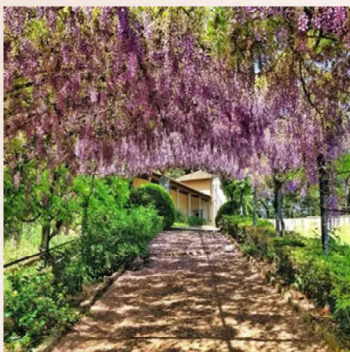


Top 10 Hidden Gems Florence, Italy

By: Olivia Roccia



Florence is full of famous landmarks like the Duomo and the Uffizi, but I wanted to focus on the places that feel a little more personal and off the beaten path. These hidden gems are the spots that made my experience in the city special. They show a side of Florence that many visitors miss, from peaceful gardens and historic churches to cozy bookstores and local markets.



10

Giardino Bardini

Giardino Bardini

- Giardino Bardini is a stunning renaissance garden of the Villa Bardini
- These gardens are a lot less crowded than other gardens in Florence
- The gardens offer great panoramic views of the city



Giardino Bardini is a Renaissance-era garden that feels almost like a secret escape within the city. Unlike the busy Boboli Gardens, Bardini is often quiet, which makes it the perfect spot for a peaceful walk. The gardens are arranged in terraces that lead up the hillside, and from the top you get one of the most spectacular views of the Florence skyline, especially at sunset. In the spring the wisteria vines bloom in long purple tunnels, which is one of the most picturesque sights in the city. Visiting Bardini is a great way to see the beautiful of Florence in the past while being different from the history rich churches and homes.



9

Santo Spirito Market

Santo Spirito Market

- Open from 9-6 every Sunday in the square
- They have a huge selection of cheap vintage clothes with lots of vintage designer
- They also have food vendors that are delicious
- Make sure you get there early!



Every Sunday, the Santo Spirito Market transforms the quiet square in front of the Santo Spirito church into a lively hub of activity. This market has a very local feel compared to the more tourist-heavy shopping areas. It is known for its vintage clothing, especially unique designer pieces at affordable prices. There are also food stalls selling snacks, fresh bread, cheeses, and even regional specialties. Markets like this have been central to the city's economy and culture for centuries, and visiting this one offers a glimpse into the traditions of open-air trade and community life that still thrive in Florence today.

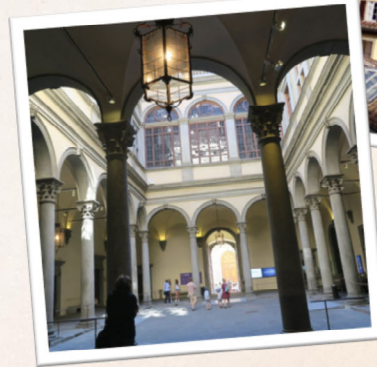


8

Biblioteca delle Oblate

Biblioteca delle Oblate

- Super cute library and café close to the Duomo
- Great place to study and find some quiet while still being close to Piazza Del Duomo
- The best part of the library though is the rooftop views of the Duomo



Biblioteca delle Oblate is one of the best-kept secrets for students living in Florence. Tucked away just a few minutes from the Duomo, it is not only a functioning library but also a cultural center that often hosts exhibitions and events. I used to come here to study or work on assignments because it was quiet and calm, which can be hard to find in the busy center. The rooftop terrace café is the real highlight because it offers an unforgettable view of the Duomo.



Melrose Vintage

Melrose Vintage

- Melrose is a super fun and unique thrift store
- They have the best selection of vintage Levi's I have ever seen
- Not only do they have a great selection of vintage clothes, but the décor and energy of the store is worth the stop alone
- Florence has a ton of really great vintage stores, but Melrose is my favorite!



Melrose Vintage is a treasure for anyone who loves thrifting. Florence has many vintage shops, but Melrose stands out because of its curated selection and the way the store itself feels like a fun and chaotic pinterest board. It has racks of perfectly worn-in Levi's jeans, vintage leather jackets, and unique accessories that you won't find in mainstream stores. Melrose is unique, well curated, and affordable. The atmosphere is lively and fun, and even if you are not buying anything, it is worth stepping inside to see the décor and vibe.



