



# **Florence's** **Best-kept secrets**

A cityguide curated by  
The Social Hub community.

# Issue 01



## Florence City Guide

Prepare to fall in love with this romantic city

Beautiful in looks and spirit, Florence has a soft energy like that of a Botticelli painting. Get lost in the many distinguished cultural spots, eat yourself happy in humble trattorias, and daydream through the magical parks and gorgeous views.

## Neighbourhoods

- Arceti
- San Lorenzo
- Borgo Pinti
- San Niccolò
- Centro Storico
- Santa Croce
- Le cure
- Santa Maria Novella
- Porta Romana
- Sant' Ambrogio
- Porta al Prato
- Santo Spirito
- San Jacopino
- Statuto

KEEP AN EYE ON THESE DOTS, YOU MIGHT COMBINE HOTSPOTS ONCE YOU'RE THERE.



Download our guide on Google maps



## Music & Entertainment

Though not a place typically associated with a buzzing nightlife, there are still places where the music gets louder and the locals shake it out. Don't let the humble setting put you off, it's always a fun time.

## Food & Drinks

The settings may often be humble, but the food is anything but. Expect rich flavours and unique combinations from the Tuscan cuisine, as well as more international influences on the Italian kitchen.



## Art & Culture

Unsurprisingly given their history, Italians value culture highly and throughout the city you can find expressions of culture - old and new. From grand museums, to niche nooks, you'll learn something about this layered city.



## Shops & Boutiques

Florence has a remarkable selection of niche shopping spots that inspire emotions as much as spending. It's not always about what you get, but the experience whilst you're there in these unique places.

## Parks & Nature

Enjoy green spaces that all breathe an air of romantic tranquility as you stroll through them. With rose gardens, outstanding panoramas and Renaissance sculptors being the norm, it's a beauty like no other.

# FOOD & DRINKS

TRY THE "DREAM OF RED CHAMBERS" STARTER.



[@ilgustodixinge](#)



## II Gusto Di Xinge

Traditional Chinese cuisine with an arty twist

Owner Xin Ge Li ran a successful takeaway spot for years before opening this colourful and creative restaurant. Her unique process of curating the dishes, the fusion menu and unconventional decor makes this place a real gem.

● Porta al Prato [Viale Belfiore 2](#)



[@donamalina\\_sjacopino](#)

## Donamalina Gelateria

Satisfy your sweet tooth

You'll be spoilt for choice at this cosy gelato shop with its huge selection of traditional and experimental flavours. Enjoy a spot of people watching from the liveliest neighbourhood square right out front.

● San Jacopino  
[Piazza di S. Jacopino 7](#)

TRY THE TRADITIONAL PIOTACCHIO SICILIAN GRANITA WITH WHIPPED CREAM.

## Podere 39

Local Florentine dishes with spectacular decor

Though slightly out of the centre, this country-chic eatery serves an outstanding menu and wine list among beautiful plants and floral bouquets. The price point for the quality is pretty great too.

● **Porta Romana** [Via Senese 39/R](#) [@podere\\_39](#)

ALWAYS BUSY, BOOK IN ADVANCE.

## Manifattura Bar

An ode to the Italian cocktail legacy

Let the cocktail masters take you on a journey through the various alcoholic delights coming to Italy. Sink some killer negronis, perfectly balanced americanos and refreshing spritz's, just make sure you don't have anything important to do the next day.

● **Santa Maria Novella**  
[Piazza di S. Pancrazio 1](#)



[@manifattura\\_firenze](#)

THEY PLAY ITALIAN MUSIC FROM THE 50s.

## Il Nugolo

Serving home grown vegetables in a creative way

GREAT FOR VEGETARIANS!

This cosy little spot only has a few tables to host its guests, making the experience extra special. They grow all their own veg and are especially obsessed with tomatoes, so be sure to try them.

● **Sant'Ambrogio** [Via della Mattonaia 27 R](#)  
[@ilnugolo](#)

## Antico Ristoro di Cambi

As traditional as it gets

Stone walls, no tablecloths, a countertop rich with cold cuts, fruits and seasonal veg, this is a typical Florentine restaurant - and proud. It's the best place in town for a Florentine steak hands down.

