

your host-curated guide to

# Oltrarno

– Firenze –




Path  
**CRAFTING  
DREAMS**



Path  
**THE OLTRARNO  
FLORENCE**



Path  
**THE SACRED  
AND THE PROFANE**



Path  
**ECLECTIC  
BY NATURE**



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**Oltrarno historically was thriving with craftsmen's workshop. Here is a list of dedicated artisans in the area the hosts recommend visiting.**
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| <b>Piumaccio d'Oro</b><br>Antiquity restorer<br>Borgo S. Frediano 65       | <b>Tozzi Tiberio</b><br>Antiquity restorer<br>Via Dè Marsili 2   |
| <b>Il Paralume</b><br>Lampshades boutique<br>Borgo S. Frediano 79          | <b>Tiziana Alemanni</b><br>Couture tailoring<br>Sdrucchiolo de' Pitti 20   |
| <b>Angela Caputi</b><br>Costume jewelry<br>Via di Santo Spirito 58         | <b>Alessandro Dari</b><br>Jewelry designer<br>Via S. Niccolò 115R  |
| <b>Betty Soldi - Calligraphy</b><br>Via Maggio 51R                         | <b>Bettina Schindler</b><br>Restoration of antiques<br>in ivory<br>Via S. Niccolò 99R                                  |
| <b>L'Ippogrifo Stampe Arte</b><br>Etching art<br>Via di Santo Spirito 5/r, | <b>Valterio Certini</b><br>Wrought-iron artisan<br>Via di S. Niccolò 2R  |
| <b>Chiarugi Simone</b><br>Antiquity restorer<br>Via Madonna della Pace 6/8 | <b>AtelierGK, Lapo Giannini and<br/>Michiko Kuwata</b><br>Bookbinding and book<br>restoration<br>Borgo S.Frediano 133R |
| <b>Manufact - Handicraft store</b><br>Borgo San Frediano 157/r             | <b>Giuliano Ricchi</b><br>Small jewelry designer<br>Piazza S.Spirito n.12  |
| <b>Fabrizio di Pietrantonio -<br/>Luthier</b><br>Via del Drago d'Oro 4r    |  |
| <b>Stefano Ramunno - Engraver</b><br>Via Romana 20R                        |  |
| <b>Extremida - Costume jewelry</b><br>Via Maggio, 71/r                     |  |



## Path Crafting Dreams

From haute-couture fashion to mosaics, this path offers a chance to pay homage to the craft of local artisans. Start from **Manufacta** to find limited editions or one-off of jewelry pieces, clothing, ceramics, and furniture. Looking for something really unique? Visit the **Antico Setificio Fiorentino**, which weaves custom designs and produces silk brocade, and is one of the few left in the world. They only take visits by appointment which takes you back to 1700, with majestic looms, including one designed by Leonardo Da Vinci. There are also damask and taffeta woven fabrics named after the noblewomen who picked them for their wedding dresses. **Dimitri Villoresi** designs handmade, custom leather bags using ancient tools. Walk along **Via dei Serragli** to check out the small shops that exhibit the “commesso fiorentino”. This artistic technique (Nature-themed inlay stone) also known as Florentine mosaic was implemented in 1500 by the House of Medici. Spend lunch time at **Gurdulù**, then whimsical creations await by the jewelers’ couple at their shop **Extremida**, including rings, bangles, necklaces, brooches and hair decorations in brass and silver. You are now at the **Museo della Moda e del Costume**, the only Italian Museum tracing a detailed history of fashion through 6,000 artifacts on display. Stop by **Tiberio Tozzi**’s workshop where antiques are restored, and then walk through Sdrucciolo de’ Pitti to visit **Tiziana Alemanni**’s atelier. The path ends at **Villa Bardini**.



## Path The Oltrarno Florence

This is an authentic perspective of Florence as seen from this bank of the Arno, just as the locals experience it every day. Enjoy the beauty of their most beloved spots at a slow pace: the **Galleria d’Arte Moderna** exhibits a primarily Italian collection over 30 rooms, spanning from the end of 1700 to the first decades of 1900. The exhibit includes several masterpieces by Fattori, one of the leaders of the Macchiaioli movement. The **Basilica di Santo Spirito** features a magnificent wooden crucifix by Michelangelo, carved by the artist when he was 17 for the prior of the Santo Spirito Convento as a token of gratitude for allowing him to study the anatomic figure on the corpses kept at the convent’s hospital. The **Chiesa di Santa Maria del Carmine** hosts the Cappella Brancacci’s fresco cycles, a Renaissance masterpiece by Masaccio. Take an Epicurean break at the **l’Brindellone** for a Florentine steak. Feel like having an espresso? **La Città** is a multi-functional space opened from 9 PM to 2 AM. Nearby, **Mad Souls & Spirits** serves delicious cocktails from 6 PM to 2 AM. The **Studio Galleria Romanelli** offers sculpting technique classes, takes commissions for portraits, sells and restores sculptures. The **Porta San Frediano** was built in 1300 and was the access gate to the road to Pisa. For breakfast, lunch or dinner, stop by the **Santa Rosa Bistrot** which features a beautiful garden. The Circolo la Rondinella located at the **Torrino di Santa Rosa** is a legendary spot open all day until late at night which from its tables offers a sweeping view of the city at sunset.



