



THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Matteo Renzi
Mayor of Florence
Florence, Italy

Dear Mayor Renzi:

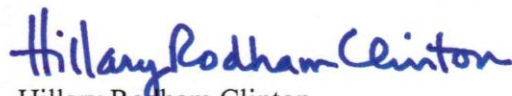
As the city of Florence commemorates the 500th anniversary of the death of Amerigo Vespucci, we join with you in celebrating the historical ties that have long united our two peoples and cultures. The relationship between the United States and Italy predates by almost three centuries the establishment of both our countries as independent, unified nations.

For centuries, Americans have sought inspiration from the masterpieces of Italian art and have been drawn to Florence, the cultural heart of Renaissance Italy.

The exhibition, *Americans in Florence: Sargent and the American Impressionists*, is a celebration of some of the finest works of American art that were directly influenced by the great works and tremendous natural beauty of Tuscany.

The United States of America is proud to join Florence and Italy in this commemoration of Amerigo Vespucci and to showcase the works of the many American artists who owe a debt of gratitude to Florence for the artistic vision they cultivated there.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton