

Elad's Plan

Utility info:

- Italy pre-number for your phone call +39
- Tourist information in piazza Stazione tel. 055 – 212246 open 8.00 – 19.00
- It's very hot, prepare yourself (maybe a stupid advise, Israel is not Norvegia.....)

Wednesday 27th

Morning

I'll suggest you to take "confidence" with the city centre today and start your exploration from there; if you like you have an incredible possibility to see the restored "David di Donatello" (photo) at Museo Nazionale del Bargello (Via del Proconsolo 4, very near the Duomo), symbol of the Tuscan region and one of the most famous sculpture of the great Italian artist it shows from the Renaissance period a freestanding nude male sculpture made since antiquity. This magnificent state-of-art in bronze of Donatello (1386-1466) is on the top of the most appreciated and admired sculpture of the entire XVth Century. Despite this fact, none document shows information on its execution: only in 1469 was simply reminded for the first time at the centre of the Palazzo dei Medici Courtyard.



The restoration of David di Donatello, which since 1887 has had his exhibition at the Museum of Bargello, began in 2006 and was made possible thanks to the significative advent of modern and innovative techniques, which have highlighted the artistic value of this sculptural work.

The original core of 1255, has been built on a project of a certain Lapo, father of Arnolfo di Cambio and matches to the block that faces the street Proconsolo: is the oldest building of government of the city. In 1502 the palace became the official place of the Council of Justice in the same time with the police, whose head was called indeed, the "Bargello".

The prisons have been used since the year of 1857, when they were transferred in the Ex Convento delle Murate starting this date with the complete restoration of the building, made by Francesco Mazzei.

The exhibition at Museum of Bargello will be open to the public with the following hours: all days Sunday included from 8:30 am to 1:50 pm.

You can reach the museum by taxi (tel. 4242 or 4390) or walking obviously, but you can also take a bus n° 6 in via Pisana near your hotel goes to via Martelli near Duomo and via Proconsolo.

Eating

For your first quick-lunch in Florence I suggest "Nerbone" (photo), inside the Mercato Centrale (central market) in San Lorenzo since 1874; you take a fast full immersion in the Florentinity trend, you can try trippa alla fiorentina, pappa al pomodoro, or a plate piled with boiled potatoes and a single fat sausage. But the mainstay here is a panino with lampredotto, a boiled beef sandwich that's bagnato (dipped in the meat juices), my absolute favourite, ask for it with salt, pepper and green sauce. Eat standing with the crowd of old men at the side counter, sipping glasses of wine, or fight for one of the few tables against the wall. Be sure to get there till 12.30 – 13.00 or you risk a long queue for your specialities, infact Nerbone is very very famous for Florentine people and you find there a lot of workers of the nearby, from the young boy to the old manager.



While you are going there you'll pass inside "San Lorenzo Market" from piazza San Lorenzo to via dell'Ariento, all around his Basilica (in the very historical center of the city) you can find probably the most important market of the city. Just walk around searching for clothing, articles in leather, souvenirs, etc.

Afternoon

For your afternoon I think you have to walking a little to digest Nerbone experience..... what about to see the magnificent Duomo (Santa Maria del Fiore) and the near Campanile di Giotto (85 mt. high and more of 350 steps) ?? In piazza Duomo you can find another old tradition in Florence, some carriages with horsers that can bring the tourist inside the centre, they are called "Fiaccherai" (photo). After that you can move to Piazza della Signoria where you find Palazzo Vecchio, is the town hall of the city; this massive, Roma, crenellated fortress-palace is among the most impressive town halls of Tuscany. Overlooking the Piazza della Signoria with its copy of Michelangelo's David statue as well the gallery of statues in the adjacent one of the most significant public places in Italy. Originally called the Palazzo della Signoria, after the Signoria of Florence, the ruling body of the Republic of Florence, it was also given several other names: Palazzo del Popolo, Palazzo dei Priori, and Palazzo Ducale, in accordance during its long history. The building acquired its current name when the Medici duke's residence was moved across the Arno to the Palazzo Pitti.



Finally you will arrive on the famous Ponte Vecchio, one of my favourite place to take a little bit relax, just sitting on the banks and look over there....

