



Shakespeare Mystery in Florence

The Beauty & Mystery of Florence

Saturday 28 March – Friday 3 April 2020

Led by Peter Dawkins and Julia Cleave

Enter into the beauty, secrets and art of Shakespeare and the Renaissance

Please come and join us for a special cultural and educational week in Florence, the cradle of the European Renaissance and inspirational nourishment of modern times. We shall explore its poetic beauty, art and architecture, and delve into its symbolism, wisdom and mystery that gave rise to the stream of initiatic consciousness with which Shakespeare is imbued and which underlies the work of Francis Bacon, the Comte de St Germain, the Freemasons and the Rosicrucians.



Florence is famous for the great artists, sculptors, philosophers, alchemists and cabalists who blossomed here under the patronage of the Medici family, creating not only Florence's outstanding art and architecture but also profound philosophies, all of which pioneered and inspired a transformational epoch of human development.

During this week we will be looking deeply into some revealing examples of the art of great artists such as Fra Angelico, Lorenzo Ghiberti, Brunelleschi, Donatello, Botticelli, Leonardo and Michelangelo, as well as seeing the works of other great artists such as Filippino Lippi, Giotto, Andrea Pisano, Piero della Francesca, Alberti, Raphael, Donatello, Masaccio, Verrocchio, Ghirlandaio and Masolino.

We will also be looking at the philosophy underlying such art and the role played by the Medici family, patrons not just of the artists but also of the philosophers, from Cosimo de' Medici the Elder, who enabled Marsilio Ficino to set up the second Platonic Academy, to Gian Gastone, the last Medici to be grand duke of Tuscany, who was an alchemist and the one who had placed under his protection, when born, the Comte de St Germain, the illegitimate son of Grand Princess Violante Beatrice (wife of Gian's brother, the Grand Prince Ferdinando de' Medici of Tuscany) and Prince Franz-Leopold Rákóczi of Transylvania.



The Shakespeare play that is partly set in Florence is *All's Well that Ends Well*, so we will also look at its underlying wisdom, alchemical structure and Freemasonic secrets, and visit Florentine places mentioned in the play.

Besides talks by Peter and Julia, we will enjoy, with the additional help of authorised guides: -

- The Palace Medici Ricardi with its unique Chapel of the Magi, which was commissioned in 1444 by Cosimo the Elder and was the residence of the Medici family, including Lorenzo the Magnificent, until the family became Grand Dukes of Tuscany and moved to the Palazzo Medici Vecchio.
- The Monastery of San Marco, Michelozzo's architectural masterpiece built by Cosimo de' Medici between 1437 and 1443, which houses the largest collection of works by Fra Angelico, one of the greatest painters of the early Renaissance, and other works by Fra Bartolomeo, Domenico Ghirlandaio, and Lorenzo Ghiberti, and a library containing a collection of exquisitely illuminated books and manuscripts.
- The Cathedral and Baptistery of Santa Maria del Fiore, one of the greatest masterpieces of Gothic architecture that also incorporates the first example of Italian Renaissance architecture, with the edifice designed by Arnolfo di Cambio, the dome by Filippo Brunelleschi.
- The Uffizi Gallery, built by Giorgio Vasari in 1560 for Cosimo I de' Medici, first Grand Duke of Tuscany, to house the offices of the Florentine magistrates, with its top floor turned into a gallery by his son Francesco I de' Medici for the Medici family and their guests. With the end of the Medici dynasty, the Uffizi Gallery, by now much enlarged, continued its role thanks to the legacy of the last heir, Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici, who left everything to the Lorraine family on condition that the whole collection of art remained intact and preserved in Florence.
- The Convent of San Salvatore in Ognissanti, founded in the 13th century by the lay order of the Umiliati and taken over by the Franciscans in the 16th century, is one of the most important and beautiful churches in Florence. It is filled with works of art by Giotto, Botticelli and Ghirlandaio, and contains the tomb of Botticelli.
- The Basilica of Santa Maria Novella, the first great basilica in Florence and architecturally one of the most important Gothic churches in Tuscany. The exterior is the work of Fra Jacopo Talenti and Leon Battista Alberti. The interior layout, designed by Brunelleschi, holds extraordinary works of art by great artists such as Masaccio, Giotto, Filippino Lippi, Duccio di Buoninsegna and Ghirlandaio.
- the Palazzo Vecchio, originally the home of the city council, then from 1540 the home of the Medicis when Duke Cosimo I de' Medici took over the palace and transformed it into a fascinating labyrinth of chambers, apartments, terraces and courtyards, with all the rooms magnificently decorated by artists such as Michelangelo, Giorgio Vasari and Donatello, and

