



Florence

Florence spreads on the banks of the river Arno. This wonderful town has retained an extraordinary wealth of art treasures, a glorious witness to its centuries civilization. Cimabue and Giotto, forefathers of Italian painting, Arnolfo and Andrea Pisano, renovators of architecture and sculpture; Brunelleschi, Donatello and Masaccio, innovators of the Renaissance; Ghiberti, Della Robbia, Filippo Lippi, Beato Angelico, Botticelli, Paolo Uccello and universal men like Leonardo and Michelangelo: all of them lived and worked in Florence.

Their work, together with the one of many other artists, are collected in the city museums. The Uffizi Gallery is undoubtedly the most important one and one of the richest picture gallery in the world; the Galleria Palatina houses significant works in the marvellous Pitti Palace; and also: the Bargello Museum, with its Renaissance sculptures, the Museum of San Marco, with Beato Angelico's work, the Academy, the Medici Chapels and the Casa Buonarroti, with precious sculptural masterpieces by Michelangelo.

Famous monuments indicate the various stages of Florentine art: the Baptistery with its mosaics, the Duomo with its sculptures, several mediaeval churches with their frescoes, and a lot of palaces -Palazzo Vecchio, Palazzo Pitti, Palazzo Medici Riccardi, Palazzo Davanzati and others-, monasteries, cloisters, convents, Last Suppers.

Florence means picture, sculpture, architecture and a lot more. The Italian Language was born here, with Dante Alighieri; the study of literature found its main centre here with Petrarca and Boccaccio; humanism renewed philosophy and brought a full appreciation of classicism; Macchiavelli inaugurated the modern political science; Guicciardini introduced modern historical prose; Galileo and his school created the modern experimental science. Moreover, in Florence there are many academies and art schools, universities for foreigners, centres of history, art and popular culture, scientific museums (such as the Specola) and collections of bibliographies which are kept in the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale and in other famous libraries such as the Mediceo-Laurenziana, the Riccardiana and the Marucelliana.

Throughout the year a lot of different events take place in Florence. The Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the Pitti fashion event, the expositions of both contemporary and antique art, the antiques' markets and also several traditional events such as the Calcio Storico Fiorentino -Florentine Historical Football-, the Burst of the Cart and the Feast of St. John.

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