

# Florence Shopping Guide: Carol Senatore, A Local's Perspective



## Florence Shopping Guide by Carol Senatore

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, is a city steeped in history, culture, and art. But beyond its iconic landmarks and world-renowned museums, Florence is also a shopper's paradise, offering a tantalizing array of boutiques, artisan workshops, and local markets.

To help you navigate the city's vibrant fashion scene, we've teamed up with Carol Senatore, a local style expert and the founder of the popular fashion blog, The Florentine.

Carol has an intimate knowledge of Florence's hidden gems, from exclusive boutiques showcasing emerging designers to traditional workshops where skilled artisans create exquisite handmade goods.

In this comprehensive guide, Carol shares her insider tips for an unforgettable shopping experience in the heart of Tuscany.

## Exclusive Boutiques

Florence is home to a number of exclusive boutiques that stock the latest collections from top designers, as well as up-and-coming local talent.

- **Luisa Via Roma:** This iconic boutique is a must-visit for fashionistas from around the world. It stocks a carefully curated selection of luxury brands, including Gucci, Prada, and Saint Laurent.
- **Boutique Nadine:** This intimate boutique is known for its eclectic mix of emerging designers and vintage pieces. It's the perfect place to find unique and stylish clothing, jewelry, and accessories.
- **Pitti Uomo:** This biannual trade show is one of the most important events in the fashion industry. It attracts buyers and designers from around the world, and it's a great opportunity to get a sneak peek at the latest trends.

## Artisan Workshops

Florence is also home to a number of traditional artisan workshops, where skilled craftsmen create exquisite handmade goods.

- **Il Bisonte:** This iconic leather goods workshop has been creating high-quality bags, wallets, and other accessories since 1970. Their products are made from the finest Italian leather and are renowned for their durability and style.
- **Manifattura Richard Ginori:** This historic porcelain factory has been producing exquisite tableware and decorative pieces since 1735. Their products are made from the finest materials and are decorated with intricate designs.

- **Bottega del Profumo:** This charming perfume shop is a great place to find unique and artisanal fragrances. They offer a wide range of scents, from classic to contemporary.

## Local Markets

Florence is home to a number of lively local markets, where you can find everything from fresh produce to handmade crafts.

- **Mercato Centrale:** This indoor market is a great place to find fresh food, local produce, and artisanal products. It's also a great place to grab a bite to eat or a cup of coffee.
- **Mercato delle Cascine:** This outdoor market is held every Tuesday and Saturday. It's a great place to find antiques, vintage clothing, and handmade crafts.
- **Mercato di San Lorenzo:** This market is located in the heart of Florence and is a great place to find leather goods, souvenirs, and jewelry.

## Insider Tips

Here are a few insider tips from Carol Senatore to help you make the most of your shopping experience in Florence:

- **Visit during the shoulder seasons** (April-May and September-October) to avoid the crowds and take advantage of sales.
- **Do your research** before you go and make a list of the boutiques and workshops you want to visit.
- **Be prepared to bargain**, especially at the local markets.

- **Take advantage of the tax refund** for non-EU residents.
- **Pack light** so you have plenty of room for your shopping.

Florence is a shopper's paradise, offering a tantalizing array of boutiques, artisan workshops, and local markets. With its rich history and vibrant fashion scene, Florence is the perfect place to find unique and stylish pieces that you'll cherish for years to come.

So what are you waiting for? Start planning your shopping trip to Florence today!



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