto**, the darkest part of tripe, used for soups and risottos, but also liked by many locals as a filling for a sandwich; **crostini toscani** with liver paté. And the unforgettable "**fiorentina**" **steak**, a thick cut of meat from the Chianina cow to be tried in any restaurant in Florence.

The area surrounding Florence is famous for being the birthplace of **Chianti**, the most famous Tuscan wine. Four different types of Chianti are produced from the vines on the flourishing Florentine hills. Chianti "Classico" is produced between Florence and Siena, while the other names come from the geographic areas that the province of Florence is divided into: there is Chianti "Colli Fiorentini", Chianti "Rufina" and Chianti "Montespertoli".



Other wines from the area are **Pomino**, which has been appreciated since the beginning of the 1700s, and which owes its name to one of the smallest DOC vineyards in the world, and **Vin Santo**, a sweet dessert wine that was already known in the fourteenth century, and which is closely linked to Florentine hospitality. The people offered it to guests accompanied by the traditional cantuccini biscuits. In addition to cantuccini, Florence is famous for its schiacciata alla fiorentina, filled with whipped or pastry cream, frittelle di San Giuseppe (donuts) and castagnaccio, a typical autumn cake made of chestnuts, and schiacciate with grapes. Other tasty specialties include the ficattola (pastry with figs and sugar) and all the Christmas sweets, panpepati, panforte and ricciarelli. You can try or buy these products in Florence at any one of the traditional bakeries in town.

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### PRESIDI SLOW FOOD IN TUSCANY

Presidi Slow Food support small excellent productions that risk vanishing, reclaiming traditional crafts and production techniques, saving local species and ancient varieties of fruit and vegetables from extinction. Furthermore, they

directly involve the producers, offering assistance to improve product quality.  
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[www.slowfoodfirenze.it](http://www.slowfoodfirenze.it) [www.slowfoodfirenze.it/i-presidi-toscani-2](http://www.slowfoodfirenze.it/i-presidi-toscani-2)

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To try > Eating and drinking

NozioSpy > The voice of the florentines

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## THE VOICE OF THE FLORENTINES: GIANNI, publishing house clerk, Age 42.

*What are the three things, as a native of Florence, you most love about your city?*

As a native of Florence I love to walk along the river banks at sunset. I assure you it's one of the most spectacular things you'll ever see. Secondly, when it's sunny, I like to walk in the Cascine Park. Miles and miles of greenery and, if you're wearing sneakers, it's great for jogging. It's the place we native like best for exercise. Thirdly, a timeless suggestion: a stroll down Viale dei Colli to Piazzale Michelangelo where you can take in one of the best views of the city. Lastly, I have a fourth favorite: getting lost in Oltrarno, in the San Frediano and Santo Spirito quarters, the popular old Florence where time seems to stand still in the narrow alleys and lanes full of shops where you can buy something truly authentic and characteristic.

*What don't you like?*

I don't like our somewhat provincial attitude, that has been our downfall, of refusing to accept new ideas, changes and innovation. We're suspicious of anything new.

*Where would you take a friend to lunch around Florence?*

There are many places I'd suggest but I'll limit myself to: The La Bianchina restaurant in Via Cassia 36, in Bottai, in the town of Impruneta. It's close to Florence, near the A1 Certosa highway exit. The serve Tuscan cuisine and pizza. I recommend the fried artichokes. A traditional restaurant. I'd also recommend

the Trianon restaurant, in Via Dante da Castiglione 20, in Cercina in the town of Sesto Fiorentino, 10 minutes from Florence. Known for their "spider web" fried foods. Also, the Antico Forno restaurant (via di San Romolo 118, in San Romolo, in the town of Bagno a Ripoli). Tuscan cuisine and, weather permitting, you can eat in the garden. It's about twenty minutes from Florence, to the South. Since in the hills, I recommend it when the city leaves you "panting" from the heat. Fourth and last, the Trattoria Di Sor Paolo in Via Cassia per Firenze 40, Town of San Casciano in Val di Pesa. Beautiful location and great Tuscan cuisine. It's 20/30 minutes outside Florence and I recommend it because it's at the border between the provinces of Florence and Siena, in the middle of the Chianti area, which says it all!

