



DIVINE BEINGS Christy Turlington Burns in front of Florence's famed Fountain of Neptune, for a *Jane* magazine photo shoot

Photography Pamela Hanson/Trunk Archive

ONE DAY THAT SUMMER

Florence, Italy, 1998

American supermodel CHRISTY TURLINGTON BURNS recalls some of the happiest days of her life, soaking up art and culture in Italy's most romantic city

Photography by Pamela Hanson As told to Delilah Khomo

After spending a semester studying Renaissance art history and literature in Florence, I fell in love with the city, which I had visited numerous times before. I returned with my family a few years later and rented a house in Malmantile, a medieval town in Tuscany, about 45 minutes from the city center. I invited my sisters Erin and Kelly and their families, plus my mother and grandmother. After my family left, I invited a few friends and opened the doors to shoot this story for *Jane* magazine with Pamela Hanson. We spent some time in the Tuscan countryside, eating and drinking, and took day trips to Florence to shoot around its beautiful squares – and, of course, the Fountain of Neptune, as pictured here.

Florence is a place that is made for exploring on foot, and I love nothing more than wandering around the smaller, atmospheric, and often quieter piazzas of the Oltrarno district, especially Piazza Santo Spirito, with its church that houses Michelangelo's wooden crucifix. When you're in the heart of the Renaissance world, there's something to be said for allowing yourself just to 'be' and drift around the city, which is like an open-air museum. I love the Hotel Lungarno, which has the best views of the Arno and the iconic Ponte Vecchio (lungarnocollection.com). I always return to Cibrè, which is, for me, the best restaurant in the city, particularly good for fresh fish and vegetarian dishes such as zucchini carpaccio. (edizionateatrodelsalecibreoofirenze.it)

One of my favorite ways to experience the city is through literature. Florence has been the backdrop to so many classics, like *The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James and *The Decameron* by Giovanni Boccaccio, which gives a historical insight into the city as the Black Death swept across Europe in the 14th century. But perhaps the novel that takes me back to my life as a student the best is E.M. Forster's *A Room with a View*, as I too, like the heroine Lucy Honeychurch, would get lost in the Basilica di Santa Croce – a treasure trove filled with works by Cimabue, Giotto, Donatello and Vasari.

Christy Turlington Burns is the founder of Every Mother Counts; everymothercounts.org

PORTER'S GUIDE TO Florence

Explore the city's food culture at Desinare's new cookery school, with hands-on classes held in the design workshop of Florentine tastemaker Riccardo Barthel. desinare.it

Stay at the Ferragamo-owned Portrait Firenze, on the banks of the Arno, which is filled with photographs of film stars like Sofia Loren and Marilyn Monroe. And don't miss the nearby Ferragamo museum with its archive of shoes and wooden lasts, including Monroe's and Loren's. lungarnocollection.com

Buy pomegranate bath salts, scented soaps and the famous rose tonic water from the flagship store of Officina Profumo Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella, the oldest pharmacy in Florence. smnovella.it

Dine on Tuscan classics like *scaloppine al limone* at the glamorous institution that is Trattoria Cammillo, in Borgo San Jacopo. +39 055 21242

Head to the famed gelateria La Carraia in Piazza Nazario for fig and ricotta ice cream. +39 055 280695

Visit the newly reopened Grande Museo del Duomo for its unparalleled collection of Florentine sculpture; museumflorence.com. At the nearby contemporary cultural center Palazzo Strozzi, don't miss *From Kandinsky to Pollock*, featuring the Guggenheim's impressive collection of mid-century European and American art. *Until July 24; palazzostrozzi.org* Bellini Travel can organize a range of experiences and holidays in Florence; bellinitravel.com