

THE FLORENTINE.net

NEWS & VIEWS AROUND FLORENCE

EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY
THE BEST FILMS IN ENGLISH

Odeon
Original **Sound**
CineHall
Piazza Strozzi 2 - tel. 055 214086
www.cinehall.it

SEE OUR FILM LISTINGS ON pg. 8

Runway over the river

Designer Roberto Cavalli takes Florence as his muse



see pg. 4

Prince of vice

Son of last Italian King arrested



see pg. 6

Forza Azzurri!!!

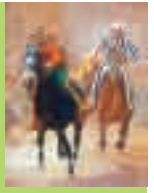
By Leo Cardini



see pg. 16

The Palio: ready, set, go

By Kara Hoffman



see pg. 21

Older than the Rolling Stones

Etruscan rocks star in Archaeological Exhibit



During 'Archaeological Nights' Tuscany shows off its most ancient treasures in a packed calendar of 300 cultural events based on the theme 'Ancient Tuscany in Europe and the Mediterranean.' During special exhibits and extraordinary archaeological hikes, Tuscany's museums and parks will welcome night-time visitors throughout the summer months. Thanks to theme dinners, cultural lectures and international previews of archaeologi-

cal cinema, history lovers will have their share of excitement this summer. Currently the biggest archaeological festival in Italy and Europe, the initiative was created in 2001 and has gained international fame over the past five years. Designed to expose some of the region's more hidden treasures, this year's theme delves deeply into the relationship between the Etruscans and other Mediterranean civilizations. *Vivere da Etrusco, Identità e Contaminazioni*

(Living like an Etruscan: Identity and Contamination') highlights how Mediterranean populations profoundly influenced the Etruscan identity. Nineteen local museums, all members of the Archaeological Museum Association of Tuscany, will come together to host this extraordinary event, which is sponsored also by the Tuscan Region and the Superintendents of Tuscany's archaeological patrimony.

see pg. 3

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Villa Demidoff hosts annual Tuscan/American celebration



Expect it all—hamburgers fresh off the grill, watermelon and homemade ice cream. Expect sun and shade, kids' relay races, multi-coloured balloons and pony rides. In a word, look for all the fun, games and good spirits characteristic of the Fourth of July. Only this year, expect to treat yourself to a bit of American independence—in Tuscany. On Saturday, July 1, from 5 pm to 11 pm, the Villa Demidoff in Pratolino will play host to over 3,000 people gathering to celebrate the day in the company of the American-Florentine community.

see pg. 3

VOLVO XC70.

DON'T STOP TO EXPLORE.



DEALER **Peragnoli-Scar**

FIRENZE (NORD) - Via F. Baracca 183 - Phone 055.43074

EMPOLI (FI) - Via Tosco Romagnola 120/122 - Phone 0571.592929

AUTHORIZED REPAIRER SIENA (MONTERIGGIONI) - Via Cassia Nord 110 - Phone 0577.318505 www.peragnoliscar.com

PETROL ENGINE 2.5 T 210 bhp (154KW).
TURBODIESEL COMMON RAIL D5: 163 bhp (120KW), 125 bhp (92KW).
ALSO AVAILABLE WITH GEARTRONIC AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION.
Fuel consumption, mixed cycle: 7.6 - 11.1 l/100 km.
Carbon dioxide emissions: 201 - 266 g/Km.

Volvo. for life



USEFUL NUMBERS

URGENT SERVICE

General Emergency

112

Police

113

Fire Brigade

115

Medical emergency service

118

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Police Headquarters **055 203911**
only to file a report (English speaking)

Vet Emer. Day service **055 7223683**

International calls **170**
(telephone calls, on line translation,
collect call) 24 hours a day

International Info 24 hours a day **4176**

Telegrams **186**

UTILITY SERVICE NUMBERS:

Gas **800 862048**

Electricity **800 803500**

Water **800 314314**

TRANSPORTATION:

American express **055 50981**

Florence airport (Vespucci) **055 3061700**

national info 24 hr. **055 3061702**

international info 24 hr. **055 3061702**

lost baggage **055 3061302**

Trenitalia **892021** www.trenitalia.com

Pisa airport (G. Galilei) **050 849300**

lost baggage **050 849400**

Radio Taxi **055 4390 / 055 4242 /**

055 4798 / 055 4499

Bus Lines Lazzi **055 363041**

Bus Lines SITA **055 47821**

MUSEUMS

Information and reservations **055 294883**
www.firenzemusei.it

MEDICINE AND HEALTH

Careggi Hospital: **055 4277111**

Hospital of S. Maria Nuova **055 27581**

Children's Hospital **055 56621**

New Hospital S. Giovanni di Dio **055 71921**

S. Maria Annunziata Hospital **055 24961**

Tourist medical service **055 212221**

(English speaking)

English speaking doctors
www.usembassey.it

Dr. Stephen Kerr **055 288055**

cell. 335 8361682

Studio Medico Associato **055 475411**
(Home and office visits 24 hours)

24 HOUR PHARMACIES

Farmacia comunale

Central Train Station **055 216761**

Farmacia Molteni **055 289490**

Farmacia All'Insegna del Moro **055 211343**

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Mass in English – Santa Maria del Fiore

Piazza Duomo (Sat 5 pm) **055 294514**

Santissima Annunziata

(Sun 8 pm) **055 266181**

Baptist Church **055 210537**

Jewish Synagogue **055 245252**

Lutheran Church **055 2342775**

Russian Orthodox Church **055 490148**

St. James American Church (Episcopalian)

June, July and August Sun service in English
at 10.00 **055 294417**

St. Mark's Church of England **055 294764**

Sun 9.00- said Mass 10.30 - Sung Mass

Mon closed, Tues 9.30, Wed 10.00,

Thurs 9.30, Fri 12.30, Sat 9.30

CONSULATES (ENGLISH SPEAKING)

Great Britain: **055 284133**

Malta: **055 217875**

United States of America: **055 266951**

South Africa: **055 281863**

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT FOR ANOTHER CENTURY...

JUST SUBSCRIBE TO THE FLORENTINE NOW

Name : _____

Address to send subscription: _____

street _____

city/state _____

postal code _____

country _____

Email Address: _____

Codice Fiscale or Partita IVA: _____

Subscription rates for 24 issues (one year subscription) are as follows:

Italy:	Euro 60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rest of Europe/UK:	Euro 75	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North America:	Euro 85	<input type="checkbox"/>
Australia:	Euro 90	<input type="checkbox"/>

Method of payment:

Cash	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Check written to: to B'Gruppo Srl	<input type="checkbox"/>
Money Transfer to B'Gruppo s.r.l., Credito Emiliano, c/c 5642/9 ABI 03032, CAB 21500 (attach a copy of transaction)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mail or drop off this form with payment:

The Florentine

via Santa Maria 32/r

50125 Firenze - Italy

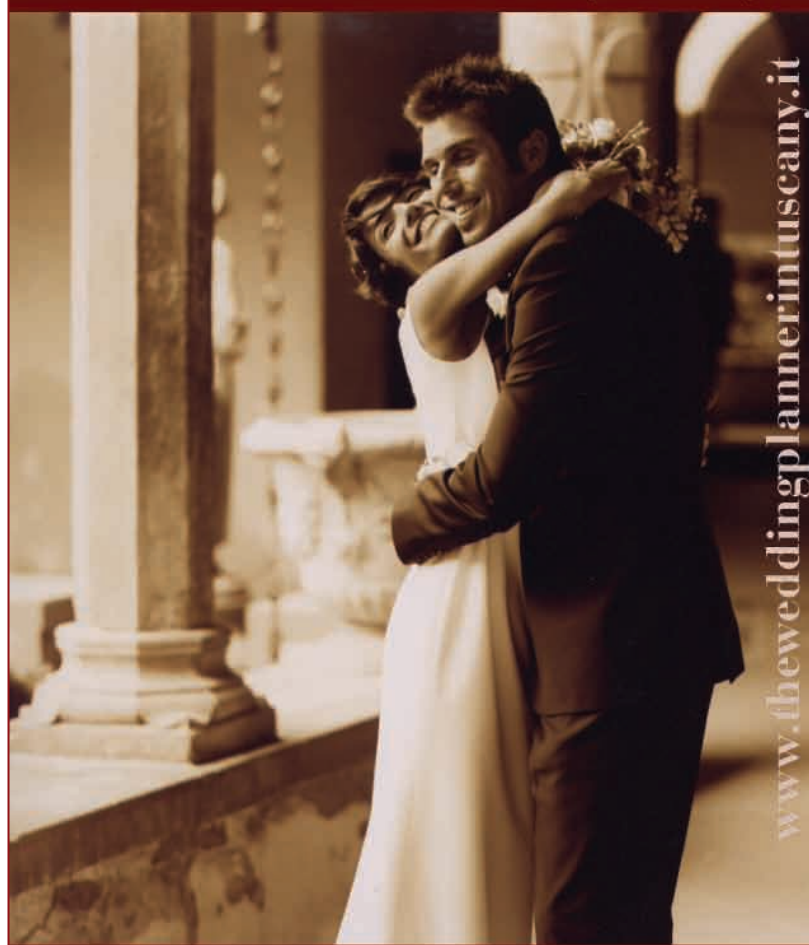


Tel/fax **+39 055 2306616**

Email: subscription@theflorentine.net

THE WEDDING PLANNER IN TUSCANY®

wedding & event design



www.theweddingplannerintuscany.it

unique weddings in Tuscany

HOT IN THE CITY

July 27 will be The Florentine's
last summer issue.

On **September 7**, we're back
in town with news and views
around Florence.

feet by
leo cardini



Alda Baby
baby clothes
made in Italy

June 29-30, July 1

Alda Baby cordially invites you to the
presentation of its **Spring/Summer 2007**
collection at
Hotel S. Gallo Palace – sala 'Lorenzo'
via Lorenzo il Magnifico, 2 – Firenze
tel. 055-463871

For reservations please call or write to us
(tel. 0573/532777, alda@aldababy.it).

Walk-ins welcome

continued from pg. 1

Older than the Rolling Stones

Greek ceramics found in Etruscan burial grounds take centre stage in Pitigliano, the Archaeological Civic Museum dedicated to Etruscan civilization, in their newest exhibit 'Heroes, Divinity and Love,' while the Etruscan Museum of Cortona's Academy will explore the ancient art of perfume-making in an experimental educational exhibit called 'La Via dei Profumi'. During this two-month show starting July 1, fragrance fans can enjoy a myriad of rich essential oils recreated thanks to ancient Latin and Greek texts. For those who prefer the art of eating, the Archaeological and Art Museum of the Maremma will host an initiative called 'Living like an Etruscan: Banquets, Aristocracy and Wine' from July 1 to Aug. 31.

Starting July 6, experts at the archaeological mineral park in San Silvestro a Campiglia Marittima will invite rock collectors to hop on a 'mineral train' for a one-and-a-half kilometre trip into the heart of the earth, along the ancient *via ferrata* used by miners. More than 90 types of minerals can be found in this open-air mineral history museum. Guided visits and hiking routes in Cortona will take the old and new archaeologists to more than eleven sites within its Archaeological Park from July 1 to July 9. Hikers can follow Hannibal's footsteps along ancient Roman roads that once hosted the famed Battle of Trasimeno. Those who are looking for some alternative 'nightlife' can spend an evening or two in Civitella Paganico and take a night-time stroll around the Roman baths in Pietratonda. From July 2 to 6, brave night owls may carry torches through the Archaeological Park in Piombino and enjoy the monumental necropolis of San Cerbone.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

continued from pg. 1

The annual festivities have been organized by the Tuscan American Association, the International American League, the US Consulate General and several American universities in collaboration with various public institutions from the City of Florence. Picnic-goers can expect speeches from the Province President, Matteo Renzi, and the Mayor of the Municipality of Vaglia. Honoured guests will include the Consul General of Florence, Nora Dempsey, and various civil and military authorities of Florence and Tuscany. The local Marshals' School Band and the Sergeants' squad of the *Carabinieri* military police will provide a touch of official fanfare, and guests will also enjoy a traditional performance of Florentine Historical Soccer flag wavers.

Dance lovers will enjoy night performances by the Jarama Ballet choreographed by Queta Meja Rodrigues. Music will be provided by G. La Pira Chorus in concert with Master Gianluca Serveri and the Black and White Ensemble accompanied by Maestro Alessandro Coco. Reyoda will perform Latin-American dancing and jazz and the Fabbrica di Pongo will give the audience a taste of traditional country rhythms. Football fans who wish to congregate in the Villa's Sala Rossa will be able to enjoy two World Cup matches, broadcast on the maxi-screen at 6 pm and 9 pm.

Event sponsors include Ely Lilly, APT (Associazione Promozione Turismo Firenze), The Florentine, Nuova Pignone, Calzoni In Colliva di Bologna, VM Motori, Expedito International Italia, CocaCola, McDonalds, Culligan, Fattoria Luiano, Azienda Agricola Casale di Riccardo Falchini, Balloon Express, Scuola Equitazione Fiorentina, Castello Banfi, La Marzocco, Vivoli, Convivium, Comunità Montana del Mugello, Florsheim Europe, Syracuse University, Villa I Tatti, Rutgers University, and Mr Wolf Snc. Generous contributions have also been offered by Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, Banca Toscana, Officine S. Maria Novella Firenze. Ticket price is 5 euro. Children enter free. Please RSVP with full name, via email to july4firenze@yahoo.com. For further information, please contact Francesco Bardazzi 328-611-6323.

Table of CONTENTS

1 FLORENCE NEWS

Older than the Rolling Stones

Independence day

4 Could it happen again?

Runway over the river

5 Fort with a view

Street artists scrutinized

'Just say no' to alcohol to-go

6 NATIONAL NEWS

Right-left tug-of-war

Prince of vice

7 SPORT NEWS

Alonso slams fourth straight win in Canadian GP

Fear for the Fiorentina

9 TOP PICKS & CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events Highlights

14 UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

An interview with Gunnar Peterson

15 CULTURE & CUSTOMS

ITALIAN VOICES:

A Window on Language and Customs in Italy

16 Forza Azzurri!!!

17 Raindrops kept falling

18 STYLE & FASHION

Catching Vespa fever

19 THE ARTS

'Passion For Life'

20 TRAVEL & LEISURE

Siena: city of colour

21 The Palio: ready, set, go

22 BOOK REVIEW

Lasting Love, Politics and Poetry

23 USEFUL NUMBERS

CLASSIFIED ADS

Frescobaldi
RISTORANTE • WINE BAR



Restaurant & wine bar, with a lively and joyful atmosphere, in the heart of Florence

Traditional Tuscan cuisine and wine by the glass

Closed on Sunday and Monday for lunch

Via de' Magazzini, 2-4/R - Firenze (adjacent to Piazza della Signoria)
Tel. +39 055 284724
frescobaldiwinebar@frescobaldia.it
www.frescobaldiwinebar.it

THE GOURMET'S STOP
WHEN GOODNESS CAN'T WAIT

Tasty take-aways and great specialities you can eat on the spot. For lunch, a treat, a snack before the theatre, Galanti is an irresistible pleasure.

OPENING TIME
monday to friday 8.10-15.00 and 17.00-20.30,
saturday 8.10-14.45
Closed on saturday afternoon and sunday



DELIKATESSEN • SPECIALITIES • WINES
DINNER PARTIES & BANQUETTING

GALANTI

Piazza della Libertà, 31/r - Firenze - Tel. e Fax: 055 490159 www.gastrocomagalanti.com

Florence NEWS

News in BRIEF

Tip-toeing to Siena

In a recent environmental conference with participants from Europe, Asia, the US and Australia, Siena's Santa Maria della Scala, became host to those dedicated to learning how to 'tip-toe' more lightly on the planet. The Footprint Forum 2006 - Learn Share Connect, was sponsored by the University of Siena, its Province, the Municipality of Colle Val d'Elsa and the Italian Naval Commission. Our current annual demand for resources exceeds the earth's regenerative capacity by 23%. Whilst Europe accounts for only 7% of the world's total population, it uses 17% of its resources. The Siennese conference presented a in-depth study of Ecological Footprints and Biocapacity Accounts, a widely used tool in international policy-making which measures how much land and water area a population requires to produce the resources it consumes and to absorb its wastes.

Art without borders

International art lovers shouldn't miss the Art exhibition "Art Without Borders" on display until June 30 at the California State Center in via Leopardi 12. The exhibit is the celebratory culmination of the University's Summer Arts Program held in Florence this June, attended by American and Italian students from the Fine Arts Academy of Florence. The program, coordinated by prominent American figurative artist Domenic Cretara, and included guest artists of international prestige such as Marsha Steinberg. For further information contact: www.csu-summerarts.org.

Let the sales begin

It's almost 'hunting' season. Up and down the boot, shoppers are starting to scout out bargains at mid-summer sales. Nationwide sales season generally translates into a 40% markdown off the original price in clothing stores across the country. Each town designates the day that the sales begin. Milano and Turin start their sales on July 1. July 7 is the big day for Genova, Bologna and Bari. Romans will hit the shops on July 8. Local shoppers will have to wait another two weeks for tempting price tags. Florence, along with Venice, has scheduled the start of sales season for July 15. According to Italian law, during this six to eight week period, all clothes displayed need a tag with original and reduced prices and percent of discount being applied.

Could it happen again?

Concerns still exist 40 years after Flood



Famed throughout the world for its gently rolling hills, many people forget that the region of Tuscany is also well-known for its rivers and streams. Its waterways stretch 22,575 square kilometres throughout an area that boasts no less than 273 large and small streams and 13 bays. The Tuscan streams, beautiful as they may be, prove particularly prone to low periods during the summer season and sudden destructive high tides during autumn and winter months. This natural tendency has earned Tuscany unfortunate notoriety for its frequent floods. In terms of flood-related disasters, Tuscany places third in the Italian context with a total of 656 floods plaguing regional history. The temperamental nature of the Po River has earned Piemonte a record high 844 floods, while the Veneto region claims second place with 767 flood-related emergencies.

Giovanni Menduni, General Secretary of the Authorities of the Bacino since 2000 and author of over 200 publications, has recently published a new Dizionario dell'Arno, an all-encompassing study that spans over 40 years of history since

the flood of 1966. It is a compendium of people, places, stories, culture, traditions surrounding the history of Tuscany's 'silver river.' The 442-page-work, published last week by Edizioni Aida, starts with the city's efforts to protect the historical centre and ends with an in-depth study of mannerist artist Federico Zuccai, painter of L'Arno a Firenze, currently hosted at the Louvre.

The Florentine popular consciousness easily returns to that fateful November day in 1966 when the Arno and its numerous tributaries proved incapable of supporting the ebb and flow of nature's unstoppable power. Exactly who or what contributed to the magnitude of nature's wrath? Experts often cite the public administration's inability to provide appropriate river maintenance. They also blame the inefficiency of hydraulic consortiums, unprecedented deforestation, and the presence of an excessive number of dredges. Evaluating the stability of the Arno basin continues to be of primary interest, as critics argue that the hydraulic characteristics of the river have remained virtually unaltered since 1966. All eyes turn to the authorities of the Arno River Basin, who admit that many more years and a lot more money will be necessary before implementation of the river maintenance plan approved in 1999. Its main goal is to guarantee the security of at least 1,200 square meters of the basin and the small and large river-side towns that are still considered at risk.

RUNWAY OVER THE RIVER

Designer Roberto Cavalli takes Florence as his muse



'The fashion world isn't suffering from an economic crisis,' says Florentine designer Roberto Cavalli, 'it's suffering from a creativity crisis. I'd like us to stop being inspired by the fashions of the '40s, '60s and '70s. It would be wonderful to finally say that the fashion of the third millennium has invented something new.' And yet—new ideas for fashion often sprout up in old places.

