



PRESS RELEASE

Palazzo Portinari Salviati a treasure chest of art, a site that is a part of Florence's history and a period residence

Florence - At Palazzo Portinari Salviati one breathes art and history. The frescoes by Allori, the sixteenth-century architecture and the echoes of personalities who made Florence great coexist in harmony with the **period residence** in the fascinating rooms of this artistic jewel just a stone's throw from the Duomo. After more than a decade of neglect and four years of work to restore 12,000 square metres of interiors, the **LDC Group reopens one of Florence's most prestigious historic buildings to the public.**

The restoration has brought back to life the ***Court of Cosimo I***, the ***Court of the Emperors***. All of them spaces of rare evocativeness and elegance preserving splendid **fresco cycles dedicated to the Odyssey and the Labours of Hercules**, painted by **Alessandro Allori** and his assistants between 1574 and 1576. The main floor, with its original frescoed or coffered ceilings (where the fifteenth-century decorations with the *Portinari coat of arms*, a door between two rampant lions, are still visible), has been completely restored and will house an **exclusive period residence with thirteen elegant suites**, furnished with antiques purchased at international auctions and other works of art, including some important portraits of personalities linked to the history of the Palazzo (Maria de Medici, Francesco I de Medici, Alemanno Salviati, etc.) who thus return to Florence. In the part of the building with no historical or artistic elements, prestigious apartments have been created for residential use.

The Historical Residence - Each of the 13 exclusive suites of Palazzo Portinari Salviati represents a real journey through history, among precious frescoes, decorated ceilings, Italian marbles and original Tuscan terracotta floors. A sort of "Hotel-Museum", which since its inauguration in April 2022 has already welcomed many guests from the USA, Europe and the Middle East, who have had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the exclusive atmosphere of this iconic place which belongs to the history and tradition of Florence. Each suite is dedicated to personalities linked to the history of the Palazzo or to that of Florence and Tuscany, from Frederick IV of Denmark, who was a guest, to Galileo who inspired the suite on the top floor with a magnificent view of the Duomo. And of course, the largest suites in the residence are named after Dante Alighieri and his muse Beatrice.



The philosophy that inspires the Palazzo Portinari Salviati project is captured perfectly by the tag line "Your Place in History", an invitation to become part of a centuries-long history, enlivened by the events of noble families and the lives of the most famous personalities of Florence's past. There is a precise desire to "recover, restore beauty" to the community, making a priceless treasure, left in oblivion for too long, available to Florentines and foreign customers.

Vita Nova SPA - With 500 m2 of luxurious rooms set in the ancient basements of the building, the Vita Nova Spa offers a heated swimming pool with hydromassage, sauna, Turkish bath, fitness area, relaxation area and three rooms for treatments and beauty rituals formulated exclusively with high quality raw materials and evident regenerating properties from "Seed to Skin Tuscany", a spa line that effectively combines the ancient tradition of Phyto cosmetics with advanced molecular science.

The **Emperors' Court and adjoining rooms** are the realm of star chef Vito Mollica. **ATTO di Vito Mollica** restaurant, **Salotto Portinari Bar & Bistrot** and **Eye Cocktail bar** are a true destination for lovers of *bon vivre*.

THE PAST - The *casa nuova* – new house – is the first nucleus of the *palazzo* built in the second half of the fifteenth century by the heirs of Folco Portinari, the father of Beatrice, unifying the complex of houses where Dante's muse had spent her childhood and youth. This is why **the history of the building brings to mind the famous encounter between the great poet and Beatrice, narrated by Dante himself in *La Vita Nova***. It was the brothers Pigello, Acerrito and Tommaso Portinari who completed the *palazzo* in the last decades of the fifteenth century, using the fortunes they had built up with the Medici banks in Venice, Milan and Bruges (posts entrusted to them also by Lorenzo the Magnificent). One of the brothers, Tommaso, commissioned the famous triptych with the *Adoration of the Shepherds*, now in the Uffizi Gallery, from the Flemish painter Hugo van der Goes. We do not know the authors of the monumental parts of the *palazzo* dating back to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, but "they must have been men of great talent and artists of uncommon value", writes Guido Pampaloni, who mentions the great architect Michelozzo, with whom the Acerrimo brothers and Pigello cultivated a deep and lasting relationship. It was Michelozzo who restored the façade and home of the two Portinari and designed the *Portinari chapel* in Sant'Eustorgio, repeating the square structure of the sacristy of San Lorenzo in Florence.

With the economic decline of the family, in 1538 the entire property passed to the Spedale di Santa Maria Nuova. **In 1546, Jacopo Salviati** – related to Cosimo I de' Medici through his father Alamanno – purchased the *palazzo* and a group of adjoining houses that were to be incorporated into a large expansion project. The *palazzo* – as confirmed by testimonies of the time – was sumptuous not only for its architecture but also for the excellence of its pictorial cycles and the rarity of its collections, which brought together the protagonists of the artistic scene of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries: Donatello, Verrocchio, Cellini and Bronzino. **Today the splendid rooms frescoed by Allori, the Emperor's Court and the adjoining rooms and the chapel dedicated to Mary Magdalene remain.**



Palazzo
Portinari Salviati

YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY

In 1768, Duke Anton Maria Salviati sold the *palazzo* to Cavalier Niccolò Serguidi for 18,000 scudi. In the following centuries the complex changed hands several times. During the period of Florence as capital of the newly united Italy it housed the Ministry of Justice, and in 1921 it became the headquarters of the Banca Toscana.

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