containing secret chambers—the Tesoretto created by Cosimo I and the Studiolo created by Francesco—which we will be visiting.

- The San Miniato al Monte, one of the finest jewels of Romanesque architecture in Italy situated high up on the south side of the river Arno, with magnificent views over Florence. After visiting the church and watching the sun set over the city and surrounding hills, we shall enjoy a celebration dinner in the Terrazza Michelangelo of the renowned La Loggia.



The week's event will be led by Peter Dawkins and Julia Cleave, with added input from professional guides when visiting the palaces, cathedral, baptistry, Uffizi Gallery and San Marco.

Peter's expertise lies in his knowledge of the philosophy, mythology, symbolism, wisdom and secret history underlying the Renaissance and the works of Shakespeare, Francis Bacon, the Comte de St Germain, the Freemasons and the Rosicrucians.

Julia's expertise lies in her knowledge of the philosophy, mythology, symbolism, wisdom and history underlying Renaissance art and paintings.

During the week we will be staying at the Casa Santo Nome Di Gesù, originally known as the Palazzo Rospigliosi-Pallavicini, in the quiet San Frediano district of Florence, south of the river Arno and within 10 minutes' walk of the Pitti Palace and famous Ponte Vecchio bridge that leads over the river Arno directly into the historic city centre.

Details

Venue

Casa Santo Nome Di Gesù
Piazza del Carmine, 21, 50123 Firenze FI, Italy
<http://www.fmmfirenze.it/>

Event Fee (£ Sterling)

£1246 sharing (double or twin room)
£1463 single (single room, as available)

Event fee includes six nights bed and breakfast, four lunches, two evening dinners, private meeting room, entrance fees, guided tours, leadership, teaching, organisational costs and administration. It does not include travel costs such as to, from and within Florence, personal insurance or any other costs not shown as included in the event fee.

Details cont. ►

Further Information & Booking

Email: sarah@fbrt.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1295-678-623

Web: www.fbrt.org.uk

Booking is made by completing a booking form (which will be sent to you on request) and returning it with the required deposit (£200) or full fee. The deposit will be non-refundable. The full fee will be payable by 31 January 2020. Payment details are on the booking form.

Travel Possibilities

Florence Airport (“FLR”), just outside the city, is known to locals as “Peretola”. From the airport, it is an approx. 20 mins by taxi to Casa Santo Nome Di Gesu.

- *Cityjet, British Airways and Vueling operate flights to Florence from London City Airport and London Gatwick; there are around 3 direct flights a day.*

Pisa International Airport, also named Galileo Galilei Airport. From the airport, take the 5-minute PisaMover train to Pisa Centrale train station; then take a train to Florence, about a 50 to 80-minute ride, depending on the train’s speed and number of stops.

Florence’s main train station, Firenze Santa Maria Novella, is a terminus railway station located in the historic centre of Florence. From the station, it is approx. 16 mins walk or 20 mins by taxi to Casa Santo Nome Di Gesu.

Event Arrival & Departure Times

Earliest arrival/check-in time at Casa Santo Nome Di Gesu is 13:00 on Saturday 28 March 2020.
Latest arrival/check-in time at Casa Santo Nome Di Gesu is 17:00 on Saturday 28 March 2020.

The event will begin promptly at 18:00 on Saturday 28 March 2020 in the meeting room of Casa Santo Nome Di Gesu.

The event will end after breakfast on Friday 3 April 2020, with latest check-out time at 10:00.

