VILLA SAN MICHELE

A BELMOND HOTEL

### FLORENTINE EXPERIENCES

#### CONTENTS

To help you make the most of your stay at Villa San Michele, we've stay at Villa San Michele, we've compiled a collection of experiences compiled a collection of experiences that bring our destination to life.

That bring our destination to life.

Whichever activities you choose, we are here to take care of everything!

Treasures of The Land
Immersions in culture and history

Wining & Dining Exploring legendary Tuscan gastronomy

Active & Exhilarating Adrenaline-fuelled adventures



# THE ART OF MAKING

n this series of experiences and excursions, we invite you to discover Florence as the home of Italian craftsmanship. Explore the wave of designers and makers who preserve time-honoured traditions while fashioning a new type of luxury. You could say they're the New Renaissance, a movement that blends contemporary design with historic production techniques, resulting in irresistible creations that embody Florentine artistry.

Accompanied by a passionate lifestyle specialist, you will unlock timeless techniques, step behind

the scenes of creative processes and reconnect with the forgotten art of handcrafting.

Discover hidden gems in the realms of fashion and lifestyle; including jewellery, hats, bow ties, eyewear, crystalware, parchment boxes and artistic scagliola. Each artisan will reveal a story of unique passion and heritage.

Please talk to our concierge to personalise your tour. Advance booking required.

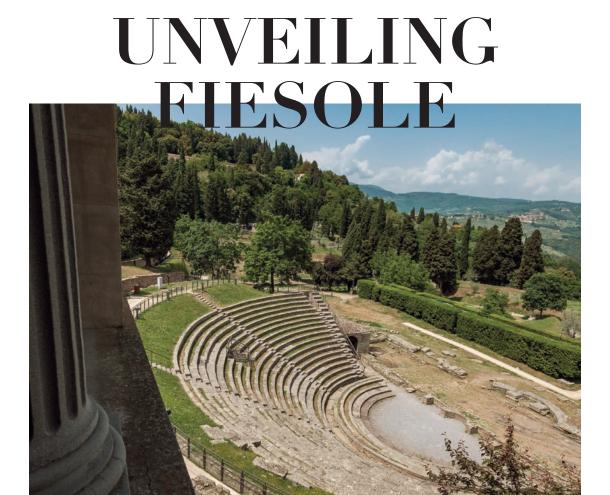
## CALLIGRAPHY MASTER CLASS WITH



repare to be inkspired in this intimate, lighthearted workshop! In the company of Florence-based calligrapher and designer Betty Soldi, develop self-expression and learn to flourish through the world of handwritten words. Betty Soldi's 'Inksperiences' are based on bringing writing to life – capturing thoughts, ideas and spoken words through handwriting and the Renaissance ideal of thriving through creative

expression. In two stimulating hours, explore the beauty of words, taking inspiration from the captivating stories of Florence. The experience is held in Betty Soldi's design studio, an 1801 'limonaia' housed within a secret and private Florentine garden.

We recommend booking in advance.



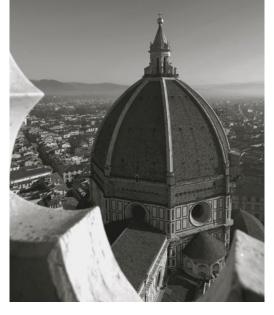
ike that box of travel memorabilia that we keep in a corner of our living rooms, Fiesole conceals an array of secret treasures. Open the lid to discover wonders of the ancient hillside town, variously created by agriculturalists, architects and artists. Together they make up the Art of Fiesole. On a private guided tour, you can gain first-hand experience

of honey and olive oil production or discover works of art in prestigious archives and galleries.

The tour can be personalised. Choose between two itineraries: gastronomic or historic. Enjoy the tour aboard an Ape Calessino (up to 3 guests). Please book in advance with our concierge.



### PRIVATE GUIDED TOUR OF FLORENCE



mbark on an exciting tour of the Renaissance city with a personal guide, who will escort you to Florentine gems and provide an insight into choice museum exhibits. Expect to glean little-known facts and aspects of ancient city life that would otherwise pass you by. Ask as many questions as you like about the history of magnificent Firenze.

The itinerary can be entirely customised – just let our concierge know your interests and the kind of museums and sites you'd like to visit.

We can provide you with guides who speak the following languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian.

### PAPER MAKING WORKSHOP



How many missives or love notes have we sent and received over the years? Holding an old letter, intense memories come flooding back. So just how important is the paper held in our hands? At the Atelier degli Artigianelli, ancient parchment is restored and new paper created, often for the major museums and institutions of Florence. Visit the centre and

enjoy a private workshop, learning how to make your own sheets or even a handmade travel diary. This is a rare and unique chance to rediscover the art of making; to appreciate a precious commodity hidden in a seemingly routine part of daily life.

Duration: 2 hours, including a tea break. Available for up to 4 people. Please book your experience with our concierge.

# BEHINDTHE

lorence's Teatro del Maggio regularly plays host to the greatest musical talents, such as maestro Zubin Mehta. Throughout the year its wonderful cultural programme embraces orchestral and choral music as well as stunning opera performances. Belmond guests with a curiosity to see behind the scenes can enjoy a truly one-of-a-kind experience. Prior to the show of your choice, you'll be met by a theatre manager for a thrilling private tour. The doors to the artists' areas will be opened, immersing you in the

enchanting world of actors, musicians, costume designers and directors. In the intermission, you even have a reserved table so that you don't have to queue at the bar. A refreshing perk to top off a fabulous night in style!

