



FLORENCE
Gold Congress Venues





WITH JUST A TELEPHONE CALL, YOU CAN ORGANISE A CONGRESS!

After more than 40 years and well over 10,000 events handled as the Sales Promotion Manager at Firenze Expo and thereafter as a Congress Broker, I have founded the "Florence Gold Congress Venues" Club. This unique selection of the most modern and well-equipped congress and hotel facilities in Florence, that have been put together with the aim of hosting events, exhibitions, as well as congresses, and is today operating in synergy with each other under my direct coordination.

Cav. Carlo Gagnoli

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A full set of advantages

- Free support and advice to pinpoint the most appropriate venue of the club to meet your requirements.
- Single interface and reliable service ensured by a steady control of the quality level of each facility.
- Round-the-clock accessibility and extreme speed of feedback.
- 360° offer capability so as to propose a turnkey solution.
- Great value as a result of special cooperation agreements with the club members and no charges to the customer.



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THE CLUB COMPRISES

Several hotel venues with internal congress centres and a total of 1.600 rooms and a number of state-of-the-art congress halls.

Five multi-purpose venues, of which:

- one facility for sport and functional events, featuring two different areas with capacity for 1,000 and 7,800 guests respectively;
- the most renown Florentine Opera offers an

Auditorium with 1900 seats available for cultural events and congresses more in general;

- a second, modern Theater for 1,700 guests with multi-purpose areas for any kind of events;
- a magnificent historical private palace for gala events, in addition to business lunches and dinners, board meetings, conventions, catwalks, all in an elegant and intimate atmosphere.



AC FIRENZE HOTEL ****

The hotel, opened in January 2007, has 119 bedrooms. It is located near the old railway station Leopolda at 900 m (3.000 ft) away from the central railway station. Its restaurant is the perfect place to enjoy a delicious dinner in a quiet and refined atmosphere. The Conference area includes FORUM B hall with 50 seats theatre style (25 in a kidney-shaped setting) and FORUM A hall with 160 seats theatre style (120 in a kidney-shaped setting), equipped with top technology devices. a garage with parking space for 70 cars, mini-bar in the rooms, and sports facilities.

In partnership with AC Firenze Hotel and a few minutes walk from the hotel you find the **Florence Biennale LAB**, a multipurpose and eclectic space, perfect for high-profile public and private events. A space that is optimally adapted to every need and

occasion: from book presentations to conferences, including professional workshops, educational and formative meetings, from art exhibitions to cocktail parties.

Inner room: hosts about 50 people, equipped with sound system with wireless microphones and video projector.

Dépendance: welcomes 40 people, equipped with sound system with wireless microphones and video projector.

Outdoor space: private garden, ideal for cocktails and aperitifs outdoors.

Additional services: press office and web communications; photo and video services; graphics, printing and publishing catalogues; art mobilization service; reception at the hotel; catering service for coffee breaks, light lunches, cocktail parties.



Only 100 meters away from the dome, the hotel is at foot distance from the city congress and fair centres, as well as from the shopping avenues and the art museums and masterpieces. 193 rooms recently renovated with classic Florentine décor, comfortable and elegant, featuring caisson ceilings and precious furnishings. The hotel's jewel is the panoramic restaurant, renown as the foyer of artists and Florentine VIPs, with capacity for up to 250 guests to whom is offered an amazing 360° view over the city of Dante. In summer the restaurant is turned into a roof garden, the ideal setting for any kind of events for up to 600 people. The Congress Centre comprises 9 elegant meeting halls embellished by stucco works and furnished with the best in terms of technical equipment. Maximum capacity reaches 450 people that can be split between a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 200 per hall.





GRAND HOTEL MEDITERRANEO ****

Situated along the Arno river in a quiet and wonderful position, at walking distance from the Santa Croce Basilique and at 2,5 km (8.200 feet) from the A1 highway exit "Florence South". It has 331 highly comfortable bedrooms, this making it the largest hotel in town. Available also are a garage with parking places for 65 cars, Ruckus Wi-Fi, Internet point, in addition to 3 rooms restaurant Arno, Fiesole and Taverna for up to 480 seats.

