# Medici Chapels, where dynasty becomes monument

Medici dynasty and Michelangelo inside San Lorenzo

Terra Routes

## Before your visit

Before you plan the Medici Chapels

## Keep the museum separate from the Basilica di San Lorenzo.

Why this matters

## This is the Medici story at its most physical: burial, ambition and Michelangelo.

The museum moves between two very different scales. The Chapel of the Princes is grand-ducal monumentality; the New Sacristy is concentrated Michelangelo — architecture, sculpture and tomb design working together.

Plan this first

## Check the state museum ticket and any Secret Room reservation separately.

Use the official Musei del Bargello pages for current opening times, ticket rules, accessibility and cloakroom limits. The Michelangelo Secret Room is a special add-on with mandatory reservation and stricter access conditions.

Build your Medici Chapels visit

## Choose the Medici Chapels visit your Florence day needs

Keep the museum focused. It can be a Michelangelo-first stop, a dynasty chapter, a San Lorenzo pairing or a special Secret Room visit if you actually have that reservation.

Visit version

## “I am here mainly for Michelangelo”

Let the New Sacristy lead. Read the space as a complete design: architecture, Medici tombs and the allegorical figures of Day, Night, Dawn and Dusk.

Include

- Time to stay in the New Sacristy
- Chapel of the Princes as contrast

- A lighter stop afterwards

Avoid

- Treating the tomb sculptures as isolated statues
- Adding Accademia and Bargello without a recovery break

Inside the Medici Chapels

## Four layers are enough to understand the museum.

Do not turn the page into a catalogue of every tomb. Read the museum through changes of scale: family burial, grand-ducal spectacle, Michelangelo’s New Sacristy and the optional Secret Room layer.

## The crypts

The lower level makes the burial function explicit and gives the grander rooms above a more human starting point.

## The Chapel of the Princes

Polychrome stone, scale and dynastic ambition turn this into the grand-ducal statement of the museum.

## Michelangelo’s New Sacristy

Architecture and sculpture lock together around the Medici tombs. This is the section to slow down for, not simply pass through.

## The Secret Room — only if reserved

A small special-access room with wall drawings attributed to Michelangelo. It is not part of a normal spontaneous visit and has stricter physical-access limits.

Route strategy

## Where the Medici Chapels actually belong

Use the museum as the dynasty-and-Michelangelo anchor of the San Lorenzo side. It works best when the route moves between concentrated culture and a street-level reset instead of stacking every Medici interior together.

Best fit

## Use it when

- After Palazzo Medici Riccardi if you want the Medici story to move from residence to burial memory.
- Beside Basilica di San Lorenzo, while keeping the two visits and tickets conceptually separate.
- Before a food reset at Mercato Centrale or a walk toward the Duomo side.
- Inside the live Medici Power Route, Museum Heavyweights or Renaissance Core collections.

Use caution

## Avoid this shape

- If the day already contains Uffizi, Accademia or another sculpture-heavy museum without a break.
- If you are carrying large luggage or oversized backpacks that the museum will not admit.

- If your plan depends on the Secret Room but you do not hold the required reservation.
- If the group assumes Basilica San Lorenzo and the Medici Chapels are one combined visit.

Afterwards

## Good next moves

For the family-church and Brunelleschi chapter beside the dynastic burial museum.

For the family-residence chapter and the beginning of the Medici power story.

For a practical food and sensory reset after a concentrated museum visit.

For the next phase of Medici power: civic government, court politics and the move beyond the family quarter.

The full-day Medici route from Palazzo Medici to Palazzo Pitti, with flexible interior choices.

Medici Chapels planning logic

## Let the Medici Chapels carry the dynasty and Michelangelo chapter — then change the rhythm.

This museum works best with a clear role: New Sacristy, dynastic burial memory and one strong San Lorenzo connection. It does not need to become another giant museum block.

## Read the source

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