Ponte Vecchio recently served as centre stage for one of Pitti Uomo's most awaited events. Roberto Cavalli's extraordinary show saw Naomi Campbell in white and Afef in black, as the two ladies opened the gates of the evening's elegance. Five haute gowns a-piece for each top-model, who led the procession of more than 40 pieces from Cavalli's menswear collection. 'This bridge profoundly influenced the show,' said Cavalli regarding the collection's originality. 'I have always remained a true Florentine and continue to love this city deeply. To be honest, when they told me that we would be able to hold the show here, I felt a bit intimidated. I could imagine the men of the past looking down at me from the windows of the Vasari Corridor, and as a result, I re-created the entire collection. My goal was to make it more sombre and less showy, but also to achieve a level of authenticity and masculinity. I wanted to make the line less colourful. Usually if you put monochromatic fabrics into my hands I don't know what to do with them, but I recognize that men often do prefer darker shades.'

Florence's most famous bridge served as a worthy muse for the stylist, who admits, 'I bowed down to Ponte Vecchio, making sure music wasn't too loud, or the show's flair too extravagant. The bridge's beauty and Florence were enough.' Against a striking background, dandy men in black jackets and trousers wore dusty rose and violet collar shirts. A flash of extra colour came from scarves draped around their shoulders or knotted like ties. New deer-skin moccasins and patent leather shoes made for a perfect strut along the city's most beautiful bridge.

Gas guzzlers

Local service stations suspected of fraud



Local tax police visited 30 petrol stations in the Florentine area and came away with disappointing news. Their objective? To verify that the quantity of petrol paid for by motorists actually corresponds to what ends up in the tank. Of the service stations monitored, only 3 achieved 'up to par status.' According to said investigation, in 85 percent of Florentine gas stations consumers risk paying for more gas than their

cars actually receive. For a 50-to-60-litre tank, this means that on average drivers get half a litre less than what shows up on the distributor's register. The service stations caught 'cheating' have been issued a 'readjustment' order and must pay for a mandatory revision of their service station and the certification of properly functioning equipment, before they will be allowed to serve the public again. The Union of Petrol Station Workers argues that the tax police only visited 5 percent of service stations in and around Florence. They affirm that, overall, the system is quite regulated and foresees yearly revisions that should insure that all gas pumps are working efficiently.

Fort with a view

Belvedere opens its gates to summer

There's nothing like a bird's eye view of Florence at dusk in one of the city's best-loved summer-time spots. From now until August 31, the Forte Belvedere will keep its gates wide open from midday to 2am and become stage to a whole series of summer shows. The *'Forte Davvero'* calendar boasts an original series of live music and dance performances, alternative cinema, theatre and exhibitions.

During last week's inauguration, Cultural Councillor Simone Siliani addressed the challenges of organizing an event series of such magnitude. 'We've gone through some hard times

both in terms of organization and logistics,' Siliani admits. 'The Forte Belvedere is certainly one of the most striking places in the world, if not the most beautiful, but it's hard to manage and its maintenance is quite expensive. The City Council has made huge efforts recently to give this place back to the Florentines.'

When it comes to outdoor entertainment, the fort is certainly the place to be. On June 29, audiences will gather for a taste of tragedy with 'Oedipus the King,' while 'Romeo and Juliet' will repeatedly declare their star-crossed love in performances on July 12, 14, 15 and 19. Giorgio Mancini has choreographed the play to the music of Sergej Prokofiev. On July 22 and 24, music-lovers can listen to scores by composer John Adams in 'Chairman Dances' and 'Words No Longer Heard,' choreographed by Lucinda Childs and Giorgio Mancini respectively. And every night during the entire month of August, cinema buffs can enjoy free 'cinema Atelier'



From June 15 to Sep 18, the second floor of the fort's palace will host an exhibit, showing 241 works from Alberto della Ragione's private collection, donated to the City of Florence in 1969. This series of prestigious paintings and sculptures showcases the development of 20th century Italian art. Two additional collections will be displayed alongside della Ragione's masterpieces, namely those of Filippo de Pisis and Ottone Rosai.

Until Aug 31, fort-goers can take advantage of a special shuttle service that will provide transportation every fifteen minutes from 8pm to midnight. Shuttles depart from the delle Murate car park on Viale Giovine Italia.

'Just say no' to alcohol to-go

New law pressures San Lorenzo to shape up

You can enjoy any drink you please, as long as you order and consume it on the premises at one of San Lorenzo's neighbourhood bars and pubs. In an 'urgent ordinance' issued by prefect Andrea De Martino, it is now illegal for pubs to sell alcohol beverages to-go from 10pm to closing time. This city initiative, in effect until the end of July, was prompted by increasing occurrences of drunken

brawls in the area. Martino's stance has been gladly received by San Lorenzo's citizens, who, in recent months, have repeatedly voiced pleas for the city to 'clean up the neighbourhood.'

Police support is being sent by Italy's national headquarters in Rome to counteract the micro criminality, illegal commerce and random acts of violence that have begun exasperating both residents and merchants throughout

the area. These 15 new officers will strengthen the 56-man squad that already works in the San Lorenzo neighbourhood on any given day. The city of Florence currently pays 1 million euro per year for city-wide urban police services.

Mayor Domenici has taken advantage of the San Lorenzo debate to pose some serious questions to city administrators. 'We have to realize that we need to find

alternative resources to support the urban guards. To me, it seems right that even people who come as visitors from out of town contribute to supporting safety in the city. I propose that part of the money needed for public security come from external sources.' The talk goes back to the so-called tourist tax, known as the 'contributo di scopo,' which would be used to maintain, clean and safeguard the city.



STREET ARTISTS SCRUTINIZED

City commission insures painters are up to snuff



Florence welcomes them in hoards—artists and artisans, both local and foreign, to whom this city represents their eternal muse of creativity. But among the summertime crowds that come to feast on cultural treats, is there still room in the vias and piazzas for these street painters? Perhaps. But only the most talented, please.

In a totally new beauty-based initiative, Palazzo Vecchio has decided to give a city-sponsored exam to the painters and portrait artists who populate Piazza Duomo and the entire historical centre. From now on, anyone who wishes to show their works on the turf supplied by the City will have to be scrutinized and approved by a city council committee intent on evaluating the originality and genuine quality of the paintings displayed. In efforts to support emerging talent, the City of Florence has also decided to make 10 percent of the street-vending spaces available to artists under 26 years old, those who have recently graduated from local art institutes. These young artists will be judged by a commission of three art experts specialized in painting, graphic arts and photo and computer design and layout.

One hundred forty coveted spots dot the historical centre: seven can be found on the Ponte Vecchio and 30 slices of space line Piazza Duomo. Twenty places are located in Piazza Pitti, 18 in Santa Croce, 10 spots grace Piazzale Michelangelo and Piazza della Repubblica, while up to 30 art-corners crowd Piazzale degli Uffizi. The lucky artists who earn city-approved space are obligated to display a sign with their logo, licence and concession expiration date. Threat of license revocation looms over artists who display their works without exhibiting these mandatory details.

CAN EUTHANASIA COME OUT OF THE CLOSET?

Florentine doctors plead for parliamentary support

Florentine doctors are taking action against clandestine euthanasia. Antonio Panti, president of the Order of Florentine Physicians, has joined forces with 30 local doctors in support of a petition promoted by the Luca Coscioni Association for Freedom of Scientific Research. These physicians have requested that the Italian government and parliament carry out in-depth research regarding the phenomenon of clandestine euthanasia in Italy. 'We urgently need to gather reliable data on a national

level,' says Giulia Simi, Vice Secretary of the Luca Coscioni Association. 'Reliable statistics would allow us to inform citizens and spark a serious and in-depth debate on clandestine euthanasia, a problem that has often been denounced by Health Minister Umberto Veronesi,' Simi continues.

Availability of life-saving medical treatment has allowed patients to live longer in what many people consider 'unacceptable conditions.' This phenomenon has given rise to ethical issues and debates regard-

ing personal freedoms throughout the world, and Italy has proven to be no exception. Supporters of the local petition found a government-sponsored research model in studies carried out in Holland in 1990. Results showed the widespread use of illegal euthanasia by both doctors and relatives. Local petitioners affirm that the political debate which arose from this data proved instrumental in the development of much-needed regulatory norms regarding the phenomenon.

TOP TUSCANY
Real Estate

Specialist for Tuscany providing
an efficient personalised service
for those selling, buying,
developing, restoring,
managing property.

Confidence and trust
in real estate property.

contact: Edward Mayhew
0558361587 or 3335066426
www.top-tuscanyrealestate.com
info@top-tuscanyrealestate.com

National NEWS

News in BRIEF

Mafia crackdown in Sicily

Italian police arrested 45 people in an anti-Mafia raid last week, including top bosses who had allegedly been in touch with Bernardo Provenzano, the reputed top boss apprehended earlier this year. The operation involved 500 police officers and dismantled the top tiers of Palermo syndicates. Suspects have been charged with Mafia association and extortion. Piero Grasso, national anti-Mafia prosecutor, said that wiretapped conversations among top mobsters gave a very clear picture of the Sicilian Mafia.

Desperate measures to clear calcio's conscience

Italians Sports Minister Giovanna Melandri said Friday that Italian soccer's rulebook must be overhauled if the scandal-ravaged game is to regain credibility. Melandri said she will start a series of talks next month with figures from the sports world to discuss what rule changes should be made. The minister was speaking at the presentation of a report by the Independent European Sports Review, which addresses a number of soccer-related issues. The Review, set up by the British presidency of the EU last year, proposes a series of measures which include the foundation of a European Agency for Sport and a new Europe-wide tax on sports betting. Measures would also establish more robust checks over transfer dealings and initiatives to divert more of the money generated by the Champions League to grassroots soccer.

Smog: Italy's greatest serial killer

Smog, dust particles and ozone kill nearly 9,000 Italians a year, according to a study published last week by the World Health Organization. The report, commissioned by Italy's Environmental Protection Agency, looked at 13 Italian cities and found that air pollution is playing an increasingly alarming role in the development of a wide variety of diseases. Air pollutant levels were over the EU safety limits at least 35 days last year in most of the cities looked at. 'Only six of Italy's 20 regions have produced a required plan on air quality and only two of these have been approved by the EU so far,' said Italy's new environmental minister Alfonso Scano.

Right-left tug-of-war

Constitutional reform becomes battleground for political showdown

In a boost for Premier Romano Prodi, Italians on Monday rejected sweeping constitutional and devolutionary reforms drawn up by the government of his predecessor, Silvio Berlusconi. The final vote tally showed that 61.7% were against the reforms, which would have strengthened the powers of the premier and introduced greater autonomy for Italy's 20 regions. The 'no' vote won in all regions except the northern, centre-right strongholds of Lombardy and the Veneto. Turnout in the referendum was unexpectedly high at 53.6%, with more people voting in the north than in the south.

Prodi and his nine-party coalition had urged Italians to throw out the amendments approved by Berlusconi's government in November 2005. Since the amendments did not gain the two-thirds support in parliament needed for legislation affecting the 1948 Constitution, they could not have been implemented unless Italians approved them. Prodi expressed his satisfaction on Monday, stressing that cross-party consensus was required for such important reforms. 'It is now our duty to open dialogue with all political parties and discuss together the adjustments that should be made to the Constitution,' said the centre-left leader.



Some members of the centre left had feared high turnout in the north, where 60.35% of those eligible voted compared to 42.6% in the south, could swing the vote in Berlusconi's favour because of the devolutionary aspect. The reforms would have devolved greater powers to Italy's regions in the areas of health, education and local policing. These amendments were key conditions set by the small federalist Northern League for maintaining its support for Berlusconi's government and appealed to many voters in the more affluent regions of the north. The reforms would transformed the Senate into a federal rather than legislative body. They also would have increased the powers of the premier, making the head of government a directly elected figure with the power to hire and fire ministers, propose that parliament be dissolved and call elections.

The government was staunchly opposed to the overhaul, arguing that Italy's underdeveloped southern regions would be penalised by the devolutionist part. It also said the other measures would have created a too-powerful premier-ship, weakened parliament and risked lengthening legislative procedures by creating conflicts between the chambers of parliament.

Indecent proposals

Sex scandals stain Italian public television

Italy's public television station RAI has launched an internal investigation into charges it helped a powerful political figure reward young women with broadcast appearances in exchange for sexual favours, an Italian daily reported Monday. 'We cannot put our head in the sand. We will talk about it in our board meeting,' RAI President Claudio Petruccioli told the daily *Repubblica*.

The accusation that Salvatore Sottile, spokesman for right-wing politician Gianfranco Fini, enjoined the station's vice director of human resources to give the women air time surfaced in a prosecutor's statement which led to last week's arrest of Prince Vittorio Emanuele. 'The means by which Salvatore Sottile took advantage of his position to obtain sexual favours from young women...while holding out the prospect of securing them roles or participation in RAI programs is discon-

certing,' the investigative magistrate in Potenza wrote.

Sottile is suspected of being part of the Prince's alleged criminal network. Several Italian newspapers published transcripts Monday of wiretapped conversations in which Sottile discusses with the RAI executive - sometimes in a sexually explicit and scabrous manner - the women he is proposing for roles in broadcasts. 'This story is really sordid, but at least it might serve as a trigger for an overhaul of entertainment programming on Italian public television,' the secretary of the Usigrai Labour Union at RAI said.

The presence of scantily-clad models on a wide variety of Italian programs, including game and talk shows, and musical variety programs, provokes frequent debate in Italy, and was criticized in 2005 by the United Nations special committee on discrimination against women.

PRINCE OF VICE

Son of last Italian king arrested



Prince Vittorio Emanuele of Savoy was jailed last week in the southern city of Potenza in connection with a prostitution and corruption probe, and was questioned by investigating magistrates last Tuesday. The 69-year-old prince's lawyer, Lodovico Isolabella, told reporters afterwards that he was 'very satisfied' with the way the questioning went. The prince, the son of Italy's last king, was arrested along with 12 other suspects and is accused of recruiting prostitutes from Eastern Europe for a casino in *Campione d'Italia*, an Italian enclave in Switzerland. Vittorio Emanuele is also accused of corruption in connection with the obtaining of licences and supply contracts for rigged gambling machines procured by Sicilian businessman Rocco Migliardi.

The prince, who initially denied all wrongdoing, was accused of using his high-level contacts to help sell the video poker games to the *Campione Casino* and countries including Libya. Prosecutors also suspect him of links with Mafia clans. Migliardi was also arrested on Friday together with the prince's secretary, and Venetian businessman Ugo Bonazza. Six other suspects were placed under house arrest, including Salvatore Sottile, the spokesman of former foreign minister Gianfranco Fini who heads the rightist National Alliance (AN) party.

The prince's son, Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy, repeatedly protested against his father's arrest. He has accused the prosecutor in charge of the case, Henry John Woodcock, of seeking publicity. The Neapolitan prosecutor has a reputation for launching high-profile cases, not all of which, however, have resulted in trials. On Friday, last week, Vittorio Emanuele finally admitted to being guilty of taking bribes and being involved in various levels of 'exploitation.' He was granted house-arrest in a 200 square meter flat in Rome, as he awaits trial.

Italy's former royal family was banished in 1946 following a national referendum establishing the Republic, their name tainted by links of Emanuele's grandfather, Vittorio Emanuele III, with Fascism. The male members of the Savoy family were subsequently banned from entering Italy by the 1948 Constitution. In November 2002, the Italian parliament lifted the ban.

agilelogica::

makes the florentine



www.agilelogica.it

Sports **NEWS**

Formula 1:

Alonso slams fourth straight win in Canadian GP



This was the race during which Michael Schumacher was supposed to close the gap on Fernando Alonso in the chase for the Formula 1 championship. After all, Schumacher has won the Canadian Grand Prix seven times. Alonso has never had anything but trouble at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. None of that mattered Sunday—Alonso drove his Renault to an easy victory for his fourth consecutive win. The Spaniard has six victories this season and 15 straight top-three finishes. Alonso had failed to finish the Canadian GP in three of his

previous four races, including last year when he crashed while leading. This time, his only problem was staying focused despite leading by almost 25 seconds in the closing laps. The reigning world champion stretched his lead to 25 points over Schumacher, who passed Kimi Raikkonen with one lap to go to finish second. Raikkonen wound up third. They now head to Indianapolis for the United States Grand Prix, which Schumacher won last season after Alonso and 13 other drivers boycotted because of concern over tire safety. But Alonso has struggled during F1's North American swing but hopes for better results next week.

Schumacher, the seven-time world champion, has been hesitant to put too much importance on this two-race stretch in regards to the overall title. That didn't change even after Alonso picked up another two points. Alonso, who started from the pole, had only a brief challenge from Raikkonen early in the race but held

off the Finn's attempt to pass him on the 12th lap. Raikkonen had a horrible day in the pits, having trouble on a tire change during his first stop and stalling his McLaren on another, preventing him from challenging Alonso again. He was then passed by Schumacher with one lap to go. But Schumacher also had a rough day and never tested Alonso. He drove his Ferrari off course once, brushed the wall and cut across the curve on the final turn several times to take him out of contention. Even though he won the pole—his fifth in a row—he expected a challenge from Schumacher and Ferrari team-mate Felipe Massa for the victory. Giancarlo Fisichella, Alonso's team-mate at Renault, was fourth and Massa was fifth. Jarno Trulli scored his first points of the season with a sixth-place finish for Toyota. Nick Heidfeld was seventh for Williams and David Coulthard came in eighth after starting last because he changed his engine before the race. Jenson Button was eighth in a Honda and American Scott Speed was 10th. Jacques Villeneuve finished 16th on the track named for his late father. He was heading to at least seventh place when he crashed into the wall with 11 laps to go.

Series A

Fear for the Fiorentina

Anxious fans await sports trail verdict



As the nation gathers around maxi-screens in piazzas and parks all over the country, local soccer fans continue to wait with baited breath even after the national matches are over. While Italy is out rooting for the national 'Blue team,' Florentines are busy worrying about their own local colour. Recent scandals in the football world have made the Violet team's future uncertain. Last week, federal prosecutor Palazzi disqualified the *Fiorentina* in accordance

with an official document issued by the FIGC (Italian Football Game Federation) Commissioner, Giudo Rossi.

Rossi confirmed that 30 parties have been found guilty of violating Articles 1 and 6 of the Code of Sports Justice. Juventus, Lazio, and Milan have been mentioned for similar violations. Infringement of Article 1 refers to fairness within the match, and sanctions range from penalty points to trophy revocation.

Breaching Article 6 is considered more serious as the law refers to illegal activities in sports. In addition to penalties, infringement includes demotion to lowest ranking position or to a lower class series. The Violet football club is being accused of unfair play in five games: Lazio-Fiorentina, Bologna-Fiorentina, Chievo-Fiorentina, Fiorentina-Atalanta, and Lecce-Parma. Prosecutor Palazzi also disqualified Diego and Andrea della Valle and delegate administrator of the *Fiorentina*, Sandro Mencucci. Fans fear their team may be forced down to Series B. The verdict will be issued as the result of a month-long sports trial, scheduled to end on July 20.

Cycling:

LEMOND ACCUSES, 'Lance threatened me'

In an interview with French sports daily *L'Equipe*, three-time Tour de France winner Greg LeMond has claimed Lance Armstrong threatened him after criticising his involvement with a doctor linked with a drugs scandal. LeMond, who in 1986 became the first American to win the *Tour de France*, stated 'he (Armstrong) threatened my wife, my business, my life.' LeMond had previously tried to steer Armstrong clear of working with Italian doctor Michele Ferrari who was at the centre of a drugs scandal in 2004, and who LeMond now considers to have been proven to have been 'a negative influence on cycling.' The American, who turned 45 last week, also hit out at the current state of cycling, saying that the problem of doping in cycling goes far beyond just Lance Armstrong.