The new Conference Centre "Il Globo", opened in 2009, covers an area of 650 m² (7.000 ft²) and, by the means of sound proof mobile walls, can be rearranged into various halls seating from 10 to 300 guests (Sala dei Continenti), all benefiting from natural light and state-of-the art audio-video equipment. Wide hall of 350 m² (4.305 ft²), as the ideal setting for events requiring exhibition's space.





Four Star hotel located in a quiet residential area, in the west part of the town, 4 km away from the city centre and only 2 km from the airport.

It has 212 bedrooms elegantly furnished, 2 restaurants, an internal garage for 70 cars and an external car park for 60 cars, a 29 seats shuttle bus to Santa Maria Novella central railway station, executive lounge, fitness Centre, 24h/24h open sports Centre.

Its Congress Centre features 1.160 m² (12.500 ft²) of congress and exhibition space on two levels, with expandable rooms for 30 to 500 seats equipped with state-of-the art conference facilities.





HILTON GARDEN INN FLORENCE NOVOLI ****

Innovative and functional hotel located just 5 minutes away from the Amerigo Vespucci City Airport and 10 minutes from the old city centre. It has 121 bedrooms equipped with GSS (Garden Sleep System) mattresses and Mirra ergonomic chairs. Wide and welcoming lobby with bookshop, business Centre,

fitness room, bar with fireplace area, City Restaurant with buffet lunch and "à la carte" dinner, covered garage. Meeting hall "San Donato" with up to 160 seats expandable and Boardroom with up to 20 seats. Free Internet ADSL in each room and Wi-Fi in public spaces.





Four Star hotel with 95 bedrooms, located at the very heart of the city, a few steps from Santa Maria Novella central railway Station. It is situated in a 19th century Palazzo, which has been completely refurbished. The restaurant and the American bar offer the opportunity to taste the recipes of the best national and international

cuisine. The Congress Centre – one of the largest and the best fitted of in downtown Florence – has meeting rooms with capacity ranging from 15 to 350 people. The new Michelangelo meeting room, with natural light, can be split into two spaces, both enjoying plenty of natural light with wide windows facing the garden.





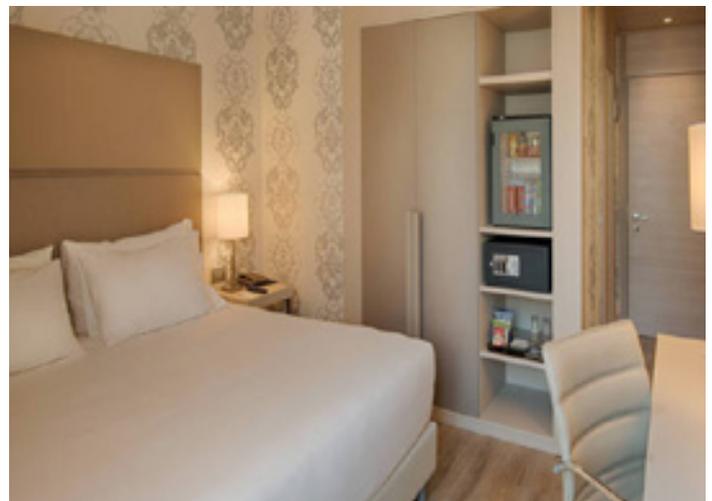
NH FIRENZE ****

The NH Firenze is in the Porta al Prato area, near to one of the gates of the ancient Walls of Florence. In front of the hotel is Cascine Park, the city's biggest green space. A walk along the Arno River gets you to the stunning Duomo and the charming Ponte Vecchio.

All 152 rooms have a modern style thanks to a recent renovation. You'll find air conditioning available all year round, as well as free Wi-Fi, large flat screen TV, and a minibar. Our Junior Suites have terraces offering panoramic views whilst our Superior XL rooms overlook the Cascine Park.

