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PAUL'S EPIC HOLLYWOOD BID

MESCAL GOES MAXIMUS



BY SHANE POWER

PAUL Mescal is set to star in the sequel to the Hollywood blockbuster Gladiator.

The Normal People actor is reportedly in negotiations for the lead role of Lucius in the movie.

Paul, 26, had a "fantastic" meeting with director Ridley Scott that could see him join the A-list - just like original Gladiator Russell Crowe.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 5

ACTION HERO How Paul might look in the movie

Normal People star lined up for lead role in Gladiator movie sequel

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IDMBBG



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SUNDAY MIRROR SUNDAY 13/01/2023

time to

Adventure travel specialist Explore Worldwide has 20% off more than 300 bucket list trips to destinations such as Iceland, Vietnam, South Africa and Costa Rica. Book by January 10 for travel to December 31. Tours include family, small groups, walking and cycling, explore a walk-top-blue sea.



Titanic centre sets sail anew

The landmark Titanic Belfast museum will reopen in March after a multi-million pound refurbishment.

Opened in 2012, the attraction welcomed its seven millionth guest last year and the refreshed visitor experience will showcase a new theme, The Pursuit of Dreams, which includes immersive technology to highlight the city's maritime heritage and tell the story of the ill-fated ocean liner in a respectful and authentic way. While the museum is shut, visitors can join two daily outdoor guided tours showcasing the eye-catching building and historic signposts where RMS Titanic was built and launched, as well as visiting SS Nomadic, the last remaining White Star Line ship in the world.

The city's historic Titanic Quarter will further boost tourism in 2023 with the opening of Titanic Outfitters in the former Titanic Pump House, and the debut of First World War light cruiser HMS Caroline as a visitor attraction. titanicbelfast.com

Save up to 40% on outdoor summer breaks across destinations such as France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland and Germany in the Eurocamp sale. Thousands of trips for under £500 per family per week are on offer, with 15% deposits and bookings to be made by February 28. eurocamp.co.uk



BOOK A TRIP

Santa Maria Novella was built inside monastery



SEES THE LIMIT

Superb panorama of Florence

Nosing around Pinocchio's city is a delight, says Sarah Marshall

Porcing in a faded manuscript exhibited in a glass cabinet, tour guide Claudia Derricci explains why the plot of the original Pinocchio story isn't quite the happy Disney ending we've all grown up with. In the original story, she says, our favourite wooden puppet hanged himself - although the final chapter was quickly amended to provide something more appealing to the public.

Florentine author Carlo Lorenzini, who wrote under the name Carlo Collodi, was a journalist and satirist concerned on the impacts of Italy's unification in the mid-19th century. But his tale of a marionette who dreams of becoming a real boy inadvertently became a classic fairy tale. Years in the making, *Guillermo del Toro's* Netflix version of the story missed in November offers a very different reflection, by touching on some of the darker themes explored in the original text. Set in fascist Italy, it features the voices of stars including Ewan McGregor and Tilda Swinton.

Happy ending or not, the city of Florence proudly proclaims Pinocchio as one of its famous sons, alongside the lives of Dante and da Vinci. Slogans are staffed with magnets, toys and badges, while several sessions are named after key characters.

Many of the original cubs and bookshops associated with Collodi, who was born (and