Sailing:

FINAL COUNTDOWN IN VALENCIA

It's the penultimate dress rehearsal before the final showdown for the America's Cup in 2007 as Act XII of the Louis-Vuitton Cup gets underway in Valencia on Friday. Alinghi, sailing in its port of call for its title defence next year, will have one last look at its 11 challengers. Kicking off in Marseilles in 2004, the 32nd edition of the world's oldest continuing sporting event has for the first time played out over four years with only an Act XIII to follow next April before the Louis-Vuitton one year from now, followed by the America's Cup where the challenger will take on the Swiss boat. Some, like BMW Oracle (USA), Luna Rossa (ITA), Shosholozza (AFS) or Emirates Team New Zealand (NZL) already have new boats. For others, like Alinghi and Mascalzone Latino, it's still too early to unveil their new model. Even though SUI 91 was christened last month, Ernesto Bertarelli prefers to continue sailing on SUI 75 with Peter Holmberg at the helm.

Photograph Florence..and Fly to SARDEGNA!!

www.RYANAIR.com
THE LOW FARES AIRLINE



Send your photo to info@theflorentine.net

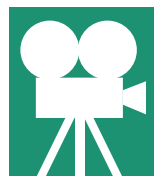
Each week Ryanair will be offering two round trip tickets **Pisa-Alghero** (Sardinia), which will be awarded to the photographer of the "Pic of the Week".

The winner will be chosen by The Florentine editorial staff ...and the winner is...

author: *Eugenia Solopova* title: *Piazza Duomo's life*



Movie REVIEWS



Movies in English showing in Florence

by James Douglas

Weeks **June 29- July 13 2006**

Thursday June 29
Monday July 10

ODEON THEATRE

THE DA VINCI CODE

Tom Hanks as cryptologist Robert Langdon is on auto-pilot and does little to sustain interest. Audrey Tautou as his bland investigative side-kick, Sophie, trails along, speaking zombie English and providing ornament in the place of the love interest the story lacks. Only the dry wit and underplayed villainy of Ian McKellen as Sir Leigh, and Paul Bettany's stunningly demented menacing mad monk Silas save Ron Howard's movie **The Da Vinci Code** from the pedestrian and the mundane. Dan Brown's novel, based on a dodgy premise and a determination to scandalise believers with vaguely plausible mumbo-jumbo, at least had the pace and verve of a sensible thriller. The movie is slack, plodding and mediocre. Everyone on the planet will see it.

Monday July 3

ODEON THEATRE

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND

If you're different from the rest of humanity, you're marginalised, oppressed, despised, but you're also special, and if somebody came up with a cure for your condition, would you take it? This is the premise of the third in the X-Men trilogy, **X-Men: The Last Stand**, entrusted to Brett Ratner (Bryan Singer having jumped ship for the new Superman movie). The cast, however remains intact, with the addition of Kelsey Grammer as The Beast caught in the crossfire as Professor Charles Xavier ('the socialist') and Magneto ('the Darwinist') go head to head in this action-packed allegorical fantasy that has more than a little to say about current global political initiatives and the state of human affairs. And there's Wolverine to relish too...



Thursday July 6

ODEON THEATRE

THE LAKE HOUSE



Time travel and dangling conversations (rather too often about architecture) characterise Alejandro Agresti's **The Lake House**, a remake of Korean director Hyun-seung Lee's Siworae (2000), with Sandra Bullock as the doctor and Keanu Reeves as the architect. In time zones two years apart, the middle-aged professional loners conduct their romance in voice-over readings of letters never sent or yet to be sent. Or something

Tuesday July 4

ODEON THEATRE

ROMANCE & CIGARETTES

John Turturro's 'savage musical' **Romance & Cigarettes** puts New York working man Nick Murder (James Gandolfini) into a classic love triangle with long-suffering wife Kitty (Susan Sarandon) and saucy seductress Tula (Kate Winslet). With the addition of song and dance routines that derive from the scraps and leftovers of the music that plays in the soundtracks of our lives, a period New York setting and the freedom to indulge in a crudity of language denied to filmmakers of the time, Turturro's third film as director (he also wrote it) aims for a sophisticated audience. It had a mixed reaction at Cannes, variously seen as muddled, vulgar, experimental, edgy, soapy and not quite successful.



Tuesday July 11

ODEON THEATRE

UNITED 93



On September 11, 2001 **United 93** was the fourth plane hijacked, and the one intended to wreak havoc on the Capitol. Paul Greengrass's film **United 93** perhaps surprisingly manages to deal effectively, sensitively and thrillingly with the horrors of that day, the mutiny of the passengers and the struggle to avert death and destruction on an almost unimaginable scale. With a documentary truthfulness, helped by its real time frame, the movie has an authentic feel and is a timely and sobering reminder of 9/11, the kind of movie that does Hollywood proud, despite (or because of) its long tradition of 'gratuitous' disaster epics that never quite ring true.

Thursday July 13

ODEON THEATRE

RV: RUNAWAY VACATION

Summer family fun with Robin Williams and co. in Barry Sonnenfeld's **RV**. Depending where you are, this can stand for recreational vehicle or runaway vacation or both. Dysfunctional non-campers are taken on a camping trip, have lots of cheesy adventures, gross out with fountains of excrement, injudicious immersions in the wild, and side-splitting vehicle runaway situations. Rated PG in US and UK for crude language and innuendo. Will a Robin Williams vehicle ever again be a runaway success?



Events in FLORENCE JUN 30 TO JUL 13

OUR TOP PICKS

◆ THE MEDICI MONTH - All of July

The Medici Month, currently in its fourth year, has become one of the most popular events of the summer and combines art history, and entertainment. It includes a packed cultural calendar that reveals the history of Florence through anecdotes of the Medici family during their three centuries of Florentine rule. The Medici Month remembers both well-known and more mysterious Medici, casting them as characters in original theatre plays. These fresh and exciting theatrical events find their natural stage throughout the city in the churches, gardens, and palace halls that were created or loved by the Medici family. In addition to theatre, the Medici Month includes guided visits and conferences hosted by important Florentine personalities which allow aficionados to get to know the history, lifestyles and art that have made this family essential to the Florentine identity. For info and a full calendar of events: www.mesemediceo.it

◆ INDEPENDENCE DAY - July 1

Independence Day is arriving early this year at the Parco di Villa Demidoff in Pratolino, an event which celebrates the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the USA signed in 1776. A great place for family and friends to gather for barbecue and baseball games, live music performances and relay races. Organizers include the Tuscan American Association, the Tuscan-American league, various American universities hosted in Florence and several of the city's Regional and Provincial offices. For more information write to: july4firenze@yahoo.com

◆ OLTRARNO STREET FESTIVAL - June 28 - July 29

This neighbourhood music festival presents a series of live music concerts and various artistic performances from June 28 to July 28. The festival takes place in the heart of the city in Piazza della Passera, one of the most colourful neighbourhood piazzas in Florence, situated just steps from Palazzo Pitti and Via Maggio. Shows start at 9:30 pm and cover the entire musical spectrum from jazz and Latin jazz, to Brazilian tunes, rock, pop blues and funky sounds. Piazza-goers can also appreciate New York jazz and Samba jazz with legendary pianist Blue Note, composer of the soundtrack from the celebrated series 'Sex and the City.' From July 3 to 18 audiences can enjoy the ironic theatre of Florentine actress Roberta Di Bartolomeo who will be presenting two comedy monologues throughout the month. The area's shops, cafés, and restaurants will prolong their opening hours during the music festival. For more information call: 055 2645356

◆ OPERA FESTIVAL 2006 - From June to August

This summer the magnificent Boboli Garden and the beautiful Medici Villa of Cafaggiolo in Barberino di Mugello will be hosts to some of the most celebrated operas in the world. G. Bizet's Carmen and La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi will be performed on outdoor stages complete with striking and innovative set designs. The Opera Festival also includes a series of symphonic concerts including music by C. Orff, Carmina Burana and The Four Seasons masterpiece by Vivaldi. For more information see www.festivalopera.it or call 055-5979005/ 210804

◆ VINTAGE SELECTION - July 5-8

From July 6-9, during the Pitti Filati Exhibition, Stazione Leopolda's Spazio Alcatraz will host the Summer edition of Vintage Selection. This trade-fair is dedicated to vintage fashion, accessories and vintage furniture. 25 of the most important Italian and foreigner fashion designers will display their best creations during this 3-day post-modern exhibit. From 10 in the morning till 11 at night, collectors and fashion-obsessed shoppers will be able to search for strange dresses, eccentric shoes, bags, belts, hats, trinkets, military uniforms, jeans and sportswear. The clothes have been collected primarily between the 30's and the 80's and all coming from used or dead-stocks. Brands on display include Chanel, Pierre Cardin, Emilio Pucci, Roberta di Camerino, Christian Dior, Balenciaga, and Gucci. The exhibition also includes a fun section called 'Vintage Kids' which showcases the history of kids' fashions during the 60's and 70's. For more information see: www.stazione-leopolda.com

◆ MERCANTIA - Certaldo, July 11-16

Mercantia, is a Medieval theatre festival and market, celebrated in Certaldo, that has become one of the most symbolic cultural festivals in Tuscany. Famous for its originality and unique form, the festival was started in 1988 by the City of Certaldo. For five nights every July, the streets and squares of this Medieval Village come alive with the magic of the 'Teatro da Quattro Soldi'. Jugglers, clowns, puppeteers and acrobats join fire-eaters, fakirs, magicians and musicians for an unmatched theatrical extravaganza. Groups of artists come from every part of Italy and abroad to participate in this unforgettable 'uninterrupted street show.' For more information visit: www.mercantiacertaldo.it

◆ SUMMER NIGHTS - From June to September

Enjoy numerous events sponsored by the City Council and various neighbourhood districts. Every night in piazzas, palaces and gardens throughout Florence, city-dwellers can choose between theatre, dance, music, art and culture. Check the Ongoing 'Summer Nights' section for news on different events. Those inspired to treat themselves to an evening away can also find a 'Summer Nights' section in the Out of Town events column.

40th Anniversary of Florence Flood

Do you have a story to tell about the Flood of 1966?
Were you a mud angel or do you know one?
Do you have photos of those days in Florence?

The Florentine is preparing a special edition
for the Flood's 40th anniversary
Distributed all over the world in September.

Write to: the_flood@theflorentine.net

FRIDAY 30

■ COURSES

Intensive summer courses in Painting and Drawing

The California State Summer Arts Program, California State Center on via G. Leopardi 12

■ DANCE

Schiavi

Motus Danza, www.chille.it

Area San Salvi, Via S. Salvi 12, info 055.6236195, 21.00, € 5,00

■ GUIDED TOURS

Recently restored frescoes by Domenico del Ghirlandaio in the Sassetti Cappella

Tour by Akropolis cultural association

Chiesa di Santa Trinita, p.za Santa Trinita, info 055-461428, 16.00

Welcome to Art

Meetings in the evening twice a week for strangers living in Florence

Until June 30 MUDI Museo degli Innocenti, piazza SS. Annunziata 12, tel. 0552037308

■ MUSIC & CONCERTS

Quartetto Perseo

Opera Festival 2006

Giardino di Boboli, p.za Pitti, www.festivalopera.it, info 055-5979005, 21:00 sale at Box Office

Festival Amadeus

Orchestra of the Amsterdam University Camerata Choir and Liberatore Choir music by Mozart

Chiesa di S. Stefano al Ponte Vecchio info 055597026

Quartetto Perseo

Opera Festival 2006

Giardino di Boboli, p.za Pitti, Grotta del Buontalenti, www.festivalopera.it, info 055-5979005 / 210804, Box Office for tickets, 21.00

Mens Sana Trio

Caruso Jazz Café, via Lambertesca, 14/16r, www.carusojazzcafe.com, info 055-281940, 21.30

■ THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

La Mandragola Machiavellica 2006

Museo Nazionale del Bargello, Via del Proconsolo, 4, info 333-2284784, ticket €15 on sale 1 hour before the show, 21.15

Lucio Caizzi

Cabaret

Piazzale Michelangelo, www.comune.fi.it, info 055-27681, 22.32

SATURDAY 1

■ GUIDED TOURS

Ancient Walls of Florence, The Medici Month

Visit to wall fortification designed by Michelangelo. Tour led by Cristina Porciani www.mesemediceo.it, info 055-6120205,

■ MARKETS & FESTIVALS

Independence Day 2006. Picnic organized by the Tuscan American Association

This is a really nice, well-attended event. It is a wonderful chance to meet people, catch up with people you haven't seen in a while, and enjoy a beautiful venue Villa Demidoff (Via Bolognese; take bus 25A & get out at Pratolino) from 5 p.m. onward. €5.00 cover charge includes food, drink (barbeque & beer are extra), sports & music; children under 12 get in free.

■ MUSIC & CONCERTS

Egberto Gismonti

Vivere Jazz Festival

Teatro Romano, via Portigiani 1, Fiesole, Box Office, toll free 800 414240, 21.15

Mens Sana Trio

See June 30

■ THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Il Mercante di Venezia

Shakespeare, Archetipo Company

Palazzo Pitti, Grotta del Buontalenti, €9 box office, www.archetipoac.it, info 055-6530729, 21.30

Katia Beni

Cabaret

Piazzale Michelangelo, www.comune.fi.it, info 055-27681, 22.32

SUNDAY 2

■ DANCE

Magic Steps by Lisa Parra and Fabio Prudetti

Recital of the Scuole di danza Fiorentina Rampe di Piazza Poggi, San Niccolò, info 349-2384360, 22.00

■ MUSIC & CONCERTS

Michela Lombardi Quintet

Vivere Jazz Festival

See July 1, 6.30 pm

Bollani, Bodilsen, Lund Trio

Vivere Jazz Festival

See July 1, 9 pm

Dado Moroni Quartet

Vivere Jazz Festival

Nuova arena Cave di Maiano, See July 1, 11.30 pm

■ SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Trotting race

Ippodromo Le Mulina, tel. 0554226076, www.ippocity.com

■ THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Il Mercante di Venezia

Shakespeare, Archetipo Company

See July 1

MONDAY 3

■ CINEMA

X MEN: The Last Stand

Odeon CineHall, piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.214068, www.cinehall.it, Shows 6.00-8.15-10.30 pm

Brian of Nazareth by Monty Python

Cineteca di Firenze via reginaldo giuliani 357, info 055.450749, 21.45, 5€

■ EXHIBITS

Contrappunto

Painting exhibition by Lisa Wade

See Ongoing

■ MUSIC & CONCERTS

Carla Bley

Vivere Jazz Festival

See July 1, 9.15 pm

Szymanowski Quartet

Classical music

Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9, S. Domenico, Fiesole, info 055-401115 www.nuovieventimusicali.it, free, 21.00

■ THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Patty Diphusa, Comedy dialogues by Pedro Almodovar

Oltrarno Street Festival

piazza della Passera, info 055-2645356, 21.30

Villa Fabbriotti Summer 2006

Theatre shows

See ongoing

Riso olimpico

See ongoing at Villa Fabbriotti Estate 2006

TUESDAY 4

■ CINEMA

Romance & Cigarettes

Odeon CineHall, piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.214068, www.cinehall.it, Shows 6.00-8.15-10.30 pm

■ GUIDED TOURS

Discovering Ancient Cafaggio

Tour by Akropolis cultural association, Arch Lara Mercanti

meeting point in piazza SS. Annunziata front of the church, 17.30 info 055.461428

■ MUSIC & CONCERTS

Concert for San Romolo, Choir and Orchestra Cantica Nova

Music by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart

See July 3, 9.30 pm

Events in FLORENCE

JUN 30 TO JUL 13

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Il Mercante di Venezia

Shakespeare, Archètipo company
See July 3

Il visitatore

Teatro del Sale, via dei Macci 111r,
info@teatrodelsale.com, info 055 2001492,
21.30

Sergio Ricci

Cabaret
Piazzale Michelangelo, www.comune.fi.it,
info 055-27681, 22.31

WEDNESDAY 5

LECTURES & CONFERENCES

Celebration to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Events at the Harold Acton Library 5th July
(last Cultural Program lecture)
British Institute of Florence, Lungarno Guicciardini 9, tel. 055.26778270, free admission, 15.00
Reading of 'Casa Guidi Windows' poem
17.00 Visit to Casa Guidi, piazza San Felice, 8, 18.00 Lecture 'An Old Yellow Book: the death and burial of Elizabeth Barrett Browning' given by Sister Julia Bolton Holloway

TVJ The Virtual Job

European project TVJ for the online job research

Piazza Ghiberti (S. Ambrogio area) www.firenzsummerfest.it, 19.00

MUSIC & CONCERTS

The Parsons Dance Company

17° Florence Dance Festival
Teatro Romano, via Portigiani 1, Fiesole,
info 055-289276, www.florenceadance.org,
Circuito Box Office, 9.15 pm

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Il visitatore

See July 4

Andrea Agresti

Cabaret
Piazzale Michelangelo, www.comune.fi.it,
info 055-27681, 22.30

THURSDAY 6

CINEMA

The Lake House

Odeon CineHall, piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.214068, www.cinehall.it, Shows 6.00-8.15-10.30 pm

DANCE

Flamenco Show

by 'Fundación Flamenca Andaluza' Academy of Flamenco Dance
A.C.F.Art Center Florence, Via Ghibellina 92r, tel. 055 2478864, 5 PM, www.artcenterflorence.it

GUIDED TOURS

Special Opening of Maria Maddalena de' Medici's Corridor, The Medici Month

www.mesemediceo.it, info 055-6120205, 10, 2

Walking to Forte Belvedere, discovering the Florentine "Coasts"

Tour by Akropolis cultural association
meeting point on Ponte Vecchio at Cellini place, 21.00 to 22.30 info 055.461428

Florence free tours with Ataf

Five extraordinary nights with Florence Art, Florence free tours with Ataf, to celebrate the 60th company birthday, ATAF offers free guided tour to Florence main masterpiece for the holder of Agile Card, and of the new Firenze Passepartout ATAF, tel. 0552710765, www.ataf.net

LECTURES & CONFERENCES

Mozart, Schumann, Shostakovich Musical Moments. Meeting

July 6 at 5 pm, Villa Schifanoia, Fiesole, info 055409373, www.nuovieventimusicali.org

MARKETS & FESTIVALS

Flower market

Via Pellicceria, only in the morning

MUSIC & CONCERTS

Nassrin

Oltrarno Street Festival

piazza della passera, info 055-2645356, 21.30

Carmen

Opera Festival 2006

Giardino di Boboli, p.za Pitti, www.festival-opera.it, info 055-5979005, 21:00 sale at Box Office

Fafà de Belem

Saschall, Lungarno A. Moro 3, 42€ box office, 21.30

10° O Flos Colende

Sacred music concert

Battistero e Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore, info 055-2302885, ore 21.15 free

Stefano Scodanibbio, The sound of the soul

Museo Marino Marini, p.za S. Pancrazio, www.firenzestate.com, info 055-695000, 21.00, free

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Trotting race

See July 2

FRIDAY 7

LECTURES & CONFERENCES

Accademia dei Georgofili, lectures and seminars/workshops

July 7 Accademia dei Georgofili, Logge Uffizi Corti, info 055212114, www.georgofili.it

MARKETS & FESTIVALS

All Out, Watermelon party

Centro Commerciale Naturale Borgo La Croce Piazza Beccarla, info 055.2767621, 19.00-23.00

S. Spirito Fair

Piazza S. Spirito info 055-3283550

MUSIC & CONCERTS

Micha Van Hoecke Ensemble

17° Florence Dance Festival

See July 5

10° O Flos Colende

Mozart Concert, Chorus Sine Nomine
Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore, p.za Duomo, info 055-2302885, 21.15 free

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Six-nation sports fishing trophy

Austria, Germany, Luxemburg, Holland, Switzerland and Italy
Arno River, Via Sogliani (on the left side of Ponte alla Vittoria)

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Il Mercante di Venezia

Shakespeare, Archètipo Company
See July 2

La Bettola Toscana Show

Cabaret
Rampe di Piazza Poggi, San Niccolò, www.firenzestate.com, info 349-2384360, 22.00