Our modern Congress Center makes us an ideal choice for business conventions and meetings. We have 9 meeting rooms, 3 of which with natural light, from 30 to 135 m² with a capacity of 130 seats theatre setup. In all meeting rooms there are

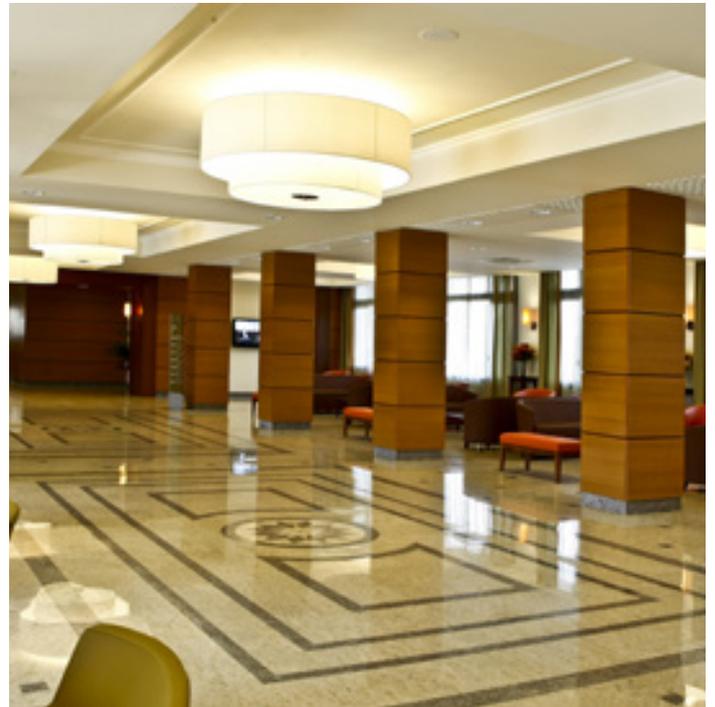
amplification systems, wireless system, flipchart, fixed screen, stationery. The biggest Michelangelo meeting room, with natural light, has a private area for coffee breaks and standing buffet.





Opened in February 2009, it is located within a few minutes from the Florence Airport and from the Highways A1, A11 and the expressway Florence-Pisa-Leghorn. 246 modern styled rooms are at disposal on 7 floors, free garage, external parking for 40 cars and 11 buses, 2 restaurant rooms for a total of 150 seats. Breakfast room, bar with reserved tables, large hall, Internet point, free ADSL line in the rooms, free Wi-Fi in the public areas, a fitness room and a small chapel.

The Conference Centre has 6 meeting rooms (the largest of them has a capacity of up to 200 people), with natural light, free Wi-Fi access, technologically updated, with an overall capacity of 350 people. Nearby are functional exhibition areas.





TENUTA DI ARTIMINO

Wonderful venue right in the heart of the Tuscan countryside, surrounded by 750 acres of vineyards, olive trees and woods at a height of 300 metres, is located on the hills of Montalbano. The Medici Villa named "La Ferdinanda" designed and built by Arch. Buontalenti in 1596 for Grand Duke Ferdinando I de' Medici, offers today the possibility of hosting meetings, congresses and events in 6 different meeting rooms with a capacity of 200 seats each one and breath taking view over Florence and the surrounding hills. It was recently recognized as a Unesco World Heritage site. Gala dinners up to 1,200 people may be served on the main floor or in the large park nearby. Tasting of the products of the farm, as the Carmignano wines, 1° DOC in Italy and

extra virgin olive oil of high quality can be arranged in the wine cellars with huge oak barrels and next to the famous Rotisserie designed by Leonardo da Vinci, who was born and raised within walking distance of Artimino. It is located just 11 miles away from Florence.

You get there quickly from the A1 highway exit Firenze Scandicci and expressway Firenze-Pisa-Livorno with the exits of Signa or Montelupo Fiorentino. The airports of Pisa and Florence are all within 35-40 minutes. A large car park can host numerous coaches GT and a few hundred parking spaces.



Adjacent to the Villa, the Paggeria Medicea**** has 37 rooms with wi-fi service, 6 exclusive apartments called Fagianai. Beside the remains of the ancient Etruscan necropolis of Artimino. Other 59 various apartments have recently been restored completely inside of the medieval village. The Hotel offers its guests 2 swimming pools, 1 tennis court, mountain bikes for walks in the woods, massages and excursions. Gourmet paths find their natural culmination in the restaurant Biagio Pignatta, dedicated to the first mayor of Ferdinando I de ' Medici. Here the triumph that made famous the Tuscan cuisine in the world. The winery Cantina del Redi in Borgo di Artimino still preserves the ancient walls of the medieval castle. The cellar offers typical Tuscan dishes and stunning views over Villa.





The perfect mix of historical heritage, exclusivity and hospitality" The Palazzo Ximènes Panciatichi, renowned for the remarkable elegance of its architecture stemming from the great Giuliano da Sangallo who had it built for himself in 1498, is situated at a stone's throw from the world-famous Duomo. The Palazzo, still a private home, just opened its doors to host memorable premier events - gala dinners, conventions and conferences, private parties, cocktail parties, keynote presentations and award dinners. The noble floor alone can accommodate up to 210 seated guests and well over 450 standing, with an internal courtyard, a suggestive lemon house and a wonderful garden also available to meet additional space requirements. The venue can be rented all year long, as it is equipped with air conditioning and heating, in addition to featuring outdoor space that is particularly appreciated during the beautiful season.





PALAZZO COPPINI

The ancient Palazzo Coppini, with seven rooms for encounters, meetings, training and seminars. Its strategic position only a stone's throw from Santa Maria Novella railway station, the possibility of fast connections with the leading cities of Italy and Europe and its proximity to other structures in the Centro Congressi al Duomo – particularly the Auditorium al Duomo and its “Anfiteatro Andrzej Tomaszewski” – make Palazzo Coppini the ideal venue for conference sub-sessions, committee meetings, collateral events, workshops, master classes and confidential meetings in the context of broader scientific and cultural events. The Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco® - Life Beyond Tourism® successfully managed to ensure that this historical space was made over to public use halting a project designed to turn it into a hotel and transforming it, instead, into an International Meeting and Study Centre. Each room is dedicated to the name of an expert of the Fondazione's who has earned particular

distinction in the development of the Fondazione's international network. The rooms house collections of items and books donated to the Fondazione over the years as tokens of cultural diversity. The rooms vary both in size and in their potential arrangements – theatre, boardroom or classroom – and they have an overall seating capacity of 150 people. They are fitted with a full range of state-of-the-art equipment – LCD screens, Wi-Fi, electronic device-friendly environments – for organisers and users, together with a temporary secretarial office for events and other convenient facilities. Palazzo Coppini also has a number of pleasant reception and refreshment areas for breaks, such as the Small Drawing Room, the Foyer with its “pietra serena” stone columns, the Veranda on the first floor and the elegant Courtyard with its Renaissance fountain. All of these atmospheric venues can be used to host refreshments, coffee breaks, cocktails and light lunches.



AUDITORIUM AL DUOMO

Opened in 2006 and located in the city Centre of Florence, i.e. only 100 m (330 feet) away from the world-famous cathedral and 200 m (660 feet) from the central railway station of Santa Maria Novella. The Congress centre is situated on two main levels featuring an Auditorium with 275 seats in theatre setting and three expandable rooms that can seat from 20 to 160 seats or a 200 m² (2.150 ft²) open space for catering services and exhibitions. All around, a number of service areas and public spaces offer additional comfort and functionality to the congress facilities.

Directly connected to the Congress Centre is the Hotel Laurus al Duomo****, that was completely refurbished in 2004 and is now equipped with 52 bedrooms. Nearby is also the Hotel Pitti Palace**** with 87 rooms featuring a magnificent view close to the historical bridge “Ponte Vecchio”.





NELSON MANDELA FORUM

This venue can host up to 7.800 people, however it also offers 1.000 in the frame of a separate hall "Ridotto". It is a multifunctional location dedicated not only to sport events, but also to important congresses and cultural events, in addition commercial fairs and competitions with 700 to 2.000 candidates. It offers catering services for up to 2.000 people within an overall area of 5.000 m² (53.820 ft²). A very large car park is also available.



nelson
mandela
forum

Piazza Enrico Berlinguer
FIRENZE
www.mandelaforum.it
info 055678841





OPERA DI FIRENZE

Located 10 minutes walking from the main station of Florence and just outside the restricted traffic zone and offering reserved parking, the Opera di Firenze is the most up-to-date, modern and spectacular opera house built in recent years, constructed according to the wishes of the Italian Government to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Italian Unification and to provide Florence with a Theatre worthy of its musical history, permitting the city, also from a structural point of view, to become part of the international contemporary panorama.