Advance booking recommended. It's possible to enjoy a tour on days/nights when there are no performances, but without any artists backstage it's a more pareddown experience.



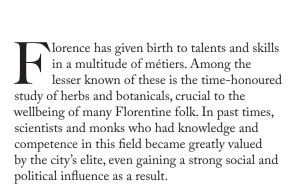
# MEDICI: THE UNTOLD TRUTH

Just how rich and powerful was the Medici family? How many secrets and lies from the dynasty's dark controlling reach are hidden in intriguing corners of Florence? Join an expert guide for an illuminating private tour that discloses unknown aspects of Medici life. The experience ends with a truly exclusive visit

to a spectacular hidden space, where an iconic personality from the Florentine art scene will reveal the untold truth.

Please contact our concierge to arrange your tour, giving as much notice as possible.

### ART OF THE APQTHECARY



On this fascinating private tour, your guide will reveal how traditional and herbal medicines and cosmetics have retained their importance in Florentine life, with exquisite artisan fragrances, infusions, soaps and body lotions still being produced today.

Please contact our concierge to arrange your tour.

# OPIFICIO DELLE PIETRE DURE CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

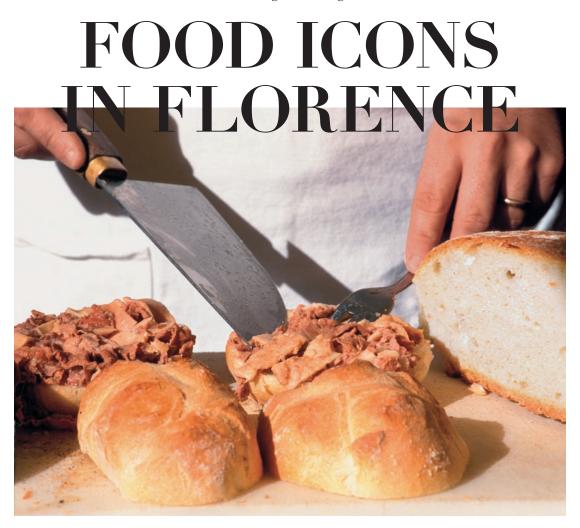
here do famous artworks go to be cleaned? Who is given the enormous privilege and responsibility of restoring works of momentous global importance? Let us take you to a hallowed workshop, where skilled technicians carry out the promise they made to the Renaissance masters of Florence: to preserve and glorify the moment when Art met God. On this unique tour, you'll gain

access to the restoration workshops, meet the technicians and learn about their precious charges. Get closer to the details and workmanship than you ever thought possible on a truly unforgettable immersion in Renaissance Florence.

Available Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Please contact our concierge to arrange your tour, giving as much notice as possible.

Wining and Dining





he history and traditions of gastronomy in Florence are as old as its Renaissance buildings. From street food to popular vegetables, pastries to ancient grain markets, every bite has a story to tell. In the company of an expert guide, discover how food has influenced Florentine life through the centuries. You'll be

surprised to find that every flavour in Florence has its own backstory and anecdotes. Visit five iconic sites, sampling tasty delicacies in each.

Please arrange your tour with our concierge at least 2 days in advance. Suggested duration: 3 hours.

### **GELATO IMMERSION** ATVIVOLI

Florence. You'll find it in the very heart of the old city, a few steps from Santa Croce Church. Here, the same family has produced gelato since 1930. As well as all the mouthwatering flavours, a must is their Gran Crema al Caffè: espresso coffee dropped into creamy gelato, a heavenly combination that takes your breath away. Enjoy a private, behind-the-scenes visit to the

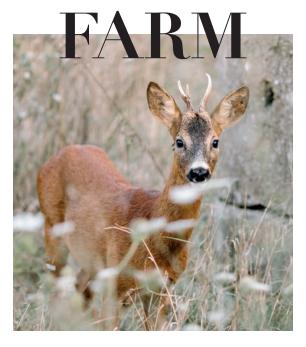
gelateria and witness every single step of the gelato-making process. The visit ends with an unlimited gelato tasting of your choice!

Available for a minimum of 4 people. (hildren must be 5 years and over. Please book your experience at least 5 days in advance with our concierge. Vivoli is open every day except Mondays.

Active and Skilerating



#### NIGHT SAFARI AT MAIANO

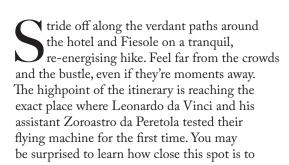


lose to Villa San Michele is Maiano
Farm, a lush, sprawling estate embracing
botanical gardens, enchanting woodlands,
endless olive trees and free-roaming farm animals,
such as geese, ducks, horses, donkeys and even
ostriches. Within it, the Queen's Romantic Park
was inaugurated in 1893 by Queen Victoria, who
was so spellbound by the lake and surrounding
quarry rocks that she sat and sketched the scene.
The British monarch would no doubt have been

enthralled by the atmospheric Night Safari. Board a private jeep to spot wild animals as they venture out at dusk. Be immersed in the magic of the forest as you bounce along off-road tracks under a canopy of stars.

Suggested duration: 60-90 minutes. English or Italian-speaking guide available. Advance booking recommended.

## GREET THE DAY WITH LEGNARDO



Villa San Michele! Unspoilt nature and majestic views recharge your soul. For added magic, step out at sunrise: it could be the best start to a day you've ever had.

Suggested duration: 2 hours. Comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes recommended. Please book your hiking experience with our concierge. Recommended for guests aged 8 and up.