SATURDAY 8

GUIDED TOURS

Baluardo at San Giorgio Medici Month

Florence under attack: the battle of 1529 and the city defense. Tour guide by Cristina Porciani.
Forte di Belvedere, Porta S. Giorgio, www.mesemediceo.it, info 055-6120205, € 6,00, 11:00

MUSIC & CONCERTS

Symphonic Orchestra, City of Grosseto

Classical music
Chiesa di Orsanmichele, Via Calzauioli, info 055-210804 / 783374 tickets at Box Office, 21

PARKS

Archeological Nights

Special free opening of monuments garden and Archaeological Museum
Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Via della Colonna 38, Info 055 23575, sat@comune.firenze.it, 20.00-24.00

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Six-nation sports fishing trophy Trofeo See July 7

Fiorentina Baseball VS Rangers Baseball Club

Game 1 at 3.30 pm, Game 2 at 8.30 pm
Cerreti Baseball Stadium, Viale Manfredo Fanti 18

SUMMER NIGHTS

Florence as it was

Special opening, Le Notti dell'Archeologia
Museo Storico Topografico, via dell'Oriuolo 24, info 055 2616545, gestione. musei@comune.fi.it, 21.00-24.00

Collection of Egyptian archeological artifacts

Special opening, Le Notti dell'Archeologia
Museo Stibbert, via Federico Stibbert 26, tel. 055.486069, www.comune.fi.it, 21.00-24.00, reduced entrance price

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Niki Giustini

Cabaret

Piazzale Michelangelo, www.comune.fi.it, info 055-27681, 22.33

SUNDAY 9

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Paolo Migone

Cabaret

Piazzale Michelangelo, www.comune.fi.it, info 055-27681, 22.33

MONDAY 10

CINEMA

The Da Vinci Code

Odeon CineHall, piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.214068, www.cinehall.it, Shows 6.30-9.30pm

MUSIC & CONCERTS

Piano Recital

Giardino di Boboli, p.za Pitti, Grotta del Buontalenti, www.festivalopera.it, info 055-5979005 / 210804, Box Office for tickets, 21.00

Simone Graziano Trio

Jazz

Piazza Ghiberti (S. Ambrogio area) www.firenzsummerfest.it, 19.00

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Trotting race

See July 2

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Come in America

Show details on www.zauberteatro.com
Arno river, starting from Piazza Mentana, www.renaioli.it, info 055-5000640

TUESDAY 11

CINEMA

UNITED 93

Odeon CineHall, piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.214068, www.cinehall.it, Shows 6.00-8.15-10.30 pm

The Rolling Stones: time is in our side (let's spend the night together)

CINETECA DI FIRENZE via reginaldo giuliani 357, info 055.450749, 21.45, 5€

DANCE

Excalibur Stories

Presented by Florence Dance Company
Park of Stibbert Museum, via di Montughi 7, Poggetto, tel. 055.486069, www.comune.fi.it, 21.30 Prenotazione obbligatoria

GUIDED TOURS

Cenacolo di San'Apollonia

Tour by Akropolis cultural association
meeting point via XXVII Aprile 1, 10.00 info 055.461428

MUSIC & CONCERTS

Il Suono dell'Utopia

Music by Mozart and Prokofiev
See July 3, 9 pm

Tuscan Tour of the Orchestra "La Sinfonietta" from Geneva

Operas by Vivaldi, Sibelius, Mozart, Binet and Gounod

"Estate in Peretola", Piazza di Santa Maria, Firenze, ore 21.15

Choir Concert

Award-winning concert preformed by the Canatàre Chorus from Alberta, Canada
Chiesa S. Maria de Ricci, www.cantarechildrenschoir.org, 7 pm, free

Philip Glass "Works for Solo Piano and Orchestra"

Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Orchestra
Piazza della Signoria, info 055-2625955, 21.30 free

The Elegant Gipsy Trio

Rampe di Piazza Poggi, San Niccolò, www.firenzestate.com, info 349-2384360, 22.00

Musipolitana,

Music from Senegal, the Ivory Coast, Iran, Romania, Cuba, Perù
piazza della passera, info 055-2645356, 21.30

The Elegant Gipsy Trio

Popular music

Rampe di Piazza Poggi, San Niccolò, www.firenzestate.com, info 349-2384360, 22.00

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Come in America

See July 10

Masti Show (games and jokes) Estate alle Piagge 2006

Cabaret

Le Piagge, Piazzetta del Centro Commerciale, info 055-2767033, 21.15 free

Volo in cinque tempi

Street theatre

Piazza Ghiberti (S. Ambrogio area) www.firenzsummerfest.it, 19.00

L'elisir di Caterina

Show and banquet

Hotel Relais Certosa, www.mesemediceo.it, info 055-6120205, € 35, 21.15

WEDNESDAY 12

CINEMA

The Rolling Stones: Time is in our side (let's spend the night together)

See July 11

DANCE

Excalibur Stories

See July 11

Romeo and Juliet

Forte di Belvedere, info 055.2779241, 21.30 (also on 14, 15 and 19 July)

MUSIC & CONCERTS

Litfiba

Ippodromo del Visarno, entrance dal Viale della Catena, hopcavalcalanotte@libero.it, 22.00

Badara Seck, Mauro Pagani, Massimo Ranieri Grand Ensemble

Piazza della Signoria, info 055-2625955, 21.30 free

Musipolitana

See July 11

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Come in America

See July 10

THURSDAY 13

CINEMA

RV: Runaway Vacation

Odeon CineHall, piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.214068, www.cinehall.it, Shows 6.00-8.15-10.30 pm

DANCE

Excalibur Stories

See July 11

GUIDED TOURS

Special Opening of Maiano Villa, The Medici Month

www.mesemediceo.it, info 055-6120205,

Events in **FLORENCE** JUN 30 TO JUL 13**LECTURES & CONFERENCES****40th Anniversary of Flood «I too was there» interviews with people who lived through the flood experience**

July 13 at 9p.m, Sede Albereta, piazza Ravenna info tel. 0556585128, www.comune.fi.it

MUSIC & CONCERTS**Note Noire**

Jazz
Rampe di Piazza Poggi, San Niccolò, www.firenzestate.com, info 349-2384360, 22.00

Luca Pirozzi Accordi and Disaccordi trio
piazza della passera, info 055-2645356, 21.30

SPORT & ACTIVITIES**Trotting race**

See July 2

ONGOING**COMPETITION****1.000 euro per 1 minute**

Competition open to videos no longer than one minute, titles included.

Deadline June 30, Videominuto PopTV, Festival Office, via del Rosso Fiorentino 2b, tel. 055.7399981, www.videominuto.it, the chosen videos will be shown at Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci in Prato per October 9

Pencils for Peace

A national competition for young cartoonists ages 14-30

Deadline August 31, info www.scuolacomics.it, tel. 055.218950 or www.portalegiovani.comune.fi.it, tel. 055.218310

DANCE**Danz&state 2006: summer ballet**

Dance performances and competition by international choreographers
June 26-July 8, 21.00, Teatro della Limonaia di Villa Strozzi, via Pisana 77, tel. 055.351530, www.danzatoscana.it

Callas

MaggioDanza
Until 9 august, Teatro Comunale, Corso Italia 16, info 199.112112, 20.30

EXHIBITS**Passaggi - Passages**

Painting exhibition by Antonio Biancalani
Until July 29, Galleria Falteri, via della Spada 38r, tel. 055217740, www.falteri.it

Matthew Spender

Sculpture Exhibit
Until 21 August, Badia Fiesolana, Basilica di Sant'Alessandro, Area Archeologica, Museo Archeologico, Fiesole, info 800-414240 www.fiesolemusei.it

Pedalando nel tempo**Pedaling throughout time**

An exhibit of antique bicycles in the new ground-floor exhibition space of the Museum.

Until December 31, Mon-Sat 9.30-17, Tues 9.30-13, 2nd Sun of the month 10-13, Museo di Storia della Scienza, piazza dei Giudici 1, tel. 055.265311, www.imss.fi.it

The Dreams of a Queen

Until July 9, Mon-Wed 10-14, Fri-Sun 10-18, Museo Stibbert, via Federico Stibbert 26, tel. 055.486069, www.comune.fi.it

Incontri Mediterranei / Mediterranean Encounters

Until October 10, Museo Archeologico Nazionale, via della Colonna 36, tel. 055.294883, www.firenzemusei.it/archeologica

Rifiuti Preziosi, Il Nouveau Réalisme e la cultura contemporanea

An art exhibit with recyclable materials and junk art: Nouveau Realism and contemporary culture

Until June 30, Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.2776461, www.palazzostrozzi.info, 10-19

Fatti ad Arte

A Collection of art work by Antonio lo Pinto, Donatello Mei, David Palterer, Adriano Persiani, Leda Ratti

Until July 15, Spazio 2 Piazza Stozzi, tel. 0552658114

Michelangelo's «Leda» and the second Florentine Republic

Until July 10, 9.30-14, Casa Buonarroti, via Ghibellina 70, tel. 055.241752

Man from the Renaissance

Until July 23, 9-20, Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.2776461, www.palazzostrozzi.info

Vu d'Italie 1841-1941

Until June 30, 10-20, Museo Stibbert, via Federico Stibbert 26, tel. 055.486069, www.comune.fi.it

Arte e Manifattura di corte a Firenze. Dal tramonto dei Medici all'Impero (1732-1815)

Until November 5, Palazzo Pitti, piazza Pitti 1, tel. 055.294883

Lorenzo Monaco: dalla tradizione gotica al Rinascimento

Until September 24, 8.15-18.50, Galleria dell'Accademia, via Ricasoli 50, tel. 055.294883, www.polomuseale.firenze.it

Mostra di pittori fiorentini neorealisti

Until June 30, Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.2776461, www.palazzostrozzi.info

Miniatura Umbra del Rinascimento

Until June 25, 8.15-13.50, Sat 8.15-18.50, Sun 8.15-19, Museo di San Marco, Piazza San Marco 3 tel. 055.2388608

Photographic Exhibit

Il Genio Fiorentino, Organized by the French consulate; photographs to present the extraordinary Florentine journey.

Until July 22, Institut Français de Florence, Piazza Ognissanti 2, tel. 055 2718801, www.geniofiorentino.it

The Mind of Leonardo. Universal Genius at Work

Until January 7, 2007, 8.15-19.00, Tues-Sun, Galleria degli Uffizi, Piazzale degli Uffizi, tel. 055.2388651, www.uffizi.firenze.it

The Renaissance Man: Leon Battista Alberti

Until July 23, 9-20, Fri Until 23.00, Palazzo Strozzi, Piazza Strozzi, tel. 055.2776461, www.palazzostrozzi.info

Walk-In

A collection of art work from young artists
Until June 30, Galleria Alessandro Bagnai, tel. 055.680266

Lights on Chinart

Exhibit of Contemporary Chinese Art
Until August 31, Palazzo Capponi all'Annunziata, Via Gino Capponi 26, tel. 055.242248, www.palazzocapponi.allannunziata.it

Appesi ad un filo: tessuti espressivi

Photos by Giulia Naldini
Until July 31, Maison Dumitru, Borgo Pinti 25r, tel. 055.7189417

Sculpture by Vincenzo Chiazza

Until June 30, Limonaia di villa Strozzi, via Pisana 77, tel. 055.2767113

The Mystery of the Genesis in the Jorge Jimenez Deredia's Sculptures

Forty sculptures made of Carrara white marble and bronze by Jorge Jiménez Deredia (Costa Rican).

Until September 30, closed 1st and last Mon of the month, €7, Boboli Gardens, Piazza Pitti, tel. 055-2298732, www.ilmistero-dellagenesi.com

Behind the the big curtain a group of painters kept on working.....

June 16-July 7, Mon-Fri 18-20, Sat-Sun 13-16, Atelier Rebecca Harp, piazza della Repubblica 3, 3rd floor

Garden in Tuscany

Photography by Massimo Listri
Until July 17, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Via Cavour 1, info 055.4382638, 9.00-19.00

Sculptural studies & Drawings by Roger Phillips

Until June 30, Mon-Fri, 9-17, Saci Gallery, Palazzo dei Cartelloni, via Sant'Antonino 11

Quasi l'infanzia, i bambini e lo sguardo dell'artista

June 20-Sept 17, Palazzo Vecchio, Sala d'Arme, piazza della Signoria, tel. 055.6120467

La sacralità nel quotidiano. Matthew Spender sculptures

June 21-August 21, 10-19, Museo e Area Archeologica, via Portigiani 1, info 800 414240, Fiesole

Human game. Vincitori e vinti

June 21-July 23, Stazione Leopolda, viale Fratelli Rosselli 5, tel. 055.212622, www.stazione-leopolda.it

New Liberalistic Pleasures

Until September 10, Biagiotti Progetto Arte, Via delle Belle Donne 39/r, tel. 055.214757

Firenze 99 Contemporanea

Programme of international contemporary art exhibits in the city
Until July 30, See www.pittimmagine.com for locations

Tre mostre

Until June 30 Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, v.le della Repubblica 277, Prato, tel. 0574.5317, www.centropecci.it

Marangoni Student Exhibit

Exhibit by second year university students
Until June 31, 3-7 pm, FSM gallery, Via San Zanobi 19R, tel. 055 280368, exhibitions@studiomarangoni.it

Gravità e luce

Marble sculptures by Naoko Kumasaka, Durid Campbell, Lothar Nickel, Jaja Schurich and Franco Scuderi
Until July 31, Limonaia di Villa Vogel, via delle Torri 23, Isolotto, info 055.2625955, www.firenzestate.com, 9.00-12.00

Copti Fabrics From Egiptian Museum of Firenze

Until October 22, Museo Casa Siviero, Lungarno Serristori 3, www.cultura.toscana.it/musei/primopiano/siviero.html, info 055.2345219

Lo sguardo dell'innocenza

Workshop on creativity an expression, La Tinaia
Until July 31, Piazzetta Madonna della Neve, www.latinaia.org info 055-2625955

Passion pour la vie (location 1)

Charity exhibit with international artists
Until July 30, Museo Diocesano di S. Stefano al Ponte, p.za S. Stefano al Ponte Vecchio 5, www.antoinegaber.com, info 055 292082, free

Passion pour la vie (location 2)

Charity exhibits with international artists
Until July 30, Roof Terrace of Grand Hotel Baglioni, P.za Unità Italiana 6, www.antoinegaber.com, info 055 292082, every day from 5 pm aperitive time

Contrappunto

Painting exhibition by Lisa Wade
July from 3 to 14, SACI Gallery, Palazzo dei Cartelloni, via Sant'antonino 11, tel. 055289948, www.saci-florence.org

Stati d'infanzia

Photos by Giovanni Santi
Until July 28, Limonaia di villa Strozzi, via Pisana 77, tel. 055.2767113

Equilibrio e gioco

Sculptures by Beatrice Barni 1996-2006
Until July 28, Museo Marino Marini, p.za S. Pancrazio, www.museomarinomarini.it, info 055.486049, 10.00-17.00, €4

GUIDED TOURS**Itinerari e Incontri**

Guided visits, book presentations, and conferences
Associazione Akropolis, Info 055461428, http://it.geocities.com/associazione_akropolis, all year

Museo Bandini

Until October 31, 9.30-19, Fiesole, via Duprè 1

Restoration of the cycle of frescoes by A. Gaddi in the Cappella Maggiore

Until December 31, Fri and Sat at 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16; Sun at 14, 15, 16, Chiesa di Santa Croce

Artisans of the Oltrarno, in search of artistic craftsmanship

Genuine Florentine artisan traditions
Info 055.3036108, www.firenze-oltrarno.net, all year

Hortibus Collection & Garden tours

Starting point: piazza S.Trinita, every Thur and Sat at 15.00, info 348.9100783, www.hortibus.com, € 25, all year

MARKETS & FESTIVALS**Mercato San Lorenzo**

Florentine crafts, hand-made embroidery, paper, leather etc
Streets around Basilica San Lorenzo, every day, all day

Ciampi Antique fair

Piazza de' Ciampi, tel. 055.3283550, every week day and last Sunday of the month

Mercato del Porcellino

Florentine crafts with straw, hand-made embroidery, leather, woodwork, and flowers
Logge del Porcellino, every day, all day

Accoglienza attraverso l'Arte

Evening meetings for expat residents of Florence
Until June 30, MUDI Museo degli Innocenti, Piazza S.S. Annunziata 12, tel. 0552037308

Mercatini equosolidali Hop «Cavalca la Notte» - 1° ed

Until August 6, Ippodromo del Visarno Viale della Catena, davanti alle Pavoniere, Info: hopcavalcalanotte@libero.it, 18.00

63th Pitti Immagine Bimbo

Children's wear and accessories collections. Access reserved to professionals within the sector
from 30th June to 2nd July, Fortezza da Basso, tel. 05549721, www.pittimmagine.com

Il Mese Mediceo

Until July 31, www.mesemediceo.it

59th Pitti Immagine Filati

Yarn's Fair. Access reserved to operators from 5th to 7th July, Fortezza da Basso, tel. 05549721, www.pittimmagine.com

Vintage Selection

The Vintage Clothing, Accessories and Designer Objects Fair
from 5th to 8th July, Stazione Leopolda, p.le di Porta al Prato, www.pittimmagine.com, info 055-212622, free, from 10am to 10pm

Festa Regionale de l'Unità

Politics, music and cuisine
July 13-August 12, Fortezza da Basso, info 055.503201

MUSIC & CONCERTS**Organ and instrumental concerts**

Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Ricci, via del Corso, tel. 055.289367, all year, Mon-Sun 21.15, Sat 18.00, €11

Concerts at St. Mark's English Church

The «Orpheus Ensemble» presents sacred music, Italian opera arias and Neapolitan Songs with piano and voice
St. Mark's English Church, Via Maggio 16-18, tel. 340.8119192, every day at 21.15, €15, for The Florentine readers € 10 (Mondays free piano recital)

I «Maggi» Fiorentini

Classical music
La Limonaia del Giardino Bardini info 055-2768520, Fry and Sat 18:00

Florence International Music Festival

Until July 21, www.il-trillo.com, info 055-2341049, free

Danz&state 2006

Summer ballet. Choreography prize
From June 26 to July 8 (prize: June 30, July 1, 2), Teatro della Limonaia di Villa Strozzi, via Pisana, tel. 055 351530, www.danzatoscana.it

Oltrarno Street Festival

Until July 28, piazza della passera, info 055-2645356, 21.30

8th International Festival of European Youth Orchestras

Firenzestate 2006
July 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 27*, 30*, Piazza San Lorenzo and *= Chiesa Santo Stefano al Ponte, Piazza de' Saltarelli, tel. 055597026, www.florenceyouthfestival.com

La Traviata

Opera Festival 2006
from 6th to 27th July, Giardino di Boboli, p.za Pitti, www.festivalopera.it, info 055-5979005, 21:00 sale at Box Office

Colori del Mondo, Concerts

Firenzestate 2006
July 8, 11, 23; Area Pettini Burresi, via Faentina 145, tel. 0552767828, www.firenzestate.com

Concerts of the Chamber Orchestra

26th concert season 2006
July 10, 11, 20*, 21*, 24*, 28*, Chiesa di Orsanmichele, Cortile del Museo Nazionale del Bargello, tel. 055783374, www.orcafi.it

Events in FLORENCE

JUN 30 TO JUL 13

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Navigating on the Arno River under Ponte Vecchio

Rowing on the Arno
from June to October, starting point: Lungarno A.M. de' Medici and Lungarno Generale Diaz, tel. 347 7982 356, www.renaioli.it

SabbiaVolo 2006

Beach volley Tournament
until July 20, Sesto Fiorentino e Signa, info 340.6818657, a:sabbiavolo@libero.it, www.sabbiavolo.altervista.org, Until 20 July,

Beach Pro

Beach volley competition
From 13rd to 27th July, Piazzale Michelangelo, info 340.6818657, a:sabbiavolo@libero.it, www.sabbiavolo.altervista.org

