A short guide to the Uffizi

The Uffizi Gallery building was and then continued by Vasari, Parigi and Buontalenti, ending in 1581 with the creation of a new building with a porch and offices on the ground floor and at the first level.

The upper part of the building was made as a gallery, with a passage connected with Palazzo della Signoria. Later, Cosimo I ordered the construction of a corridor going from the Ponte Vecchio to the Pitti Palace, known as Vasarian Corridor. The lower part, to be used for administrative purposes, took the name of "Uffizi". Here all the Medici family's art works were assembled by Buontalenti, and various rooms were dedicated to other works and art workshops. Many other works of art were gathered in the gallery, on the top floor. Over time, the Gallery was enriched with new works until Anna Maria Ludovica, the last of the Medici, in 1737 bequeathed her family's vast art holdings to the state of Tuscany.

**Entry:** here we can admire tapestries on the walls and busts of the Medici who contributed to the collection such as Lorenzo de’ Medici, Cosimo I, Francesco I, Ferdinando I, Cosimo II, Maria Maddalena. On the first floor there are three doors indicating the entrance to the Buontalenti’s Medici Theatre, later destroyed. On the left, there is the Drawings and Prints Office. At the end of the Vestibule you can find classical statues and the Galleria, with tapestries from the Sixteenth century. It's nice to walk all along the lodge to have an overall view of the works, the decorations as a whole and also enjoy the beautiful view of the river and on the hills of Florence or the spectacular view of the Uffizi wings and the superb Palazzo della Signoria.

**Room 1** is dedicated to some sculptures from the Classical Period. In **Room 2** the Tuscan School of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth centuries is displayed with Cimabue and Giotto with their powerful style and the school of Duccio di Buoninsegna. Here you can admire the enthroned Madonna from Cimabue, the Crucifix, the two enthroned Madonnas di Buoninsegna and Giotto. In **room 3** you will find the Senese school of the Fourteenth century represented by Simone Martini with his Annunciation and the Lorenzetti's works. **Room 4** displays the Florentine School of the Thirteenth century with Grottino, Taddeo Gaddi, Bernardo Daddi and Giovanni da Milano. In **room 5** and **6** there are masterpieces of the Gothic style, such as the Adoration of the Magi by Lorenzo Monaco and a Madonna and Child by Jacopo Bellini. In **room 7** is dedicated to the Florentine school of the early Fourteenth century with Masaccio's works, Paolo Uccello, with his Battle of San Romano, Fra Angelico with his Madonna with child and the Coronation of the Virgin. Finally, Piero della
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Francesca with the portraits of the Duke of Urbino, Federico and his wife Battista Sforza. In the room 8 and 9 there is the Florentine school of Fourteenth century with Filippo Lippi with his Virgin adoring the child and the Coronation of the Virgin. Here there are also the Virgin Mary and the Annunciation by Baldovinetti.

In room 9 you can admire the series of Virtù of Piero del Pollaiuolo. Room 10 offers a vision of the Botticelli’s Primavera and the Birth of Venus. In room 11 you find other works by Botticelli. In room 12 you can admire works of Flemish artists from the Fourteenth century who worked in Italy. In room 13 and 14 there is a display of works of artists such as Lippi, Ghirlandaio and Botticini. Room 15 hosts the Umbrian School, with works of Perugino and Signorelli. Here you can see the Leonardo da Vinci’s Adoration of the Magi and the Verrocchio’s Baptism of Christ, which it is said the angel on the left of the beholder was made by Leonardo. Room 16 is called the room of Maps, with maps of Tuscany, and also, here you can admire an early Annunciation from Leonardo.

Room 17 shows minor works of the Umbrian school of the Fourteenth century. Room 18 hosts the Tribune by Buontalenti, shaped as a marvellous temple with the Medici’s Venus in the centre which is attributed to a greek artist of the third century. Note the scenic splendor of the ceiling and the decorations of walls with various Medici’s portraits, including one of Lorenzo il Magnifico and Cosimo il Vecchio. Room 19 displays portraits by Perugino and the Ferrara school with works from Francia and Costa. Room 20 is dedicated to Andrea Mantegna who started the Renaissance period with works like the Madonna delle Cave, the Adoration of the Magi, the Circumcision and the Ascension. In room 21 we can see Giovanni Bellini, the Venetian painter with his Pieta and the Allegory and works by Giorgione. Our tour goes on with the German school in room 22, while in room 23 there is the Rinascimental Correggio, with his Virgin adoring the child, the Rest during the Flight into Egypt where he used colors and light in an innovative way. In room 24, a collection of Italian and foreign miniatures from various periods from Fifteenth and Sixteenth centuries is exposed. Then there are two galleries with various ancient classical sculptures in an interesting architectural presentation with tapestries on walls. In room 25 there are two Raffaello’s masterpieces: Pope Leo X with Cardinals Giulio de’ Medici and Luigi de’ Rossi, the Madonna del Cardellino, and the round of the Holy Family by Michelangelo Buonarroti, the only pictorial work of the great artist. In room 26 you can enjoy works by Andrea del Sarto, such as the Madonna of the
Harpies, the Four Saints and the Portrait of a young girl with books and also works by Rosso Fiorentino: Portrait of a young girls and Moses defending the Daughters of Jethro. Room 27 is dedicated to Pontormo, with his Supper at Emmaus and the Bacchiaca with Sant’Acacio’s Stories. Room 28 hosts Tiziano’s masterpieces. Flora, Venus of Puppy, Venus Cupid, a knight of Malta. In rooms 29 and 30 the Emilian School of Fifteenth century is displayed. Passing through rooms 31, 32 and 33 you can appreciate other paintings up to room 34, where the Venetian painter Paolo Veronese’s work is displayed while in room 35 you can find Jacopo Tintoretto’s and Jacopo Bassano’s paintings – other two Venetian painters.

Room 36 hosts the masters of the Baroque: Caravaggio and Carracci’s followers. Room 38 is dedicated to the Italian school of Seventeenth century, while room 39 hosts the Venetian School of Seventeenth century: Canaletto with his views of Venice, Guardi, Carriera, Longhi. In room 41 there are masterpieces by Peter Paul Rubens such as Henry IV at the Battle of Ivry and the entry of Henry IV into Paris. In room 42 14 statues of Niobe and her children are assembled.

Where to eat and drink near the Uffizi:

The Little brothers: for a quick sandwich
A well-known sandwich bar located in Via de ' Cimatori, a lane inside the central Via de ' Calzaiuoli, a few steps from Piazza Signoria. Great choice, quality, cheap and fast.

Typical Restaurants:

The Warehouse, in Piazza della Passera, midway between Ponte Vecchio and Piazza Pitti, in a small square where you can enjoy delicious, traditional dishes and typical Florentine food at reasonable prices.

Trattoria Roberto, in Via de ' Castellani 4r, on the back of the Uffizi, 2 minutes from Piazza della Signoria, a classic diner with good cooking and great prices.