At the top of the bridge you can see the famous Corridoio Vasariano, but what is the Vasari Corridor ?? A sort of secret passage from Uffizi to Palazzo Pitti!! Well, let's say you're a Medici, a member of the ruling family in Florence during the mid 1500s. You've just moved, from the Palazzo della Signoria (now called the Palazzo Vecchio, or "old palace") across the river to the Palazzo Pitti. But your offices are still in the Uffizi, back next door to where you used to live. You certainly wouldn't want to actually have to, say, hobnob with the people on your way to and from work every day, would you? So, you build a big tunnel on the second story of all of the buildings between the Uffizi and the Palazzo Pitti. The full length of the tunnel is almost 2 kilometers, and amazingly only took 5 months for Vasari to complete. (Giorgio Vasari's name may sound familiar to you - he wrote a history of art in the late 1500s that is used even today to help identify lesser-known artists.) The reason it could be completed so quickly is that it was mostly built on top of and through existing buildings - the only part that had to be built from the ground up is the first section, which you see above, between the Uffizi and the Ponte Vecchio.

A little bit tired ?? What about a very good ice cream ?? One of the best in Florence it's called "Perchè no?" (why not?) since 1939 in Via dei Tavolini, 19 (near via Calzaiuoli).

Dinner

Your first dinner in Florence has to be very memorable! What about eating one of the best "bistecca alla fiorentina" ?? You have to go in via del Porcellana 25 at "Sostanza" (commonly called "i Troia"), try asking any Florentine in the city center "...where is the trattoria Sostanza?..." . They probably can't answer, not out of rudeness or because they dislike tourists, but simply because they know it as another name. Try with "...where is Il Troia?..." . And we promise you that it's not an offence but just the owner's nickname and knowing that this is the only way to get directions for this Florentine restaurant per excellence.

It was established in 1869 by the Campolmi family as a porterhouse, wine house and grocery store. Its original characteristics including a great part of the furnishing, for example the huge marble tables, remained essentially unchanged and it offers its customers the most typical Florentine dishes. Don't miss the Tuscan soup, tripe and the steak. The restaurant might seem basic but that is what makes it so genuine and incredibly Florentine! The perfect menu is antipasto misto (with crostini and ham) and then bistecca alla fiorentina (ask for his cooking "al sangue") with fresh beans.

The restaurant is very little and you have to reserve at 055 – 212691, take cash with you, no credit card admitted. Sometime you can meet there some vip so, if that 2 guys at the table near yours seems like Steven Spielberg dining with Charlize Theron, probably is because THEY ARE Steven Spielberg and Charlize Theron!

After Dinner

Too early to go in the bed ?? Nevermind, I'll think to this too! It's wednesday evening and my favourite place for that is Golden View - Open Bar in via de Bardi 54 very near Ponte Vecchio, jazz session with live concert from 21.00. If you reserve is best so you can take a seat with Ponte Vecchio overview or in the jazz room, tel 055 – 214502.

And then..... good night in Florence!!

Thursday 28th

Morning

What about to take the best and stunning overview in Florence ? Take a camera with you and..... go to Piazzale Michelangelo. If you like you can take a bus (n° 12) in the near via R. Sanzio that bring you directly up to that incredibly terrazza on the city. It was built in 1869 and designed by architect Giuseppe Poggion a hill just south of the historic center, on completion of retraining of the left bank of the shore. From that fact, Florence was the capital of Italy and the whole city was involved in an urban renewal, the so-called rehabilitation, or the rebirth of the city middle class: they were created lungarni; on the right bank, instead of the fourteenth-century walls were open the avenues of the ring of a boulevard, on the left bank was traced, wind on the hill of San Miniato, the Viale dei Colli, a street tree overview 8 kilometers long, at whose climax the square was built as a terrace with a panoramic view inside the city. The chronicle of the early construction of the company report as a part of Florence disappoint "for the excessive spending of the construction. The Piazzale Michelangelo, dedicated to the great Renaissance artist has copies of some of his famous works in Florence: the David and the four allegories of the Medici Chapel of San Lorenzo, these copies are made of bronze, while the originals are all in white marble. Poggi also designed the loggia in the neoclassical style that dominates the whole terrace, which today houses a panoramic restaurant.