*What famous historic figure, author, artist or showman best represents Florence for you?*

First of all, obviously, Dante...who, in my humble opinion, given the current situation in Italy, is gradually becoming, alas, more up to date. If he were still with us today, he'd have boxed a lot of ears. In more recent times, I'd say the stylist Ferragamo, a real genius and forerunner in Italian fashion. Or even the legendary Margherita Hack, who can explain complex concepts to astronomy and science laymen in simple words. Lastly, Robertaccio (Benigni), a force to be reckoned with!

*Can you recommend a good bookstore and a well-stocked music store?*

Bookstore: Edison, in Piazza della Repubblica, in the center of town. A large bookstore with a bar on the first floor. Libreria Parterre, in Viale Don Minzoni, away from the center and the crowds, it also has a coffee shop. The Cuculia bookstore in Via dei Serragli, in the centre. Different with coffee and restaurant. If

you'd like to get out of town, public transportation from the Santa Maria Novella station takes 15 minutes to get to Sesto Fiorentino where you'll find the Rinascita bookstore in Via Antonio Gramsci 334. Music stores: in the station underpass you'll find the Galleria del Disco which has just about everything and every genre. Another, Disco Mastelloni, in Piazza del Mercato centrale, is specialized in techno/house music. Lastly, Yellow Record, in the outskirts, in Via Torricoda. It has DVDs, CDs and imported records, mostly alternative music.

### And to sum it up, what should you NEVER do in Florence?

I'll be brief: if it's raining, never EVER take your car. You'll be stuck in traffic for hours. Drivers go crazy when it rains in Florence!!!! And, a last tip, never, I mean NEVER, celebrate a victory or goal made by JUVENTUS. It's not a well-loved team here in Florence, better safe...



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## > EVENTS

Florence is a lively city, full of local and international artistic and cultural events. If you are planning a trip to Florence when one of these events is taking place, remember to book your room in one of the hotels in Florence that we recommend well in advance.

### FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL BIENNALE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

The Florence Biennale for contemporary art is a recent event on the Florence scene, but it has already become enormously successful: in the 2002 edition, there were 600 artists, including painters, sculptors, digital artists and video art creators from all over the world.

When: December

### INTERNAZIONALE CRAFTS SHOW

This international crafts show, organized each year, is set in the beautiful surroundings of Fortezza da Basso. The event wishes to increase the value of the craftwork heritage from an economic and cultural point of view.

When: April-May

### MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO:

Maggio Musicale Fiorentino is an international festival entirely dedicated to music that is held in the Municipal Theater in Florence. It was organized for the first time in 1937 and is one of the oldest festivals in Europe.

When: from April to June

### SAN GIOVANNI FIREWORKS

For centuries, Florence has celebrated the birth of St John the Baptist, the city's patron saint, with a full programme of celebrations and amazing fireworks

displays.  
When: 24 June

## PITTI IMMAGINE

For fifty years, Pitti Immagine has been an international window for Italian fashion, a reference point for the development of the Made in Italy industry in the world, thanks to the creation of the several annual events that take place. Here are just a few:

- Pitti Uomo - Mens Fashion: January and June
- Pitti Bimbo - Childrens fashion: January and June
- Pitti Filati - Textiles and fabric collections: February and July
- Pitti Fragranze - Perfumes: September

## CALCIO STORICO FIORENTINO ("CALCIO IN COSTUME")

in Piazza Santa Croce, 500 players in sixteenth century costume will challenge each other; the teams represent the 4 districts of the center of Florence. It is an event that attracts many people, preceded by a colorful parade in costume.  
When: June 19, 24 and 28

## THE CAVALCADE OF THE THREE KING

The day of the Epiphany, January 6, a historical procession starts at Palazzo Pitti, passing the Piazza della Signoria to reach the Duomo. It is the ancient reenactment of the visit of the Three Wise Men who came to bring their gifts to the Messiah.

[www.festivaldeipopoli.org](http://www.festivaldeipopoli.org)  
Periodo: novembre

## TUTTO SPOSI

From October 30 to November 7, 2010, Florence's Fortezza da Basso hosts the new edition of Tutto Sposi. An event for all future brides and grooms offering everything they need for their special day.