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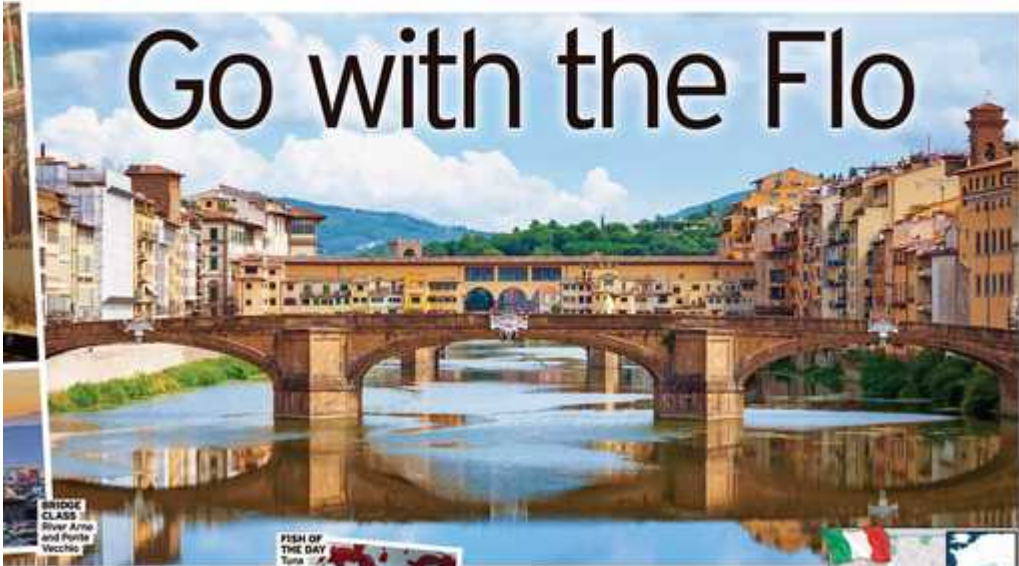
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Go with the Flo



BRIDGE CLASS Silver Arno and Ponte Vecchio



FISH OF THE DAY Tartare at Angel



HEIGHT OF FASHION Palazzo Tower

class) in the Tuscan city, no longer visit. But it's still possible to visit visitors on a short tour with Claudia Duranti.

Besides, there are many more great reasons to visit Florence. Here are just a few of them.

You can stay in a hotel with one of the city's oldest towers

Thought to be almost 1,300 years old, the Palazzo Tower is part of the luxurious hotel

“The sound of horses pulling carts can be heard from cobbled streets below

Rooftop dining

Sitting at eye level with Tuscany's many hills, rooftop terrace restaurant Angel is a young, vibrant addition to the Florentine dining scene. Church bells chime in tune with a soundtrack of soul and jazz by the likes of Gil Scott Heron, and the menu is as hearty and refreshing as the open-air

space. Dine on tuna tartare with a Jackson Pollock splash of beetroot, or black risotto stuffed with ricotta and tiger shrimp. Meals around £24. hotelcalernata.com/angel-restaurant

Golden cocktails

Perfect for sunset, when the River Arno glows red, Caffè dell'Orto is located below the Palazzo Vecchio. The Negroni cocktail was invented in Florence, but here you can order a version with a twist. The venue's signature offering features bergamot and white vermouth topped with flecks of gold. Match it with a bowl of waffles and truffle crackers. Cocktails around £10. langaroomsflorence.com/caffedellorto

Shopping is a historical experience

Built inside a monastery, the Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella is often described as the oldest pharmacy in the world. Today, there are no made men for sale, but the elegant shelves do stock a beautiful selection of soaps, perfumes and lotions. Made without preservatives or fillers.

products feature jamuns, rose and yin – the symbolic flowers of Florence. Even if you don't buy anything, it's worth visiting to admire the opulent interior. Visit santamariavilla.com.

Nosing out Pinocchio

First editions of Pinocchio, originally set aside in an Italian newspaper, are displayed alongside hundreds of toys and memorabilia at the new Museo del Giocattolo e di Pinocchio, in Via del Donatello. Treasures amassed by historian and collector Giuseppe Garofano give an intimate insight into author Collodi's past, and demonstrate the popularity of the wooden puppet in his home city. museodelgiocattolo.it



BOOK IT

Citalia offers three-night B&B breaks at the Brunelleschi Hotel in Florence, Italy, from £752 per person, including flights from Manchester on March 22 and private transfers. London: deput.turkey-also-assistive.citalia.com @TouristLocals operates a three-hour private Pinocchio in Florence tour with local guide Claudia Duranti at £285, for up to eight people. touristlocals.com

MORE INFO

Italy, UK



PUPPET Pinocchio