

a school with a view...



FLORENCE AND THE ISLAND OF ELBA



WELCOME TO FLORENCE

A rich historical legacy as well as vibrant contemporary developments make Florence one of the most famous cities in the world. Here was born and continued to evolve the Italian language. During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance Florence became a world cultural centre where artists, architects, writers and scholars did things rarely, if ever, equalled. The evidence of these achievements is still present all over Florence in its palaces, squares, churches, monuments and museums. The view of the town from Piazzale Michelangelo is something unforgettable.

Today Florence is an active commercial centre for business and banking, for the production of leather goods and clothing, as well as for fashion design. The perfect dimension of a "town made to man's measure," Florence counts less than 500,000 inhabitants.

At the same time its innumerable artistic treasures and the natural beauties of the Tuscan countryside attract many people from all over the world to come to Florence as their place for an unforgettable combination of learning and pleasure.

After a busy day, the numerous and characteristic restaurants, bars, and nightclubs of Florence offer both residents and visitors a pleasant and animated way to meet people and make new friendships.



*....and there emerged Florence,
a magic city where people
thought and did the most extraordinary things....*

E.M.Forster "A room with a view"



... AND TO CENTRO FIORENZA *in Florence*

Founded in 1982 the CENTRO FIORENZA has its premises right in the centre of the historic city, in a prestigious seventeenth century palace. From windows overlooking the river Arno one can enjoy a delightful view of Florence and the famous Ponte Vecchio.

The 10 classrooms, all air- conditioned are spacious, bright and comfortably furnished.

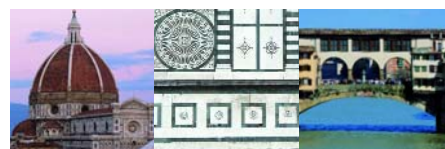
The teachers, young, friendly, and motivated, all with a university degree, are trained to teach Italian as a foreign language, using the most up-to-date teaching techniques.

The medium size of the school, 120/130 students during the peak months with the class limited to 12 students, permits our teaching staff a personalized control of each student and offers the possibility, even to beginner students, to acquire, in a short time, that clear view of the language necessary to face all the situations of daily-life.

One of the school's main characteristics, which is much appreciated by students, is its friendly atmosphere that is established right from the first day with a "welcome party" for students, teachers and management staff.

Students at CENTRO FIORENZA do not feel like "foreign tourists", but rather part of a lively international family.

Centro Fiorenza is under the Patronage of Florence's Town Hall, is officially recognised by the Italian Ministry of Education, by the Swedish CSN and is a founding member of ASILS and PROFIL.





THE TEAM

SISSY SEIWALD. Founding partner and Administrator of Centro Fiorenza. Of Austrian origin, Sissy has lived in Italy since 1974 and speaks fluent Italian, German and English. Thanks to many years as the director of the school, she has extensive experience in the field of language education. One of her main responsibilities is the organization and supervising of the school's daily life.

AUGUSTO MERLINI. In 1982 he founded, together with Sissy, the Centro Fiorenza. A Certificate of Education in Business and a University degree in Foreign Languages and Literatures gives him the possibility of experimenting with both sides of this work. He started as a teacher and then continued as marketing and promotion director for Centro Fiorenza.

FRANCESCA PUGLISI. With a University degree in Pedagogy at the University of Florence, Francesca started in 1988 working at the school as a teacher. Her passion for the Italian language and her constant attendance at refresher courses keep her always updated on the most modern teaching techniques. She has earned the Certificate for Teaching Italian to Foreigners (DITALS). Since 1994 she has been the director of study and responsible for teacher training at Centro Fiorenza.

MARTINA BALZER. In 1989 as a young German student, Martina studied Italian at Centro Fiorenza and after completing her study remained as one of the staff-members. General administration, bookings, payments and students' accommodations are her responsibilities. Martina is fluent in Italian, English and German.