The Opera di Firenze currently consists of:

The main auditorium: with a one-of-a-kind design and extraordinary acoustics, it can hold up to 1,900 people distributed between the stalls, boxes and the gallery. The stage is one of the most modern in the world, with an area of 400 m².

Foyer: a 2,240 m² space which is ideal for large-scale events, fashion shows and gala dinners, accessible directly from a spectacular entrance way. Modern, facing directly out onto the gardens, it is the perfect location for unique events of great visual impact.





TEATRO GOLDONI

Foyer I Galleria: 485 m2 of space hidden from public view but with a wonderful view over the park and the city of Florence. A unique venue for meetings, conferences, or for modern and exclusive events.

Sala Vetri: a 100 m2 hall with two entrances, both directly from outside and from the Theatre foyer. Ideal for exhibitions, installations or various kinds of exhibition.

Sala Mercurio: the 80 m2 hall takes its name from the images of Mercury by Giambologna (1580), produced for the Opera di Firenze by the celebrated Italian photographer Mimmo Jodice; it is the perfect venue for press conferences, meetings with journalists and audiences of up to 80 people.

Teatro Goldoni: The 19th century Teatro Goldoni is located in the Oltrarno Quarter, in Via Santa Maria 15, with an overall capacity of 321 seats (Stalls 143, Boxes 178) and a stage of 16.5 x 14 metres (apron 8.8 metres).

The Sala Verde on the ground floor and the Buvette on the first floor offer the ideal setting for receptions with an elegant and refined atmosphere.

Sala Verde: 44 m2 - Capacity: 80 persons for cocktails

Buvette: 65 m2 - Capacity: 100 persons for cocktails

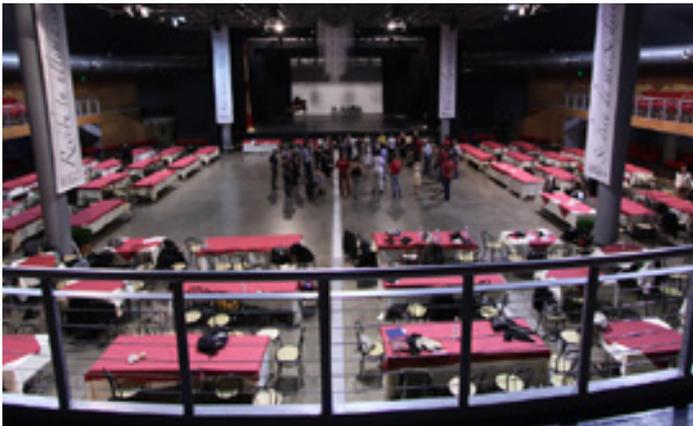


OBIHALL

Reopened in spring 2002, after extensive restoration, it is easily accessed via the Firenze South A1 highway exit. It offers a 1.700 seats meeting hall in a theatre setting, the largest in the city, and another space for up to 100 seats.

The same area of 1.700 m² (18,300 ft²) can be also

used for gala dinners, exhibitions (very convenient for buses in terms of the loading and unloading of goods), spectacular events, and competitions for up to 700 candidates. It also boasts a wide private car park for up to 350 cars.





Our company is present in Tuscany from 1947 offering public service of line and chartering bus GT for Italy and foreign countries. The company is placed in Piandiscò (AR) and arranges of a wide establishment for the deposit bus, washing, workshop, with annexed the offices part. The company has obtained in December 2003 the certification of quality UNI EN 9001/2000. Our drivers of tried experience and professionalism are at your disposal every day for you were offering security and reliability: secret for the good success of every travel.





CLASS SERVICES

Class Services has worked for fairs and congresses since 1987, providing logistical and operational support, technical advice in the organization of events, and qualified staff: hostesses, stewards, interpreters, security staff and watchmen. Class Services invests daily in the appointment, selection and training of its staff: young hostesses and stewards who, thanks to their efficiency and enthusiasm combined with the professional expertise of their coordinators, form the real strength of the company. Staff members are employed in conformity with current regulations. Class Services, through a careful and precise management of its services, ensures participation and support during all phases of an event, the greatest attention to every detail and utmost professionalism. Reliability and experience of the staff, combined with the high quality of the services we offer, have made possible over the years the establishment and strengthening of

partnerships with important clients like Pitti Immagine, Stazione Leopolda, Firenze Fiera, Banca Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze among others. These prestigious clients reward us for the passion and diligence we put into our work.





