

WALKABOUT

FOR SMART TRAVELLERS ONLY

Top 10 things to do in
FLORENCE

SUMMARY

01 - Michelangelo's David at the Accademia Gallery	page 3
02 - Uffizi Gallery	page 4
03 - Ponte Vecchio and Vasari Corridor	page 5
04 - Palazzo Vecchio	page 6
05 - The Duomo, The Baptistery and Giotto Bell Tower	page 8
06 - Piazzale Michelangelo and San Miniato Church.....	page 10
07 - Piazza Santa Croce & Santa Croce Church	page 12
08 - Pitti Palace, the Palatine Gallery and Boboli Garden	page 14
09 - Bargello museum	page 16
10 - Medici Chapels	page 18
Top 5 Restaurants and Gelato	page 20

01 - Michelangelo's David at the Accademia Gallery

A visit to the **Accademia Gallery** is like a study in the technique of **Michelangelo** as a sculptor. In the main hall of the gallery are Michelangelo's famed Prisoners, also known as the Slaves, so-called for their seemingly "enslaved" appearance, trapped within the blocks of marble. Seeing these unfinished "non-finito" sculptures gives us great insight into the unique techniques of the artist. Quite unusually, Michelangelo worked from the front of a block of marble to the back. Vasari likened this technique to the image of a figure lying in a bath of slowly emptying water, slowly revealing itself. Michelangelo's extremely advanced sense of the proportions of the human body is perfectly evident here, revealing a skill like no other artist in history.

The story of David was ever-popular in art throughout the 15th century as a symbol of the strength and truth of good over evil. David was a young shepherd boy who fought against the giant, Goliath, to save his people, the Israelites.

Michelangelo's David was created for the Duomo and completed in 1504, when Michelangelo (1475-1564) was just a young man of twenty-nine. Instantly hailed as a masterpiece, it was decided it was too important to waste on the already busy exterior of the Duomo, and instead to give it its own place of pride, in the political heart of Florence, in Piazza della Signoria. In 1873 it was moved to its very own, specially-created space in the Accademia Gallery by means of a made-to-measure railway. A copy was created and replaced in Piazza della Signoria in 1910, so that David still guards over the city of Florence.

Don't forget to take a peek at the often overlooked collection of rare and historical musical instruments, the entrance is from the Hall of the Colossus. It includes the unique tenor viola and other stringed instruments by Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737), regarded as the finest stringed instruments ever created. A recent auction revealed how Stradivari's instruments are still very much valued, going for up to US\$3.5 million.



OPENING HOURS:

8:15am-6:30pm Tuesday-Sunday.

CLOSING DAYS: Mondays, January 1, May 1, Christmas Day.

02 - Uffizi Gallery

The **Uffizi Gallery**, originally the state 'offices' built for Cosimo I, evolved into a gallery to display art works in the Medici family's collection. It now houses thousands of paintings from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries collected by or gifted to the Medici and their successors.

The top floor corridor, dating from 1580, was designed to be a statue gallery, where many of the numerous ancient sculptures in the Medici's collection at the Pitti Palace were transferred.

The corridor from the 1580's is still lined with the Medici's classical sculptures, a collection begun by Lorenzo the Magnificent for his San Marco garden to be studied by budding young artists, such as Michelangelo. The Uffizi collection concentrates largely on painting from the Gothic Middle Ages through the Renaissance to the Baroque period and is displayed in chronological order.

Some of the highlights you may wish to see at the Uffizi are: **Giotto's** Maestà, **Sandro Botticelli's** Venus and Primavera, **Leonardo da Vinci's** Baptism of Christ and Annunciation, **Michelangelo's** Tondo Doni, **Raphael's** Pope Leo X and Madonna of the Goldfinch, **Titian's** Venus of Urbino, Caravaggio's unforgettable Medusa, the Sacrifice of Isaac and Bacchus.



OPENING HOURS:

8:15am-6:30pm Tuesday-Sunday.

CLOSING DAYS: Mondays, January 1, May 1, Christmas Day.

03 - Ponte vecchio and Vasari Corridor

The **Ponte Vecchio** bridge is the oldest and shortest of the six bridges of the city. It is also the main bridge as it leads people to the heart of the city, connecting the Pitti Palace to Piazza Repubblica and Piazza Duomo.