Centro
Fiorenza
*offers a wide
selection of
language and
culture courses,
both group or one-
to-one, to give
everyone the
opportunity to select
the type of course
most suitable to
their need.*





THE COURSES & LEVELS

In accordance with the Common European Framework, we offer training in 12 levels of knowledge of the Italian language, ranging from "complete beginner" "to proficient". The last levels, 11 and 12 (corresponding to CEF C2), will be offered upon specific request. In order to place students in the right level, a written and oral test is administered on the first day of the course. To monitor a student's progress and advance in the various levels, each student will be asked to sit for a final level test.

INTENSIVE GROUP COURSES

- 20 LESSONS/WEEK
- 24 LESSONS/WEEK
- 30 LESSONS/WEEK

The normal time required, to complete one level, is 4 weeks but it is also possible to attend a course for shorter periods. Lessons last 50 minutes each and are held from Monday to Friday. Class-sizes are limited to 12 students (average 7/8).
DURATION: 1 - 48 WEEKS

COMBINED COURSE

- 20 GROUP LESSONS + 5 INDIVIDUAL LESSONS/WEEK
- 20 GROUP LESSONS + 10 INDIVIDUAL LESSONS/WEEK

This combination of group and individual lessons at an attractive price is ideal for those who wish to get the maximum profit from their study sejour or for those who, for professional reasons, need to deal with specific topics in the Italian language.
DURATION: 2 - 36 WEEKS

BUSINESS ITALIAN COURSE

- 10 LESSONS/WEEK
(PARTICULARLY DEDICATED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS AND THEIR RELEVANT TERMINOLOGY.)

Designed for those who are already professionally involved in business and international trade as well as for university or college students. The aim of this course is to develop a student's abilities in active communication, both oral and written, with regard to professional situations. This course can be attended independently or in combination with another group or individual course. An intermediate level of Italian is requested.
DURATION: 2, 3 AND 4 WEEKS



THE NEW COURSES IN FLORENCE

EXAMINATION COURSE

- 24 GROUP LESSONS/WEEKS FOR 8 WEEKS +
- 20 GROUP LESSONS + 5 INDIVIDUAL LESSONS/WEEK FOR 4 WEEKS +
- FINAL EXAMINATION CENTRO FIORENZA

This "package" gives students the opportunity to prepare, in a relatively short time, to sit for the various official Italian examinations like CILS, CELI, PLIDA, IT.

DURATION: 12 WEEKS

LANGUAGE & CULTURE COURSE

- 20 ITALIAN LESSONS + 4 CULTURE LESSONS/WEEK

This course offers the student the opportunity to study the language and to get to know the various aspects of Italian History and culture touching such topics as: The Italian Peninsula and the Italians; Italian language and its dialects; The political system pre and post war; Italian society; Classical and pop music; Famous Italian men and women of the past and present; Italian life style; Cinema and other media; Regional traditions and folklore; The conflict between North and South Italy and the Mafia; The history of Italy in the Twentieth century.

An Intermediate level of Italian is requested.

DURATION: 2 - 48 WEEKS.

50 PLUS COURSE

- 15 ITALIAN LESSONS/WEEK + 4 CULTURE PROGRAM

In Florence or on the Island of Elba. 2 week language courses combined with a rich cultural program particularly tailored for mature but always "evergreen" persons. An Elementary level of Italian is requested.

DURATION: 2 WEEKS

ONE-TO-ONE TUITION

- 10 - 50 LESSONS/WEEK

For many years important international firms have been sending their managerial and office staff for language training. These demanding and flexible programmes are individually tailored and supervised by a special member of our staff.

Students can book weekly modules and, upon request, lessons can also take place on weekends. Each lesson lasts 50 minutes.

DURATION: 1 OR MORE WEEKS.

- Cooking Courses and various Studio Art Courses (painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramic, etc.)

Contemporary Jewellery Courses

For those who after completing their education in Italian language wish to specialise in the creation of Contemporary Jewellery, we recommend "ALCHIMIA", a small and highly professional school located near Centro Fiorenza.

More detailed information is available at our secretary's office.

GRAMMAR CLINIC

One day per week (usually on Tuesday from 18,00 to 20,00) one of teachers is at the complete disposition of students to help them solve any didactic problem that may have appeared in class. These 2 lessons/week are **free of charge**.





CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS

Internal Exams and Certificates:

Certificate of Attendance - issued at the end of the course to all the students who have regularly attended their lessons.

Certificate of Knowledge of Italian - available for all those students who, after completing the Intermediate level, wish to sit for an examination.
CENTRO FIRENZA Italian Language Diploma - available for all those students who, after completing the Superior level, wish to sit for an examination.

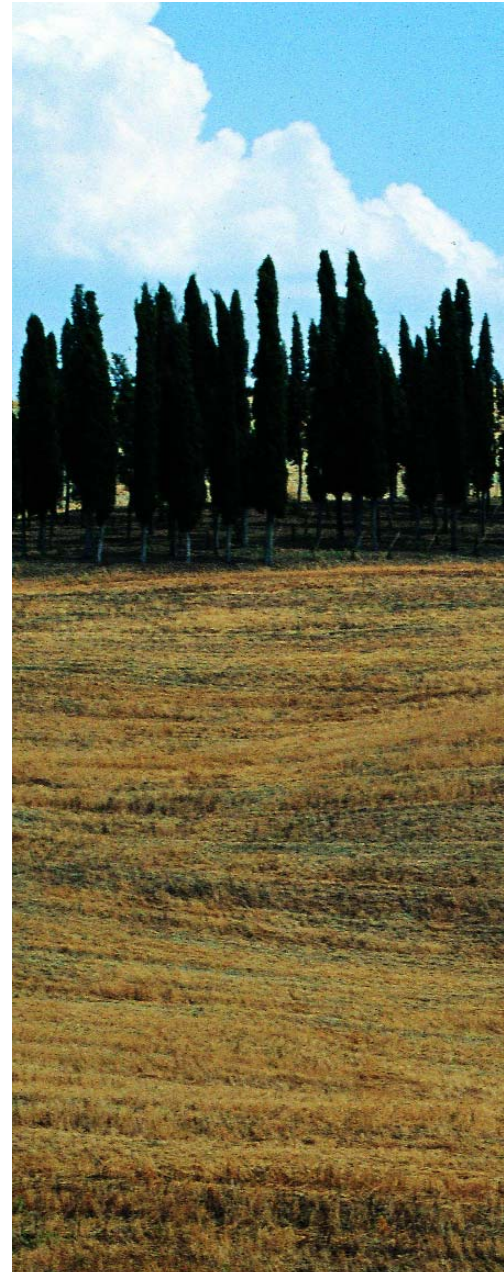
CILS Examination (University for Foreigners of Siena)

In accordance with a Convention with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Università per Stranieri di Siena is authorized to award a Certificate of Italian as a Foreign Language. Centro Fiorenza officially accepts applications, and is an accredited training centre for those who wish to prepare for the CILS examination. The CILS covers four levels: ONE, TWO, THREE and FOUR. To obtain the Certificate in one of the four levels, it is necessary to pass an exam composed of five sections with tests in listening comprehension, reading comprehension, analyses and structure of communication, writing skills and oral skills.

CILS exams are held in June and December in Siena, **Florence**, Rome, Milan and all Italian Culture Institutes abroad which are CILS members.

Other Exams:

Centro Fiorenza also prepares students for other Certificates issued by different Italian Universities as the CELI examination (Università per Stranieri di Perugia) or IT examination (Univeristà di Roma Tre) or other institutions.





LEISURE ACTIVITIES

No chance of getting bored in Florence! The city offers so many opportunities for culture and fun that quite often one has an embarrassment of choice.

At the beginning of each course, all students are given a detailed program guide listing the most interesting events that they can take part in during their stay.

For each course the school organizes **guided visits** to museums, monuments and places of special historic and artistic interest; **excursions** to find out more about the many famous places near Florence - Siena, Pisa, Lucca, Volterra, S.Gimignano and the beautiful Chianti hills, - are some of the most popular among our students; **cinema** at school, a way to learn Italian and the Italian way-of-life through a rich selection of famous Italian films; **concerts** of classical, jazz and rock music, **ballets, opera** and **theatre**, and the famous annual music festival Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

Finally, for the pleasure of being together, the school organizes evenings eating out at restaurants, going to nightclubs and piano bars, sports including volley-ball, football and tennis. In all these activities students are accompanied by members of the teaching or social staff of the school.

