



**Program**  
**Fourth Florentine Weekend**  
**Thursday, October 9 - Tuesday, October 14, 2014**

**Art, Fashion, Wine and Food**  
**Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life**  
**Expo 2015**

**Thursday, October 9**

*Guests' arrival and lodgement*

*7:00 pm Aperitivo and art talk at Palazzo Tornabuoni, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Lowry Bell*

**Friday, October 10**

*10:30 am Private guided tour of the Costume Gallery in the 18th-century Palazzina della Meridiana of the Pitti Palace.*



The Costume Gallery is housed in the small building of the Meridiana of the Pitti Palace, which was begun under Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo in 1776 and ended in 1840 and chosen as residence by the families that ruled Tuscany and by the Savoy house until 1946. The Lorraine/Savoy rooms display the exhibitions of the collections of historical clothes and accessories. The collections cover the period between the 18th century and the present-day. The recent restoration of the funeral garments of Grand Duke Cosimo de' Medici, of Eleonora

of Toledo and of her son Don Garzia has further enriched the museum with some rare examples from the 16th century. The Meridiana building, close to the gallery, is also the seat of a fabric restoration laboratory.

*Lunch and afternoon: free time*

*8:00 pm Welcome dinner at Villa il Garofalo hosted by Countess Maria Vittoria Rimbotti*



The villa's original complex dates to the XIII Century and was firstly owned by Dante Alighieri's family where they most likely resided. The Portinari family then became the next owners.

Other illustrious families followed until the end of World War II when Count Pier Francesco Rimbotti purchased and restored the villa to its original historical grandeur, still maintained today.

**Saturday, October 11**

*11:00 am Special guided visit of the Crystals' Exhibition, Torino and Galileo Tribune at the Museum of National History "La Specola"*



This spectacular exhibition displays more than 500 pieces from one of the most famous and important crystal collections: the Giazotto collection. It consists of gems from all over the world with an extraordinary variety and aesthetic richness of specimens, including unique crystals of topaz, aquamarine, quartz and tourmaline, surprising for their color, size and eccentric shapes.

The Torino (small tower), built in 1790, was the seat of the astronomical observatory to which the museum owes its name, from the Latin *specula*, which means observatory. The Tribune of Galileo was built in 1841 to celebrate the famous Tuscan scientist and display his instruments (now at the Museum of the History of Science). It is decorated with frescoes and sculptures and inlaid marbles that illustrate some of the most important Italian scientific discoveries.

*1:00 pm Light lunch in Villa La Loggia, headquarters of Giunti Publishing Group, hosted by Sergio Giunti, President of Giunti Editore*



Villa La Loggia was built by the Pazzi Family in the XV century on the foundations of an ancient country house owned by Brunetto Latini, Dante's mentor. After the Pazzi conspiracy to kill both Giuliano and Lorenzo de' Medici failed in 1478, the villa was confiscated as with all Pazzi property. The villa passed through a succession of distinguished owners, including the Grand Prince Ferdinando de' Medici, the botanist Jacopo Panciatichi who laid out a model garden in the big park, opera singer Angelica Catellani who turned it

into a gathering place for socialites, until at the end of the XIX century it was acquired by Count David Costantini, whose nephews still own it nowadays. The villa owes its name La Loggia to the inner two-tiered quattrocento arcade.

*3:00 pm Exclusive tour of the Opificio delle Pietre Dure Laboratory to view the restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's Adoration of the Magi*



The Opificio delle Pietre Dure, literally meaning "workshop for semi-precious stones", is an institute of the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities. Its core was the court laboratory, established in 1588 by Grand Duke Ferdinando I de' Medici and formerly housed in the Uffizi, specialized in the production of semi-precious stone inlays and other luxury objects. In the mid-19th century it changed its name, and its mission shifted from production to conservation. This unique

institute, that also includes one of the foremost conservation schools, employs restorers, art historians, archaeologists, conservation scientists and laboratory technicians. Its scientific laboratory conducts research and diagnostics and provides a preventive conservation service. Among recent scientific studies and restorations carried out by the Opificio are Agnolo Gaddi frescoes at Santa Croce, the Madonna of the Goldfinch by Raffaello and other masterpieces by Beato Angelico Botticelli and now the Adoration by Leonardo.

*8:30 pm Dinner at Palazzo Tornabuoni*



Palazzo Tornabuoni, a 15th-century palace in the heart of Florence, is today a very special owners-only private residence club. It played a key role in the Renaissance boom of Florence. Its original owner, Giovanni Tornabuoni, whose sister was the mother of Lorenzo the Magnificent, was a leading banker and patron of the arts. A meticulous four-year restoration between 2004 and 2008, conducted under the supervision of the Superintendence for the Artistic and Historical heritage of the city of Florence, has brought back the Palace to the splendor of its Renaissance origins. Artistic highlights of the Palazzo include a stunning Baroque

fresco cycle by Agostino Ciampelli (1578-1640) and the marble statue of Diana the Huntress by Gherardo Silvani (1579-1675).

## **Sunday, October 12**

*10:30 am Visit and Wine tasting at the Marchesi Antinori Chianti Classico Cellar in Bargino*



Opened on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the winery is seen by the Antinori family as a homage to the Chianti Classico territory and to the family's historical links to this land. The Antinori family has been producing wine since 1385, over twenty-six generations. This state-of-the-art facility is unique in Italy in its genre, constructed with local materials and with the maximum respect for the environment. It is set amongst olive groves, vineyards and oak trees, mostly built underground

concealed within a hill, designed by one of Italy's leading architects as a sort of a temple to wine, while preserving the Tuscan landscape. The reasons for completing this projects are strictly tied to the production of wine but also to give a vast public of wine lovers the opportunity to come into direct contact with the production philosophy of the family, offering the possibility of seeing, from the vineyard to the bottle, how a wine is born, observing the step-by-step phases of fermentation and aging.