Shops began appearing on the Ponte Vecchio by the 13th century. The first of the shops belonged to tanners and purse makers, whose leather works required the convenience of the supply of water, but also caused a terrible smell as skins were left to soak in urine. By the beginning of the 1400's, it was mainly the butchers – also for the supply of water, which they relied on to wash away their animal carcasses and bloody scraps – who occupied the shops on the bridge, contributing, if not causing most of the wretched stench around the area. It is no wonder the Dukes later decided to jazz up the place by only allowing goldsmiths over butchers and tanners to occupy the bridge!

In the mid-16th century **Giorgio Vasari** was commissioned to build the enclosed passageway or corridor for the Grand Duke Cosimo I and family. It allowed them to pass from their palace on the Oltrarno, the Palazzo Pitti, through the Uffizi (then, offices of the government) to the Palazzo Vecchio by an elegant, covered walkway. It was also the perfect way for the Duke to avoid mingling with the commoners and to protect himself from potential enemies, while allowing for the opportunity secretly to spy on his subjects below in the streets. You can see this walkway with its little round and square windows artfully incorporated into the rooftops of the medieval shops of the Ponte Vecchio.

The Vasari Corridor, as it became known, also passed through the church of Santa Felicita and a special opening allowed the Medici family to attend Mass on a balcony still visible to visitors today.



INFO

Lovers leave padlocks attached to fixtures on the bridge, throwing the keys into the water to seal their love forever. But watch you don't get tempted to do the same - it is greatly frowned upon and the fines are now quite heavy!

04 - Palazzo Vecchio

Palazzo Vecchio is the town hall of Florence and one of the most important public areas in the city and Italy itself. Originally known as Palazzo della Signoria, named after the Signoria, the ruling body of Florence's Republic at the time, this is also where the piazza gets its name from. The Signoria consisted of a group of nine men, known as priori, who were chosen from the guilds of the city to rule Florence.

The interior of the Palazzo Vecchio is now largely filled with the renovations, painting and sculpture that the Medici family of the 16th century left us from their time here, Grand Duke Cosimo I (1519-1574) being the major patron of the arts. Cosimo married the seventeen-year-old Spanish Eleonora di Toledo (1522-1562) in 1539.. Around this time Cosimo had Vasari and other artists transform Palazzo Vecchio, especially the main hall, known as the Hall of Five Hundred, taking into account the new role of the Palazzo as government seat and as a part time residence for the new family. This is also when the name of the Palazzo changed from Palazzo della Signoria to Palazzo Vecchio, "the old palace." Not long after this, Cosimo then had **Vasari** add on an enclosed passageway to connect the Palazzo Vecchio to the new family palace, snaking its way across the city at rooftop level, known now as the Vasari Corridor.

The main façade, the oldest part of the building, is finished in the typical Florentine pietra forte stone, crowned by a Guelph-style crenellated gallery supported by round-arched brackets. Beneath some of them we can still see the embrasures that were used to pour boiling oil or throw rocks at attackers. Each arch is decorated with the coats of arms of the Florentine Republic. The one with the red lily on white, is the symbol of the city.

Note that the tower is not in the center of the façade. The reason for this is that it was erected over the base of a pre-existing tower-house, known as "della Vacca." The tower is crowned with Ghibelline style swallow-tailed crenellation. Inside the tower are two small cells, where important prisoners were held.

One small, hidden detail can be found on the right corner of the façade of the palazzo. There is a roughly carved profile on a stone, popularly attributed to Michelangelo. While there are many different legends, one of the favorites tells that Michelangelo, challenged to a bet, carved the portrait of a man condemned to the gallows without looking, with his hands behind his back!



OPENING HOURS:

April-September daily 9am-11pm except Thursday 9am-2pm.

Winter months daily 9am-7pm except Thursday 9am-2pm.

Extended opening for public holidays except closed Christmas Day.

The tower can be climbed April-September daily 9am-9pm (except Thursday 9am-2pm). During the winter months (October - March) the tower can be climbed daily from 10am - 5pm (except Thursday: 9am - 2pm).

ADMISSION:

Museum or Tower and Battlements only € 10.00,
Museum + Tower and Battlements € 14.00
Concessions available.

05 - The Duomo, the Baptistery and Giotto Bell Tower

Florence's **baptistry** is dedicated to St John the Baptist, the city's beloved Patron Saint. Even in the Middle Ages, they had his image on their coin, the fiorino, the first minted coin in Europe to be accepted as stable international currency. St John the Baptist's Day, June 24th, is still celebrated with many Florentines taking the day off, shops closing, and celebrations in the form of fireworks and the calcio storico (a historic football game), all in honor of St John the Baptist.