[www.tuttosposifirenze.it](http://www.tuttosposifirenze.it)  
When: October - November

## FESTIVAL DEI POPOLI - INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Festival dei Popoli offers a broad overview on documentaries, revealing the various facets and their always renewed ability to narrate reality, proposing images of people and countries, portraits of men and women, stories from all over the world.

[www.festivaldeipopoli.org](http://www.festivaldeipopoli.org)  
When: November

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## THE VOICE OF THE FLORENTINES: MARIA, Tourist guide, age 42.

**Can you think of a place in Florence that provides a unique or captivating view of the city?**

Certainly. The best views are from Piazzale Michelangelo, from the higher part where the Basilica of San Miniato al Monte stands, one of the oldest churches in Florence, full of charm with free admission, from the Villa Bardini gardens and from the Fiesole hill.

If I want to relax, think and be by myself, where should I go in the city? Surely the San Miniato al Monte hill and Villa Bardini gardens.

Is there a uniquely shaped building or monument in Florence or one whose characteristics sets it apart from the rest? Of course, the Cathedral Dome, by Filippo Brunelleschi, an extraordinary presence, one of the icons of Florence.

**Can you suggest a lesser known and less crowded museum in Florence worth a visit?**

The Davanzati Palace museum is an impeccable example of a Medieval and Renaissance Florentine home. Also, the Bardini Palace Museum and Horne Museum, symbol of Renaissance culture and art, are worth your while.

**When to you recommend visiting Florence and why?**

What can you do in the winter? The best time is from the end of October to the beginning of March, except for the long weekend holidays. This is least popular time for those hordes of tourists that make

experiencing the city and fully enjoying its priceless treasures a drudgery. Winter is when the the leading exhibits are held, usually in key sites like the Pitti Palace, the Uffizi, Bargello, Accademia, Cappelle Medicee and Palazzo Strozzi.

**What's the cheapest way to get around Florence?**

The best way to get around downtown is by foot because the city center is not that big. To get to the best views of the city, you should take the city buses. The ones for Piazzale Michelangelo and Fiesole are usually on time. The Town of Florence has recently introduced rental bikes. The main rent stations are at the Santa Maria Novella train station, Piazza Annigoni (S. Ambrogio area), the Campo di Marte train station and Piazza Santa Croce.

**Are there any outlets you recommend in and around Florence?**

The ones in Barberino (A1 northbound) and Incisa, the Mall (A1 southbound), are the biggest and the most popular.



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## > CINEMA AND THEATRES

The magnificent Orchestra Regionale Toscana Foundation Verdi theater ([www.teatroverdionline.it](http://www.teatroverdionline.it)), boasts a long symphonic and theatrical tradition in addition to an exciting pop music line up.

The Maggio Musicale Fiorentino theater is the promoter of the festival in its name. This key international event is held at the Teatro Comunale and legendary Goldoni theater.

The Saschall, one of the most popular theaters in Florence, is on the Lungarno Aldo Moro, in Via Fabrizio de Andrè. Its modern multi-purpose building hosts popular and trendy shows and events ([www.saschall.it](http://www.saschall.it), tel. +39 055 2707278).

Production and education, research, shows in local dialect and new emerging authors as well as rare genres performed at the Teatro di Cestello by the Cenacolo dei Giovani permanent theater company proudly and passionately contribute to Florence's theater scene.

In addition to productions and shows, the Everest theater is home to a qualified drama school. ([www.teatroeverest.it](http://www.teatroeverest.it), tel. +39 055 2321754). The Le Laudi theater is one of the city's leading promoters of Florentine prose. ([www.teatrolelaudi.it](http://www.teatrolelaudi.it), tel. +39 055 572831). A brilliant and modern prose line

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up awaits you at the Puccini theater. This is also the Box Office ([www.teatropuccini.it](http://www.teatropuccini.it), tel. +39 055 362067).

The influential and innovative Pupi e Fresedde-Teatro di Rifredi theater promises a "heartfelt season" to continue to excite its audiences. Near the Rifredi train station ([www.toscanateatro.it](http://www.toscanateatro.it)). The "Temple of prose" in Florence, the Teatro della Pergola provides the best staging, shows and actors, from classic operas to modern theater. It's in the center of town ([www.teatrodellapergola.com](http://www.teatrodellapergola.com), tel. +39 055 2264353).

