

# ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CENTRE FOR FOREIGNERS



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# LORENCE



Primavera by Botticelli, by Michelangelo's David and by the works of Titian and Beato Angelico. Take in the beauty of Florence, majestic in the simplicity of its architectural lines, its history, its charm, its beauty and further enhanced by the flavours of one of the most famous cuisines in the world. These are just some of the reason why millions of people every year visit the city of the Renaissance. You can also chose not just to limit yourself to scratching the surface, by leaving the beaten path of touristic consumerism and giving yourself time to take in all the rest: the social, economic and cultural liveliness of the neighbourhoods, with their markets, workshops, stores, restaurants and meeting points. You can discover a dimension of the city where the Italian spirit meets and mingles with the spirit of the foreigners that have chosen to live here and contribute to making Florence a lively multi-cultural city and an important centre for art, music, fashion and crafts. Florence and Tuscany have an important tradition of hosting youths and all those who are drawn to Italian language and culture with a path that winds its way through programmes of history of art, of arts and crafts, of cooking of fashion and of design. All of Tuscany, which is the cradle of the

**T**ake a walk along the banks of the Arno, or lose yourself in the narrow medieval streets that sometimes open into splendid squares. Stop to look at the prestigious monuments: from the Duomo to the Church of Santa Croce; from Palazzo Vecchio in Piazza della Signoria to Palazzo Pitti with the Boboli Gardens; from Ponte Vecchio to the Uffizi Gallery; from the Medici Chapels with the tomb of Lorenzo il Magnifico to the Church of Santo Spirito. Let yourself be amazed again by the beauty of the



Italian language and of European culture, was and continues to be, the point of convergence and the workshop of art and culture; without ever losing sight of its past (Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Machiavelli, Giotto, Leon Battista Alberti, Brunelleschi) it keeps a steady eye on its future.

photos by Katrin Wegener



## ● THE SCHOOL

Our school is located in the historic centre of Florence in Piazza Santo Spirito, one of the finest squares of the city and one of the favourite meeting points of Florentines and of our students.

The surrounding neighbourhood is very lively and is home to many artisan workshops as well as restaurants, bars, artist's ateliers and wonderful open air markets.

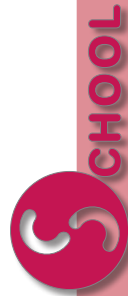
In the summer all of its piazzas host cultural events such as concerts and plays.

Centro Machiavelli is a reference point for those approaching the Italian language, who want to use the language creatively, and who are interested in this country's culture in its broadest sense.

Our defining characteristic is the care and attention which we dedicate to each of the participants of our courses, to their motivation and to the satisfaction of their expectations. The atmosphere, not just in class, is cheerful and informal, which is particularly important for our situation where communication has a specific relational objective.

The maximum number of 12 people per class allows rapid learning based on collaboration amongst the participants. As well as a clear illustration of the rules of the language, we always provide ample space for communicative activities and for games.

The constant attention to the evolving needs of the students leads us to adapt, innovate and continually improve our methods and materials. In addition to language courses we have courses in arts and crafts in artists' studios and craft workshops, specialized courses of jewelry and jewelry design, music classes and singing for opera lovers and singers, cooking classes for professionals and amateurs and a wide variety of activities some cultural and some just for fun. All courses and all activities are in Italian and therefore also become an exciting opportunity to practice communication and interpersonal skills.



## ● HISTORY

Centro Machiavelli was founded in 1978 and chose from the outset to use the communicative method for the same reason that many people have dedicated themselves to the study of language: to communicate and interact effectively with Italian cultural, social and economic reality.

Since 1988 the school has been part of Tandem International - an international association of language schools, committed to the research and application of methods founded on linguistic and cultural exchange. Students are offered the opportunity of being put in touch with

Italians who study their language, by setting up a Tandem. A Tandem is made up of two people of different mother tongues who meet regularly in their free time to share common interests and communicate alternatively in their two languages.

In 2003 our centre obtained official recognition by the Ministry of Education and in 2005 it obtained a certification of quality according to the standards set out by ISO 9001:2000.

In 2008 Centro Machiavelli obtained accreditation from the region of Tuscany (Regione Toscana) as a training agency (Decree No. 5879 of 10/12/2008).

Since 2009, it has been participating as sponsor and partner on projects as part of education and training, financed by the European Commission, the region of Tuscany, the Provinces and the European Social Fund.

For information: <http://formazione.centromachiavelli.it>



The Centre also has the patronage of the Town of Florence for the participation in the project for language instruction to non-European citizens.

## ● THE TEACHERS

As our students come from all over the world, they have very different motivations, different previous scholastic experience, different ways of learning and even different school types. This situation requires continuous updating as well as mental flexibility and creativity.

The teacher has multiple roles in the class all of which are indispensable: facilitator, entertainer, linguistic

consultant, and disseminator of culture. This entails an experimental approach to the profession and constant attention to group dynamics. The texts and multimedia teaching materials that we use are the result of on-going research and development to adapt them to the real needs of the students.

