

Italian restaurants re-open historic 'wine-windows'



 by Paul Miles

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RESTAURANTS in Italy have reopened their 'wine windows' to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The tiny windows — or buchette del vino — were used during the Black Death by wine sellers to sell bottles and glasses without direct contact.

And now they are back in action for the same reason, with dozens in Florence being brought back into action.

Cafes and shops are using them to serve coffee, Aperol Spritz and wine to customers who are on the other side — with the safety of a thick ancient wall between them.

The tiny windows, found in walls at eye-level or lower, are often missed — but were historically relied on by wine producers in the 17th century.

There are nearly 150 dotted around Florence's old city walls, and the Cultural Association for Wine Windows said they are back in use.

Group founder Diletta Corsini said: 'It has taken us back in time by being used for their original purpose — socially-distant wine selling.'





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