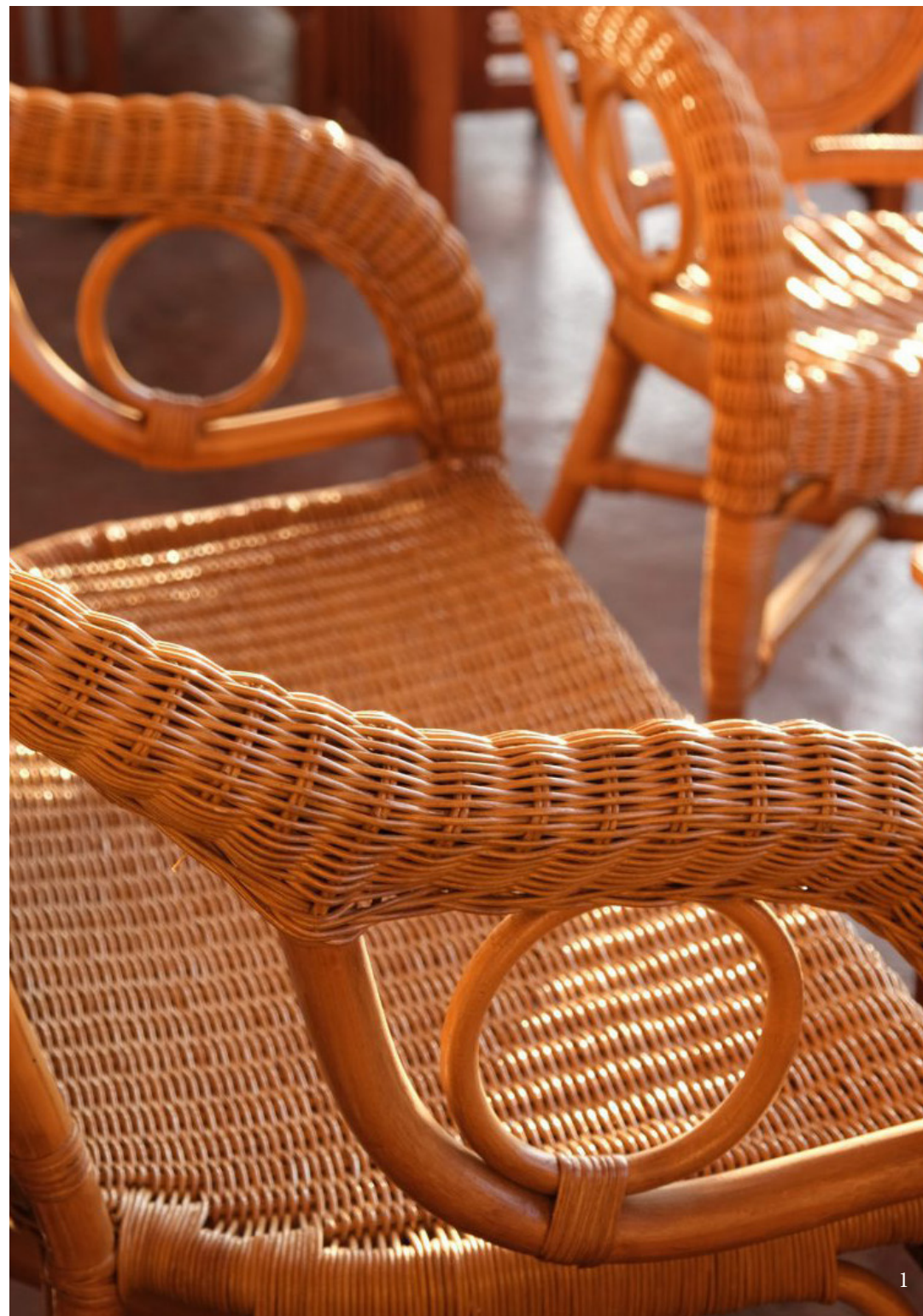


A LITTLE GUIDE TO  
**FLORENCE**

Whether you are visiting for the first time or coming back for the third, we have gathered in this small guide some of our favorite addresses in Florence. The kind of ones you keep going back to, share with your friends and hold on unique memories from. We hope you will enjoy them as much as we do.

*Hotel Palazzo Guadagni's Team*



# Florence at a glance

Birthplace of the Renaissance and the gelato - thank you Mr. Buontalenti - Florence was initially founded by the Romans in 59BC as a village for their veteran soldiers, before becoming throughout the centuries, an important cultural, economic, political and artistic hub.