TUSCAN EXCELSIA

The creation of an exclusive moment requires high professionalism and know-how which does not limit itself to cuisine and service but to a complete and punctual management of the event.

Our mission is to create a project which can meet the client's needs and ambitions, thus giving him or her the highest expression of Lifestyle and Bon Ton.

Choice and arrangement of the location, "customised" menu preparation and a scrupulous qualified service are our must for the success of an event. We express our values in every field of Banqueting: Corporate for entertainment, Incentive dedicated to corporate initiatives and anniversaries, Personal Celebrations, Charity, Congress, Society and Promotional Events.

Thanks to our professional vocation we tend to express the highest enhancement of the local traditions and the territory, in harmony with the history, art and culture of the places where we operate.



Meetings have become an essential part in the life of both institutions and enterprises. They are the best source for networking and comparing profitable experiences, and are furthermore distinguished by an excellent balance costs/benefits. But a meeting turns successful only if it dazzles its audience. And the privileged tools to comply with this are the technological ones, in all their devices: audio, video, lights. Any conventions or big association assemblies, as well as the great special events, with their gorgeous stages, are keen to offer unforgettable shows.





RISTORANTE SABATINI

Sabatini Florentine gourmets now have a new haunt. Well, it's actually an old haunt, suitably dusted down and brought back to new. It would in fact be ridiculous to talk about something new when discussing Sabatini, a name that is a slice of Florentine life in itself. With over eighty years of history, Sabatini has always reassuringly been there in Via Panzani, in the old heart of the city halfway between the cathedral and the station, although its close ties with the city were slightly slackened of late in terms of income and excessive popularity with the foreign market. Now everything's changed and Sabatini, due to the strategic change of direction of the new owners, is back to being that great little treasure chest of history, beauty and flavour where culture lies amongst the pappardelle pasta and T-bone steak. Carlo Lazerini and Claudio Schiavi were able to relaunch the restaurant's appeal to locals above all touristic guides.



TURISTIC GUIDES

DUCCIO TIRACORRENDO: Licensed Tour Guide of Florence and Province. Languages: Italian, English, French. After the Classical High School, I obtained a degree in Archeology and a postgraduate diploma in Classical Archeology at the University of Pisa. I have got experience in archeological investigations after many years of work on specific ancient sites, in both educational and museum activities. As a Tour Guide I consider a privilege to work where Brunelleschi, Leonardo and Michelangelo once lived and share my knowledge about this beautiful city. My course of study and professional experience has allowed me to turn my passion into a job: to convey to people of different ages, interests and backgrounds the historical and cultural wealth of our territory.

FIAMMETTA SORDI: Licensed Tour Guide of Florence and Province, Arezzo and Province. Languages: Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. Graduate in Conservation of Cultural Treasures at the University of Studies in Siena, I have been working as tour guide for 6 years with passion and competence, combining my historical and artistic tasks with a detailed knowledge of Florence and its surroundings. Available for walking tours, guided visits to museums, wines and food itineraries and activities for children and families.

BEATRICE FABBRANI: Licensed Tour Guide of Florence and Province. Languages: Italian, English. She was born in Florence on 17-06-1983. She studied at the Classical High School "Galileo Galilei". She graduated in 2002. gragnoli@me.com She kept on studying at the Florence University in "Historical Geography for the Cultural Tourism" Curriculum. She graduated in 2009. She studied English at the Wall Street Institute of Florence and lived in London and Dublin for several months. She became "Official Tour guide of Florence" in 2010; since that moment she collaborated with several Florentine associations and private foreign tourists (Americans, Australians, Canadians, English). She is working as official tour guide in Villa Bardini in Florence now; She collaborates with the "Friends of Museums" Association and with the OMA Organization (Observatory for the arts and crafts) linked to the Bank Ente Cassa di Risparmio strongly supported by Prof. Gianpiero Maracchi.

ANNALISA DELL'OMO BUSONI: She graduated in "Foreign Languages and Literature" at the University of Florence; she is passionate of her City and she is an official Tour Guide since 2008. Languages: Italian, French. Not just classical tours but also particular and suggestive paths, where The Medieval Time and The Renaissance meet.





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