The Cantiere Florida theater is on the oltrarno fiorentino. New and interesting views are now possible due to the new renovations based on new architectural designs. Prose season, laboratories and workshops and Sunday family shows. There's an area dedicated to UNICEF in the foyer ([www.teatrocantiereflorida.it](http://www.teatrocantiereflorida.it), tel. +39 055 7135357).

The Teatro del Sale and Cibrè restaurant are an excellent combination in Florence, a special place where the quality of life is expressed in a unique blend of cultural entertainment, aggregation and fine dining. Info: [www.edizioniteatrodelsalecibreofirenze.it](http://www.edizioniteatrodelsalecibreofirenze.it).

The Fulgor cinema is one of the largest movie theaters in downtown Florence. Near the SMN train station in Via Maso Finiguerra (tel. +39 055 2381881, discounted tickets on Wednesdays), a modern multiplex theater is found under the original 1930's Art Nouveau building. In addition to blockbuster movies, the theater offers an ample opera program with live broadcasts of operas performed at world leading theaters like the London Royal Opera House in addition to recorded broadcasts of selected performances from the the current and last opera season ([www.staseraalcinema.it/cinemafulgor](http://www.staseraalcinema.it/cinemafulgor)).

In addition to many multiplex theaters, Florence also has exciting screening forums and temples...of cinema. Some multiplex theaters like the Flora Atelier (Rifredi area, tel. +39 055 4220420) and the Fiorella Atelier (Campo di Marte area, tel. +39 055 678123) show cult and alternative films. The Stensen cultural institution of Florence, with auditorium, screening room and video library, focuses on the audio-visual world in the Stensen Cinema section with events and movie screenings ([www.stensen.it/cinema](http://www.stensen.it/cinema)).

French movie goers will enjoy the French Institute of Florence which hosts cultural events including retrospective movies like France Odeon and initiatives like Jeudi Cinema ([www.france-italia.it](http://www.france-italia.it)). If you're looking for a large multiplex theater with all you could ask for in terms of entertainment and dining, the Florence Vis Pathè is the right choice ([www.firenze.vispathe.it](http://www.firenze.vispathe.it)).



The Odeon Firenze, in Piazza Strozzi, is a must for movie and AV lovers. It hosts international festivals and shows like the "50 Days of International Cinema in Florence", shows cult and foreign language films with Italian subtitles and promotes initiatives that endorse Tuscan film culture and art exhibits. Inside, the Odeon Bistro is a multi-purpose restaurant and meeting room that also hosts special events like laboratories and workshops.



## > AMUSEMENTS AND NIGHTLIFE

To get to know Florence, and to fully understand the multi-faceted spirit of this city, you need to do more than visit the museums, see the churches, palaces and monuments. You will understand the true essence of Florence if you mix with the local people, trying to live like they do for one day only. A day full of study and work commitments and of free time. How do the Florentines enjoy themselves? Where do they go to have a good time? Our guide to Florence will take you on a journey to discover **Florence night life**, full of music, cocktails and lightheartedness.

First of all, let's talk of the meeting places that Florentines go to, where they get to know each other, socialize, drink an aperitif and organize their nights out. At a certain time in the evening, some areas of Florence, like any other city, are invaded by hundreds of people. It's **cocktail** hour and in Florence, as in every city, certain areas are invaded by a multitude of people, young and old. Every evening, especially Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the Lungarno is literally taken by assault, crowding the numerous pubs and wine bars in the area. For the second half of the evening, the Florentines all head to some of the clubs in the city. Which one depends on what day of the week it is. On Saturdays, **Tenax** is quite the hot spot, offering live music and DJ sets by international artists. The wine bar with its soft chill-out music is the perfect place to end a wild night. A famous club in Florence is **Yab**, which has been known since 1966 as the "8 Club". It is very busy on a Monday evening, the day dedicated to hip-hop music.

You can dine at **Otel Varieté** while enjoying live performances by comedians, singers, acrobats, ballet dancers, actors and impersonators. Brilliant cabaret shows followed by a night on this venue's dance floor, now Non conventional people will favor **Central Park**, which has recently become a reference point for the fashion world: fashion shows organized by famous Made in Italy designers are often held here, in fact.

Let's end with a club that is considered by all to be a forerunner: **Jaragua**, the first Latin American only club that opened in Italy, a trend that then spread like wild fire.