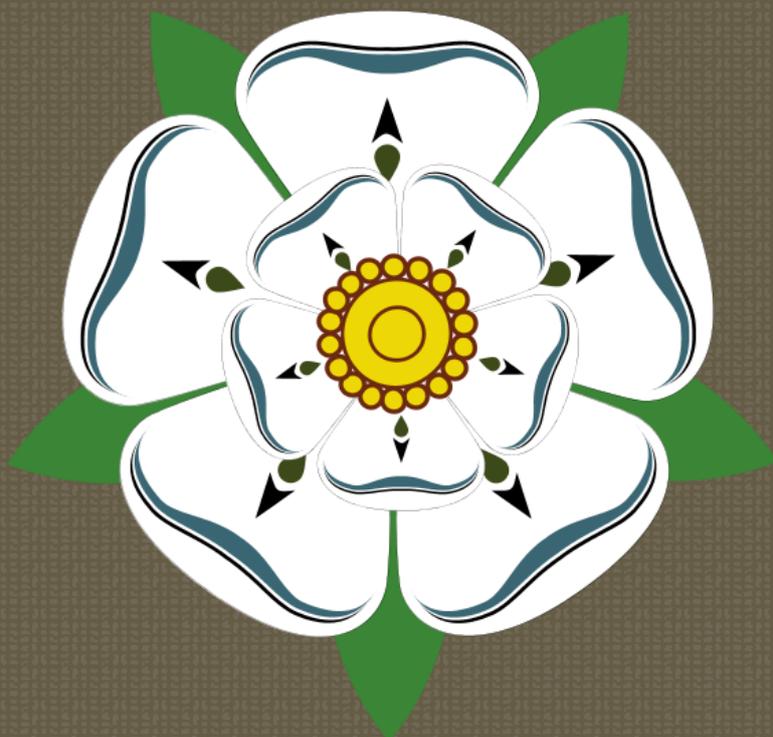


# 1745 Association Florence Tour & 2021 Annual Gathering

13-16 May 2021

Three days Gathering of the Association in Florence, with a tour of the main places linked to the Stuart Court in exile



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## Day One -Thursday

Members gather in Florence with arrival around midday–accommodation at the Hotel Unicorn, via dei fossi. Greetings in the Hotel common spaces. The group rallies in the late afternoon for a trip to Villa Salviati, just outside Florence, talking about Charles first visit to the town. We will move to the Vila by Bus or taxis on base of the number of attendees. Villa Salviati, which was home to the Duca Salviati, a friend of the Stuarts who hosted Charles there at the end of his first travel to Tuscany is now the seat of the Archives of The European Union; we gained permissions to take a tour of some part of the Villa and the beautiful gardens. It would be quite suggestive to visit the gardens near their closure time, with the fresh of the evening.

Return to the Hotel and dinner in a near restaurant. Since most probably Prof. Edward Corp will be present, it could be a good occasion to have a little talk by him about the general context of the Stuarts Exile in Italy or any other subject of his studies he will be willing to share with us. Eventually there could be space for a short preview/presentation of the timetable and plan of the Gathering or any other business the Association want to share with members.

## Approach

In general this draft is studied to approach the Florence Tour in a philological way, with stops at the main places linked to Stuart History addressed in a chronological order respect to their role in the life of Charles Edward Stuart and his Court.



*Villa Salviati*



*Villa Corliano*

## Other Points of interest

It would also be interesting to have a look at Palazzo Manetti the residence of Sir Horace Mann, the British Envoy at Florence, who is one of the richest primary sources about the Stuart Court in the years of Charles.



*Palazzo Corsini*

## Day Two - Friday

Immediately after breakfast we will move by Bus towards Pisa, where the Stuarts often went to pass the waters at Bath of Pisa (today called San Giuliano Terme). We will visit Villa Corliano, that was a favorite place of vacation of Cardinal York and, much probably, of Charles. We will enjoy the honor of a guided tour of the Villa conducted by the owner himself Count Agostini, whose ancestors rented the Villa to the Stuarts. The place is today used for receptions, feasts and banquets and a restaurant is also attached to the complex. We will have lunch there after the tour and then come back to Florence.

Being back in Florence we will go to Palazzo Corsini al Prato (also called Casino Corsini). This was one of the Florentine Palaces of the Corsini Princes, a Tuscan/Roman aristocratic family with a close friendship with the Stuarts. Charles was guest of Prince Corsini in this Palazzo for more than a year: it was at his complete disposal and he lived there with his whole Court.

We will be able to visit the Gardens and also some part of the Palace, that is still privately owned by the Corsini Family. It will be a very exclusive occasion: the Corsini Princes themselves will offer us a little refreshment and talk with us of the history of the Palace and the bonds between them and the Stuarts. It should be an interesting occasion, since they are the direct descendants of the Stuarts friends and still own some memorabilia given to their ancestors by the Royal Family.

After dinner at the hotel a talk by Stefano Baccolo about The Composition of Charles' Court: who were his last gentlemen, servants and friends and their respective roles.

## Day Three - Saturday

After breakfast a short tour of Florence center and main square with eventually an introduction about what kind of place it was in 19<sup>th</sup> Century and a short sketch of what was the political and institutional panorama of Tuscany in that age (for sure it will be possible to talk about this subjects already during the bus transfers).

The visit of the city center will end moving to Palazzo Guadagni (now called Palazzo San Clemente and, by someone, *Palazzo del Pretendente*) which was the main residence of Charles in Florence until his decision to come back to Rome. The Palace is now property of the University of Florence and seat of the Library of the department of Architecture. It will be possible for sure to have permission to visit the building and a special opening in the weekend will grant to see it free of students and without giving any annoyance to them.

The Palace interiors are not radically changed since the Stuarts time and will be of much interest to speak about its history, the difficulties and satisfactions it gave to Charles, who loved much this place, and rethinking the many things happened inside its walls.

Permission has been asked to install a commemorative plaque in front of this building, so important in the life of Charles. If everything proceeds as planned this could be the occasion to unveil the plaque.

After the visit we will have lunch and, if the unveiling ceremony doesn't take too much time, it will be possible to spend the afternoon visiting the Galleria degli Uffizi. This has always been the artistic center of Florence and much frequented by all the local aristocracy and the Grand Tourists. Also, it's said that Louise Stolberg met there his lover Vittorio Alfieri for the first time.

In the evening the Gala Dinner will take place in a restaurant near the Hotel. If the Association desires to keep the usual traditions and none of the official piper were joining the Gathering, It should be possible with no great difficulties to engage a piper in Italy.

## Day Four - Sunday

The morning can be used for the au revoir or for a last visit to the Basilica of Santa Croce, where are the tombs and monuments of Queen Louisa Stolberg and of her lover the poet Vittorio Alfieri. The church is considered a sort of mausoleum dedicated to Italian artists and scientist and here are the tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo and many others.

For Catholics it should be possible to hear Mass there, if they desire. Florence has Churches of many confessions and we may help anyone who desire to hear the service of his own Church.

After lunch at the latest, exchanged the last greetings, each one can organize his own return home.



*Palazzo Guadagni*



*Santa Croce*