*12:30 am Visit of the winery of Castello di Fonterutoli Mazzei in the Chianti area*



Breathtaking views over the Chianti Tuscan landscape, an estate of nearly 10,000 square meters, endless vineyards and 75% of the total structure excavated in a hill; these are only some of the outstanding features of the Castello di Fonterutoli Winery of the Marquis Mazzei family, owners of the Castello since 1435 and devoted to winemaking for 24 generations.

*1:30 pm Lunch and wine tasting in the winery of Castello di Fonterutoli.*

6:30 pm Private guided visit of the Lyceum Club International with presentation by President Prof. Donatella Lippi about “Chocolate in History”, followed by a short speech on “Chocolate in Music” and a concert with very lively pieces by Mozart, Rossini, Tosti, Debussy and Bizet. Presentation “The Chocolate of the Medici Family” by Eugenio Alphantery, co-owner of Santa Maria Novella historical pharmacy, followed by a chocolate tasting experience.



The Lyceum Club of Florence was opened in 1908 after London, Paris, and Berlin, thanks to the pioneering vision of Constance Smedley, founder of the International Lyceum Clubs for Women Artists and Writers, established to provide professional women with institutional support, enabling women to compete equally with men, while creating a democratic center for worldwide cultural exchange. She travelled across Europe helping women to open clubhouses, and she regarded Florence as an ideal city for her cosmopolitanism and culture.

Today Lyceum Club International of Florence is a meeting-place run by women but open to all citizens; its goals are the emancipation of women, the dissemination of culture and peace between peoples. It offers a comprehensive program of cultural events in the fields of art, music, literature, science, social medicine, history, etc.).

## Monday, October 13

10:00 am Exclusive private opening of the Uffizi Gallery and, along the lines of the Expo 2015 theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy of Life”, guided tour on the topic of “Food in Art” with Prof. Donatella Lippi, followed by viewing of the artworks restored by Friends of the Uffizi Gallery and Amici degli Uffizi.



This is one of the most important museums in the world and was built between 1560 and 1580 by Giorgio Vasari, commissioned by Cosimo I de' Medici who wanted a majestic palace with two wings “over the river and almost suspended in the air.” It was meant to house the principal administrative offices of the Tuscan State, hence the name of Uffizi (Offices).

The project planned by Cosimo I, to arrange prime works of art in the Medici

collections on the piano nobile, was effected by his son Francesco I who commissioned from Buontalenti the famous Tribuna, where a selection of outstanding masterpieces was a star attraction of the Grand Tour. The Uffizi Gallery houses an immense artistic heritage which includes thousands of paintings from the Middle Ages to modern times as well as many ancient sculptures, miniatures and tapestries. The collection of self-portraits is famous and in the course of time has grown through acquisitions and donations from contemporary artists. Equally remarkable is the collection of drawings and prints, known as the Gabinetto dei Disegni e delle Stampe.



*12:30 pm Lunch hosted by Marquis and Marquise Vittorio and Bona de' Frescobaldi in their historical family palace in the heart of Florence.*



Palazzo Frescobaldi as it is today is the result of the 1621 to 1644 works that grouped together several plots of land and buildings that the Frescobaldi family had owned since the 16th century in the district of Santo Spirito. Behind the newer façade a more spacious and functional residence developed, maintaining some of the existing features such as the small courtyards decorated with wells. On the first and second floors large elegant apartments were created, whereas the ground floor, that mostly retained its original aspect, was meant for shops and workshops and it has partly retained this function still today. During the 19th century the garden underwent several modifications and was transformed into a magnificent park decorated with an impressive fountain, the sole surviving architectural feature of the ancient court.

*Free afternoon*

*7:00 pm Classical Music concert of the prestigious Scuola di Musica di Fiesole in the Botticelli Room of the Uffizi Gallery*



This is the museum's most important and prestigious hall. Rarely used for events, it houses the most remarkable paintings of the Italian Renaissance such as the world famous "La Primavera" ("Spring") and "La Nascita di Venere" ("The Birth of Venus").

The great hall, built out of the ancient Medici theatre, still maintains its original ceiling.

One side of this vast hall is occupied by a masterpiece of Flemish art, the Portinari Triptych by Hugo van der Goes. This work of art arrived in Florence in 1483 and greatly influenced Florentine artists, starting with Botticelli. Nordic culture was also a source of inspiration for Domenico Ghirlandaio; three of his paintings are also displayed in this hall.

*8:30 pm Exclusive farewell dinner in the rotunda of Michelangelo's David in the Accademia Gallery*



Private opening of the Galleria dell'Accademia for an exclusive dinner while feasting one's eyes on the majestic statue of David by Michelangelo, absolute perfection carved from a single block of imperfect marble. The statue was on display in the Piazza della Signoria from 1504 until it was moved indoors into its own rotunda in 1873.

Though David is the centerpiece of the collection, leading to it are Michelangelo's four unfinished "Slaves", dramatic figures that seem to be struggling to emerge from the marble, as Michelangelo said his work was to reveal what was already in a block. The Gallery also preserves precious Florentine Gothic painting: gold-backed altarpieces by Giotto and his followers constitute an invaluable art collection coming from the most important Florentine churches and suppressed convents.