ACCOMMODATION

The Centro Fiorenza provides all its students with a service for finding accommodation during their stay at school. The following options are available:

- **Homestay**: single or double rooms with breakfast or halfboard (breakfast and dinner).
- Shared Student Apartments : single or double rooms with kitchen and bathroom to share with other students.
- **Independent Apartment (standard category)** : Small fully furnished studios for 1 or 2 persons including kitchen and bathroom.
- **Apartments of higher categories**: comfortable studios for 1 – 3 people with kitchenette, bathroom, TV, some are air-conditioned. Availability: 1 week or more
- **Residence**: Air-conditioned one-room studios for 1 or 2 persons with kitchenette, bathroom, TV and telephone. Cleaning service twice a week.
- **Hotels** : The school can book rooms for students in hotels of 3 or 4 stars. Prices on request.



WELCOME TO THE ISLAND OF ELBA

“A green garden set in a blue sea”. This is the unforgettable view you have when arriving at the island by ferry or plane. Located in Tuscany, only two hours away from Florence, Elba is the third largest island of Italy, following Sicily and Sardinia. Its 224 square km offer an astonishing variety of landscapes: rolling hills covered by a green carpet of vegetation the whole year round, climbing gently to Monte Capanne (1019 m). From this vantage point, which you can reach by cable-car, you will admire pine forests, ancient chestnut trees and oaks, eucalyptus and century plants right down to the sea shore. The island's 150 km of sea shore, with its sandy bays and delightful coves and clean sea water teeming with life, are the ideal location for those who love to bathe and fish. The weather on Elba is mild all year and never unpleasantly hot in summer.

Elba also has a rich and varied history that goes back to the Stone Age. It was known to the Greeks by the name of Aethalia, and in later times Etruscans and Romans settled there and exploited its rich mines full of minerals and iron. In more recent times, thanks to its strategic position, the island was contended between the Great Powers. Napoleon lived in exile here in 1814-15.

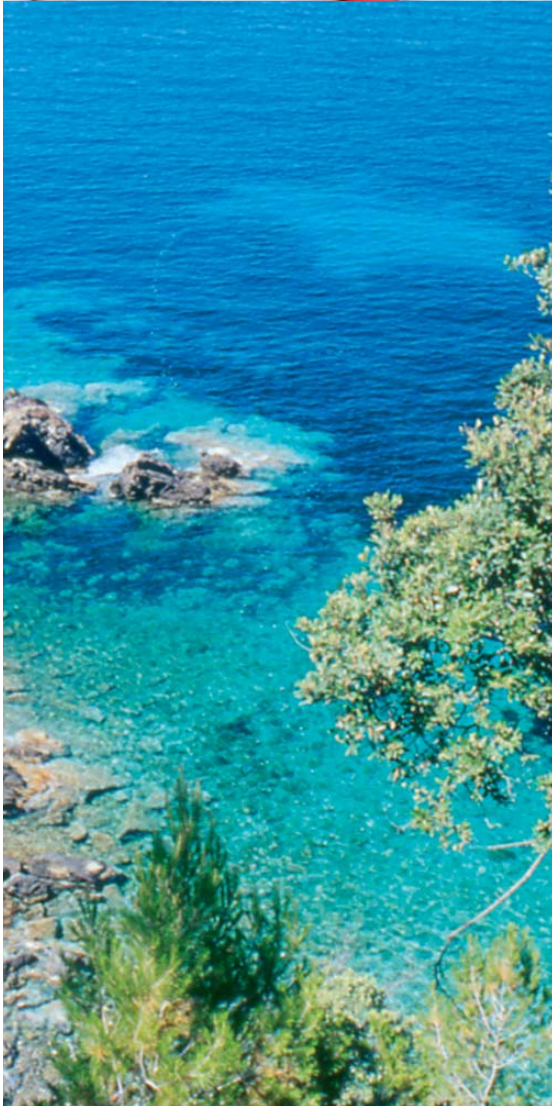
Reminders of its rich past are scattered here and there on the island and also in collections of Elba's interesting museums.

