

# CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	II
AUTHOR'S NOTE	13
MAPS	15, 16

## PART ONE · IL QUATTROCENTO

I FLORENCE AND THE FLORENTINES	19
<i>'A Florentine who is not a merchant ... enjoys no esteem whatever'</i>	
II THE RISE OF THE MEDICI	30
<i>'Always keep out of the public eye'</i>	
III ENEMIES OF THE ALBIZZI	42
<i>'He has emblazoned even the monks' privies with his balls'</i>	
IV EXILES AND MASTERS	54
<i>'He is King in all but name'</i>	
V ARCHBISHOPS AND ARCHITECTS	64
<i>'Never shall I be able to give God enough to set him down     in my books as a debtor'</i>	
VI WAR AND PEACE	79
<i>'Rencine? Rencine? Where is Rencine?'</i>	
VII ARTISTS AND MOURNERS	90
<i>'Too large a house now for so small a family'</i>	



CONTENTS

PART TWO · 1464-1492

VIII PIERO THE GOUTY	101
<i>'When it is a matter of acquiring worthy or strange objects he does not look at the price'</i>	
IX THE YOUNG LORENZO	113
<i>'A naturally joyful nature'</i>	
X THE POPE AND THE PAZZI	128
<i>'Do what you wish provided there be no killing'</i>	
XI THE SAVIOUR OF FLORENCE	144
<i>'That son of iniquity and foster-child of perdition'</i>	
XII THE NEEDLE OF THE ITALIAN COMPASS	156
<i>'If Florence was to have a tyrant, she could never have found a better or more delightful one'</i>	
XIII LORENZO: PATRON, COLLECTOR AND POET	164
<i>'He had a full understanding of such and all other things'</i>	

PART THREE · 1492-1537

XIV PIERO DI LORENZO DE' MEDICI AND THE FRIAR FROM FERRARA	177
<i>'Behold! It is the Lord God who is leading on these armies'</i>	
XV THE EXCOMMUNICANT	189
<i>'Someone has his seat in Hell already'</i>	
XVI RETURN OF THE MEDICI	201
<i>'The town of Prato was sacked, not without some bloodshed'</i>	
XVII 'PAPA LEONE!'	215
<i>'God has given us the Papacy. Let us enjoy it!'</i>	
XVIII THE MARCH ON ROME	230
<i>'To teach the Pope a lesson he would never forget'</i>	
XIX SIEGE AND MURDER	244
<i>'Mild measures are useless'</i>	

CONTENTS

PART FOUR · 1537-1743

XX DUKE COSIMO I	261
<i>'There is little joy to be discerned in the faces of the people'</i>	
XXI THE HEIRS OF COSIMO	275
<i>'Such entertainments have never been seen before'</i>	
XXII FERDINANDO II AND THE FRENCH PRINCESS	283
<i>'It is her usual conceit to say that she has married beneath her'</i>	
XXIII COSIMO III AND THE GRAND PRINCE FERDINANDO	292
<i>'Eighteen years is enough. It will serve out my time'</i>	
XXIV THE LAST OF THE MEDICI	302
<i>'Florence is much sunk from what it was'</i>	
NOTES ON BUILDINGS AND WORKS OF ART	312
THE PRINCIPAL MEDICI PORTRAITS, BUSTS AND STATUES IN FLORENCE	334
BIBLIOGRAPHY	338
GENEALOGICAL TABLES	346
INDEX	350