



walk the line  
TRAVEL SPRING 2009  
Chicago



1. **Il Tuo**

The great idea was to change the look of the 1980s, but it feels like a well-thought-out strategy, bringing in a system created for the local market on house-made fabrics, items from Florence, buffers from Asia and vibrant orange prints, along with a thoughtful selection of wine and beer. Via dei Dingoli 20, Tel. 011-39-055-219-208

2. **Villa Bardini**

The restaurant lounge at this recently restored villa and garden is one of the progressive's retail hangouts, where Umberto Mascetti's wine list is aimed at the 21st-century sophisticate. The wine and jewelry selling contemporary art includes, Coase San Giorgio 6, 011-39-055-200-5444; address about \$15 to \$25



3. **TOR**

This contemporary gallery — co-founded by Ori Kahn, the owner of the BOUTE hotel 21C, Florence — shows work by mostly Italian photographers like Massimo Listi, Maurizio Nannari and Giacomo Luciani. Via dei Fieschi 45r, 011-39-055-009-6744; February 2



4. **Four Seasons Hotel Spa**

The new spa is the first one of the kind to use products by the local apothecary Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica Sassi-Mangi-Novati. Get the via Sansavero treatment and emerge wearing the city's token towel. Borgo Pitti 26, 011-39-055-26-267

5. **Saskia Scarpe Su Misura**

The German shoemaker Vivian Saskia Wittmer caters mostly to men in her ground-floor atelier (where she draws the draperies for those who'd rather not display their feet), crafting shoes with such precision that it can take six months to make a pair. Via di S. Lucia 24/r; 011-39-055-293-291.



6. **Stitta in Biotabella**

Federica Ghisla's simple, beautiful wool clothes, which she sells along with items by other European designers, was an antidote to the city's fashionistas. Only partly for children, Lungarno Turchese 61r, 011-39-055-340-6700

7. **Q.B. Quattrobasta**

Give the minimalist parent reality and head to this new spot for modern, locally-sourced Tuscan fare — no spelt pagossale with pigeon breast and wild ferns, and a 20-page wine list. Via dei Giorri 15, 011-39-055-211-427; address \$11 to \$25



# Italian Renaissance

**Style Map | Florence, Italy** Rightly celebrated for its history, Florence too often seems like a city-cum-museum, preserved in amber for the enjoyment of the tourist hordes. But lately it is rediscovering its innovative side, as artisans and entrepreneurs are giving the town's traditional pursuits — art, craft, food, fashion — a distinctly modern sensibility. **JACKIE COOPERMAN**



8. **Toddai**

In a shop in the old town, Gianni's house, Simone Toddai makes leather goods the way his grandfather and father did: by hand, not a copying series of stamps, from sheep and goats. It gives frames and fresh cane. Via Santa Margherita 11, 011-39-055-239-6050