SUMMER NIGHTS

Meridiani e Paralleli

Until September 10, every day from 17.00 to 1.00, Piazza Indipendenza

Parco e Piscina Le Pavoniere

Music, shows, DJ sessions, live performances, fashion, pool, food & cocktails
Until September 24, from 20.00, Le Pavoniere, parco delle Cascine, on Sunday latin music

Summerfest2006

Music, theatre and more
Until September 9, every evening, Piazza Ghiberti (S. Ambrogio area), www.firenze-summerfest.it

Parco sud

Music, cinema, dance, games for children, food
Until September 9, every day all day, Parco dell'Anconella, via di Villamagna

Rime Rampanti

Music, dance, theatre, games, DJ sets, food and drinks
Until September 3, every evening from 19.00, Rime di piazza Poggi

Easy Living in Santo Spirito

Live Music, Bar, cocktails, free wireless access all over the Piazza.
Until September 10, Piazza Santo Spirito, www.piazzart.com, info 3400713410, every evening

Summer nights 2006. La Vasca at the Fortezza

Live music, bar, dj
Until September 10, Fortezza da Basso, Viale Filippo Strozzi, tel. 055-2767621, www.firenzestate.com, free

Il suono dell'anima

Firenzestate 2006
Until September, Chiesa di S. Gaetano, Museo del Bargello, tel. 055.2625955, www.firenzestate.it

Estaz

Events happening throughout the summer including musical performances, films and viewing of the World Cup.
Until July 26, every day, STAZ - Stazione di Confine, via Attavante 5, tel. 055.7320812, www.stazionedicofine.it

Spettacoli itineranti sul fiume

Theatre performances aboard small boats on the Arno
June 6-July 7, info & booking 055.5000640, www.zauberteatro.com, starting point piazza mentana, €20

Hop "Cavalca la Notte"

Music, sports and food
Until August 6, from 18.00 every evening, Ippodromo del Visarno, Parco delle Cascine, info <http://hopcavalcalanotte.blogspot.com>

FirenzEstate 06 in Santissima Annunziata

Music, theatre and more
Until September 6, every evening, Piazza Santissima Annunziata

Reading Don Chisciotte

Firenzestate 2006
June 9-July 6, Chiostro delle Oblate, via S. Egidio 21, 21.30, from Mon to Fri. Free but invitation compulsory. Go to l'Assessorato alla Cultura del Comune di Firenze, Via Ghibellina 30. Tel 055.2625955 or to Compagnia Lombardi Tiezzi, via Domenico Maria Manni 55, tel. 055.600218

Estate a San Salvi

Theatre, dance, music, etc.
Until September 10, every day, Area San Sanvi, via S. Salvi 12, tel. 055.6236195, www.chille.it

Di tutti i colori

Theatre, skateboarding and exhibit on Bartali

Until July 31, every day, Piazza Bartali

Cure allo scoperto

Events every night, music, outdoor bar, computer corner
June 16-July 29, from 18.00, Spazio Giovani Cure, via Faentina 145, tel. 055.5522816, www.spaziocure.it

Estate freschi

Music, theatre, sport & show
Until July 30, every day, Area Pettini Burresi, via Faentina 154

Ballo Liscio e Vernacolo show

Until September at 9pm, Giardini di Bellariva, lungarno Aldo Moro, tel. 055.2767822

Summer at Demidoff Villa. Theatre and music shows

from June to September, Parco Mediceo di Pratolino info 055409155, www.provincia.fi.it

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Shows on Arno. Onboard of the ancient boats of Renaioli

Until 1st August, Arno river, starting from Piazza Mentana, www.renaioli.it, info 055-5000640 20, 21.15

L'Elsa di sangue

The Medici Month
June 29-July 9, 21.00, Mura di Firenze, Baluardo di San Giorgio, Forte di Belvedere, www.mesemediceo.it

La Parola al teatro

Firenzestate 2006
Until September, info & booking 055.2625955, www.firenzestate.it

Villa Fabbriotti Estate 2006

Theatre shows
Until July 29, Villa Fabbriotti, via V.Emanuele II n.64, Prenotazioni tel. 0555000640 (Bus n.4) . Info Q.5 tel. 0552767045, www.zauberteatro.com

Improvvisamente Atti o Scene in luogo pubblico

July 3, 6, 10; Area Pettini Burresi, via Faentina 145, tel. 0552767828, www.firenzestate.com

CHILDREN

EXHIBITS

I bambini raccontano la Preistoria

Exhibition of works by primary school children from Florence, Prato and Pistoia
Until June 30 Museo Fiorentino di Preistoria "P. Graziosi"- tel. 055295159

GUIDED TOURS

Il Giardino di Archimede, Mathematics Sundays

Guided visits and surprise events at the Museum
Il Giardino di Archimede, Museo per la Matematica, via S. Bartolo a Cintoia 19, tel. 055.7879594, www.archimede.ms, on the first Sunday of every month

MUSIC & CONCERTS

July for children

Theatre shows for children
from June 30 to July 19, Campi Bisenzio, Parco Iqbal info 05 58959318, www.comune.campi-bisenzio.fi.it

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

The little joiner's shop

Workshop to create wooden games, develops creativity and dexterity. For children age 4 to 10
Il Cappello di Merlino, via Mazzetta 14r, tel. 055.264471, every Wed, 17.00

The amazing circus of Merlin the Wizard

Workshop to create circus equipment. For children ages 4 to 11
Il Cappello di Merlino, via Mazzetta 14r, tel. 055.264471, every Thur, 17.00

The world through the senses

Experimenting with the senses (taste, sight, hearing, touch, smell) through games and book-readings. For children ages 2 to 5.
Il Cappello di Merlino, via Mazzetta 14r, tel. 055.264471, every Fri, 17.00

Artisti in erba

Free painting lessons outdoors
June 8-July 1, Tues & Thurs, Villa Favard, via Aretina 511, tel. 055.2767822

Ludoteca Il Castoro

Every Monday: Let's Play Together, Every Tuesday: Handicraft lab and painting with Chiara, Every Wednesday: Let's Use the Videocamera, Every Thursday: inventing and acting out stories, Every Friday: fun and games in English, Every day: book loaning and story-time for children and parents
c/o Ludoteca Il Castoro, Via U. della Faggola 68/A (Scuola Villani), tel. 055.6810517

Le statue stele

Workshops for children and adults, Le Notti dell'Archeologia
Museo Fiorentino di Preistoria, via San Egidio 21, info@museoflorentinopreistoria.it tel. 055.295159, 9.30-12.30 free reservations required

Gli strumenti musicali nella preistoria

Workshops for children and adults, Le Notti dell'Archeologia
Museo Fiorentino di Preistoria, via San Egidio 21, info@museoflorentinopreistoria.it tel. 055.295159, 14.00-17.00 free reservations required

Segni della Preistoria

Workshops for children and adults, Le Notti dell'Archeologia
Museo Fiorentino di Preistoria, via San Egidio 21, info@museoflorentinopreistoria.it, info 055.295159, 14.00-17.00 free reservations required

La semina e la panificazione nella preistoria

Workshops for children and adults, Le Notti dell'Archeologia
Museo Fiorentino di Preistoria, via San Egidio 21, info@museoflorentinopreistoria.it tel. 055.295159, 9.30-12.30 free reservations required

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)

Puppet show

Il Cappello di Merlino, via Mazzetta 14r, tel. 055.264471, every Sat, 17.00

Favole al Boschetto

Stories from the great tradition of fairy-tales
Il Boschetto, via di Soffiano 11, Legnaia, info 055.700026, €8 senior, 5€ children, 21.30

OUT OF TOWN

COMPETITION

Scrivo per sport

Contest to select films that have sports in Prato as their theme.

Deadline July 15, Concorso Scrivo per Sport, Comune di Prato, Assessorato allo Sport, via Migliorati 1, Prato, info 0574.1836484, 800.058850, 0574.401376

COURSES

Arteinscena Musical laboratory

Dance and singing
enrollment to teatro@politeamapratense.com or fax (0574/445580) o at Teatro Politeama Pratese, Via G. Garibaldi 33 Prato

EXHIBITS

David Smithson & Bach Backwards

Until July 30, 10-19, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, v.le della Repubblica 277, Prato, tel. 0574.5317

Omissis by Marco Neri

Until July 30, 10-19, closed Mon, Tues, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, v.le della Repubblica 277, Prato, tel. 0574.5317

Primo Piano

Words, Art, Actions, Music, a collection of live art. Over 400 pieces capturing the artistic movements of the 60's and 70's.
June 14-September 18, Centro Arte Contemporanea Pecci, Viale della Repubblica 277, Prato, tel. 05745317, www.centroarte-pecci.prato.it, Closed Mon/Tues, Wed-Thur 10-18.30, €5

Intrecci mediterranei

Fabrics from 11th to 17th centuries
Until September 30, Wed-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-14, Sun 16-19, Tue closed, Museo del Tessuto, via santa chiara 24, Prato, 0574 611503, www.museodetessuto.it, 4€

Vivere da Etrusco

Exhibit of Le Notti dell'Archeologia
Museo Archeologico di Artimino, Prato, info 055-8712468 www.cultura.toscana.it/musei.htm

Primo Piano

Words, Art, Actions, Music, a collection of live art. Over 400 pieces capturing the artistic movement of the 60's and 70's.
June 14-September 18, Centro Arte Contemporanea Pecci, Viale della Repubblica 277, Prato, tel. 05745317, www.centroarte-pecci.prato.it, Closed Mon/Tues, Wed-Thur 10-18.30, €5

GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours in the Natural Reserve of Fucecchio marsh

Padule di Fucecchio, tel. 0573.84540, Until June on weekends, www.zoneumidetoscane.it/eventi/padeventi.html

On the Scaffolding with Filippo Lippi

Visits to the restoration of Filippo Lippi's fresco (max 12 persons)
Cattedrale di Santo Stefano, piazza del Duomo, Prato, tel. 0574.24112, www.restaurofilippolippi.it, by reservation only, every Sat at 10, 11, 16, 17, Sun at 10, 11, €8

Guided walking tours around Calenzano

From April to October, info 055.8833255, www.comune.calenzano.fi.it

On the Scaffolding with Filippo Lippi

Visits to the restoration of Filippo Lippi's fresco (max 12 persons)
every Sat at 10, 11, 16, 17, Sun at 10, 11, €8, Cattedrale di Santo Stefano, piazza del Duomo, Prato, tel. 0574.24112, www.restaurofilippolippi.it, by reservation only

Abbey of San Salvatore and San Lorenzo a Settimo

Every Wed, Fri 10-12, Sun 15.30-18, closed July and Aug, Badia a Settimo, Scandicci, tel. 055.7310537, www.badiadisettimo.it

The Ceramics of Montelupo

Free guided visits of Archaeology and Ceramics Museum and participation in workshops
Every Thur from 10.00 to 14.00, Museo Archeologico e della Ceramica, Montelupo Fiorentino, tel. 0571.518993

Wine and Fashion in the Florentine Mountains. Itineraries with guided visits, shopping

Tours to discover the beauty of the Florentine Mountains. Visits to artisan workshops and local shopping centres
All year Mon and Sat, Resco Travel, tel. 055.868009

walking in Val D'orcina (Siena)

until 30 November, info and booking 0577 351302 www.dimenicainchianti.it, 7€

Sunday in Chianti

until 30 october, info and booking 0577 898303 www.parcodellavaldorcia.com, 8€

The Valley of Treasures

Guided visits to the Jerusalem of San Vivaldo
Montaione, San Vivaldo info 0571699252 www.piccoligrandimusei.it

Camminata Etrusca

From Tumulo di Montefortini to the necropolis of Prato Rosello, special tour of the burial ground, archeological sites and Museum of Artimio
Carmignano, Prato, 8.00, reservations required within 30/6 at 055-8712468 www.cultura.toscana.it/musei.htm

Sito di Gonfienti, Le Notti dell'Archeologia

Guided visit of the restoration workshop of the artifacts discovered in the Etruscan city of Gonfienti
Area archeologica di Gonfienti, Prato, r.jacopino@comune.prato.it, info 0574 615025/615028, ore 17.00

Guided walking tours

Calenzano tel. 0558833255, www.comune.calenzano.fi.it

MARKETS & FESTIVALS

Week-end of July 1-2

Marea

Music, games festival, meetings
June 19-July 2, Buca di Sant'Andrea, www.marea.fucecchio.it

Open shops under the stars

Shows, food tasting
June-September on Wednesday, Dicomano historical center

San Casciano Sempreaperta

Performances and shops will stay open
June, July on Thursday evening San Casciano city center, tel. 055.8229558

Events in **FLORENCE** JUN 30 TO JUL 13**Mercantia**

Music and theatre festival with market in the castle of Certaldo
July from 11 to 16, Certaldo Alto, info 0571661259, www.mercantiacertaldo.com

Open shops under the stars

Shows, food tasting
Until September on Wed, Dicomano, info 055 838541

Ficcattola food festival

from June 24 to July 2 Fornacette Montespertoli tel. 0571657087, www.comune.montespertoli.fi.it

Festival of duck food

June 29- July 16, Circolo ARCI, Cerreto Guidi

Festival in two villages

June 29-July 9, S. Pancrazio, tel. 055.8229558

Beef steak food festival

from June 30th to July 2nd, Fucecchio, Contrada Borgonovo tel. 0571268264, www.comune.fucecchio.fi.it

I sapori dell'Etruria

Wine tasting and specialty sweets and cookies from Etruria to nowadays
Prato Comeana, Piazza Battisti, 21.30

Mercantico. Evening antique market

July 9 palazzuolo sul senio tel. 0558046008, www.palazzuolo.it

Viale di notte. Handicraft, antique, second-hand good market

first and second week in July VINCI, Sovigliana tel. 0571568012, www.comune.vinci.fi.it

Tortello (filled pasta) and ricotta food festival

July 1, 2 Palazzuolo, Casa del Villeggiante tel. 0558046008, www.palazzuolo.it

Mushroom food festival

July 1, 2 Reggello, Cascia tel. 0558669232, www.comune.reggello.fi.it

Festival on the river Arno with games and shows for children

the first and second week in July Sovigliana Viale Togliatti tel. 0571568012, www.comune.vinci.fi.it

Snail food festival

July 1, 2 Vinci Loc. Spicchio tel. 0571568012, www.comune.vinci.fi.it

Special general market

July 2, Piazza del Mercato Nuovo, Prato

Aprilante market

first Sunday of the month, Panzano in Chianti, info 0558545271, www.comune.greve-in-chianti.fi.it

Antique and collector market

first Sunday of the month Scarperia info 0558468165, www.comune.scarperia.fi.it

Antique and flea market

every first Sunday of the month Sesto Fiorentino info 0554496357, www.comune.sesto-fiorentino.fi.it

Threshing festival

July from 3 to 9 Sesto Fiorentino Piazza Vittorio Veneto tel. 0554496357, www.comune.sesto-fiorentino.fi.it

Handicraft market

July 4 Montaione, info 0571699254, www.comune.montaione.fi.it

Bugie-Lies with Andrea Kaemmerle and Adriano Miliani

Music and theatre shows with food sampling
July 6, Castelfiorentino, Villa di Cambiano, info 0571 686338, www.comune.castelfiorentino.fi.it

The village on Thursday

Shows in the centre
July 6, 13, 20, 27, Borgo S. Lorenzo, info 055 849661, www.comune.borgo-san-lorenzo.fi.it

Week-end of July 8-9**Viale di notte. Handicraft, antique, second-hand good market**

first and second week in July VINCI, Sovigliana tel. 0571568012, www.comune.vinci.fi.it

Dante the Ghibelline. Traditional Festival

July 8, 9San Godendo info. 0558373826, www.comune.san-godendo.fi.it

Hobby Senio. Antique and collector market

July, August on Tuesday evening palazzuolo sul senio tel. 0558046008, www.palazzuolo.it

Pazza fresca festa 2006

from June 10 to July 30 on weekends Incisa Valdarno tel. 0558333443, www.comune.incisa-valdarno.fi.it

July fair in Romola

July 11 La Romola tel. 0558229558, www.comune.san-casciano-val-di-pesa.fi.it

Boulevard by night. Food market and shows

July 12 Vinci Sovigliana Viale Togliatti tel. 0571568012, www.comune.vinci.fi.it

La Madia dei Saperi. Typical food product show

July 13 Castello di Poppiano tel. 05716001, www.comune.montespertoli.fi.it

Ludorium Dies. Palio della Brocca dell'Alleanza. Festival in medieval costumes

July from 13 to 23, Londa tel. 0558352531, www.comune.londa.fi.it

MUSIC & CONCERTS**Bayern Open Space**

Live Music
Bayern, Piazza del Mercato Nuovo, Prato, tel. 057424120, www.bayernprato.com, 22.20, June 1-30

Music at Palazzo Pretorio

Concerts with guided tours and typical Tuscan dinner
every Tuesday Until September, Palazzo Pretorio, Certaldo, tel. 0571.661276

Festival delle Colline

Modern music
June-July in different places around Prato, programme info 0574-5317 www.centro-artepecci.prato.it

RAM, Percussioni, voce e corpo

Student drum performances
July 1, Il Frantoio Parco Corsini, Fucecchio, info. 0571 261143, www.comune.fucecchio.fi.it

Robert Burke e Simon Starr in concert

Jazz sax and bass from Australia
July 8, 21.00, free, Monash University, Palazzo Vaj, Via Pugliesi 26, Info 0574-43691

Salotto musicale. Concerts

June, July, the first Monday of the month, Sede Pro Lastra Enrico Caruso, Lastra a Signa, tel. 055.8722628

PratoEstate

Concerts, performances, events, exhibits, etc.
June-September, info: Ass. Cultura Comune di Prato, tel. 0574.615024, www.pra-toestate.it

La Plaza

Pizzeria, bar, viewing of the World Cup, music, other performances and children's area
Until September 1, 9.00-1.00, Argine Bisenzio, Viale Galilei close to Ponte Datini, Prato, info: Anomalia Club, tel. 347.1873223, www.anomaliacub.it

52nd Festival Puccini

Opera festival in Torre del Lago (Lucca)
www.puccinifestival.it

Marea festival

Concerts, theatre, food and market
until July 2, buca d'andrea, Fucecchio, www.mareafestival.it, 21.00

Concerti al Parco Villa Solaria

Free entrance concerts
Sesto Fiorentino, Tel 055.26.38.894, info@lenozzedifigaro.it, 21.30

L'estate di S. Francesco

Music and performances on the Museum's terrace
from June to August on Thursday, Terrazza del Museo di S. Francesco, Greve in Chianti, tel. 055.8545271

Onda Mediterranea 2006

Philip Catherine, Bert Joris, The Brussels Jazz Orchestra, "MEETING COLOURS"
Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, Pontassieve, info 055 8360254, www.pontassievecultura.it, 21.30 pm, 10€

Vivere Jazz Festival

30 June, Pontassieve, Piazza Vittorio Emanuele tel. 800414240, www.estatetiesolana.com

L'estate di S. Francesco.