The current Romanesque style baptistry, sitting opposite the Duomo of Santa Maria del Fiore, was constructed between 1059 and 1128, built, according to legend, with marble brought from the recently conquered town of Fiesole together with other ancient Roman structures. The building is nowadays most famous for **Lorenzo Ghiberti's** eastern gold-gilded doors, better known as "The Gate of Paradise", nicknamed by Michelangelo later in the same century who thought they were so beautiful they could be the gates to Heaven.

The **Basilica of Santa Maria del Fiore**, more commonly referred to as simply the Duomo (which means "cathedral" or literally "house of God", not "dome", as many English-speakers like to believe!), is one of the most impressive buildings in Italy. It took about 200 years to complete, spanning the middle-ages and the Renaissance, taking influences from each era. The characteristic coloured marbles of the façade are all regional materials, the white marble is from Carrara, the green from Prato and the pink from Maremma, along the Tuscan coast.

The interior of the Duomo is decidedly stark compared to many other cathedrals, the walls being mostly bare, lending a feeling of great space. The real masterpiece of the entire cathedral is its dome made by **Filippo Brunelleschi**. The largest dome ever built in bricks and masonry, is still today the defining glory of Florence's Renaissance past and it influenced all architecture that was ever made afterwards.

For the best understanding of the dome and the best views in the entire city, climb up the 463 steps to the top of the dome and get a birds-eye view of the interior of the Duomo, a close up look at Vasari's frescoes and re-live Brunelleschi's construction of the Duomo by climbing between the two shells of the dome, up to the top.

Another climb that will reward you with a fantastic view over Florence and the surrounding hills - with the added bonus of a close up view of the Duomo's famed dome on the way - is Giotto's Bell Tower. All the works of art on the bell tower, including the sculptures of the prophets by Donatello, are now copies, the originals having been moved in the 1960's to the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo.



Cathedral

OPENING TIMES:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
10am-5pm;

Thursday 10am-5pm in summer, 10am-4pm in winter;

Saturday 10am-4:45pm;
Sundays and religious holidays 1:30pm-4:45pm;

January 1, Easter Day and Christmas Day
3.30pm-4.45pm.

CLOSING DAYS: January 6.

Climbing Giotto's Bell Tower

OPENING HOURS:

Daily 8:30am-7:30pm.

CLOSING DAYS: January 1, Easter Sunday, September 8th, Christmas Day.

Climbing the Dome

OPENING HOURS:

Monday-Friday 8:30am-7pm;
Saturday 8:30am-5:30pm;
Sundays 1:00pm-4:00pm

CLOSING DAYS: Sundays and religious holidays and January 1.

Baptistery

OPENING TIMES:

Monday-Saturday 8:15am-7pm,
except 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-2pm;

Sundays and public holidays 8:30am-2pm.

CLOSING DAYS: January 1, Easter Sunday, September 8, Christmas Day.

Museum of the Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore

OPENING TIMES:

Monday-Saturday 9am-7:00pm.

CLOSING DAYS: January 1, Easter Day, September 8th, and Christmas Day.

06 - Piazzale Michelangelo and San Miniato Church

Piazzale Michelangelo is one of the best and most famous lookouts for a stunning view of Florence, day or night, and best of all it is free! It just takes a little legwork and there are a few easy ways to get there.

One is a lovely walk along the south side of the river upstream towards the Torre San Niccolò, an old tower of the now destroyed medieval city walls which you can see jutting out over the rooftops from afar. Here, you are directly underneath the piazza, simply follow the looping ramps up to the top of the hill. Another nice walk is from the Porta San Miniato gateway, accessible from Via San Niccolò.

The other way up to the piazza, for those who are saving their energy, is to take the local bus number 12 or 13. Find them at the train station, near the taxi stand, either one will take you all the way up to Piazza Michelangelo for the cost of €1.20 a single ride (tickets must be purchased in advance at a tabaccheria, tobacconist).

From the piazza, a five minute stroll up past the church of San Salvatore will take you to the unique and beautiful monastery of San Miniato al Monte. With absolutely the best view of the city, **San Miniato al Monte** is a stunning example of original Tuscan Romanesque architecture dating from 1013. The monks still make honey, tisanes and liqueurs to sell to visitors and it is also possible to visit the church while the monks sing Gregorian chant at 5.30pm.