6

San Miniato Al Monte

San Miniato Al Monte

- San Miniato Al Monte is a beautiful basilica on the outskirts of Florence
- The basilica features rich history, art, and architecture
- One of the best places to watch the sunset over the city, and is much less crowded than Piazzale Michelangelo



San Miniato al Monte is a Romanesque basilica that dates back to the 11th century and sits on a hill overlooking the city. Its intricate mosaic-decorated interior and peaceful cloister make it one of the most beautiful and historic churches in Florence. The location offers one of the best vantage points for viewing the city at sunset and is often less crowded than nearby Piazzale Michelangelo. Although it is a bit of a climb to get up to the church, watching the sunset over the city is well worth it.

5



Foto automatica

Foto automatico

- There are a few vintage photobooth on the streets of Florence
- The photos come out so cute and make the perfect souvenir
- The photo strips are printed in black and white



The Foto Automatica booths scattered around Florence capture a sense of nostalgia and local character. These vintage photobooths produce classic black-and-white photo strips and can often be found tucked along side streets or near busy piazzas. They have become a cherished part of the city's urban landscape, offering a playful and tangible way to preserve memories.



4

Wine Windows

Wine Windows

- Wine windows also known as Buchette Del Vino are small windows used in the 16th century to sell wine directly to customers on the street
- Some of the windows are still open
- They are a super fun place to grab a glass of wine or an Aperol Spritz with some friends!



Florence's wine windows, known as *Buchette del Vino*, are small stone openings in the walls of historic palaces and residences. Dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries, they were originally used by winemakers to sell their products directly to customers without opening their doors. Some of these windows have been restored and reopened, allowing people today to enjoy a glass of wine or an Aperol Spritz served through these centuries-old portals.



Todo Modo

Todo Modo

- My favorite bookstore in Florence with a great English Section
- Great place to study, read, or just relax
- They have a café and wine bar inside
- They sell these really cool match books that look like famous book covers



Todo Modo is a welcoming cultural space that combines a bookstore, a café, and a wine bar. It features an excellent selection of both Italian and international books, including a dedicated English-language section. The relaxed atmosphere encourages visitors to linger, read, or work, and the space often hosts literary events. A distinctive feature is its collection of matchbooks designed to resemble the covers of classic novels. Todo Modo is the perfect place to study, hang out with friends, and read.



2

Guiliano Ricchi



Guiliano Ricchi



- Guiliano Ricchi makes the most incredible custom charm bracelets in Santo Spirito
- You can even make the charm bracelets custom to Florence
- All the jewelry is made by hand
- This shop is perfect for souvenirs!
- Tip: this shop is cash only



Guiliano Ricchi is a traditional jewelry workshop in the Santo Spirito neighborhood that specializes in handmade charm bracelets. Customers can select charms representing Florence's landmarks, symbols, and traditions, making each piece unique and deeply connected to the city. The shop reflects Florence's long history as a center of craftsmanship, where artisans continue to create high-quality goods in small, family-run businesses.



1

Giunti Odeon Bookshop-Cinema

Giunti Odeon

- The first floor is a bookstore with a large selection of books and a decent English section
- The second-floor balcony is filled with movie theater seats
- Most of the movies are free to the public and they feature a lot of English movies
- They also have a café and wine bar with really good food
- Great place to study, read, or hang out with friends



The Giunti Odeon is a historic cultural hub that blends literature, film, and social space. The ground floor houses a large bookstore with a strong English-language section, while the upper level retains vintage theater seating and often screens films, many of them free to the public. The building also includes a café and wine bar, making it a comfortable place for studying or meeting friends.



Interactive Map



https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1ms82dc_ekzzXzyD7XVwAuswQU3pmrnuU&usp=sharing

Enjoy Florence