The Medici, who built their fortune as bankers of the Catholic Church and influent European families, ruled the city from 1434 to 1737, largely contributing to its development. Fervent art patrons, they funded many of the painting, sculpture and architectural projects that still fill the city nowadays, encouraging the work of renowned artists such as Botticelli, Raffaello, Fra Angelico, Brunelleschi and Michelangelo.

Get lost in the city's small cobbled streets, contemplate its colors and sneak into every open doors and gardens you will find along the way - you will notice that Florence hasn't lost anything of its splendor. The size of the historical center and its various pedestrian areas make the city easy to explore by feet. It is spread onto both sides of the Arno river into five main neighborhoods which all have their own characteristics and atmospheres.

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### **OLTRARNO**

Litterally «the other side of the Arno», it encapsulates the smaller neighborhoods of San Frediano, Santo Spirito and San Niccolò. Filled with antique shops, local bars, trattorias, artisan workshops and beautiful gardens, it is one of the most vibrant area in the city where both locals and tourists meet further from the crowds.

### **DUOMO AND PIAZZA SIGNORIA**

From Santo Spirito, you can easily reach the Duomo and Piazza Signoria through Santa Trinita bridge. Don't forget to stop and enjoy the view onto the Ponte Vecchio. This neighborhood is articulated around the Cathedral Santa Maria del Fiore, Piazza Republica, the Uffizi and Palazzo Vecchio - all unmissable for any first-time comers to Florence.

### **SANTA MARIA NOVELLA**

In the radius of a few meters, Santa Maria Novella hosts a basilica, a train station and one of the oldest pharmacy in the world, all borrowing the same name. Looking for a short gateway? Catch a train to Pisa, Lucca or Arezzo for a day-trip from the station.

### **SAN LORENZO AND SAN MARCO**

San Lorenzo is famous for its covered market and unfinished basilica façade. Grab a fritto misto or a plate of pasta in the foodhall installed at the second floor of the Mercato Centrale, and head to the Capelli Medici a few steps away. San Marco Square is not much further away and its museum host the most extensive collection in the world of Fra Angelico's work who spent many years in San Marco cloister.

### **SANT'AMBROGIO AND SANTA CROCE**

Revived by Fabbio Picci who opened his first trattoria Cibrèò back in 1979, Sant'Ambrogio neighborhood is joyfull and authentic. Wander across the stalls of its market in the morning, grab a creative panino at Semel with a small glass of wine or, if you are in search of local flavors, a lampredotto at Pollini. Santa Croce nearby and its impressive square host every year the calcio storico, a medieval version of football originated during the middle-age on the same place.

Photo / Arches on Lungarno degli Archibusieri

# Eat

From the traditional trattoria to the gelateria, here is our selection of local addresses to satisfy all your cravings.

## **Trattoria Sostanza**

An institution in Florence that hasn't changed since 1869. The tortino with artichokes and butter chicken are a must. But make sure you keep some space for their meringue cake with strawberries.

*Via del Porcellana 25/R*

## **Trattoria Cammillo**

This historical trattoria excels in home-cooked tuscan specialities. Don't miss the fried artichokes or zucchini blossoms depending the season you're visiting.

*Borgo San Jacopo 57/R*

## **Il Santo Bevitore**

A vibrant atmosphere with an imaginative menu ranging from excellent cold cuts and cheeses to meat and fish specialities. The restaurant, simple yet elegant, is set in a beautifully restored old coach house.

*Via Santo Spirito, 64/R*

## **Gelateria**

We cannot make our mind between La Sorbettiera, Gelateria della Passera and Filo, so we simply suggest you to try them all.

*La Sorbettiera, via Mazzetta 9/a (Santo Spirito)*

*Gelateria della Passera, via Toscanella 15/R (Santo Spirito)*

*Filo, via San Miniato 5 (San Niccolo)*

## **Osteria dell'Enoteca**

Try their different varieties of bistecca alla fiorentina and have fun pairing them with wine from their well-curated menu. For a quick bite and a good glass of wine, try their sister place: Enoteca Pitti Gola e Cantina in Piazza Pitti.

*Via Romana 70R*

## **Alla Vecchia Bettola**

An old-fashioned trattoria, with a informal atmosphere emphasized by the shared tables. The penne alla vodka are a must but don't miss the classics of the Florentine tradition such as the pappa al pomodoro, trippa, and arista.