In the grounds surrounding the church there is a beautiful monumental cemetery laid out in the mid-1800's and protected by the old defensive walls of the church designed by Michelangelo during the Siege of Florence in 1529-30.

A wonderful panoramic walk from San Miniato back to the center of Florence can be enjoyed by turning left (with the church behind you) onto Viale Galileo, the tree lined boulevard. As the road winds along and you enjoy the shade of the trees there are the most splendid views of Florence until you reach Via di San Leonardo on your right. Taking this charming narrow street, look for the plaque on the wall of the first villa on your left that says Tchaikovsky lived here in 1878. Continuing along past beautiful villas and the tiny eleventh century church of San Leonardo in Arcetri you will come to the Forte Belvedere and the 13th century Porta San Giorgio. Here you can either go through the arch of the old city gate and straight down the hill to arrive at the Ponte Vecchio, or you can follow the old city wall to the right and back to the area of San Niccolò, below the Piazzale Michelangelo.



The walk from Porta San Miniato to the church of San Miniato and back through Via San Leonardo to the starting point is approximately 4km or 2.5 miles and will take around 1.5 - 2 hours as a stroll.

San Miniato Church

OPENING HOURS:

daily 9:30am-1:00pm and from 3pm to 7pm;
Sundays 3pm-7pm.

ADMISSION: Free

07 - Piazza Santa Croce & Santa Croce Church

Piazza Santa Croce is one of Florence's largest and most loved squares, often the host of various events, such as sports, concerts and food festivals. Even today, Piazza Santa Croce is still known for one of Florence's most famous and unique events, the calcio storico, or literally, historic football, held in June. The square is filled with sand, bleachers are built and for three weekends in June the city celebrates its Renaissance heritage through this crazy sport with twenty seven players on each side. A bit more brutal than rugby, think of this as a mixture between bare-knuckle boxing, a costume party and football.

The **Franciscan Basilica of Santa Croce** is one of Florence's largest and most beautiful churches. Building began in 1294 and was paid for by some of the city's wealthiest families. The church was finally consecrated in 1442, however the facade remained a rough stone exterior for another 400 years until 1858 when its current neo-Gothic facade by Jewish architect Niccolò Matas was finally created using the traditional and local green, pink and white marble.

Santa Croce is apparently where the French author Stendhal in 1817 first experienced and penned the illness now known as the "Stendhal syndrome" that causes rapid heartbeat, dizziness, fainting and even hallucinations when exposed to too much beautiful art. It is fitting, as Santa Croce's beautiful interior is filled with some of the city's greatest treasures. It is also where some of Florence's most illustrious citizens are buried: Michelangelo who died in 1564, Galileo in 1642, Renaissance man Giorgio Vasari in 1574, Renaissance sculptor Lorenzo Ghiberti 1455, political philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli 1527 and Barber of Seville composer Rossini 1868. There is also a monument to the poet Dante Alighieri who died in 1321 but is actually buried in Ravenna.

Aside from visiting the famous tombs, there are many important artworks to marvel over as well, including **Agnolo Bronzino's** mannerist masterpiece, the Pietà, and Donatello's delicate relief sculpture depicting the Annunciation in pietra serena. The highlight of the interior, though, is Giotto's emotive fresco cycle of the life of Saint Francis on the main transept.

In the cloister you can find the **Pazzi family chapel**, the greatest rivals of the Medici family. Look out for the Pazzi coat of arms depicting two dolphins - you won't see it much in the rest of the city, as the Medici tore them down. The beautiful ceramic rondels decorating the chapel are by Luca della Robbia in his family's characteristic glazed terracotta.

The **Museum of the works of Santa Croce** is housed in what used to be the old refectory of the monks. Here you can witness the devastation of the infamous flood of Florence in 1966 through black and white photographs. Santa Croce was arguably the area most damaged by the flood, which was blanketed under 20 feet (6 meters) of mud, water, oil and pollution. In fact, you can still see the stain left behind by the flood on the walls of the church interior. The incredible seven hundred year old medieval crucifix by Cimabue, Giotto's master, was one of the worst damaged.

**OPENING HOURS:**

9:30am-5:30pm Monday-Saturday;

2pm-5:30pm on Sundays and religious holidays, except closed January 1, Easter Day, June 13, October 4 and Christmas Day.

Closed when historic football matches take place in the piazza.

ADMISSION: € 8.00 (includes Museum of Santa Croce). Concessions available.

