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Four-course dinner generously underwritten by Spiaggia

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Lead Auctioneer, Steven Zick

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Opera selections kindly underwritten by Friends of Florence, Gretchen Bodum and Ron Sipiora

For its assistance in arranging this evening’s performance, Friends of Florence thanks
The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, Dan Novak - Manager
Celebration of the 2012 re-opening of La Tribuna degli Uffizi

Reception

Dinner

Opening Remarks
Dr. William R. Cook

Guest of Honor
Marchese Piero Antinori

Opera Selections
Angela Mannino, Soprano
Paul Corona, Bass-Baritone
Laurann Gilley, Pianist

Live Auction
Steven J. Zick, Christie’s

Tribute
Contessa Simonetta Brandolini d’Adda

Door Prize Drawings
Menu

HORS D’OEUVRES

ARANCINI with black truffles and parmigiano reggiano with brown butter
CROSTINI with mozzarella and olive oil cured pachino tomatoes
BEEF CARPACCIO with tuscan pecorino on crostini
CROSTINI with chicken liver mousse and fruit compote
Montenisa Brut Franciacorta D.O.C.G.
Tormaresca 2010 Chardonnay Puglia I.G.T.

ANTIPASTI

SALMONE AL CORALLO ROSSO
Charred onion cured king salmon with Pugliese burrata cheese, pickled red okra, cherry tomato, and chickpea crisps
Antinori 2010 Guado al Tasso Vermentino Bolgheri D.O.C.

PANE

ASSORTED ITALIAN BREADS AND ROLLS

LE PASTE

AGNOLOTTI DEL PLIN CON POLLINE DI FINOCCHIO
Veal filled pasta with fennel pollen and crispy veal breast
Antinori 2007 Tignanello Toscana I.G.T.

PIATTI PRINCIPALI

GUANCIA DI MAIALE CON POLENTA E MOSTARDA DI MELE
Braised pork cheek with apple mostarda and creamy roasted polenta
Antica Napa Valley 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon

DOLCI

MOUSSE DI RICOTTA CON UVA, PISTACCHIO, E MIELE DI GIRASOLE
Vanilla bean ricotta mousse with Mick Klug Farm grapes, anise, toasted pistachio, Mieli Thun sunflower honey and Concord grape sorbetto
Antinori 2007 Muffato della Sala Umbria I.G.T.
Marchese Piero Antinori  
*President of Marchesi Antinori S.r.l.*

Piero Antinori was born in Florence on July 15, 1938. He received a degree of classical High School, followed by a University degree in Economics. In 1957 he began working in various areas of the family business and in 1966 was appointed Managing Director of Marchesi Antinori S.r.l. In 1988 he was appointed President.

Within the group companies, Piero’s responsibilities include: President of Palazzo Antinori S.r.l., P. Antinori S.r.l., Antinori Società Agricola a R.L., Antinori California, and Antinori International S.A., as well as Counsellor of the Meridiana Wine Estate Ltd., Colsolare Ltd., and Antinori Matte S.A.

In addition to his family business responsibilities, over the years Piero has been actively involved in a number of roles across several associations including: President of Federvini (Italian Association of Producers, Exporters and Importers of Wine & Spirits) - 1987 to 1989; President of “Consorzio Vino Orvieto” - 1970 to 1981; Member of the Board of Directors of Unione Italiana Vini (Italy Wine Trade Organization); and Board Member of the “Unione Provinciale degli Agricoltori di Firenze”.

Currently, he remains involved with numerous companies and organizations including:

- Vice President of Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze S.p.A.
- Member of the Accademia dei Georgofili of Florence
- President of the Istituto del Vino Italiano di Qualità - Grandi Marchi
- Board Member of Friends of Florence
- Board Member of Salvatore Ferragamo Spa

In 1995, Piero was conferred the decoration of “Cavaliere del Lavoro,” the highest decoration given by the President of the Italian Republic. Piero Antinori says that all three of his daughters have the two ingredients most necessary to produce fine wine: brains and passion. And the next generation is already deeply involved in the business: Albiera Antinori (born December, 1966) took her first formal position with the company in 1986 and today is Vice President of Marchesi Antinori and President of the family’s Piedmont company. Prunotto Allegra Antinori (born December, 1971) formally joined the company in 1990 and is now in charge of Antinori PR and special projects such as restaurants and hospitality. Alessia (born December, 1975) graduated with a degree in Viticulture and Oenology from the Department of Food Science and Technology at the Agrarian University of Milan, and since then has worked as an oenologist for the company, travelling mostly in Asia and the U.S. to represent the family.

Piero has 5 grandchildren: Vittorio (18 years) and Verdiana (16) from Albiera, Niccolò (11) and Vivia (8) from Allegra, and Giovanni Piero (10 months) from Alessia.

Contessa Simonetta Brandolini d’Adda  
*President and Co-Founder of Friends of Florence*

Simonetta Brandolini d’Adda was born in the United States and lived both in Europe and the United States until attending Tufts University. In her third year, she studied in Florence with Smith College. After graduating with a degree in Art History, she settled permanently in Florence where she lives with her husband, Momi. They have three grown children, Ginevra, Emilio and Polissena.

