



Florence, 450.000 inhabitants, Tuscany, Italy

THE TOWN

Half-way between Milan and Rome, at the intersection of important lines of communication, the city of Florence rears its lovely campaniles in the soft light of the Tuscan sky.

Its climate is Mediterranean, with dry, sunny Summers. Its mean Winter and Summer temperatures are 10° and 19°.

The capital of Tuscany, Florence plays an important economic role as a hub of communications.

But Florence is above all the rendezvous of culture, art and history. The perfectly intact image of the splendours of the past lives on in the monuments of the town and the delightful scenery of the surrounding countryside.

Florence has been chosen as the seat of the European University now in the process of completion. It is also an important centre for international meetings and congresses, exhibitions, and festivals. During the last ten years, it has acted as host to over 120 international events of one kind or another. It has 64 theatres including 4 big ones where international shows and festivals like the "Florentine Musical May" and the "International Theatre Revue" are held, and has 39 museums and art galleries, 13 libraries.

Its mayor is Mr. Guido PADALINO.

SPORT

Florence has always played an important part in the history of sport. Today its thriving sports associations number some 30.000 members, practicing all kinds of sport and especially the most popular (athletics, football, basketball, volleyball, swimming and diving, cycling). The events that are organized in the town reflect the

Florentine athlete's real passion for sport. In 1951, for example, Florence organized the International Gymnastics Festivities with the participation of 5.000 athletes from all over the world.

THE 1976 GAMES

* The present installations:

The main playing fields and sports grounds that will be used for the big spectacular-type Olympic events are:

- . the Municipal Stadium, for football, 5 miles from the Olympic Village, 60.000 seats.
- . the Swimming Stadium: for the swimming and diving events, 5 miles from the Olympic Village, 6.500 seats.
- . the covered pool in the Swimming Stadium, reserved for the wrestling matches, 3.000 seats, 5 miles from the Olympic Village.
- . Pavonière Swimming Pool for the water-polo matches, 2½ miles from the Olympic Village.
- . the hippodromes for the equestrian sports.
- . the Prato and Signa shooting ranges.
- . the port of Livorno (sailing)

In addition, each of these sports installations is surrounded by other smaller installations, which could if necessary be used for training purposes.

* The installations planned:

- . the Olympic Stadium, for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games, and for the athletics events, 80.000 seats.
- . the Sports Palace, for the gymnastics, 10.000 seats.
- . 3 small sports halls, for weight-lifting, boxing, basketball, volleyball, with 5.000, 3.000 and 3.000 seats respectively.
- . the Rowing Lake, 4.000 seats.
- . Cascine Velodrome, 7.000 seats.

The existing and future installations will form a big sports complex set in a park (and comprising many sports facilities for training), which will extend the famous "Cascine" park to the west by some 7½ miles and, with the historic centre of the town, will form an ideal place for holding foot-races and the marathon.

The Olympic Village will be at the centre of these existing and future installations, which will extend within a radius of 5 to 6½ miles all round this veritable hub.

* Olympic Village:

This will be built in the centre of the Olympic zone. It will cover an area of about 190 acres and will be designed to accommodate 13.000 people. After the Games, it will be converted into blocks of flats.

Complete sports facilities will be built directly connected with the Olympic Village in order to allow athletes to train.

* Press Centre:

The Officers' Club at the Air Force School will be set aside for the Press Centre.

4.000 rooms with private baths will be reserved for journalists in the best hotels in the town.

* Visitors' accommodation:

Owing to its tourist fame, Florence is one of the towns best equipped from the point of view of hotel resources. By 1976, a hotel capacity of 56.000 beds is expected within a radius of 9 miles.

* Cultural programme:

The town's great cultural tradition makes it possible to plan a rich programme of artistic events to accompany the Olympic Games as can be seen from the following list:

. Night shows held in the Olympic Stadium and the Sports Palace, with a programme of folkloric events.

- . Programme of operas and concerts.
- . Festival of poetry.
- . Visits to the town's museums and monuments.
- . The "Antiques Exhibition and Fair", normally held every other year will be organized exceptionally during the period of the Games.
- . A specialized exhibition of artistic sports photographs.
- . An exhibition of postage stamps devoted to the most important discoveries of mankind.

* Financing the Games:

The 1976 Olympic Games in Florence will be financed jointly by the Italian government, the region of Tuscany, the province of Florence and the commune of Florence.

The expenditure anticipated for the infrastructure needed for the organization of the Games is in the neighbourhood of 1 billion lire, but it should be considered that almost all the installations and facilities planned are already included in the budgets of the departments concerned. With regard to the big sports installations, which represent about 13% of the expenditure, I.N.O.C. has secured the backing of the Sports Credit Institute.

* Organizing Committee:

In 1967, a Committee for the Candidature of Florence was formed, comprising members of the Italian National Olympic Committee, members of the Municipal Council of Florence and leading local organizations, with a view to organizing the town's candidature for the Games of the 21st Olympiad. Its President is the senator Mr. Piero BARGELLINI.

* Dates planned:

From Saturday, August 28th to Sunday, September 12th, 1976.