

THE PLACE OF WONDERS

**Experience
available**

Monday, Saturday, Sunday

10am - 7pm

Tuesday - Friday

**by private
appointment only**

Average experience duration

1.5 hour

***One week's notice of booking
required***

THE ART OF CULTURE WITH MUSEO MARINO MARINI

The concept that craft can be a conduit—a conversation between the past and the present—is brought vividly to life inside Museo Marino Marini, a former church and tabaccheria that has lived many lives across the centuries. This is a cultural space where one can expect the unexpected—Museo Marino Marini is truly a museum unlike any you've visited before. The gallery's uniquely spacious layout draws as much attention to the storied museum building as it does to the Marino Marini collection inside. You won't find informative plaques or lengthy descriptions to explain the artworks here. Instead, you're encouraged to freely walk around and feel your own genuine reaction to the work, the light, and the play on space without the crowds. Explanations of Marini's 183 artworks and the fascinating history of the building, a former church-turned-cigar-factory, come later.

And while the Marini art collection is a true wonder to behold, the tiny, blink-and-you'll-miss-it Rucellai chapel through a side door of the museum, formerly the church of San Pancrazio, is a hidden gem of huge historical significance.



To the front you'll see a small alter and pews fragrant with incense crafted by Gucci's perfumer, and to the back, a towering marble structure by Leon Battista Alberti. To walk around Alberti's near exact recreation of the tabernacle of the Holy Sepulchre, commissioned by the powerful merchant, Giovanni Rucellai in 1457, feels astoundingly intimate. Look closely to see the etchings and messages of Fiorentini through the ages—words of love and hope that reinforce the truism that people are just people. However, even Rucellai, with all his wealth and power, wasn't buried in his extravagant tomb in the end. Why? The locals didn't approve—they felt he was playing God. Like we said, Museo Marino Marini is a hidden gem that delivers the ideas and conversations of the past into the present. A true wonder indeed.