*Viale Vasco Pratolini 3*

Photo / Trattoria Sostanza



# and eat more



## Loggia Roof Bar

Whether you come for a light lunch or an aperitivo before dinner, you will be greeted with idyllic views on the city and its surrounding hills. Take a sit on the terrace and enjoy the sight with one of their signature cocktail.

*Piazza Santo Spirito 9*

## Osteria Antica Mescita

This old winery shop in San Niccolò was turned into a restaurant serving traditional tuscan food in a friendly ambiance. It has a nice outdoor terrace from where you can enjoy the motion of the street.

*Via di San Niccolò 60/R*

## Vini e Vecchi Sapori

Located in a small alley behind Piazza della Signoria, this tiny family-run Osteria is one of the best places to eat in the centre of Florence. Try the pappardelle all'anatra or paccheri ai fiori di zucchini. During Spring, they install outdoor tables facing the Palazzo Vecchio.

*Via dei Maggazini 3/R*



## Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio

Everything from this local market's stalls will make your mouth waters. If you cannot make up your mind between the truffled fried polenta, the roast beef and spinach panini or the schiacciata, Semel right outside the covered market is also a great place for gourmet panini with a glass of wine.

*Piazza Lorenzo Ghiberti*

## I Fratellini

A warm schiacciata filled with stracciatella, crudo, artichokes and accompany with a glass of house red. That's all it takes for a good lunch.

*Via dei Cimattori 38/R*

## Cibrèo Ristorante

A Florentine culinary institution since more than forty years started by the great Fabbio Picchi. For a less formal dinner try the Cibreo Caffè, Teatro del Sale o Ciblèo, his latest tuscan-eastern creative concept opened in 2017.

*Via Andrea del Verrocchio 8/R*



# Explore

Whether you are a first-timer to Florence or a frequent visitor, here is a selection of places that worth a visit, a little further from the crowds.

## **Bardini Gardens**

A poem says that Italy is the garden of Europe, Tuscany the garden of Italy, and Florence the flower of Tuscany. Bardini Gardens illustrate it beautifully.

*Via de' Bardi 1*

## **Abbey of San Miniato al Monte**

Perched on top of the one of the highest point in Florence, the basilica is one of the most scenographic churches in Italy. Get there from San Niccolò and cross the Roses Garden on the way up to the hill.

*Via delle Porte Sante 34*

## **Arnolfo Tower (Palazzo Vecchio)**

This 95 meters tall medieval tower completing the Palazzo Vecchio is a less-known alternative to Giotto's Bell Tower if you want to see the city from above.

*Piazza della Signoria 2*

## **The Medici Chapels**

Stunning Chapels celebrating the Medici Family and partly built by Michelangelo. A few steps from the Basilica San Lorenzo and the Mercato Centrale.

*Piazza di Madonna degli Aldobrandini 6*

## **Roberto Casamonti Collection**

This small museum of modern art located at the first floor of a beautiful palazzo in Santa Trinita Square host pieces from Basquiat to Anish Kapoor.

*Piazza di Santa Trinita 1*

## **The Brancacci Chapel**

Sometimes called the «Sixtine Chapel of the Early Renaissance» for its painting cycle representing the life of Saint Peter, the Brancacci chapel is adjacent the Carmine Church and Convent.

*Piazza del Carmine 14*

## **The Bargello**

The former medieval prison was transformed into a national museum in the mid XIX. Some says that the Bargello is to sculpture what Uffizi is to painting.

*Via del Proconsolo 4*



Photos / Bargello Museum (1)View from San Miniato al Monte



Photo / Loretta Caponi's Flagship

# Shop

If you still have space in your luggage, this is where you should go for unique souvenirs and gifts.

## **Officina Santa Maria Novella**

This 600 years old pharmacy is known worldwide for its unimitable scents and natural products. You might get addicted to their terracotta pomegranate.

*Via della Scala 16*

## **Luisa via Roma**

This luxury multibrand store offers a trendy selection of the hippest brands for Men, Women and Kids. Even if you aren't a serial shopper, it's worth a visit.

*Via Roma 19/R*

## **Pegna**

This grocery store from 1860 specialised in gourmet regional products from parmigiano to cantucci and wine, with a always a great attention to packaging.