08 - Pitti Palace, the Palatine Gallery and Boboli Garden

As an historical palace and museum, the Pitti Palace is a unique place to visit as you are literally walking through the rooms and lives of the royal families that lived here. It is also a great option if you do not have much time, as you can see so many wonderful things in the one place – the gardens, beautiful views, the palace, history and famous Renaissance artworks.

THE PALATINE GALLERY AND THE ROYAL APARTMENTS:

The **Palatine Gallery** is where you go to see the wonderful collection of High Renaissance and Early Baroque painting (16th-17th century). Some of art history's most famous painters are represented here from **Filippo Lippi, Sandro Botticelli, Raphael, Titian** and **Rubens**, to **Van Dyck** and **Caravaggio**, with over five hundred paintings covering the walls. Unlike any modern gallery, the priceless paintings hang (still in salon style as was popular in the 19th century) in rooms covered with frescoes and full of luxurious furnishings. The gallery also spills into the Royal Apartments, a set of fourteen rooms taking up the right wing of the palace where they remain an important historical record of the sumptuous palace and its inhabitants from the Medici to the House of Lorraine to Napoleon to the Savoy.

THE MODERN ART GALLERY:

The thirty rooms that make up the **Modern Art Gallery's** collection of artworks from the 18th century to the 1920's are organised in chronological order, still decorated with the original touches of the period of the Lorraines' residence. Beginning with Neoclassical works, such as **Antonio Canova's** sculpture, Calliope, and **Giovanni Duprè's** Abel, you will work your way to the 19th century where the most characteristic part of the collection is kept: the Macchiaioli paintings.

THE SILVER MUSEUM:

These rooms are also unofficially known as the Medici's treasury, because it is not simply a collection of priceless silver items as you might think but it also has Lorenzo the Magnificent's collection of cameos, gemstones and ancient vases as well as his death mask. For lovers of frescoes and fine details, the Silver Gallery's seventeenth century rooms themselves are a highlight.

THE COSTUME GALLERY:

This elegant gallery has a collection of costumes and fashion from the 16th century to the present, with some of today's most famous fashion designers included. It is Italy's only historical fashion museum with a rich collection of clothing, shoes, and accessories from throughout the centuries plus a 20th century costume jewellery collection.

THE BOBOLI & BARDINI GARDENS:

The magnificent **Boboli gardens** are laid out in eleven acres of grand and formal avenues, with beautiful mature trees, lawns and meadows, statues, fountains and grottoes. The Roman style amphitheatre was used for theatre and opera, holding many famous performances such as **Jacopo Peri's** *Dafne* and *Euridice*.

At the top of the gardens, overlooking the countryside is the **Porcelain Museum**, opened in 1973, housing a collection of precious porcelain from all over Europe, many of the items were gifts from other European rulers to the Medici.

Together with this ticket, you also have access to the beautifully restored Bardini garden and terrace. It has a glorious view over Florence; the garden is laid out over the hill between the Boboli gardens and the Piazzale Michelangelo.



The Boboli & Bardini Gardens, Silver Museum, Porcelain Museum, Costume Gallery

OPENING DAYS:

daily except first and last Monday of the month.

From November-February 8:15am-4:30pm;

March 8:15am-5:30pm;

April, May, September, October 8:15am-6:30pm

June-August, 8:15am-6:50pm.

ADMISSION: € 7,00. together in one ticket. Concessions available.

The Palace is split into several galleries, with separate and cumulative tickets available.

Palatine Gallery and Modern Art Gallery

OPENING TIMES:

Tuesday-Sunday 8:15am-6:30pm.

ADMISSION: € 8,50 together in one ticket.

Concessions available.

09 - Bargello Museum

The **Bargello** is a wonderful medieval museum for a peek into the beginnings of Renaissance sculpture. This is where you can experience the early masterpieces that were being created by young Renaissance artists like **Donatello**, **Ghiberti** and **Michelangelo**.

Constructed in the 13th century, the Bargello was initially used as the seat of the Podestà, the highest magistrate of the Florence city council, making it Florence's oldest public building. Eventually, the Palazzo Vecchio took over as the main government seat and the Bargello was made the city prison. Witness to countless sieges, tortures and executions during this part of its dark history, 300 years later it made its transformation from fortress, barracks and prison finally to museum, where it now houses some of the most important early Renaissance sculptures.

