## **FLORENCE CONCIERGE**

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# MY PERFECT DAY IN FLORENCE

Alessandro Marchese Chef Concierge at the Hotel Helvetia & Bristol shares his tips on how to make the most of your trip.

### Tell us about one of Florence's hidden gems:

I like suggesting a visit to the Secret Passages in Palazzo Vecchio. The activity allows one to visit some particular and precious places: among them the stairway built within the thick walls by Gualtieri di Brienne; the Studiolo (little studio) of Francesco I de' Medici, a very elegant treasure "of rare and precious things", and the Scrittoio (writing desk) of his father Cosimo I; to conclude the huge trussed structure that supports the paneled ceiling of the Salone del Cinquecento.

#### Tell us about your favorite view of Florence

Giotto bell tower: after the 414step climb there is a large terrace at the top, that functions as a panoramic roof. It is the final feature in Talenti's design, replacing a spire in Giotto's original plan. Measuring 84.7 meters tall and approximately 15 meters wide, the bell tower is the most eloquent example of 14th Century Gothic architecture in Florence, combining a strong vertical thrust with the principle of sound solidity.

#### Your Perfect Day

For a perfect day I suggest an exciting flight in helicopter for a panoramic tour of the city, its architectural beauty and the beautiful surrounding countryside with a final landing in the beautiful Tenuta Torciano in the Chianti hills for a light but tasty lunch in the country where guests can en-

joy a delicious wine tasting experience in the vineyards or in the wonderful garden of this luxury winery on the Tuscan hills over San Gimignano.

Back in Florence, a relaxing inroom massage and a romantic dinner at the Helvetia & Bristol Hotel inside restaurant. The brand new restaurant in the exceptional Winter Garden of the hotel will bring you in a journey through the authentic flavors of Italy.

The talented and singular Chef Pasquale D'Ambrosio offers a contemporary Italian cuisine inspired by the local daily market and associates divinely flavors to make you spend a wonderful and unforgettable experience which offers authentic, seasonal Italian dishes with a modern twist and a special emphasis on authentic local recipes, accompanied by the finest Italian and international wines.