## ● THE METHOD

Apart from grammar and syntax, there are four skills - reading, writing, listening and speaking - which we consider necessary to be developed right from the first level, in order to enable comprehension and expression in authentic communicative situations. To this end situations are simulated in the classroom using authentic teaching material. Structures and vocabulary are adapted to the lower levels and become progressively more complex until, at advanced levels, different types of text are used to encourage the recognition and reproduction of different language styles.

### ● Test

**Entrance test:** done in two parts, a written section and an oral section. The test results are used to gauge the level of communication skills and the classes are made accordingly.

**Mid-course verification:** tests divided according to level, done periodically with the aim of constantly checking the learning process, and ensuring that the objectives set out for each level are being reached thereby maintaining the homogeneity of the groups.

### ● Certificates and exams

**Attendance Certificate:** At the completion of the course, a certificate is emitted with the course dates, number of hours studied and the level obtained.

**Certificate of Italian as a Foreign Language (CILS):** Our school is a centre for the preparation for the exam CILS from the University for Foreigners of Siena. The exam can be set for one of four levels and the certificate is recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## ● ITALIAN LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

Group and private courses at all levels, year round, morning and afternoon.

The groups are small and this favours effective interaction in class and active involvement of students in exercises of linguistic production (simulation, role play, discussions on specific subjects, group work, games). Collaborative learning is encouraged and lecturing is kept to a minimum as is the use of a second language. All teaching materials are provided at the beginning of the course. The structure and the contents of the programmes for all levels are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (C.E.F.R.)

Common European Framework		Corresponding levels Machiavelli	Certificate
BASIC LEVEL	A1	Level 1+, Level 2	CILS A1
	A2	Level 2+, Level 3	CILS A2
INDEPENDENT LEVEL	B1	Level 3+, Level 4	CILS B1
	B2	Level 5	CILS B2
PROFICIENT LEVEL	C1	Advanced C1	CILS C1
	C2	Advanced C2	CILS C2

## ● GROUP COURSES

Courses are for a minimum of 2 weeks, each lesson is 50 minutes and the maximum number of students per class is 12.

**Intensive A Course** - 4 lessons per day: divided into 2 modules, the first is focused on grammar and on syntax and the second on the development of vocabulary and on communication.

**Semi - Intensive B Course** - 2 lessons per day: study of grammatical structures and syntax, development of vocabulary and communication.

**Super - Intensive C Course** - 6 lessons per day, the first 2 lessons focus on grammar and syntax, the second 2 lessons on communication and the last 2 on improving skills, or on discussing specific cultural topics.

## ● PRIVATE COURSES

The courses are done in cycles of 10 lessons; each lesson is 50 minutes.

This language course was created for those with little time on their hands to study the language or those who have specific professional or study interests and wish to learn terms and structures related to their field.

"E" Commercial Italian

"F" History of art

"G" Lesson of grammar and communication

## OTHER COURSES

### ● FIRENZE NELL'ARTE

Practical courses in the workshops of artists and artisans. The courses are done in cycles of 24 hours and each lesson is 60 minutes. They are practical courses and are done in the artists studio. The lesson schedule is set between the artisan and the student. In the city centre where the school is situated, in the neighbourhoods of Santo Spirito and San Frediano, art and artisan workshops still operate producing objects and artifacts which are the fruit of refined workmanship and techniques that have been handed down for centuries. In the interest of promoting this inheritance we are, in collaboration with Florentine artists and artisans, offering a vast range of courses which allow participants to learn or refine artistic techniques by working in direct contact with these professionals in their workshops and, indirectly, to practice and broaden their knowledge of Italian language and culture through a motivated exchange.

### ● SOME OF OUR COURSES

FRESCO  
PAINTING  
DRAWING  
PAINTING REPRODUCTION  
SCULPTURE  
TROMPE L'OEIL  
POTTERY  
FLORENTINE MOSAIC  
LEATHER BAGS AND BELTS  
LEATHER SHOES  
FURNITURE RESTORATION  
RESTORATION OF PAINTINGS  
INTERIOR DESIGN AND WINDOW  
DRESSING



## MUSIC AND SINGING

Courses for lovers of opera and singers.  
Courses are done in cycles of 10 lessons and each lesson is 50 minutes.

### 'A' Diction course

Pronunciation, analysis and classification of Italian phonemes.

Performance of opera arias (with piano accompaniment): diction and interpretation of lyrics and characters.

### 'B' History of Italian Opera

From Monteverdi to Cilea: 400 years of history of Italian opera focusing on the major Italian composers (Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi, Mascagni, Leoncavallo and Puccini).

### 'C' Singing course

Technique and vocal emission.

Performance of opera arias (with soprano or tenor).  
Students may decide together with the teacher the course program according to their needs.



## ITALIAN COOKING

Courses, apprenticeships and workshops, in companies operating in the food and beverage industry.

