

Episode 17 'Venus oh Venus'

If you are an art lover, Florence is the place to go. Besides from being the art center during the Renaissance, Florence had the great help from the Medici family. This family was influential since they produced Popes, cardinals, great kings and great sponsors of art. It was an excellent combination if you can mix religion with politics. It is the great story of money breeds authority and authority breeds money. There is only 1 direction to go and it is up. Whatever this family could not attain, they did it through the magic of inter-marriage. Once you have this kind of networking, the whole world would be at your feet.

In the galleries and museums, it is not uncommon to find paintings and sculptures patronized by members of the Medici family. You can find portraits of their kings and queens, young and old, everywhere devoting to these people, or there are paintings commissioned by dukes and earls and Popes to commemorate events.

Just to name some of the beautiful and famous paintings.



The birth of Venue



The primavera

This is a companion pair of paintings carrying the same theme of "Virtue winning over Evil" Venue was born flawless, pure and innocent. She reached later maturity in the second painting.



The Medici family crest – the 5 worlds plus their own world on top.

I can never remember where I saw these wonderful paintings. Florence is full of galleries and churches and museums that house all these wonders. Almost every corner you turn, you can run into some surprise. Besides from paintings, there are sculptures and buildings that you can admire. It is really true; it would take you a week if you want to just visit Uffizi and absorb every portrait, sculpture, painting inside. When you finish,

you can move over to the Pitti Palace where it was the main palace that belonged to the Medici family and start over again.



[If you plan on visiting Uffizi, go there about 8:30 AM. The line at the ticket office is already forming. At around 10 AM, the tourist groups, the local visitors, the students, the pre-booked ticket holders would form a formidable mob. There is utter confusion in the courtyard and you will be lost fighting to find out what is happening. The sun will be hot, you perspire heavily, all noise level gets higher and higher and you regret why you are here.]

If you are planning on a longer stay, you can purchase a Florence pass and it can get you in a lot of exhibitions. But it only last 3 days and the new price is 72Euros. The big thing is to wait in line. Everywhere you go, you will have to wait. So be prepared for it.