To come back in the centre you can use the same bus n° 12 that bring you at Ponte alle Grazie, than you can walk near the Arno since you reach Ponte Vecchio; while you are walking in via Por Santa Maria you will find the famous market "del Porcellino". Il Porcellino (in Italian "small pig") is the local Florentine name for the bronze fountain of a boar Il Cinghiale in the Mercato Nuovo in Florence, the fountain figure was sculpted and cast by Baroque master Pietro Tacca (1577 –1640) in 1612, following a marble Italian copy of a Hellenistic marble original, at the time in the Grand Ducal collections of the Uffizi. Visitors to Il Porcellino toss a coin into the grating at



the boar's feet and rub the boar's snout to ensure a return to Firenze, a tradition that has kept the snout in a state of polished sheen while the rest of the boar's body has patinated to a dull brownish-green. Copies of the sculpture can be found around the world. Here you can find a lot of leather product and souvenirs.

Eating

Not a really lunch for you today, but my very very best place in Florence for an old fashioned aperitivo or something more. Prepare your money (not really cheap but you know, high quality need that...) and go to Procacci, since 1885 the choice for Florentine people that need more, infact it's in the legendary via Tornabuoni, you know Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills ?? The finest artisans used to inhabit this street, now it is the most famous fashion designers who have their shops here: Gucci, Tod's, Cavalli, Missoni, Bulgari, Prada....

You know that guys ?? Put blinkers on your wife's eyes....

Procacci, however, can still be found at the same place and in the same style as 120 years ago.

Shortly after it was founded in 1885, Procacci became famous amongst discerning Florentines for its truffle specialities. The truffle sandwiches are still an icon of Florentine culinary culture. Procacci was appointed purveyor to King Emanuel II of Italy in 1925 and was allowed to carry the royal crest.

As a centre for the Tuscan wine culture, Procacci has treasures in its cellars, a selection of the finest pâtés, caviar, fine chocolates, preserves and other delicacies add to Procacci's wonderful selection.

I'll be there since I was very young with my father that gives me the taste for his incredible "panini with truffle", you can also try a lot of very important meats and ready dish at the moment.

For your drink I'll suggest to try pomodoro juice with salt & pepper or a white wine "fermo".



Afternoon

After that maybe your wife realize when she is and I'm rattling for your credit card.... But nevermind a little bit of shopping has never killed nobody!!

At the end of your afternoon you can take a very goof aperitivo on the panoramic roof at Hotel Minerva in Piazza Santa Maria Novella 16 (Tel 055 – 27230), from 19.30 you can relax yourself sipping a cocktail with a scenic view of the city. Very romantic.

Dinner

For your second dinner in Florence I'll take 2 very nice place Pepò and Edel, the first one is in the centre (piazza del mercato centrale) the second more near your hotel, at your choice!

Pepò in piazza del mercato centrale - Tel 055 – 283259

A very typical restaurant, rustic and minimal with a really home cooking; I'll suggest to start with fried bread with ham and stracchino cheese, after that "pappa al pomodoro" and "ribollita" typical Florentine soups with bread, finally as main course mix of fried and meatball of filetto with tomato.

A good "rosso di Montalcino cantina Banfi" gives you the right taste for everything.....

La Fondue – Edel Kitsch Restaurant in via della Fonderia 1 - Tel 055 - 2286006

Only fondue, only in the evening!! Of meat and Bourguignonne that goes with sauces and appetizers, of cheese, Moitie-Moitie and Friburghese and in the end the Raclette. Close to Ponte alla Vittoria, it offers a menu based on fondue, made after traditional Swiss and French recipes, offering high class gastronomy. After midnight it turns into a trendy meeting-place that offers exclusive Swiss chocolate fondues that come with a refined selection of rum. The pub is warm and intimate, it's full of style with its glasses from Murano and silver colored mirrors, which is all part of a permanent exhibition by two Florentine artists. A great staff will help make your dinner a pleasant and convivial experience.

After Dinner

If you aren't too tired you can visit one of the most trendy location in Florence at the moment, the new Cavalli Club in piazza del Carmine 8 (not so far from your hotel, Tel 055 – 211650), this evening you can heard 60th – 70th gipsy and house music with the Flower Party. Inside an ex-Church near Basilica del Carmine it mix past style with modernism, sacred and profane in a very Cavalli style.

And that's all for your second day too.... All the best for your staying in Florence !!

Yours,