



FRIENDS *of* FLORENCE



An Elegant Florentine Evening to Celebrate

La Tribuna degli Uffizi

F R I E N D S O F F L O R E N C E

cordially invites you to Cocktails, Dinner and a Live Auction
to benefit the restoration of the splendid *La Tribuna degli Uffizi*,
re-opening 2012

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Marchese Piero Antinori
Board Member

HONORING
Contessa Simonetta Brandolini d'Adda
President

Tuesday, the eighteenth of October
at six o'clock in the evening

at

SPIAGGIA

PRIVATE + EVENTS

One Magnificent Mile
980 North Michigan Avenue
Private Dining Rooms, 3rd Level
Chicago

The favor of a reply is requested by September 27th.

Response card enclosed.

Limited seating is available.

Cocktail attire.

Friends of Florence extends special thanks to

SPIAGGIA

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FOUR-COURSE DINNER GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY SPIAGGIA



WINES GRACIOUSLY CONTRIBUTED BY ANTINORI



Northern Trust

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LA TRIBUNA DEGLI UFFIZI 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 and 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 look forward to the pleasure of your company on October 18, 2011 at this special evening organized to benefit the completion of the restoration of the Uffizi's *Tribuna*. With approximately \$375,000 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***
- "THE KNIFE GRINDER" 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.



FRIENDS *of* FLORENCE

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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