



Foodie day in Florence

24 hours in the capital of Tuscany, packed into one glorious, gluttonous day

7:30am – Start with a classic breakfast of cappuccino and a *cornetto* (an Italian croissant) at **Caffè Scudieri** (scudieri.eu), a Florentine institution dating from 1939. Jacketed waiters serve breakfast at the marble bar (saving you both euros and time), or sit outside and enjoy the view of Florence's famed Duomo.

8:00am – Head north to the **Mercato di San Lorenzo** (mercatocentralefirenze.wordpress.com), one of the city's oldest markets, brimming with gourmet food products from across Italy, such as olive-studded focaccia, aged cheeses and fresh tripe. (*Monday-Friday 7am-2pm, Saturday until 5pm*). Continue on to the **Galleria dell'Accademia**, which houses Michelangelo's masterpiece sculpture, David. Avoid long lines by prebooking. (b-ticket.com, *Tuesday-Sunday, 8:15am – 6:50pm, €8*).

10:00am – Return to Florence's celebrated Duomo (officially known as the Cathedral of **Santa Maria del Fiore**). Climb the 463 stairs up Brunelleschi's 15th century dome to be rewarded with a closer look at the stunning frescos inside and a 360-degree panorama outside. (*Free, 10am-4:30pm most days*) Take time to visit the adjacent baptistery and bell tower.

11:00am – Walk to Piazza della Signoria and the **Palazzo Vecchio** (museivicicifiorentini.comune.fi.it) once the home of the ruling Medici family, offering a glimpse of medieval life in Florence. The museum is open daily: a basic visit is €10, with all kinds of optional add-ons, including archeological ruins, family tours and more.

12:30pm – Stop at **All'Antico Vinaio** (facebook.com/AllAnticoVinaio) for €5 *panini* crafted on fragrant bread, and stuffed with specialties such as earthy truffle spread, spicy homemade eggplant and *sbriciolona*, a Tuscan salami. Top it off with ice cream from family-run **Gelateria dei Neri** (gelateriadeneri) just down the street. Ricotta with fig is a favorite flavor of foodies.

1:15pm – From the *gelateria* it is a block to the **Basilica di Santa Croce**. Italian luminaries Michelangelo, Galileo and Machiavelli are buried here, and the interior boasts frescoes by Gaddi and Giotto. (santacroceopera.it, *Monday-Saturday 9:30am-5:30pm, €6*)

3:00pm – If your energy is flagging, pop into modern coffeehouse **Ditta Artiginiale** (dittaartigianale.it) for a single-origin espresso, before heading to the famed **Uffizi Gallery**. The heart of its collection are the Renaissance pieces by the likes of Lippi, Botticelli, Da Vinci and Caravaggio. (b-ticket.com, *Tuesday-Sunday, 8:15 am–6:50 pm, €8*)

6:00pm – No trip to Florence would be complete without a stroll across the **Ponte Vecchio** (Old Bridge). Spanning the Arno River since 1345, the bridge is lined with jewelers, art dealers and souvenir vendors.

7:00pm – Just across the Ponte Vecchio is **Le Volpi e l'Uva** (levolpieluva.com), the perfect place to rest your feet and sip a glass of wine. Try a vintage from one of the many small producers carried, accompanied by a *crostone* (thick slices of Tuscan bread topped by epicurean delicacies such as Asiago cheese, truffles, and lardo).

9:00pm – For a luxe dinner, book a table at the Michelin-starred **La Bottega del Buon Caffè** (borgointhecity.com), where tasting menus start at €95, and gourmet pastas are €30. For a great meal at wallet-friendly prices, visit **Il Latini** (illatini.com), where traditional Tuscan dishes such as *ribollita* soup and Florentine steak are the fare.

11:30pm – The quirky **Mayday Club** (maydayclub.it) serves up art installations, poetry readings and live music, alongside specialty cocktails prepared with house-made infusions and fresh juice. Try any of the twists on the Florentine-born *Negroni* (gin, vermouth and Campari). For artisan beer and more craft cocktails, head to recently-opened **Lo Sverso** (losverso.firenze), not far from the San Lorenzo market.



Ditta Artiginiale



Mercato di San Lorenzo

Ponte Vecchio



Uffizi Gallery



La Bottega del Buon Caffè



Mayday Club



Caffè Scudieri

Gelateria dei Neri



Palazzo Vecchio

Basilica di Santa Croce