If you leave the beaches and take a walk along the roads, you will also immediately feel the atmosphere of peace that pervades such fishing villages as Marciana Marina and Porto Azzurro, or hill villages like Poggio, Marciana and Capoliveri. In the friendliness and simplicity of its inhabitants you can catch something of the old traditions.





... AND TO CENTRO FIORENZA *on the Island of Elba*



THE SCHOOL

Centro Fiorenza's branch on the Island of Elba keeps all the characteristics of friendliness and professional standards that distinguish the school in Florence. The school is located in Marciana Marina, on the north-west coast, few minutes from the beautiful bay of Procchio. Marciana Marina is an enchanting fishermen village where one can still taste the atmosphere of the past . To get the most out of Elba's mild climate, classes, conducted by the same expert teachers of Florence, are usually held outdoors, in secluded and shady spots.

The school is based at the Hotel Tamerici, a 3-star superior hotel with a very pleasant, friendly atmosphere and is open from May to October with group or individual courses, and offers a rich social program including sport and leisure activities.

THE COURSES

INTENSIVE GROUP COURSES

- 20 LESSONS/WEEK – BASIC INTENSIVE COURSE
- 30 LESSONS/WEEK – BASIC INTENSIVE COURSE + CONVERSATION COURSE

In order to place students in the right level, a written and oral test is administered at the beginning of the course. Each lesson lasts 50 min. Class sizes are limited to 10 students (average 4/6).

The Conversation course can only be booked in combination with another course.

DURATION: 1, 2 OR MORE WEEKS

COMBINED COURSE

- 20 GROUP LESSONS + 10 INDIVIDUAL LESSONS/WEEK

Ideal for participants who want to make the most of their stay or for those who, for professional reasons, have to learn specific aspects of the Italian language.

DURATION: 1, 2 OR MORE WEEKS

ONE TO ONE TUITION

- 10 - 30 LESSONS/WEEK

Individual lessons can start at any time. Personalized programs on specific subjects (economics, politics, sciences and humanities, etc.) can be pre-arranged to meet the exigencies of the students. Each lesson lasts 50 minutes. Upon request lessons can be held also on Saturdays.

DURATION: 1 OR MORE WEEKS

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

The free time on the Island of Elba will give students a wide choice of opportunities. The school organizes visits to the most picturesque spots on the island, excursions into the hills, boat trips, guided visits to interesting museums. Sport lovers can choose amongst tennis, golf, sailing, windsurfing, diving, horse riding, mountain-biking, jogging.

ACCOMMODATION

Different types of accommodation have been selected to make participants feel as comfortable as possible during their stay.

Single or double rooms with breakfast or half-board in hotels of different categories and apartments in Marciana Marina.

Accommodation is also available in Procchio and its beautiful sandy beach.

Prices vary according to the season. For more details please check the price-list or contact our secretary's office.

HOW TO REACH ELBA

By **Train**: from Florence by the "Freccia dell'Elba" that brings you to the port of Piombino. You can also get off at Campiglia Marittima, which is on the main Genoa-Pisa-Rome line, and from there you have a 20 min. ride on the local train to the port of Piombino.

By **Car**: motorway Milano-Parma-La Spezia-Livorno-Roma or Genoa-La Spezia-Livorno-Roma or Milano-Bologna-Firenze-Livorno-Roma, exit Rosignano. Then follow the highway, direction Grosseto til the exit Piombino-Isola d'Elba.

By **Bus**: This is an efficient and economic way to travel to Elba from various European countries - for details contact your local travel agent.

By **Plane**: Direct flight connections to the island airport in Marina di Campo (loc. La Pila) from various European countries - for more details contact your local travel agent.

By **Ferry**: A good ferry service runs between Piombino and Portoferraio many times a day. The crossing takes one hour. Marciana Marina can be reached either by bus or by taxi.

For those who wish to move around the island independently we advise renting a car or a motor bike. If you are coming to Elba by car, it is a good idea to book the passage on the ferry in advance. If asked for in time, the school's office will do this for you on request. No advance booking necessary for passengers only.



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