Music and shows on the Museum's terrace
from June to August on Thursday, Terrazza del Museo di S. Francesco info 0558545271, Greve, www.comune.greve-in-chianti.fi.it

Buenos Aires Tango

Parco dell'Anconella, Albereta, Via di Villamagna, Gavinana, www.buenosairestango.it, info055-473555

Frankie HI-Nrg

July 2, buca d'andrea, Fucecchio, www.mareafestival.it, 21.00

Sergio Cammeriere in concert

Castello dell'Imperatore, Prato, Info 0574-1835021-22

Lights of the town

Concerts in cloisters and churches
July on Wed, Empoli, info 0571757999, www.comune.empoli.fi.it

Violins of Santa Vittoria

A special violin concert in the court of an ancient Medici farm in the hills
Fattoria di Bacchereto, Carmignano Prato, 2€

On the road festival, Busker meeting

July from 6 to 9, PELAGO, info 0558327301-32, www.comune.pelago.fi.it

Earth Wheel Sky Band

Brass band from Serbia playing music with Rom and Balkan sounds
July 10, Festival delle Colline, Castello dell'Imperatore, Prato, 2€

Youssun Dour in concert

July 10, Parco di Villa Solaria tel. 0554496357, www.sestoestate.com

L'estate di S. Francesco

Music and performances on the Museum's terrace
from June to August on Thursday, Terrazza del Museo di S. Francesco, Greve in Chianti, tel. 055.8545271

Carlo Fava Trio

July 11, festival delle colline, Castello dell'Imperatore, Piazza S. Maria delle Carceri, Info 0574-1835021-22

The Wild Blue Yonder

Multimedia show with tenors
July 12, Festival delle Colline, Castello dell'Imperatore, Prato, 2€

Summer in the castle

Music, dance, theatre shows
July 12, 19, 26 Castelfiorentino, info 0571 686341-8, www.comune.castelfiorentino.fi.it

PARKS**Sculptures in a woodland**

In an untouched wood of ilex and oak trees in the heart of Sienese Chianti, many internationally renowned artists from five continents have created imposing contemporary sculptures
Parco sculture del Chianti, La Fornace 48/49, Pievasciata, Siena, tel. 0577.357151, www.chiantisculpturepark.it, open all year

Parco Mediceo di Pratolino

Theatrical, musical and dance performances, inter-cultural themes.
Until October 31, Thur & Fri, Pratolino, Vaglia, info 055.409155, from Thur to Sun 10-19.30

Stato Libero dei Renai

This natural oasis offers numerous lakes, ponds, green areas, bird-watching spots, sport facilities, children's games, a swimming pool, etc
Until September 30, Mon-Fri 12:00-20:00, Sat, Sun and holidays 9-20, free, Parco dei Renai, Lastra a Signa, www.parcorenai.it

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES**National dog show**

June 27- July 2, Lago di Bilancino, tel. 055.8418133

Calenzano discovered, walks through history and nature.

Guided walking tours
from April to October, Calenzano, info 055.8833255

Bicinotturna

July 5, Night in Bike in the city (km. 15 trip) at the end watermelon, meeting 21.30 Piazza del Comune Prato Info: Sig. Danilo tel. 339.3477139

Night sailing race

July 8 Barberino di Mugello, Lago di Bilancino tel. 0558418133, www.bilancinolangoditoscana.it

Duathlon competition

July 8, 9 Palazzuolo Piazza del Comune tel. 0558046008, www.palazzuolo.it

3^ Edition of Barberino Triathlon

Lago di Bilancino, Barberino di Mugello, www.firenzetriathlon.it

Prato Abetone

Bike tourism
9 July, Lega Provinciale Ciclismo UISP Prato, Info: UISP tel. 0574-691133 e-mail ciclismo@uisprato.it

SUMMER NIGHTS**Estate in villa**

All July, concerts in Villa Fiorelli, Parco di Galceti Prato, Info tel. 0574.697722

Summer in Sesto

June- September, info tel. 055.44961, www.sestoestate.com

Summer in Tavarnelle

Walking in the centre: performances and market, food tasting in the village
June- August, Tavarnelle historical center, tel. 055.8077832, www.prolocotavarnelle.it

Pieve a Ripoli Festival

June & July, Pieve a Ripoli, tel. 0571.55671, www.comune.cerreto-guidi.fi.it

Sport festival

Until September, San Casciano Val di Pesa, tel. 055.8229558

Montemurlo Estate

Cinema, dance, folklore, music, theatre and sport

Until September, every day, info Ufficio Cultura Comune di Montemurlo, tel. 0574.558264

Scusa Mario

Every night events, music, outdoor bar, disco
all summer, via tevere 100, osmannoro ses-to fiorentino, info 055 308462, free, from 22.00

Summer in Martignana

Until August 22, Martignana (Montespertoli), tel. 0571.676179

Prato Estate 2006

Music, cinema, theatre
Until September, info 0574.1835021-22, www.pra-toestate.it

E...state al Poggio

Fairs and performances
Until August 26, Poggio alla Croce, Incisa Valdarno, tel. 055.863129

Rassegna musicale Frog Stage 2006

Until August 13, every night, Urban Park, via Ferraris, Prato

Classical music concerts in some villas, castles and parish churches

Until August 24, info tel. 0571.609412, www.comune.montespertoli.fi.it

Poggio In Vetrina

Music, dance, shops open until midnight
June 22-July 27, Poggio a Caiano, info 055.8796611

Summer in Marcialla. Evening shows and games

Until August 20, Marcialla, tel. 0558074101

Festival of two villages

June 29-July 9, Lucignano e San Pancrazio, tel. 0571.6001

Summer at Demidoff Villa

Theatre, cinema and music shows
June- September, Parco Mediceo di Pratolino, Vaglia, tel. 055.409155

Summer festival. Music, cinema, theatre shows

July and August, info 055819941 www.comune.firenzuola.fi.it

Un giovedì di mezza estate

Music, dance, shops open until midnight
Pontassieve, info Ufficio Comunicazione 055 8360287, info@comune.pontassieve.fi.it

Un giovedì di mezza estate

See July 6

THEATRE (in Italian unless otherwise noted)**Decamerone**

July 5, 21.30 Anfiteatro Centro Pecci, Viale della Repubblica 277, Info: 0574-1835021-22

CCC - Il giardino italiano

6 to 8 July, 21.00, Cortile di Santa Caterina, P.zza S. Domenico 15, Info 0574-1835021-22

Bisio e le Storie Tese e Elio

Sesto Fiorentino, Tel 055.26.38.894, info@lenozzedifigaro.it, 21.30

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

An
Interview
with
**Gunnar
Peterson**

'Your body is your musical instrument and you have to play it.'

Gunnar Peterson is a Beverly Hills-based personal trainer whose clients include celebrities, professional athletes, and everyday people. He is widely recognized for his expertise in functional training, and his commitment to developing and implementing innovative fitness techniques. With a client list as diverse as his training methods, Gunnar emphasizes strength training modalities that can be transferred from the gym to daily life, from training camp to championship. He has worked with athletes from the NBA, NHL, NFL, USTA, professional boxing and various NCAA sports. Many film and television celebrities who have sought Gunnar's guidance in preparing for roles have then stayed on to become devoted clients, making him a part of their regular fitness regimen. He is contributing editor for Glamour and has a recurring feature in L.A Confidential magazine. Gunnar is also regularly featured in Allure, Elle, In Style, In Touch, US Weekly and other magazines. His television appearances include The Today Show, CNN, and CNN Headline News.

The Florentine had the opportunity to interview Peterson during his recent visit to the International Fitness Festival held in Florence's Fortezza da Basso.



The Florentine: What advice do you have for people who want to be physically fit?

Gunnar Peterson: Well, the first thing is to make the right choices at the table and get to enough rest. It's best to time one's protein in-take throughout the day and eat small snacks every three hours, because that style of eating is easier on the digestive system. I also always recommend that people consume their foods as close to their natural state as possible. Fruits and vegetables should be eaten early in the day. The same is true of complex carbohydrates, because they provide long term energy.

Mostly it's about creating a healthy lifestyle. You can exercise in front of the TV if you want; you don't have to go to the gym necessarily. It's about making full use of your body. Your body is your musical instrument and you have to play it. Exercise improves the quality of life.

TF: Is there anything you tell your clients to avoid?

GP: It's not about avoidance. Certainly, you don't want to eat junk food in large quantities. But I never tell my clients not to eat something. If I say that, it makes people feel deprived and get on the defensive.

TF: What's your favourite physical activity?

GP: It's hard to believe that there's anything more exciting than climbing the wall of the Fortezza! But in everyday

life, I'm a basketball fan. I root for the Clippers.

TF: Who have you trained?

GP: I've worked with Sylvester Stallone, Penelope Cruz, Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez, Bruce Willis, Angelina Jolie, Monica Sellers...

TF: Of all the celebrities you've worked with, who has been the most difficult to train?

GP: Anyone who has been sent there by their spouse!

TF: But if you were to name someone specific?

GP: Most recently, I've worked with Christina Ricci. It's not that she was difficult to work with, in terms of her personality, but she had been sent by her manager to get in shape for a movie. You can always tell when someone comes by choice and when they are forced to be there. It makes a huge difference.

TF: What do you consider the most complete sport?

GP: It's hard to say. You mean for cardiovascular? Volleyball. Football. Boxing or martial arts are great for hand-to-eye co-ordination. Basketball also gives you a full body workout. Swimming is great, but it's hard for most people and it's not the best for burning body fat because being in the water cools you down. Tennis is great too, but it depends at what level. For most people, tennis is anaerobic exercise. If you go to a tennis lesson you get a much more complete work out than if you're playing a match with a friend.

When planning personalized workouts for my clients, I have them change exercises all the time. Change keeps their minds engaged. It keeps their bodies guessing. I mean, the same types of exercises are in every work out, but you can change angles, the number of repetitions you do, the position of an exercise in the work out. Even slight change keeps people from getting bored.

TF: How long does it take to get in shape if you start with a normal body?

GP: What's a normal body? Someone with an athletic background? Each person is a case in and of themselves. It's not just about exercise. It's about water intake and the choices you make in your daily life. A person can see huge changes in four, five, six weeks. It's not about living like a priest, but you have to want it. All the famous people I mentioned before *really* wanted it. When Jennifer Lopez started training with me, she would come to workout at five in the morning, before filming on the set all day.

TF: What does your typical day look like?

GP: I go to bed at 8.30pm and get up at 3.00am. Some people think it's crazy, but I never said I was perfect! It works for me. It sets me up to do the right thing everyday. I get up early so I can work out. A lot of people say they have no time to keep fit. It's a choice. I work out one hour a day, every day. Then during training sessions, I show clients two repetitions of each exercise. I have a client who says that I am the best 'two reps guy in the world'.

TF: What do you think about doping?

GP: In an ideal world, it would be great to control drug use in sports. There are guys taking steroids as well as other agents so that the steroids doesn't show up in the test. Do I think doping has increased recently? Yes, it has. But I don't think everyone is doing it. But then—we have to decide what you consider doping. Certain things are legal in some sports and illegal in others.

TF: How much does it cost to work with you?

GP: Less than people end up paying in medical bills when they don't take care of themselves!



Tijuana
hell's kitchen



the mexican restaurant happy hour 19-20 VIA Ghibellina 156 R 055 2341330 www.tijuanaristorante.it

Culture & CUSTOMS

All of the articles found in the following pages are written by independent collaborators. The Florentine seeks to publish stories that are interesting, entertaining, and useful to all of our readers. If and when a writer expresses opinions within his or her work those opinions should be considered to be those of the writer and not necessarily those of the publishers of this newspaper. If you wish to submit articles for consideration please contact us at redazione@theflorentine.net.

ITALIAN VOICES: a window on language and customs in Italy... *'prendere in giro'*

by Linda Falcone

Lunch at Lola's is a true taste of Tuscan theatre. Everyday, my colleagues and I squeeze in the door at half past twelve in efforts to beat our neighbours to the corner table. The menu is written on a paper placemat and hung on the wall weekly, but if we all order different things Lola scolds us for bringing confusion to her brain.

Food in Italy always brings about some sort of debate. Now that it's summer, my colleague Giovanni has taken to ordering an ice-cream sandwich after lunch. Half of it's chocolate and the other half's vanilla. There is always suspense at the table before he tears open the wrapper. If he opens it on the chocolate side, it's destined to be a good day. Vanilla first brings bad luck. After five days of continued dessert-induced suspense, I finally asked him. 'If you want to eat the other side first, why don't you just flip the ice-cream around?'

'Flip it around?' my colleague asked, appalled by the suggestion. You can't manipulate *il destino* like that!

'Giovanni, it's not destiny. It's an ice-cream sandwich.'

'See!' he said, slapping his hand on his knee. 'This is where I see you are American. Flip the *gelato*! That would go against Italian fatalistic principles. But, Americans are always convinced that they have the power to make a situation come out the way they want. You think you can have control over the current of life's events!'

'No. What I *think* is that you are completely neurotic and should limit your caffeine intake.'

My friend laughed. Odd as the conversation was, it was destined to become odder before our coffee was through. 'Well, at least tell me why "vanilla first brings bad luck?"' I wanted to know.

'Because I like vanilla better and would prefer to eat it last.' Everyone else at the table agreed. It's always best to finish with one's favourite.



'Actually, I always start with my best flavour,' I mused.

'It must be an American thing. You come from the society of instant gratification. You want what you want and you want it *fast*,' Giovanni told me.

'Yes, and what I want right now is to kick you in the shins. Stop taking every word I say and making it into a cultural study on the American mentality!'

'Look who's talking! You can dish it out but, you can't take it, little Miss *Italian Voices*.'

I frowned. 'Are you being mean to me on purpose or are you doing it by accident?' I asked.

'Mean to you? I'm not being mean to you! *Ti prendo in giro*. If I didn't tease you a bit, you'd never know how deeply I love you.'

Intercultural relationships are never easy. But today, we seemed to be having a particularly hard time. There are several elements of this exchange that I find worthy of discussion. But first thing's first. For those who are wondering, Giovanni, does not, in fact, 'love me deeply.' At best, he thinks I'm smart. At worst, he thinks I'm a pain in the neck. The feeling, of course, is mutual. Another day, I would make sure to inform him that English-speaking men would risk their inheritance if they declared 'deep love' to a lady-colleague on lunch break. Right then, though, I wanted to talk about teasing.

'In Italy, when we tease a person, it means we hold them in high regard.'

'Listen, Deep Love,' I told my friend, 'Don't *prendermi in giro* too much. I'd much rather love you than fight you.'

'Oh Linda, sometimes you are quite slow to understand,' Giovanni grinned. 'In Italy, when we tease a person, it means we hold them in high regard. We consider them smart enough to capture the core of the joke. Intelligent people can always face themselves without offence.'

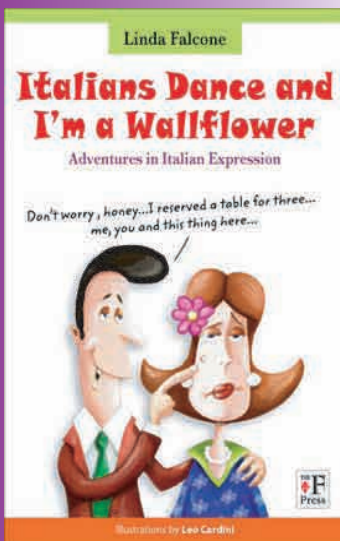
An entirely Italian concept, I found his reasoning quite profound and it got my mind ticking. If translated literally, the expression '*ti prendo in giro*' can be translated as 'I take you around,' which to me, sounds like an invitation to see the city. It is an invitation in a way but, the landscape you'll be taken to see may surprise you. *Ti prendo in giro* implies a free tour of the true you. Let your enemies be false to your face and tell you your talents. In Italy, trust your friends to tattle your truths. *Ti prendo in giro*, means they are going to take you sight-seeing but, your weaknesses will be the monuments you'll be forced to visit. Admittedly, it's a bit of a torturous trip at first, but it can prove quite worthwhile once you get the hang of it. Italians tease mercilessly. The more merciless the '*giro*' the deeper the bond.

'Okay, Giova,' I sigh, 'Let's pretend I get your point. Teasing is a form of high regard. *Va bene*, I believe you. What I *can't* believe is that you order chocolate ice-cream everyday when you don't even like it. Why not choose the sandwich that only has vanilla?'

'And miss out on the suspense? Suspense is much more pleasurable than ice-cream, Linda, and if you'd open your mind, you'd know that.'

'Let's make a deal, Giovanni. I'll open my mind, if you shut your mouth.'

My colleague smiled. He loves it when I'm mean to him. In Italy, it's just more proof of 'loving deeply'.



Tune into 'Italian voices' and join the tango of local expression with **Italians Dance and I'm a Wallflower**, *The Florentine's* first book by **Linda Falcone**

Stop by and see us!

Author and illustrator will be signing books at
Villa Demidoff Park
during
Independence Day picnic on
Saturday, July 1.
Via Bolognese, Pratolino,
Vaglia.

You can find the book at:

Paperback Exchange – via delle Oche 4r

McRae Books – via dei Neri 32r

BM Bookstore – borgo Ognissanti 4r

Edison – piazza della Repubblica 27r

Feltrinelli International – via Cavour 12r

Libreria del Porcellino – piazza del Mercato nuovo

Art Store Mandragora – piazza Duomo

Edicola Alamanni – int. Railway Station Firenze SMN

Maison Dumitru – Borgo Pinti, 25 r.

Libreria Mondadori – via Guizzemi, 13/15 PRATO

Culture & CUSTOMS

Forza Azzurri!!!

Watching the World Cup through 'Blue' eyes

By Leo Cardini

We all know that in the *Bel-paese*, football is a fundamental part of everyday life, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. There is, however a segment of the Italian population that remains entirely untouched by this national disease. First, there are the wives and children of those guys who spend all their time at the stadium. Traumatized by their fathers' soccer-induced Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde transformation each Sunday, they choose to practice a different sport. Then, there are the artists and intellectuals who don't want to mix with the mass of desperate fans who suffer profound moral dilemmas over eleven guys in shorts running after a ball.

But every four years, the miracle repeats itself. The moment of the World Cup arrives and the *Nazionale Azzurra* runs out onto the field, and even those 'desaparecidos' who claim to be allergic to football, find themselves a spot on the crowded sofa to watch the match. If the neighbourhood bar hangs up a white sheet on which to project the game, these impromptu fans flock there for drinks and sudden soccer thrills. Otherwise, they go see the match in the town's main square, ready to use the central fountain as a swimming pool should the Blue team lasso an unexpected victory. The 'desaparecidos' try and keep themselves well-hidden, or heavily masked with shirts, wigs and hats (all blue, of course) in hopes of not being recognized. Still, they are there. And their passion for the game is complete.

Then there are the *professionisti*, true professional fans, like my friend Alessandro, the person with whom I've had the privilege of sharing the last few World Cup matches. *Il Professionista* watches every single World Cup match. If there's a game on while he's at work, he videotapes it. It's just too easy to save one's enthusiasm for Italy, the conventional Brazilian team or Argentina. *Il Professionista* even gets excited about the unwatchable 0-0 match between Liechtenstein and the Far Oer Islands, broadcast at two in



the morning. Friends are allowed to watch the game with him—but no more than two at a time and only those rigorously chosen. He leaves the telephone off the hook, has a beer during the first half, and another in the second. He watches football with an expert eye and doesn't root for anyone in particular. A master of objectivity, *il Professionista* professes loyalty to the motto 'may the best man win.' Usually that means Brazil. *Il Professionista* has been a fan of his favourite team (in this case the Fiorentina) since before he was born.

The third group is made up of the *tifosi*, people who normally watch football throughout the year. When the World Cup comes to town, they become virtually possessed by the Blue Devil and enter into a catatonic state for the entire Italian adventure. They dress their children in Totti's jersey and take two days off work when Italy plays. They send their wives to the seaside, happy for once to pay for their mother-in-laws' hotel stay. *I tifosi* are those who love to watch the game in the company of anywhere from 20 to 200 people. They are prone to organizing numerous dinner parties in honour of the Blue team—usually at other people's houses. Then they show up with cases of beer, new year's eve horns and a giant flag to hang from the windowsill. *I tifosi* park their scooters at their host's door, ready to zip out into the celebratory traffic frenzy that occurs in event of a win. This type of World Cup junkie is probably the most numerous of the four.

Another interesting category of soccer fans is *gli sportivi*. They possess a profound knowledge of football (so they say) and delight in maintaining a level of cool detachment towards the game. During ani-



mated football arguments at a bar, they always keep to the sidelines. You can recognize them by their slightly raised eyebrows. *Gli sportivi* are generally in total disagreement with all of the coaches' decisions. Always ready to praise the heroic acts of the 'Italian heroes' in case of victory, they are equally eager to offend those 'spoiled rich fools' if the *Nazionale* team loses. Defeat will often cause a *sportivo* to smile. He knew it all along. And with an air of superiority, he'll tell you so: 'I knew things would end up this way. It was clear from the very beginning. It's impossible to win with a team like this one.' Then he'll continue by listing all the details of his 'personal training plan' which undoubtedly would have brought the Blue team to World Cup triumph and victory.