● **Santo Spirito** [Via Sant'Onofrio 1R](#)  
[@anticoristorodicambi](#)

PRETTY MEAT HEAVY, SO KEEP THAT IN MIND.



# MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

TRY TO ARRIVE NOT TOO LATE  
AS IT CAN BE HARD TO GET IN.



## Rex Café

An unpretentious bar to drink  
and dance

At Rex Café, you'll find a lot of locals  
vibing to music in a very informal setting.  
Get involved and shake it out! Cocktails  
are good here too.

● Santa Croce

[Via Fiesolana 25r](#)

[@rexfirenze](#)

## Combo Social Club

Fun times and cheap drinks

From 90s Italo disco, to rock music nights, and DJ sets, there's a  
different music genres at night. Set in an old industrial building,  
it gets crowded and cosy.

● Le Cure [Via Mannelli 2](#) [www.combosocialclub.com](http://www.combosocialclub.com)

CHECK THEIR WEBSITE  
FOR PROGRAMMING.

## Babylon Club

An electro-disco club in the heart  
of Florence

Neon lights, three big stages and a  
fun loving crowd are to be expected  
at Babylon Club. Since opening in  
2010, it's a favourite for locals to catch  
international DJ sets.

● Centro [Via dei Pandolfini 26r](#)  
Storico [@babylon\\_club\\_firenze](#)



CHECK OUT THE  
'TROPICAL ANIMALS' NIGHT.

# La Limonaia

A historical villa turned party club

ONLY OPEN DURING  
SUMMER MONTHS.

This stunning outdoor venue mixes a traditional Florentine building with neon lights, encouraging its crowds to let loose and have fun with its scheduled programming. Popular with the LGBTIA+ community.

● Porta Romana [Via Pisana 77](#) [@lalimonaiastrozzi](#)

ART &  
CULTURE

Here.

Where?

THE SOCIAL HUB

# Libreria Alice

One of Florence's last independent libraries

A wonderful and inclusive cultural space giving space to small independent authors, with a tailor-made selection of products and books. Events, workshops, presentations, one-of-a-kind bookshop in Florence!

● San Lorenzo  
[V.le Spartaco Lavagnini 70](#)  
[@libreria\\_alice](#)



THEY HOST BOOK PRESENTATIONS, BOOK CLUBS,  
EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS EVERY WEEK.

# San Miniato al Monte

A significant religious ground with a killer view

Track the hill to get to one of the city's most beautiful churches, a typical display of Tuscan Romanesque architecture. Make sure you're there just before sunset to see a truly magical view.

● Arcetri [Via delle Porte Sante 34](#)  
[www.sanminiatoalmonete.it](#)

THERE ARE MONKS  
STILL LIVING IN  
THE MONASTERY.



©photoElaBialkowskaOKNOstudio

## Palazzo Strozzi

A massive building with an intimate vibe

In a city known for its Renaissance art and tradition, Palazzo Strozzi stands out from the crowd with its contemporary art exhibitions and innovative character. The programming is always very interesting.

- Centro Storico [Piazza degli Strozzi 50123](#)  
[www.palazzostrozzi.org](http://www.palazzostrozzi.org)

ENJOY A QUICK BITE IN THE RESTAURANT.



©photoElaBialkowskaOKNOstudio



[@cletstudio](#)

## Clet's Studio

A creative, playful take on road signs

Clet Abraham is a French-born artist known for his unique street art interventions involving road signs. Visit his tiny shop to buy his artwork and maybe even meet the mysterious character.

- San Niccolò [Via dell'Olmo 8r](#)

HE'S A MUCH LOVED ARTIST AMONG THE LOCALS.

## Rifugio Digitale

Explore digital creativity through technology

While building on the remains of the past, this exhibition space seeks to creatively engage with technology and its innovative nature. Come to see intense visual experiences related to art, architecture, photography, literature and more.

- San Niccolò [Via della Fornace, 41](#) [@rifugio\\_digitale](#)

IT'S BUILT ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF AN OLD WW2 BOMB SHELTER.