In 1982, Simonetta and Momi launched their company, The Best in Italy, Inc., offering the most luxurious villas, palaces and country homes for rent and for purchase throughout Italy. The company also organizes unique travel itineraries, special events and business conferences and seminars.

In 1993, Simonetta joined the Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO) and established the Florence chapter. She served on numerous YPO University committees and chaired the Rome University in 1999 and the Athens to Rome University in 2006. She served as Senior Vice President of Events on the International Board for the years 2001-2004 and Executive Chair in 2005 and was also honored with the Roy Hickock Award. Simonetta is now also a member of CEO and has chaired various events including the CEO 2008 Florence University.

In 1998, Simonetta and her sister, Renée Gardner, established Friends of Florence, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. and dedicated to the preservation of art in Florence and Tuscany.

Dr. William R. Cook  
*Distinguished Teaching Professor of History, SUNY Geneseo*

Dr. William Cook graduated from Wabash College, and received his M.A. and PhD from Cornell University where he focused on medieval and Renaissance history. He has been teaching since 1970 to the present at SUNY Genesee (Distinguished Teaching Professor of History since 1984) and has been an Adjunct at Siena College (1981) as well as an Adjunct at Geneseo Community College program at Attica Correctional Facility (1981-1984). From 2008 to 2010, he was the Visiting Professor of Religion and History at Wabash College.

Dr. Cook has taught nine courses for The Teaching Company and has been a featured scholar in various special documentaries on The Learning Channel and The Hallmark Channel. He has also written numerous books and publications including *The Medieval World View* (1983, 2nd ed. 2004) and four books about St Francis of Assisi (1989, 1998, 1999).

He has been honored with election to Phi Beta Kappa, was named C.A.S.E. Professor of the Year for the State of New York, was the 1992 Director of 12 summer seminars for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and received the First Annual CARA Award for Excellence in Teaching Medieval Studies from the Medieval Academy of America (2003).

For the past ten years, Dr. Cook has been a regular resource for YPO, CEO and Friends of Florence educational programs. He is an active member of Friends of Florence’s Council of Academic Advisors.
To celebrate its 10th Anniversary, Friends of Florence launched the restoration of the important Tribuna in the Uffizi Gallery, recognized as one of the very first museum collections in the world and one of the Uffizi’s most admired rooms. Restoration work for this $1.1 million undertaking has been underway since fall 2009.

Established by the Medici when the Uffizi was constructed in the 1500s, this octagonal room with distinctive crimson (‘cremisi’) velvet covered walls was created to celebrate the eclectic interests of the great collector, Francesco I (1541-1587), the spirited Medici prince. It was designed by Francesco’s friend, the architect Bernardo Buontalenti (1523-1608), who shared Francesco’s dreams and love of knowledge. The room contains a unique treasure of extraordinary ancient sculptures, portraits, and other especially prized artworks. It also features precious mother of pearl decorations, marbles, silks, and shells symbolizing the four elements as well as ancient Greek sculptures including the Medici Venus, the Apollino, the Wrestlers and other figures.

In September 2009, the first preparations began in earnest for the restoration of the Tribuna with the creation of a twin octagonal space within the Uffizi. Here visitors can enjoy a replica of the Tribuna while the original space is being restored.

In October 2009, scaffolding was put in place and diagnostics began on the Tribuna’s many artworks and architectural elements. Restoration of the Lantern and frescoes of the Lantern of the Winds then began, as did the meticulous analysis and cleaning of the Cupola. Some 6,000 exquisite shells comprise the cupola, brought to the Uffizi in the 1500s from the Indian Seas and encased in more than 140 square meters of gold leaf, azurite from Afghanistan and precious lacquer and mother of pearl.

Restoration of the Tribuna’s three tapestries is complete and the cremisi silk velvet wall hangings have been recreated, woven by hand on historic looms of the Antico Setificio Fiorentino. The tapestries and wall hangings are currently in storage awaiting the completion of the project.

The restoration of the ancient statues began in May 2011, on site within protected areas inside the Tribuna. These ancient sculptures were amongst the most precious artworks that belonged to the Medici and most date to the 1st century B.C.