In addition to these four categories, there are certainly other

exceptions and special cases. Take, for example, my friend Marcellino, otherwise known as 'Sintesis' for his incredible capacity to take at least 45 minutes to tell you that tomorrow it might rain. He is beyond doubt the most ignorant person I know regarding soccer. I'd bet money that he couldn't even guess how many players make up a team. But Marcello is a real professional when it comes to the very Italian art of courting women, so during the World Cup you'll find him dressed like Ronaldinho at the Brazilian fan-club party, dancing the Samba at the Cascine. Or when the USA plays, you'll find him in front of the maxi screen in Piazzale Michelangelo wrapped in an American flag, squeezed between two girls from California.

In the end, this too, is passion. And that, after all, is what the World Cup is all about.



Scuola del Cuoio
FIRENZE

Manufacturers of fine leather goods inside the Monastery of Santa Croce



WORKSHOP, SHOW ROOMS AND CLASSES

Scuola del Cuoio is located inside the old dormitory of the Franciscan Friars, the Novitiate (by Michelozzo, XV century). Your visit will be worthwhile both for the beauty of the environment and the quality of our products.



Piazza Santa Croce 16 (through the Church) or Via San Giuseppe 5R (through the garden)

Ph. 055.244.533/4 - Fax: 055.248.0337

E-mail: info@leatherschool.com - www.leatherschool.com

Vintage & Secondhand
Remake
Reconstruction Clothing
Art Exhibition & Happening

maison
Dumitru

690 Pinti 25r Firenze
Tel. 055 7189417
<http://blog.libero.it/maisondumitru/>

Mon 3.30-7.30 PM
Tue-Fri 10.00 AM-7.30 PM

NON SOLO VINTAGE

Culture & CUSTOMS

Raindrops kept falling

The birth of the Tuscan cigar

By Deirdre Pirro

The Toscano, or Tuscan cigar, is the most popular cigar in Italy. It not only commands an 80-percent share of the market, but it has also generated a series of offspring, like the smaller Toscanello.'



Smoking is politically incorrect these days, but there will always be the die-hards and rebels. Cigar smokers are among such free spirits. They consider themselves the royalty of smokers and will go to extraordinary lengths to satisfy their habit – even risking fines or imprisonment in America if caught buying or smuggling the outlawed though much loved Cuban cigar.

But lovers of Cuban cigars are not the only 'purists.' Italy has its very own breed. In fact, Italy is the most important tobacco producing country in Europe and has long boasted its own distinctive cigar industry. According to a report published in 2003 by the Tobacco Observatory, tobacco crops cover approximately 37,000 acres of land in Italy – mainly in Veneto, Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio and Campagna – producing approximately 125,000 tons of tobacco, just under 2 percent of global production.

The *Toscano*, or Tuscan cigar, is the most popular cigar in Italy. It not only commands an 80-percent share of the market, but it has also generated a series of offspring, like the smaller *Toscanello*. Made even more famous by being clinched between Clint Eastwood's teeth in his many spaghetti westerns, the *Toscano* is traditionally tapered in shape, while a *panatella* about six inches in length, with a uniquely strong flavour and rich aroma.

As fact is often more mysterious than fiction, the *Toscano* was first produced and given its name by pure accident over a century and a half ago. One summer day at the tobacco factory in

Florence, a bale of Kentucky tobacco leaves – a high quality variety of tobacco grown in Italy – was left out in the open. Caught in an unexpected downpour of rain, the leaves got wet and started to ferment. Not wishing to make too great a loss on this mishap, the wily factory manager decided to dry out what he could of the fermenting leaves and turn them into cheap cigars. To further save money, he only used tobacco filler inside a single Kentucky outer leaf to make the cigars. He then simply put a band around them (now in the colours of the Italian flag) instead of covering them with a wrapper, which today is still one of their characteristics. They became known as *Toscani* and were an overnight success. Soon the king, Vittorio Emanuele II, and even Garibaldi were smoking them.

In 1818, regular production of the *Toscani* was transferred to the tobacco factory in Lucca, then part of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. Processing and production methods have changed very little since then. When farmers harvest the tobacco, they hang the leaves in rows and slowly dry them out over the heat and smoke from fires. The dried leaves are then sorted and bundled together, ready to be sold. On reaching the factory in Lucca, the leaves are immersed in water to restore humidity which allows them to be transformed into cigars, either completely by hand (for the best quality products) or partially by machine.

Traditionally, women cigar makers hand roll the *Toscani*. After 18 months of training, they acquire the skill to make one cigar almost identi-

cal to another in size and shape. They ensure that sufficient space is left for air to pass by not packing the tobacco too tightly which would prevent the cigars from "drawing" properly. An expert cigar maker can roll over 500 cigars a day.

Next the cigars are placed on trays and put in special chambers to dry out. Finally, with this process complete, they are left to 'age' in cellars, much like good wine, where they mature for a period of not less than four months and sometimes as long as 12 months. Only then are they ready for sale at your local tobacconist.

On March 10 of this year, in a deal worth 95 million euro, the manufacturers of the *Toscano*, the Italian subsidiary of British American Tobacco, sold the brand back to Italian proprietors, the Bologna-based Maccaferri Group. The tobacco processing plant in Forano della Chiana and the production factories in Lucca and Cava de Tirreni were included in the agreement. While the transaction still has to be approved by the Italian Government and the competition watchdog, no problems are anticipated.

Deirdre Pirro is an Australian lawyer who has lived and worked in Florence for many years. Apart from her general practice, she is currently working on a book on particular aspects of art law and she dedicates much of her time to environmental protection. She also has a special interest in food and its history, particularly in relation to popular customs and traditions.

A Dream Come True in Tuscany...

Purchase your own piece of Chianti in a newly restored Farmhouse

Divided into 3 fabulous apartments
Restored in Tuscan Tradition
20 km from Florence
Swimming pool

info: Judieanne 335 839 0712

www.coloursoftuscany.com info@coloursoftuscany.com



STYLE & FASHION

Catching Vespa fever Taking a spin on the scooter that stings

By Helen Bond

My first trip to Italy was in 1994, when I was 18. It was my first holiday without my family. Just me and my friends. The trip was an escape, and Italy was the perfect place to come for a taste of life, to learn that your time is to be savoured, enjoyed, sometimes risked and at all costs, lived. And the thing that summed this up, that enchanted and romanticised my 18 year old eyes and ears wasn't the talk of gladiators in the Coliseum, or the awed silence surrounding the David; it wasn't the charm of the Italian men, or the beauty of the sunset over the Ponte Vecchio. The thing that made me want to strike out on my own two feet, that which captured the essence of Italy and spurred my teenage yearning for independence with a buzzing, energetic sting—was the Vespa.

This dazzling demonstration of Italian design has come to epitomise so many things, to so many generations over the last 60 years, that it's difficult to know where to begin. When I mentioned my plan to write about Vespas to my godmother, she immediately exclaimed with whimsical enthusiasm how much she loved her two-wheeled friend in the 60's. (This stunned me, as it's always hard to imagine your parents' generation as lively and energetic as your own.) When I asked her what the Vespa meant to her, her reply was the same as all those who I'd asked before: 'freedom'. Freedom to go where she wanted, freedom from the home, freedom to visit the coast or the city, to meet whom she wanted when she wanted.

Back when it was launched in 1946, the Vespa became synonymous with a host of other freedoms too. Vespa meant a glimpse of potential economic freedom in a post war era, a release from a life of farm labor for those who came to be employed at the Piaggio factory in Pontedera. For many Italian women, the right to vote (first granted in Italy in 1948) coincided with the introduction of this tidy little two-wheeler, who virtually untied their hands from the kitchen



sink. And through the introduction of part payments, Enrico Piaggio ensured that the Vespa reached as far into society as it could. Here was a relatively low cost, economical, practical vehicle which would get you to work (without oil stains on your beautifully pressed *pantaloni*) and much further, should you wish.

After the economic and political destruction of World War II, the Vespa offered Italy a bright, beautifully-designed and -engineered buzz of optimism. Move from the 40s to the 50s and you find the Vespa freeing Hepburn's incognito princess to fall in love with Gregory Peck. You glimpse Charlton Heston on his Vespa during time out from filming *Ben Hur*, not to mention a role for the little 'wasp' in a host of Italian films, including *La Notte Brava* and *Bellissima*.

In the 1960s, the Vespa represented the search for liberty and the aspirations of a generation seeking release from the stifling hardships of everyday life. Gilberto Filippetti's advertising slogan '*Chi "Vespa" mangia le mele*' (or 'He who "Vespas" eats apples') grabbed the imagination of those under 30, enticing Italian youth to 'Vespa' with all its connotations of forbidden fruits, golden apples, the 'Big Apple' of America. On into the 70's and the Piaggio production line suffered as much as the next from the oil crisis. But still the Vespa held on to its roots as it became linked to women's liberation, opening up opportunities for freedom of expression, creativity and most importantly female independence.

In 1980, a record 815,000 two-wheelers were sold, but just three years later this number had halved, and it wasn't until the 1990s that sales began to recover, reaching 300,000 in 1999. Finally, the year 2000 saw the opening of the Giovanni Alberto Agnelli Piaggio Museum in Pontedera. When a scooter gets a museum you know you have an undisputed classic on your hands. For information visit www.museopiaggio.com. Now, in 2006, my Vespa experience is lim-



With a history that spans 60 years, the Vespa has come to represent liberty and freedom to more than one generation. Helen Bond celebrates the Vespa's birthday with a look into why the motor scooter is as inspirational and vibrant now as it was back in 1946.

con vespa
si può

con vespa
si può

con vespa
si può

con vespa
si può



ited to that of a pillion passenger, weaving in and out of traffic with that Italian grace in impatience that I would never be able to muster myself with my clumsy Anglo-Saxon irritability. But even as a passenger a vibrancy is present, a thrill and energy coursing through the veins like morning's first shot of espresso.

Back in 1994 Italy captured my 18-year-old heart and showed me what there was fun to be had and how life was to be lived. And today I envy the Italian youth, because what better way is there to navigate life than accompanied by the buzz of the Vespa?

Helen Bond has been attempting to satiate her appetite for all things Italian since January. Despite returning to Oxford, England in May she continues to study Italian and is currently trying to grasp the past conditional tense whilst dreaming of returning from the spires of Oxford to the spires of Florence.

SAM'S MARKETS

Florence

Amsterdam

SAM'S Amsterdam opening soon!

**HOTDOGS
TO GO
12-2 PM
EVERYDAY**

Try Sam's for a bit of America !!

Over 250 products imported by Sam's from the USA:

Skippy Peanut Butter (Crunchy and Smooth), A & W Root Beer, Mountain Dew, Dr. Pepper, 7-Up, Welch's Juices (Grape, Cranberry) Lipton Cup a Soup, Oreos, Hunt's Chile con Carne, Starkist Tuna, Starbucks Coffees, CoffeeMate, Heinz Baked Beans, Jiffy Pie-crust & Cake Mix, Reeses Pieces, Hershey's Candies, Quaker Instant Oatmeal, Chips Ahoy, Squirt, Planters Salted Peanuts, Chef Boyardee Soups, Betty Crocker Cake Mixes, CROUTONS and Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie Mix, Hellmann's Mayo, Nutter Butter Cookies, Kraft Macaroni & Cheese, Cheez-it, Doritos, Pop Tarts, Campbell's Soups, Nabisco Saltines, Pop Secret Popcornand a lot more !

SAM'S HAS IT !

Sam's is located in the center of Florence near the Bargello Museum

Via Ghibellina 117r. - Tel. 055-7189020

Store hours: Mon-Sat 11.00 am – 7.00 pm

www.samsmarkets.com

The ARTS

'Passion For Life'

International art exhibition supports cancer research

By Lynn Davis

One of the best things about Florence in the summer months is being able to be out and about with events, concerts and exhibitions; there is always an array of things going on to do and see. Here's an idea for something to do while you're roaming the streets, looking to get away from the heat and flocks of people: pop your head into the church of Santo Stefano, just a stone's throw from the Ponte Vecchio, and there in the *Chiostro Museo Diocesano* (the Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art) you will find an exhibition of international contemporary artworks as part of the programme, 'Passion for Life'. Between June and October, this series of exhibitions will be shown in Santo Stefano's Museum, as well as at the Grand Hotel Baglioni.

The idea for 'Passion for Life' was developed by the Canadian artist, Antoine Gaber, to support cancer research. A percentage of the sales not only of his works themselves but other works online, such as catalogues, reproductions of works, even postcards, will go towards breast cancer research. The artworks in "Passion for Life" range from sculpture to digital art to painting in a range of styles, and include artists from all over the world from Korea to Mexico to Brazil. Actually shown as a series of exhibitions, with Antoine Gaber starting off with his own solo show, the other seventeen artists will be showing their works in groups of two or three up until October.

Antoine Gaber's work can be described as 'Post-Impressionist' with paintings that are reminiscent of the works of Monet and Van Gogh. He has been dedicating his time to cancer research for the last



Irises in morning light,
Antoine Gaber

20 years, and since 1999 has been using his artwork as a way to raise awareness and funds for cancer. Amongst the artists in the exhibitions following Gaber's, you will find the works of Polish photographer Andrezej Jerzy Lech, who creates timeless black and white photographs of city-scapes, while the Japanese artist Sumio Inoue uses photography to create dark, atmospheric images printed with photo emulsion on Japanese paper – dark church interiors emerge out of the fibres of the paper almost looking like paintings rather than photographs. The work of Dutch artist Jackie Sleper is an interesting mix of painting, photography and other media to create colourful and fanciful artworks of animals and children in fairytale-like worlds.

'Passion for Life' is a gallant gesture that intertwines beauty and a good cause, set in the backdrop of one of Florence's historical churches. The ex-convent of Santo Stefano al Ponte, which sits in between the Ponte Vecchio and the Uffizi Gallery, dates back to the early twelfth century. In



recent times, the church has had to undergo reconstructions after several unfortunate events: it was damaged extensively during World War II from mines when the bridges and buildings surrounding the Ponte Vecchio were bombed. Later, it was again damaged in the flood of 1966, which left virtually nothing in the historical centre escape unharmed. San Stefano al Ponte was also partly damaged by the bomb that was set off near the Uffizi Gallery in via dei Georgofili in 1993. The Diocesan Museum of the church was opened in 1995, and holds works of sacred Italian art and includes important artists such as Giotto, Pisano, Paolo Uccello and Filippo Lippi. It is here in the heart of the historic centre of Florence that this exhibition will share its space with these Medieval

and Renaissance greats. The dates for the exhibitions in the Diocesan Museum of Santo Stefano are from July 1-30 and then from September 15 to October 14. The museum is free to enter and is open every day from 11 am to 1 pm and 4 pm until 8 pm.

The rest of the exhibition will be held on the elegant terrace of the Hotel Baglioni in Piazza dell'Unità Italiana from September 1-30. The terrace is also free to enter and open every day from 5 pm, which by the way, also conveniently coincides with Happy Hour for an aperitif. For more information on Antoine Gaber's programme "Passion for Life", visit the website: www.antoinegaber.com, or for more information on the exhibitions you can call 055/292082.



"Artigianale" Crafted Stationery Products

Photo Albums
Journals
Diaries
Playing Cards
Invitations
Business Cards
Menus
Letterheads
Recipes
Artistic Calendars

PAPIER ARTI e MESTIERI
Paper Shop

Piazza Santa Maria Soprarno, 1 Firenze - ph. 055 2343670



escape from mediocrity |||||

INTERNATIONAL STUDIO
HAIR AND MAKE UP
via Porta Rossa 82r
FLORENCE
055 293393
055 219402

Travel & LEISURE

Siena: city of colour

A visit to Florence's favourite enemy

By Alison Conlon

Effects of Good Government on the City Life, Ambrogio Lorenzetti - Palazzo Pubblico



Siena has a more insular and less forthcoming atmosphere than Florence – but it's one you definitely should get to know. If you have little time to spend in the city, use it wisely by wandering the steep and twisting streets, viewing the numerous *palazzi*, the Duomo, the Campo, churches and shops filled with local produce.

But it is best to spend at least one day visiting some of the museums. First stop on anyone's list should be the shell-shaped Campo that is the heart of Siena and the place where the famous horse race, the Palio, happens twice a year. In what is claimed to be most beautiful piazza in Italy, you will find the Palazzo Pubblico and the Torre del Mangia – as well as numerous cafés and restaurants vying for the tourists' cash. Ignore the prices and sit down with a coffee, enjoying the view for 15 minutes before making your way into the Museo Civico in the palace.

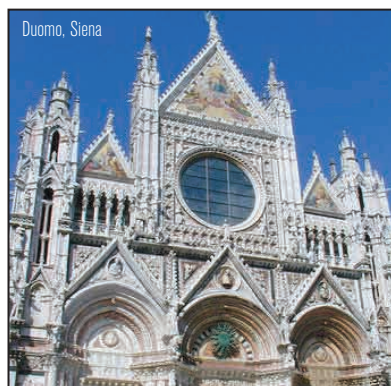
Begun in 1297, the Palazzo Pubblico is a monument to Siena's past achievements. Not only beautiful to look at on the outside, inside you will find some of the most important pieces of Siena's art history. In the Sala della Pace is Ambrogio Lorenzetti's triumph, *The Allegory of Good and Bad Government*, which was painted in 1338 and was there to remind the ruling council of what they should and shouldn't be doing. Therefore, on one wall the fresco shows a thriving city that is clearly Siena, where people are working at all trades and the land outside the city walls thrives. On the opposite wall, there is *Bad Government*, with a city ruled by a demon, where thieves thrive and everyone looks after themselves rather than working together for the common good. Other highlights in the *palazzo* include a fabulous *Maestà* by Simone Martini and two chapels painted by Taddeo di Bartolo.

Don't miss climbing up the steps to the Loggia, where the Council of Nine used to get some fresh air

because they were unable to leave the Palazzo Pubblico during their term of office, which usually lasted two months. The views of the market square and surrounding area are beautiful but if you are unafraid of heights then you really should climb the 503 steps of the Torre del Mangia. Looking down on to the winding streets of this medieval, orange-coloured city is amazing, before your eyes drift over the rolling hills of the Tuscan countryside.

Another vantage point is the Museo dell'Opera Metropolitana, or more precisely, a section of the 'new' Duomo, which was to be an extension of the old one. Building started in 1339 to celebrate the success of Siena, as well as make the cathedral bigger and better than the recently-began Duomo of Florence. Unfortunately, the Black Death came along in 1348, wiping out more than half of the population. It caused such chaos for the political regime that never again did Siena reach such heights. The new Duomo was never finished and remains a constant reminder of the city's failure. The façade is a much easier climb than the Torre del Mangia and definitely worth the effort for the sea of roof tiles that awaits you at the top, as well as a perfect view of the Palazzo Pubblico. The rest of the museum features numerous pieces of beautiful Sienese art, including Duccio's monumental *Maestà*. Visitors can appreciate a double-sided altarpiece painted in the early 1300s; on completion it was paraded through the town in triumph before being placed on the high altar of the Duomo.

From the museum, head into the Duomo itself, which is strikingly decorated with zebra-striped bands of black and white marble. Once inside, look out for Nicola Pisano's pulpit of 1269, the marble pavement featuring 56 panels crafted over 200 years by almost every artist who worked in the city. Then look for what I consider the cathedral's crowning glory, the Piccolomini Library, which has a series of



brightly-coloured sixteenth century frescos by Pinturicchio, celebrating the life of Pius II.