*Via dello Studio 26/R*

## **Loretta Caponi**

Since 1967, Loretta Caponi has produced handbroided garments and linens for prestigious clients from the Kennedys to the British Royal family. The store is an experience in itself with its frescoes and winter garden.

*Via delle Belle Donne 28/R*

## **Angela Caputi**

Original jewelry designed by the Florentine artist in her workshop near Ponte Santa Trinita. Her Collections are a perfect mix of Fashion and Art.

*Via Santo Spirito 58/R*

## **Richard Ginori**

Famous for their high-end porcelaine and hand-painted ceramic made in Doccia nearby Firenze, Ginori regularly collaborate with international artists resulting of creative yet authentic tableware.

*Via dei Rondinelli, 17*

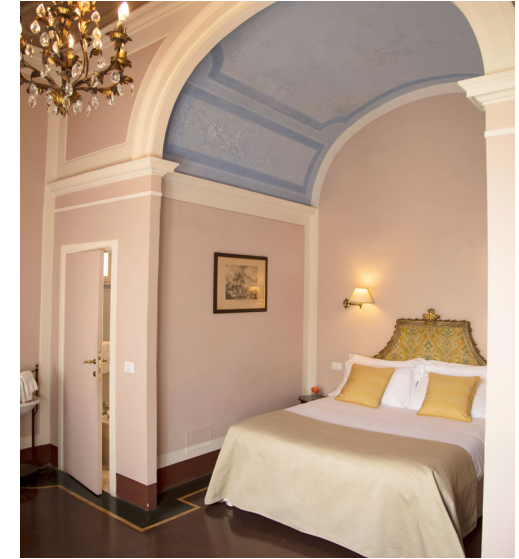
## **Albrici**

Born as an antiquary in 1961, this unique space is has expanded into vintage clothing and accessories. From Aspesi to Chanel pieces - the curation is on point which make it hard to leave the shop empty handed.

*Via dei Serragli 22R*

# Experience

A few ideas if you are looking for an original, yet local experience in the city.



## Take a cooking class

Riccardo Barthel produce and unearth elegant pieces for your home interiors. Their beautiful store via dei Serragli also host their atelier and a space for their cooking classes «Desinare» initiated by his son Francesco.

*Desinare, via dei Serragli 234/R*

## Sleep in a historical Florentine Palazzo

Overlooking the Piazza Santo Spirito, this 16th century palazzo has been transformed into a charming boutique hotel. All fifteen rooms have their unique character and atmosphere with frescoes ceilings and unique views onto the city.

*Palazzo Guadagni, Piazza Santo Spirito 9*

## Learn sculpture

Five generations of Romanelli sculptors have been working at this gallery located in the Oltrarno district. The studio opens its doors to all visitors interested in learning sculpting technics.

*Galleria Romanelli, Borgo San Frediano 70*

## The countryside ten minutes from Ponte Vecchio

Walk uphill to Bardini Gardens and Forte Belvedere till you reach the via San Leonardo. This small street bordered by colorful villas and olive trees will give you the feeling to have been teleported into the Tuscan country. Cross viale Galileo and head up towards Pian dei Giullari, if it is lunch time stop by Trattoria Omero. To come back walk downhill on via Torre del Gallo and in a blink you will land back in the city on Piazza Michaelangelo.

## Take a boat trip on the Arno river

Explore the city from a different perspective. Thanks to the efforts of the Renaioli Association in the restoration and conservation of traditional woden boats, it is today possible to organize private boat trips on the Arno.

*I Renaioli, Pier located in Lungarno Generale Diaz*

## Design your leather accessories

The leather school hosts its workshop under the beautiful 15th century frescoes arched ceiling of Santa Croce Church's ground.

*Scuola del Cuoio, via Toscanella, 15/R*





# The Hotel

Palazzo Guadagni, with its unique Loggia, is an iconic landmark of the Oltrarno, the most vibrant and characteristic neighbourhood of the city.

Located in Santo Spirito square, the hotel is just few steps away from Ponte Vecchio, the Pitti Palace and the Boboli Gardens, in a neighbourhood known for its elegant antique shops and old artisan workshops.

In the bright and charming fifteen rooms of the Hotel Palazzo Guadagni you can breathe in the genuine atmosphere of an old private Florentine residence. Decorated with antique furniture, the rooms come with frescoed ceilings, fireplaces, balconies and amazing views over Santo Spirito square, the Pitti Palace, the Palazzo Vecchio, the Duomo and Florence surrounding hills.