We are delighted you could join us for this special evening organized to benefit the completion of the restoration of the Uffizi’s Tribuna. With approximately $345,000 still needed to complete the restoration, we welcome your support so that the Tribuna may reopen in all its glory, on schedule, during the second half of 2012. Our guests will be offered the opportunity to help complete the funding of this unique project by contributing to the restoration of these elements of the Tribuna:

**Cupola of Shells - $59,000***

**Pictorial Sections of Cupola and Base - $125,000**

**Tapestry #208 - Medici Coat of Arms - $30,000**

**Tapestry #209 - Medici Coat of Arms - $30,000**

**Tapestry #219 - Medici Coat of Arms - $30,000**

**“The Dancing Faun” Statue - $30,000***

**Scrigno - Decorative Cabinet - $40,000**

*Partial funding of this element has been received previously from other patrons

Friends of Florence is planning a special unveiling and program in Italy surrounding the completion of the project. Please help us reach our goal and join us in Italy for what will be an extraordinary celebration.
Cupola of Shells
$59,000*

Scrigno
Decorative Cabinet
$40,000
(behind the Medici Venus)

Pictorial Sections of Cupola and Base
$125,000

“The Dancing Faun” Statue
$30,000*

Tapestry #208
Medici Coat of Arms
$30,000

Tapestry #209
Medici Coat of Arms
$30,000

Tapestry #219
Medici Coat of Arms
$30,000
Opera Selections By

Angela Mannino
Soprano

New Orleans native, Soprano Angela Mannino, made her Metropolitan Opera debut as the 15 Year Old Girl in Berg’s Lulu after completing two years in Lyric Opera of Chicago’s Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center. Earlier this summer she sang Colombina in Le Donne Curiose with Wolf Trap Opera. This past spring, she debuted the role of Agrrippa in the world premier of John Musto’s new opera, The Inspector, which was commissioned by the Wolf Trap Foundation. In Angela’s first season at Lyric Opera of Chicago, she sang Blonde in The Abduction from the Seraglio, which included a last minute debut on opening night along with an additional performance. Other appearances at Lyric include the Maid in Manon, the 15 Year Old Girl in Lulu, Giannetta in L’Elisir d’Amore and Barbarina in Le Nozze di Figaro. Other past performances include Gilda in Rigoletto with Opera Grand Rapids, Lauretta in Gianni Schicchi with the New Philharmonic, Fiorilla in Il Turco in Italia with Wolf Trap Opera and Zerlina in Don Giovanni with Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Angela is a graduate of Loyola University and Indiana University. She has received awards from the Sullivan Foundation, Shoshana Foundation, American Opera Society, Chicago Musician’s Club of Women, Metropolitan Opera National Council Regional Auditions, Mobile Opera Vocal Competition and the Orpheus National Vocal Competition. This November she sings Oscar in Un Ballo in Maschera with New Orleans Opera and makes her Dallas Opera debut as Papagena in The Magic Flute in Spring 2012.

Paul Corona
Bass-Baritone

Bass-Baritone Paul Corona, a native of Chicago, was a 2006 Grand Prize Winner in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Paul made his Metropolitan Opera debut in Debussy’s Pelleas et Melisande and Strauss’s Capriccio. He is a recent alum of the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago. His many roles at Lyric include Jake Wallace in La Fanciulla del West, Dr. Grenvil in La Traviata, Pistol in Falstaff, the Bonze in Madama Butterfly and Sciarone in Tosca. Paul has performed extensively with Chicago Opera Theater singing roles such as Osmín in The Abduction from the Seraglio and Somarone in Beatrice et Benedict. Other local performances include the title role in The Mikado with Chicago Light Opera Works, Marullo in Rigoletto at Ravinia and the Messiah with the Apollo Chorus and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Paul is a graduate of Northwestern University and has received awards from the Sullivan Foundation, Opera Index, Monastero Bel Canto Competition, Union League Civic and Arts Foundation, American Opera Society, Gerda Lissner Foundation and the Lotte Lenya Competition for Singers. Upcoming performances include Le Nozze di Figaro with Kentucky Opera, Khovanskchina with the Metropolitan Opera and Moscow Cheryomushki with Chicago Opera Theater.

Laurann Gilley
Pianist

Laurann Gilley has been a pianist and coach with the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago for the past five years. She served in the same capacity with Glimmerglass Opera for 15 seasons, having prepared several operas, including 3 world premieres. Other companies she has worked with include San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, San Diego Opera, Vancouver Opera, Opera Omaha, Tulsa Opera, Kentucky Opera, Sacramento Opera, Mississippi Opera, and the American Symphony Orchestra, with whom she has also recorded. Conductors she has worked with include Richard Bonynge, Edoardo Müller, Andrew Davis, and Stewart Robertson. Ms. Gilley has accompanied recitals at Weill Recital Hall, the Chicago Cultural Center, on the San Francisco Opera Schwabacher Series, and in other venues throughout the U.S. and Canada. Ms. Gilley holds degrees from The Eastman School of Music and Manhattan School of Music, where she also worked as a vocal coach and accompanist. She currently serves on the opera faculty of Northwestern University.
Friends of Florence is a U.S. non-profit organization supported by individuals from around the world who are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the cultural and historical integrity of the arts located in the city and region of Florence, Italy, and to increasing public understanding and appreciation through educational programs and events. Friends of Florence provides financial support directly to the city’s restoration laboratories to refurbish, safeguard, and make available to the public a broad range of art from paintings and sculptures to architectural elements and collections of smaller objects. A committee of internationally respected art experts and historians serve as resources in the careful selection of projects that will benefit from Friends of Florence’s efforts.

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the art of couture event design

The evening’s floral, table and lighting decorative elements

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