If during all this touring, you need sustenance, head down the hill to Le Campanie Ristorante, at Via delle Campanie 6, just off one of the main thoroughfares, Via de Città. They serve fabulous Sienese food, so take time to enjoy dishes like the pasta with wild boar sauce, pecorino-filled ravioli and roasted meats. And if, after all that pasta, you still have the energy to continue, further sightseeing recommendations include Santa Maria della Scala, the medieval pilgrim hospital opposite the Duomo that is now open for everyone to view the frescos which until the 1980s were only visible to the ill. Or visit the Pinacoteca Nazionale,

an art gallery featuring all the greats of Sienese Gothic painting and the Palazzo Piccolomini, the state archive museum where you will find the Biccherna tablets. These beautiful and interesting pieces of art were used as the covers for the city's accounts books from the thirteenth century onwards and are perfect for those interested in both history and art – as is the whole of Siena.



Photo by Alison Conlon

(Please note that the best way to get to Siena from Florence is by bus, which takes just over an hour and stops right in the centre of the city, in Piazza Matteotti. Buses depart from Florence at the bus station on Via Santa Caterina, next to the railway station of Santa Maria Novella.)

FINE ART EXHIBITION
 the communicative power of classical painting
 June 16 - July 7, 2006

Atelier Rebecca Harp
 Piazza della Repubblica, 3
 3rd floor
 opening hours:
 monday-friday: 6-8pm
 saturday & sunday: 1-4pm

for further information:
 tel 055 291122
 www.atelierharp.com

Travel & LEISURE

The Palio: ready, set, go

A medieval horse race brings Siena alive

By Kara Hoffman

Summer in Siena means the Palio – a famed historic horse race run each year on July 2 and Aug. 16. The Palio tradition dates back to the 11th century, when the race was initiated to honor the *Madonna dell'Assunta*, patroness and advocate of Siena, for her protection of the Sienese militia in their battles against the Florentines.

The main players of the Palio are the city's 17 *contrade*, or neighborhoods, as designated back in the middle ages. The *contrade* formerly served a military function, though through the years the militaristic aspects have disappeared and the *contrade* now function as multiple tight-knit communities within the city. Each *contrada* of Siena has its own government, coat of arms, emblem and colors. Today rivalries run high among *contrade*. Some advise, for instance, against marrying outside one's *contrada*, as it is likened to breaking a birthright.

These rivalries culminate at the Palio. While the actual race lasts just over a minute, the planning and festivities leading up to the dropping of the rope on July 2 and Aug. 16 last for months. Each year, April 26 marks the opening of parade season. Each *contrada* – porcupine, goose, giraffe, snail and eagle, to name a few – celebrates its patron saint with a lively and colorful procession throughout the streets of Siena.

For each Palio race, only 10 of the 17 *contrade* are chosen to participate. On the day of the *tratta*, or the official drawing of the horses, 10 horses are selected and assigned to the participating *contrade* – luck playing a large role in the process. For the next four days, fierce competition dominates as the *contrade* begin preparing for the Palio.

During these final crucial days, Siena's breathtaking Piazza del Campo is transformed into the official race track, the perimeter ring being covered by a layer of dirt and sand. The length of the circle is .21 of a mile and the race entails three loops around the campo, equaling .66 of a mile in total. The race typical lasts a minute and a half, give or take 10 seconds.

The race's death-defying speeds require external and internal barricades and protective padding in specific areas. The most dangerous of these areas is the curve at the front right area of



painting by Cathy Gale



'When the winning horse crosses the finish line (with or without the jockey on its back) the Piazza del Campo erupts in pandemonium – in shouts, songs, and tears.'

the Piazza, known as the curve of San Martino. This 95-degree angle has been the site of nearly 60 percent of the accidents that have happened in the past 20 years.

After the horses are assigned, the days are filled with six trial runs, on-going celebrations and, the night before the race, a final rehearsal dinner. Each *contrada* lays out rows of tables 50-feet long in the street, and local restaurateurs serve bottomless bowls of pasta, platters of an assorted meats, and jugs of wine during the estimated 25,000 dinners.

On the mornings of July 2 and Aug. 16, anticipation and excitement fills the streets of Siena and fazzoletti, or the colorful scarves of each *contrada*, are proudly tied around the necks of both young and old. A final trial run is then held. The horses are taken to the participating *contrada's* church for a benediction. The final parade and procession begins as the Piazza del Campo fills with revellers from near and far. The seats and bleachers that have been erected all around the track host the 33,000 ticket holders are lucky enough to have a seat. Every window, balcony and loggia is filled and the center of the piazza is filled with nearly 50,000 brave souls willing to be "trapped" inside the piazza once the entrance

has been officially closed, approximately three hours before the start of the race. The piazza is then sealed off until after the race is completed, signifying no bathroom breaks and limited accessibility to water and other liquids.

Seconds before the race begins, loud shouts and competing songs of rival *contrade* fill the air. Jockeys riding bareback, or *a pelo*, work to line up the horses, making last minute deals with other jockeys to outsmart fierce rivals while waiting for officials to signal the race's start. False starts often plague the beginning and when the rope is finally dropped, the race is over before the blink of an eye.

When the winning horse crosses the finish line (with or without the jockey on its back) the Piazza del Campo erupts in pandemonium – in shouts, songs, and tears. The winning *contrada* floods the racetrack in celebration, having earned bragging rights for the coming year.

This year the Palio will be held on:

Sunday, July 2, 2006 at 7:30

Wednesday, August 16, 2006 at 7:00

For more information visit www.ilpalio.org

WHEN IN ROME KEEP ON TOP OF THE NEWS

The Roman Forum newspaper is available at newstands, bookshops, museums, hotels, bars, English-speaking churches, associations, embassies, UN offices, schools, colleges, banks

www.theromanforum.com

Villa Montagna

is an exclusive villa located in a dominant position with magnificent views over one of the most breathtaking landscapes of Tuscany, the Mugello Valley.



It is a must once in your lifetime!

LAST MINUTE: Special Offer From 1-22 July, for 16 persons, one week in Villa Montagna only **Euro 2.700**, instead of Euro 3.400.

Book on www.poggioalleville.it or info@poggioalleville.it

Tel +39.055.599.828 or +39.055.840.8752 Mobile +39.335.8239017

Book REVIEWS

Lasting Love, Politics and Poetry

In the bicentennial year of Elizabeth Barrett-Browning's birth, Ed Hayes reads the most Florentine poem of the most romantic Anglo-Florentine



Robert later insisted that they be published – as translations to disguise how personal they were. He wrote later “I dared not reserve to myself the finest sonnets written in any language since Shakespeare’s”.

The Italy they came to was in rapid flux. It was a divided land – the Austrians ruling in the north, the Spaniards oppressing the south, an Austrian Grand Duke,

Leopold, ruling Tuscany from the Palazzo Pitti, and the Pope holding Rome and the surrounding lands. Elizabeth followed the struggles of the *Risorgimento* – the movement to unify and bring freedom to Italy. In her poem *Casa Guidi Windows*, she celebrates the civic liberties granted by the Grand Duke: “I heard last night a little child go singing / ‘Neath Casa Guidi windows, by the church / ‘O Bella Liberta, O Bella!’” On their first wedding anniversary, Elizabeth and Robert had watched the people’s procession of celebration pass beneath their house near Piazza San Felice. The poem reveals Elizabeth’s excitement as a lifelong invalid who suddenly has the opportunity to wit-

ness history firsthand. She admits that she might be optimistic, but she prefers “to sing with these who are awake / with birds, with babes, with men who will not fear...” In the second part of *Casa Guidi Windows*, written 1849-50, she laments the dashing of her hopes for freedom, following the entrance of the hated Austrian forces from the north into Florence.

While some of Elizabeth’s political ideals were naïve, she was emotionally and intellectually engaged with Italian events – *Casa Guidi Windows*, indeed, was published simultaneously in English and Italian translation in 1851. She is still remembered in Italy for her part in championing the ideals of the *Risor-*

‘I HEARD last night a little child so singing
‘Neath Casa Guidi windows, by the church,
O bella libertà, O bella!—stringing
The same words still on notes he went in search
So high for, you concluded the upspringing
Of such a nimble bird to sky from perch
Must leave the whole bush in a tremble green,
And that the heart of Italy must beat,
While such a voice had leave to rise serene
‘Twixt church and palace of a Florence street:
A little child, too, who not long had been
By mother’s finger steadied on his feet,
And still O bella libertà he sang.’

JULIET OF NATIONS, *Casa Guidi Windows*

Elizabeth and Robert Browning arrived in Italy in 1846 following a secret marriage in London. For Elizabeth, coming to Florence was a merciful release. As an invalid, she revelled in the air, “so much lighter and more elastic” than the smog of London. And more, she was escaping the claustrophobic brutality of her father’s house – her father felt betrayed by the secret love affair, and afterwards cut off all ties with her. The Brownings’ courtship was immortalised in Elizabeth’s secretly written *Sonnets From the Portuguese*: “How Do I love thee? Let me count the ways! / I love thee to the depth & breadth & height / My Soul can reach...”

British Institute, Lungarno Guicciardini 9

Wednesday 5 July

At 15.00, reading of *Casa Guidi Windows* (See review)

At 17.00 visit to Casa Guidi, house of the Brownings

At 18.00 Lecture:

200th Anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Sister Julia Bolton Holloway is Professor Emerita of Medieval Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, previously custodian of the Brownings’ Casa Guidi house in Florence and custodian of the cemetery in Piazzale Donatello, known as the ‘English Cemetery’, where the Brownings lie buried.

BOOK REVIEW

Title: PERCORSO GUIDATO

The Guide to Florence with exercises and activities for students of Italian as a foreign language

Ideal for pre-intermediate level students of Italian, The Guide to Florence is a new and useful tool for those who study Italian as a foreign language. It is divided into short chapters, complete with exercises and exercise key, illustrations, and comments that relate to particular texts and information on Florentine language use. Its aim is to serve as a practical guide which provides answers to questions regarding cultural aspects of everyday life in Italy. The guide also helps learners develop vocabulary useful for a holiday in Florence. This guide can be used as a supplement to a course book in class or be enjoyed in its own right by students who live either in or outside Italy.



Bonacci editore
Via Paolo Mercuri 8
00193 Roma
Tel: 06/68300004
Fax: 06/69966382
info@bonacci.it
www.bonacci.it

Author: S. du Bessé
ISBN: 88-7573-360-0
Price: 5.20 euro
Pages: 80

Poetry along the silver river

Cultural events on the Arno



July 10-12, 24-25

Love stories and comedy shows inspired by the Divine Comedy will be playing all summer aboard the antique sand boats of the Renaioli rowers. The show ‘Come in America’ by Manuela Critelli, will be performed by actors Silvia Giudi and Fabio Mascagni who will interpret a ‘backwards’ version of the story of The Inferno’s Paolo and Francesca.

June 29, July 17-19, 31

Navigate on the Arno from Ponte alle Grazie to Ponte alla Carraia, and enjoy the river’s natural beauty and a unique view of Lungarno’s most beautiful palazzos. Onboard, feast your ears on the Venturino Camaiti burlesque and humorous verses inspired by Dante, Florence’s divine poet. Boats leave at 9:30 pm from the ‘porticciola’ in Piazza Mentana. Tickets cost 20 euro.

For more information call 055/50000640.

*****All shows will be performed in Italian.**

Classified ADS

Housing For Sale/Immobili Vendita

Brand new villa in Camaione (LU) luxury finishing, on 3 levels. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 lounges, storage, cellar, garage, covered terrace, garden. Quite environment, beautiful view. 520.000 euro. Call 3405010163

Reggello, Villa Padronale in favored position overlooking Chianti hills, 4 bedrooms, 3 living areas and hectare of olive trees. Contact www.toptuscanyrealestate.com

Chianti - Lucolena, 110 sqm. restored apartments in farmhouse, garden, cellar, pool, parking, panoramic view 360,000,00 Euro. Developer 347.8138814 - 055.2322242

Hamlet in Tuscany for sale. Located in the Municipality of Barberino di Mugello. 8/10 km. from Lake Bilancino/Outlet/Golf Course/Race Track. Hamlet needs partial restoration and can be purchased partially or in full. Includes 15 flats, 6-acre park and small lake. It is possible to build-on structure should buyer intend to use for tourist purposes. Fax 055/2336990. Email: scatizzi@dada.it

Loft For Sale in Prato. 2 lofts near historic centre, each 137 sq. m., ideal for home office. We can show layout and location. For information, e-mail marco@agilelogica.it

Housing for Rent/Immobili in Affitto

Florentineflats.com offers quality apartments in Florence city centre at affordable prices, short and long term rentals, minimum 5 days. Call Rachel 348.0457857 / 055.685661, rach@dada.it

Stunning and sophisticated loft apartment in Palazzo Caponi. Tons of original frescoes. Perfect for executive couple or single. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. 2,000 euro/month. Judieanne Colusso +39.335.839-0712, info@coloursoftuscany.com, www.coloursoftuscany.com

Resident accommodations in the San Frediano neighbourhood. Independent building with 31 rooms complete with bathroom, air-conditioning, electronic entrance keys, winter and summer courtyard, small car park. Also guests universities and colleges for both brief and long periods. For more information write to scatizzi@dada.it or send a fax to 055/2336990.

Bagno a Ripoli. 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment near International elementary school. Small private garden, garage, terrace. Lots of light and beautiful Chianti views. Fully furnished. 1,300 euro/month. Judieanne Colusso +39.335.839-0712, info@coloursoftuscany.com, www.coloursoftuscany.com

Near Piazzale Michelangelo secretly hidden with private garden and only 15 minute walk to center. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Fully furnished. 2,000 euro/month. Judieanne Colusso +39.335.839-0712, info@coloursoftuscany.com, www.coloursoftuscany.com

Artist's Loft for Sublet: Wonderful light for painting in via Santa Spirito. Available Aug 1-Jan 1. 400 per month (utilities included). Francesca 340 2459053, fceccarelli1980@libero.it

A large room with private bathroom with use of kitchen & sitting room in a large & bright flat equipped with every comfort (also for very short period, close to piazza Gavinana), write to e.dellachiesa@theflorentine.net

Pistoia downtown (walk RR) elegantly renovated apt in historical bldg 4 lge rooms well furnished short-long term euro 900 pm+utl. Call 339.6928710

Help Wanted/Offerte di lavoro

New York University in Florence seeks candidates for the part-time position of Community Resource Assistant. This four-month, renewable opportunity includes on-duty coverage for students in crisis situations, office hours, events organization and assistance, facilities support, weekly meetings, and check-in and check-out facilitation. Compensation includes salary, living accommodations, and meal plan. Experience working with U.S. students, or interest in the area, preferred. Ability to speak and write English at proficient level required. Ability to work legally in Italy is required and the sole responsibility of the applicant. Interested candidates should email a cover letter and resume to: florence.studentlife@nyu.edu.

The French school of Florence is seeking applications for an English teacher at the elementary level. Qualified candidates will have a teaching degree and prior experience with that age group. Knowledge of French appreciated. Curriculum follows French ministry guidelines. Training internship will be provided. Send applications to dir.c.marchi@tiscali.it before July 6.

Wanted: Au pair for Italian-English family, 3 children (12, 9, 6), Cure area. 1630-2000h Mon-Fri and babysitting (c2 eves). Week-ends free. Standard au pair rate. luisa@accademiasanfelice.com, cell 339 401 62 47

Luxury Fashion Bag Brand requires a full time Office Manager/ Secretary. Working knowledge and experience of Italian business and administrative practices necessary. Fluent in English and Italian, proficient in Microsoft Office and basic accounting programmes. Exciting and inspiring working environment, central Florence location, opportunities for growth. Call Thomas 339 781 2148 or 055 21 44 21

Private Lessons/Lezioni Private

Italian individual lessons in Florence. Sharpen your grammar to enjoy conversation. Fluent English, Japanese, French spoken. Call Alberto and his Japanese wife Fumiko, tel. 055-475152, www.azlanguage.it - info@azlanguage.it

Amici italiani with London School. Italian courses small groups 2 hours per day, weekly enrolments, first 2 hours free, special prices under 26, free film, evenings with Italian friends. Individual lessons. Tel and fax 055.570029 or 055.585860, info@londonschool.org

Private oil painting lessons in English near Teatro Goldoni. Still life subject, canvas, paints and easel supplied. All levels welcome. For more information please contact Cathy at 055.2207171/338.1499392

Italian lessons for all levels. Qualified Italian teacher available for lessons in Florence and the surrounding area. Call Ghita 320.1432943

Expert craftsman offers individual or group classes in English or Italian. Introduction to chiseling and embossing-theory and practice. Introduction to technical design. Call Fabrizio 338.5060720 or write acquafresca69@hotmail.com.

Leather Crafting Classes. Scuola del Cuoio offers short-term (3 hours/1-2 days) & long-term (1 wk to 10 mths) individual courses and classes under a Master Leather Craftsman inside the Monastery of Santa Croce, via San Giuseppe 5 (thru the garden). Enquiries: tel. 055.244.533 or info@leatherschool.com. For more info. visit www.leatherschool.com

**Leisure & Vacation/
Tempo libero e vacanze**

B&B in Poggio al Vento. Located in a splendid nineteenth century villa. Furnished with antique furniture, photos and souvenirs from all over the world. Includes two master bedrooms and a welcoming double bedroom. Poggio al Veneto is a small company that deals in organic agriculture. It's situated in the hills of Scandicci, in

Casignano, just a few kilometres from Florence. Ideal for those who wish to visit Florence without giving up the chance to stay in the beautiful Tuscan countryside. For information and reservations call: +39.055.7309861 or +39.328.3876663 or write to info@casignano.it

Panoramic colonial house in the hills of Chianti, only 15 km from Florence. Surrounded by a large park and olive grove, swimming pool. 4-6 person flats for rent for brief periods, completely furnished. Quiet, family-style atmosphere. Landlords available on site for any needs. Tel. 333.2203265, e-mail femanesc@tin.it

Services/Servizi

Personal tech guru. Hire an experienced professional to improve your digital life. Resolves computer, internet, software, personal electronics issues. Joe 3285608842.

Body Language Pilates and Yoga Studio. An intimate studio near Centro offers many level-specific classes daily of group Yoga and Pilates mats taught in English with private apparatus sessions available. Call D. Clark at 335.790.4029

Do you have difficulties putting together your resume and cover letter? I am a graduate of Cambridge University, UK, and have helped numerous people get interviews for jobs with the help of a well-written resume and cover letter. For 50 euro, I will meet with you, and write a resume and cover letter. Contact Cassie at cassielbrown@hotmail.com

Personals/Personali

Reliable, 31-year-old Australian looking for English teaching, babysitting, waitressing or computer assistance work during July and August in Florence. Tel. 055.4201948 / 339.1684177

French young woman offers baby-sitting and help for homework. Available nights after 19:00, mornings until 10:00 and week ends. Please contact Camille: 347.6048907



CHATTERBOX

Janelle Alexander

Educational Consultant

Verbal SAT/TOEFL Preparation • US/UK University Applications
Private/group English Tutoring • Corporate, Children, Adults

janellealexander@virgilio.it
phone +390552087000 cell +393295890695

THE LOUNGE

F I R E N Z E

PRESENTS:
2006 FIFA WORLD CUP
GERMANY 2006
LIVE



Live at THE LOUNGE
Germany 2006 World Cup
All matches

SUMMER LUNCH

FROM 12:30PM TO 14.30PM

BUFFET + CHOSEN PLATE FROM THE MENU

EURO 14,00

SERVICE, BREAD AND WATER INCLUDED

SUNDAY BRUNCH

FROM 12:30PM TO 15.30PM

EURO 26,00

THE LOUNGE

F I R E N Z E

RESTAURANT - LOUNGE BAR - SUSHI BAR
APERITIF - AFTER DINNER

SUMMER HOURS

FROM TUESDAY TO SUNDAY

OPEN FROM 12:30 PM TO 1:00 AM

PIAZZA SANTA MARIA NOVELLA, 9/10 R.

50123 FIRENZE - ITALIA

TEL. +39 055 2645282 FAX + 39 055 2648 148

WWW.THELOUNGE.IT E-MAIL INFO@THELOUNGE.IT