



E & E Travel Society

*Exclusivity & Excellence**

South Shore Art Center



**MEET THE MEDICI: MASTERS OF FLORENCE:
6 DAY ADVENTURE INTO THE MEDICI LEGACY**

OCTOBER 6-11, 2013

Visit Florence with Vittorio Carioni, born of an Italian noble family dating back to the 1400s, and experience the extraordinary impact that the Medici dynasty had on the history of the city and the development of the Italian Renaissance. This exclusive trip offers special visits to the Medici palaces, wonderful gardens, famous museums and secret places.

Enjoy cocktails and dinner parties in private palaces, appreciate **excellent accommodations**, charming restaurants and **splendid food and wines**.

A 24 hour concierge service will cater to your needs, with art experts and drivers at your assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDE:

- Informal presentation with a noted university scholar on the subject matter.
- Visits to Palazzo **Medici-Riccardi** and the Chapel of the Magi.
- **Private, insider tour of Palazzo Vecchio.**
- The Uffizi Gallery and a **private visit to Vasari Corridor.**
- Palazzo Pitti, the Royal Apartments.
- San Lorenzo—the church of the Medici, the Capella of the Princes, **the tombs of the Medici.**
- **Private exclusive visit to the Secret Room of Michelangelo.**
- Visit to the **Accademia** to see Michaelangelo's world famous **David** among other splendid masterpieces.
- **Visit one of the fabled Medici villas** in the surrounding hillside.

Exclusive evening event: a direct descendant of the Marchesi Lenzoni de'Medici will meet with us and open his palace for cocktails and dinner.

You will enjoy a day in the **beautiful Tuscan countryside** of **Chianti** with its medieval villages and wineries: **wine testing and lunch at a world renowned wine cantina**, housed in a **17th century privately owned grand villa**, a national monument and part of the Historical Residences Foundation.

\$4,900 (all inclusive except air-fare) **12-24 persons** maximum

***Visit E & E Travel Society website for more information. <http://eetravelsociety.webs.com/southshoreartcenter.htm>
Or contact Art Center member Bill Henneberry at henneberryw@aol.com, Cell: 203 722 6762

* Our travel programs are all inclusive: hotels, breakfasts, lunches, dinners & wines, transportation, guides, museum admissions, and other activities are included unless otherwise specified.



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MEET THE MEDICI: MASTERS OF FLORENCE

**SUGGESTED ITINERARY FLORENCE 6 DAYS*
OCTOBER 6-11, 2013**

DAY 1: ARRIVING IN FLORENCE

You will be met by our private car service and driven to your hotel.

In the afternoon, a walk through the ancient streets of Florence: our experts will lead the way, showing you some very surprising places, some classics such as the **Cathedral and the Baptistery, Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio.**

We get together at **7:30 p.m. for an informal cocktail and dinner** with spectacular views of Florence.



DAY 2: MUSEUMS

In the morning **private, insider visit to Palazzo Vecchio**, built in 1302, The entire palace is a museum, and we will be guided through the grandiose **Salone dei Cinquecento**, the **"Monumental Quarters"**, the little **Studiolo** of Francesco I de' Medici. Each one of the rooms on the first floor is dedicated to a personality of the Medici family such as Cosimo the Elder, Lorenzo, the

pope Leo X, and it is appropriately frescoed. The most interesting room perhaps, the **Sala delle Carte** (Map Room) has a wonderful collection of globes and 57 maps, showing the world as it was known in 1563. **We will lunch in grand style in a spectacular private park: one of the largest privately owned parks in Italy, within the city walls. In the afternoon**, a noted university scholar will illustrate in depth the influence of the great Medici dynasty: generation after generation steered the course of western art history, their collections legendary, their reach across Europe unmatched, through their Popes, their banks and their marriages.



Dinner at an elegant and charming restaurant, such as Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Wine bar & restaurant.

DAY 3: THE CAPPELLE MEDICEE

In the morning accompanied by our expert, visit the world famous **David**, among other splendid masterpieces at the **Accademia**. Afterward a guided visit to the Medici Chapels: The Museum is incorporated in the vast complex of the basilica of San Lorenzo and is especially famous for the New Sacristy which Michelangelo designed for the tombs of Lorenzo and Giuliano de' Medici. When available, the **Secret Room of Michelangelo***, where the artist once hid from the wrath of the Medici rulers, exclusively open for us.



DAY 5: UFFIZI GALLERY

An exclusive, **privately arranged** morning visit to the **Galleria degli Uffizi**: the building of the palace was begun by Giorgio Vasari in 1560 for Cosimo I de' Medici as the offices for the Florentine magistrates—hence the name “*uffizi*” (“offices”). Walk through the unique Vasari Corridor*. Built in 1564 by Giorgio Vasari in only five months at the time of the wedding between Francesco I de' Medici and Giovanna of Austria, is a covered walk, almost a kilometer in length, an overhead passageway that starts out from the West Corridor of the Gallery, heads towards the Arno and then, raised up by huge arches, follows the river as far as the Ponte Vecchio, which it crosses by passing on top of the shops. The meat market on the bridge was at this time transferred elsewhere, so as not to offend the Grand Duke's sensitive nose with unpleasant smells on his walk, and replaced (from 1593) with the goldsmiths who continue to work there today.

Lunch in a classic Florentine restaurant near the historic **Central Market**. In the afternoon our experts will show you The **Palazzo Medici Ricciardi**. Built in the mid fifteenth century by **Michelozzo** on commission from the Medici, the building became the **prototype of Renaissance civil architecture**. The robust and austere pile of the mansion, originally designed as a sort of cube, was for at least a century the most direct and efficacious symbol of the **political and cultural primacy of the Medici in Florence**.

Dinner: Dinner on your own, with the group or with just a few friends; we will recommend various restaurants, charming and informal or perhaps, a more traditional one.



DAY 4: CHIANTI & WINE

A day in the country! We will drive you through the **beautiful Tuscan countryside** of Chianti with its medieval villages and wineries: **wine testing and lunch at a world renowned wine cantina**, housed in a **17th century privately owned grand villa**, a national monument and part of the Historical Residences Foundation.

Dinner at the fashionable “Obika”: fresh pasta, vegetables and authentic mozzarella delivered daily from the south of Italy.

We offer an alternative for the day:

A visit to the Medici villas and their gardens

We will lunch at the charming and famous “**4 Leoni**”, outdoor (weather permitting).

Afternoon: Some time to stroll through the **Oltr'arno** neighborhood with its typical atmosphere, artisan workshops carrying on century-old tradition of both spirit and working methods: mosaic-makers, wood carvers, gilders, goldsmiths. Visit the numerous Art Galleries, famous for their antique artifacts and paintings.

Option: with our guides, visit the Argenti Museum in palazzo Pitti. These rooms were the **summer residence of the Medici**. you will find different objects from: vases, ivory, gemstones, cameo, jewels, crystals and many more that were part of the “Granduchi” collection, and his successors to follow were “Lorenzo il Magnifico”, Cosimo I, Francesco I, Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici.



In the evening, dinner at a **private patrician palazzo: a direct descendant of the Marchesi Lenzone de' Medici will meet with us for cocktails and dinner.**

DAY 6: DEPARTURE

Private car service to the airport/train station.

* the **Corridoio Vasariano (Vasari corridor)**, is often closed for shortage of personnel. **We will have unique, exclusive alternatives if the closing happens during your visit.**

* Museum schedules, weather conditions and special local events may suggest changes to the day to day proposed itinerary.

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