For those who love Italian cuisine, Centro Machiavelli offers various types of courses, for beginners, intermediate and advanced in groups or individual. The courses are held by professionals from the wine and food industry in an environment which is professional yet friendly and located at a short walk from our school.

For information regarding programmes, duration, calendar and prices contact our office: [school@centromachiavelli.it](mailto:school@centromachiavelli.it)



● SPECIAL COURSES

**History of Art**

Courses are done in cycles of 10 lessons and each lesson is of 50 minutes.  
Two-hour introductory lesson obligatory for those with no previous experience.  
Lessons include lectures with slides, books and/or other printed material, as well as guided visits to specific places of interest in the city and to its works of art. The lessons are in Italian and teachers are official tour guides authorized by the town of Florence.

**SA1 From the Middle ages to the early Renaissance**



photo by Katrin Wegener

**SA2 From early Renaissance to late Renaissance**

**SA3 The Cinquecento**

**SA4 Mannerist Art.**

**SA5 The 1600's**

**Thematic courses**  
(pertaining to art history)

Courses are done in cycles of 5 lessons with lectures and guided visits; each lesson is of 50 minutes.

photo by Katrin Wegener



**Latin language**

Minimum course of 12 hours, each lesson is 50 minutes.

Participants are required to have an intermediate level of Italian. (B1 of CEFR- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).  
Relationship between the Italian and Latin languages: origins, transformations. The noun and its logical functions, the verb, the Latin sentence.  
Great Latin authors: their period, their prose and their poems.



For detailed information regarding the courses of this programme, consult our site:  
**[www.centromachiavelli.it](http://www.centromachiavelli.it)**

## **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND SEMINARS**

Centro Machiavelli offers its students extracurricular activities, some free and others not, which take place outside normal lesson time. They are activities aimed at assisting students in understanding modern day reality in Italy, appreciating its historic and artistic patrimony and helping them to orient themselves in the city, the country and the culture. The activities also have a clear social function, creating occasions for exchange amongst students from different classes who meet and speak Italian in an authentic rather than an artificial situation. On request by students seminar topics can be extended into short courses with conditions and prices to be established according to each case. The school tape and video library which includes many classic Italian films can be used by students in the afternoon.

### **THE SCHOOL OFFERS THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Seminars on historic and artistic topics and visits to the major points of interest in and around the city**

- \* Introduction to the city: cultural events and services
- \* Walks through the historic centre
- \* Visits to the many museums and churches
- \* Excursions to villas and gardens in the outlying areas of the city
- \* Visits to temporary exhibits and shows of major interest
- \* Visits to Siena, Lucca, Volterra e San Gimignano

#### **Seminars and visits to understand the social economic makeup of the city and the surrounding area.**

- \* History of the city
- \* Economy of Florence and the surrounding area
- \* Urban development
- \* Visits to artisan workshops and to historic shops
- \* Visits to companies working in the fashion industry
- \* Visits to wineries and to farms producing oil and wine

Lessons and seminars are held at school with the use of textbooks, slides and videos.

#### **Recreational activities**

##### **(more frequent in the summer months).**

- \* Workshop of crafts or cooking
- \* Walks in the countryside
- \* Excursions to the seaside
- \* Excursions by bike
- \* Dinners and concerts

In summer the activities are in part linked to the programme offered by the town of Florence and to the opera season at the Arena in Verona.

The activities of the first two types are free; students cover their own personal expenses such as museum entrance or bus fare. Seminars and visits are held in Italian using language that can be easily followed by foreigners, with brief translations for absolute beginners.



# ACCOMMODATION

## ● ACCOMMODATION

The school offers various options for accommodation for the duration of the course. Single or double rooms with use of the kitchen or half-board (breakfast and dinner). The apartments are shared with families, single adults, or Italian or foreign students. The apartments are centrally located, within walking distance of the school or a short bus ride away. The complete independence from public transport is especially useful at night when returning home from bars, concerts, theaters, restaurants and parties. The school can also help with requests for other types of accommodation such as studio apartments or multiple room apartments as well as rooms in hotels of different categories.



# SERVICES

## ● FREE SERVICES

- Preparation of documentation and assistance for visa applications, residence permit upon arrival in Florence and subsequent renewals.
- Assistance in travel and accommodation arrangements throughout Italy.
- Organization of language study visits through TANDEM International in Europe and Latin America.
- Organization of linguistic and cultural exchanges, called "Tandem" with Italians learning the language of the person they are put in touch with.
- Free access to the wifi network
- Free access to our collection of Italian films to watch at home or at school.



## ● PAID SERVICE

Transport to and from Florence Airport available upon request.



## MAP OF FLORENCE



### Our awards, certifications and accreditations



Officially acknowledged  
by the Ministry of Education  
(Prot. N° 3762)



Centrala studiestödsnämnden



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deutsche Arbeitnehmer



Education and Culture DG



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