# SHOPS & BOUTIQUES

ACQUA DI ROSE IS ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST POPULAR ITEMS.



## Antica Farmacia Santa Maria Novella

Smell your way around Europe's oldest pharmacy

Using recipes from the 1600s, this pharmacy has an unbelievable selection of fragrances - from perfumes, candles, soaps and more. A stunning building with experienced staff.

● Santa Maria Novella [Via della Scala 16](#) [@santamarianovella1221](#)

## Antico Mercato Centrale

A 19th century market with the freshest cheese, meat and veg

There are only a few very historical markets still going in Florence and this is one of them. The building is filled with a constant hubbub of noise, people and vibrant energy.

● San Lorenzo  
[Piazza del Mercato Centrale, 50123](#)  
[@ilmercatocentralefirenze](#)

ASK THE MARKET VENDORS FOR THEIR UNIQUE RECIPES.

[@ilmercatocentralefirenze](#)





## Vannaty Firenze

Part shop, part museum, a whole new experience.

Hard to find online, but trust us on this one. A vintage shop featuring the collection of Nonna Vanna, the owner's grandmother. Expect luxury bags, old pictures, gorgeous dresses and more.

- Santo Spirito [Borgo della Stella 17r](#)  
[@vannatyfirenze](#)

OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - AND ASK FOR THE 'CHRISTMAS EDITION'.

## Manifattura Tabacchi

Come for an aperitivo, stay for a dance

Outside the city, you can find this impressive newly built events venue. Browse the local brands, from jewellery, unique hats, streetwear, and more. There's also a barber shop, salon and tattoo parlour for your beauty needs.

- San Jacopino [via delle Cascine 33-35](#) [@manifatturatabacchifi](#)

CHECK THEIR WEBSITE FOR THE PROGRAMMING AND MANY EVENTS PLANNED.

## Pegna dal 1860

Step back in time at this traditional grocers

Located a few steps from the Duomo is Pegna, an old grocery store that has barely changed since its opening in 1860. Full of Tuscan specialities and colonial imports, it reflects the region's history.

- Centro storico [Via dello Studio 26R](#) [@pegnafirenze](#)

A HAM SELECTION LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

# PARKS & NATURE

## Giardino dell'Orticoltura

Swap the city bustle for some peaceful botanics

This park is home to many gems - such as a huge greenhouse, a snake shaped fountain, and an unbelievable view. Take a picnic and enjoy an alfresco lunch.

- Le Cure [Via Vittorio Emanuele II 4](#)  
[@giardinodellorticoltura](#)

THE BIGGEST PLANT AND FLOWER MARKET IN ITALY IS HOSTED THERE IN MAY.



## Orti Dipinti

A community herbal garden in the middle of an old athletic track

Though it may be hard to visualise until you're there, this spot is definitely worth a visit. Check their calendar to join an activity like 'lessons on aromatic herbs' or 'creating objects from recycled materials.'

- Borgo Pinti [Borgo Pinti 76](#)  
[@ortidipinti](#)

YOU CAN EVEN HELP OUT EVERY MONDAY, 10:00 - 13:00.





MAY IS WHEN THE  
ROSES ARE IN  
FULL BLOOM.



## Giardino delle Rose

For the romantics among you,  
head straight to this hidden gem

With over 1000 varieties of roses in this stunning garden, you'll be intoxicated with the sweet smells and beautiful colours. The gorgeous view of the city is also magical.

● San Niccolò [Viale Giuseppe Poggi 2](#) [www.beniculturalionline.it](http://www.beniculturalionline.it)

## Parco del museo Stibbert

A Renaissance garden featuring fountains, lakes and birds

The museum might be popular, but people overlook the beautiful gardens that you can visit even without the museum. It's cute and quiet, without many people or distractions around.

○ Statuto [Via Federico Stibbert, 26](#) [@museostibbertofficial](https://www.instagram.com/museostibbertofficial)

THE MUSEUM FEATURED A MASSIVE STATUE AND  
TEXTILE COLLECTION.