## Path The Sacred and the Profane

Journey through the sacred and the profane of the Oltrarno area to discover a mystically beautiful and poetic side of Florence. First stop at **Fabrizio di Pietrantonio**, master violin maker, to see contemporary and ancient stringed musical instruments. Once you are at the corner between **Via Santa Monaca and via Serragli**, look up. When you do, you’ll spot a unique element of old streets in Florence: the tabernacle. In order to fight heresy during the Middle Ages, people would place sacred images at streets corners. This one, featuring a fresco, dates back to 1300. Eat traditional Florentine cuisine at the **Trattoria La Casalinga**. Get a privileged view of Florence from the **romantic balcony on Borgo San Jacopo** and visit the **Chiesa Santa Felicita**, a gem featuring Pontormo’s frescoes. Balanced against its facade is the Corridoio Vasariano, a gallery built in 1500 by Vasari, who was an Italian historian. Walk until you reach the **Bottega di Clet**, a gallery of an artist who modifies road signs (try to spot them in the city). The **Chiesa di S. Niccolò** is a picturesque church. If you are not too tired, head to the **Abbazia di San Miniato**, named after the first martyr of the city, which celebrates its 1000th anniversary in 2018. Standing atop one of the highest points of Florence, the adjacent Basilica is one of the finest Romanesque structures in Tuscany. Now walk back toward the Arno’s bank, passing **Porta San Niccolò** to enjoy the sunset in one of the lovely spots that overlook the **beach on the Arno**.



## Path Eclectic by Nature

The Oltrarno is a true inspiration for nature lovers, even more during the Spring and Summer seasons, when gardens come to life after the long winter. The **Giardino dell’Iris** is only opened when irises blossom, from April 25th until May 20th. Here, you’ll find 2,000 botanical species of irises which are illustrated in Florence’s coat of arms. Visit the **Giardino delle Rose** with 1,000 botanical species, and its small Japanese oasis designed by the architect Yasuo Kitayama which features the Zen Kōdai-ji temple. Keep walking to two of the most interesting artisans of the area, **Bettina Schindler**, specialized in restoration of ivory antiques, and **Alessandro Dari**, specialized in the craft of jewelry making. The **Giardino Bardini** dates back to the 1700 and was turned into an English garden in 1800. Don’t miss the striking panorama from **Forte Belvedere**. The **Museo di Storia Naturale La Specola** is great for kids and adventurous adults who can appreciate the anatomical wax figures from 1700 and the ancient taxidermy collection on display. Later on, you can try the tripe and the lampredotto Florentine dishes at the **Trippaio** in Porta Romana. Looking for an alternative? L’OV, Osteria Vegetariana, serves traditional regional dishes revisited with a vegetarian twist. After lunch, take a nice walk in the **Bobolino** gardens, with tanks filled with small fishes, fountains and mysterious caves. From 7 PM onwards, make sure you attend the **Osservatorio Astrofisico** di Arcetri for its picturesque Summer nights.

## The host community in Florence

The map you are holding in your hands is the product of the love hosts on Airbnb have for Oltrarno, the area of Florence located on the left bank of the Arno river. It includes neighborhoods such as Santo Spirito and San Frediano. This guide was conceived during a workshop held by the Florence Home Sharing Club that involved different organizations, such Associazione Beni Italiani Patrimonio Mondiale Unesco, Camera di Commercio and Alia. Its aim is to share a lesser-known, nevertheless beautiful, side of Florence. The goal is to help you find the most authentic spots in the area, but also to let you know how to be a good temporary citizen. The Oltrarno history can be found in the craftsmen’s workshops that dotted the area in the past, from jewelry makers to restorers you can still spot today. Gabriele, host since 2016, says that during the ‘60s you could smell “the chemicals used by the silversmiths, the chalk’s perfume, the gold, leather and wood scents coming

from the Royal stables at the Boboli gardens”. Since the Renaissance ages, this was an area featuring a mix of social classes: right next to mansions such as Palazzo Pitti (one of the first luxurious locations built here in 1400), La Reggia, Via Maggio with its courtier’s palaces, one could find the humble homes of the workers, beyond Piazza Santo Spirito, heading towards Porta San Frediano. Marzia, host since 2015, recalls “a very lively neighborhood, packed with women sitting outside chatting. Florence gets very hot in the summer, but it has these drafts that soothe from the heat, if you know where to find them.” This area still retains the history, the charm and the daily pace of Florence that are greatly appreciated by those who visit Oltrarno.

Have a nice walk in the area!

## Be A Good Guest

Follow some tips from Florence hosts so you can truly experience the city like a local: they also address how to be a good guest and an even better temporary citizen.

**Arrival.** Once you arrive at your Airbnb listing, don’t be surprised if your host asks for your ID card. In Italy, all the hosts have to share their guest’s personal details with the central police station within 24 hours of their arrival.

**Red and Black.** Street numbers can be tricky in Florence: we are here to help. The black ones designate residential homes; the red ones indicate shops. Each kind follows their own numerical progression!

**Trash.** Always ask your host how to properly recycle in your area. Each neighborhood has different rules. Don’t leave your trash behind: it is punished with hefty fines. You can also learn more on this website: [www.aliaspa.it](http://www.aliaspa.it).

**Public Transports.** You can easily see Florence on foot, by

bicycle or with public transport (check your route on [www.ataf.net](http://www.ataf.net)). If you need a car, rent it on location and make sure to ask about the restricted areas (there are many).

**Local Products.** Live Florence like a real fiorentino: get to know the city through its food specialties that you’ll find in small shops. We recommend you avoid buying from street vendors, as there are complicated webs of exploitation associated with them.

**Respect.** Firenze needs a lot of care in order to preserve its history. Be respectful. Don’t eat on Churches’ doorsteps and don’t write on the walls.

**Firenze Card.** It is the pass dedicated to some Museums of the city. The card is valid within 72 hours of its first validation. It gives priority access - no reservation needed - to the museums that participate in the card initiative. [www.firenzecard.it](http://www.firenzecard.it).



Thanks to the Florence Home Sharing Club, our partners and the whole Florence community for their contribution! Visit Airbnb Citizen Italia to discover more about the Airbnb Italian community.