On the ground floor you will find the gallery that holds some of **Michelangelo's** most famous early works, such as the elegant Bacchus, the Roman god of wine, and his Pitti Tondo, a wonderful example of relief sculpture. Michelangelo's later unfinished bust of Brutus (1539), and of the David-Apollo (1530-32) are also held here.

Upstairs you will find some of **Donatello's** most famous original works such as the Marzocco lion, symbol of Florence that was replaced by a copy in its original spot in front of the Palazzo Vecchio, Saint George, and David.

Commissioned by Cosimo the Elder probably around 1430-1440, Donatello's bronze sculpture of David was at one point the centrepiece of the arcaded courtyard in the Palazzo Medici Riccardi. Notable for being the first free standing nude since antiquity, Donatello's alluring David stands out in contrast to other sculptures of the same subject for its nakedness.

Along with these early Renaissance pieces are two sublime and often overlooked works of art: the tiles depicting the Sacrifice of Isaac by **Lorenzo Ghiberti** and **Filippo Brunelleschi**, two of the most influential men of the Renaissance.



OPENING HOURS:

8:15am-1:30pm daily except closed for the second and fourth Monday of each month and the first, third and fifth Sunday of each month. During temporary exhibitions (usually May-September) the museum is open 8:15am-4:30pm.

CLOSING DAYS: New Year's Day, May 1 and Christmas Day.

ADMISSION:

€ 4.00 - Higher price when temporary exhibitions are held. Concessions available.

10 - Medici Chapels

The **Medici Chapels** is reached through the back of the **Basilica of San Lorenzo** complex, where the entrance first opens onto a crypt that houses the tombs of the members of the older Medici family. The two staircases lead to the Chapel of the Princes on the floor above.

The Chapel of the Princes was designed to show the prestige and power of the Medici Grand Dukes. The grand room is topped by a frescoed dome, and decorated in pietre dure, which is made by exceptionally skillful inlaying of selected tones of coloured marble and stone, using the most precious and long-lasting materials: marble, granite, jasper, alabaster, lapis lazuli, and even coral and mother of pearl to adorn their mausoleum.

The octagonal chapel has six niches dedicated to the funeral monument of each Grand Duke, identifiable by their name inscribed in letters of semi-precious stones above. The monumental tombs were to be completed by a bronze statue of each Duke, but only two of these were actually carried out.

Leaving the Chapel of the Princes through the corridor one reaches the second half of the complex of the Medici Chapels, where to find the tombs of the members of the House of Medici. The New Sacristy is the genius of Michelangelo. It is a unique, monumental masterpiece of the artist in terms of architecture as well as sculpture.

There is a great difference in atmosphere and style from the Chapel of the Princes, holding the monuments of the Medici dukes and the New Sacristy by Michelangelo, with the monuments of the earlier, “unofficial” Medici rulers of the Renaissance. The former is ostentatious, grand, over-the-top with intensely decorated details and over life size sarcophagi and statues. The latter is elegant, subdued and understated, with use of the serene grey stones and white marble. These details really personify the figures whose memories they hold, and give a great idea as to how they were seen and known by the public.



OPENING HOURS:

Summer 8:15am-4:30pm.

Winter 8:15am-1.30pm.

CLOSING DAYS: Christmas Day, January 1 and May 1, second and fourth Sunday and first, third and fifth Monday of each month.

ADMISSION:

€ 6.00 Concessions available. Higher price when exhibitions are held.

The entrance of the Medici chapels is not via the main entrance of the San Lorenzo church but actually at the back of the church, in Piazza di Madonna degli Aldobrandini.

TOP 5 RESTAURANTS AND GELATO



1 - ALL'ANTICO VINAIO

via dei Neri, 65red



Average: 5 (8 votes)

CHEAP

One of the few genuine Florentine fast food places left in the city.



2 - DA NERBONE

Via dell'Ariento - Mercato Centrale



Average: 4.8 (5 votes)

VERY CHEAP

Looking for an authentic market lunch?



3 - OSTERIA VINI E VECCHI SAPORI

Via dei Magazzini 3



Average: 5 (1 vote)

CHEAP

Get there early to be sure of a table.



4 - TRATTORIA ARMANDO

Borgo Ognissanti 140red



Average: 4.5 (2 votes)

EXPENSIVE

Dine with the opera stars in this elegant, family run establishment.



5 - GELATERIA DEI NERI

via dei Neri, 9 red



Average: 5 (2 votes)

VERY CHEAP

Named after the street where you find it, this ice cream shop is worth seeking out!