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'Wine windows' used during the plague have reopened due to coronavirus pandemic

Across Florence a tradition known as buchette del vino that dates back to the time of the plague has resurfaced due to the Covid-19 pandemic

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By [Courtney Pochin](#) Audience Writer

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 **Wine windows have reopened in Florence** (Image: Buchette del Vino)

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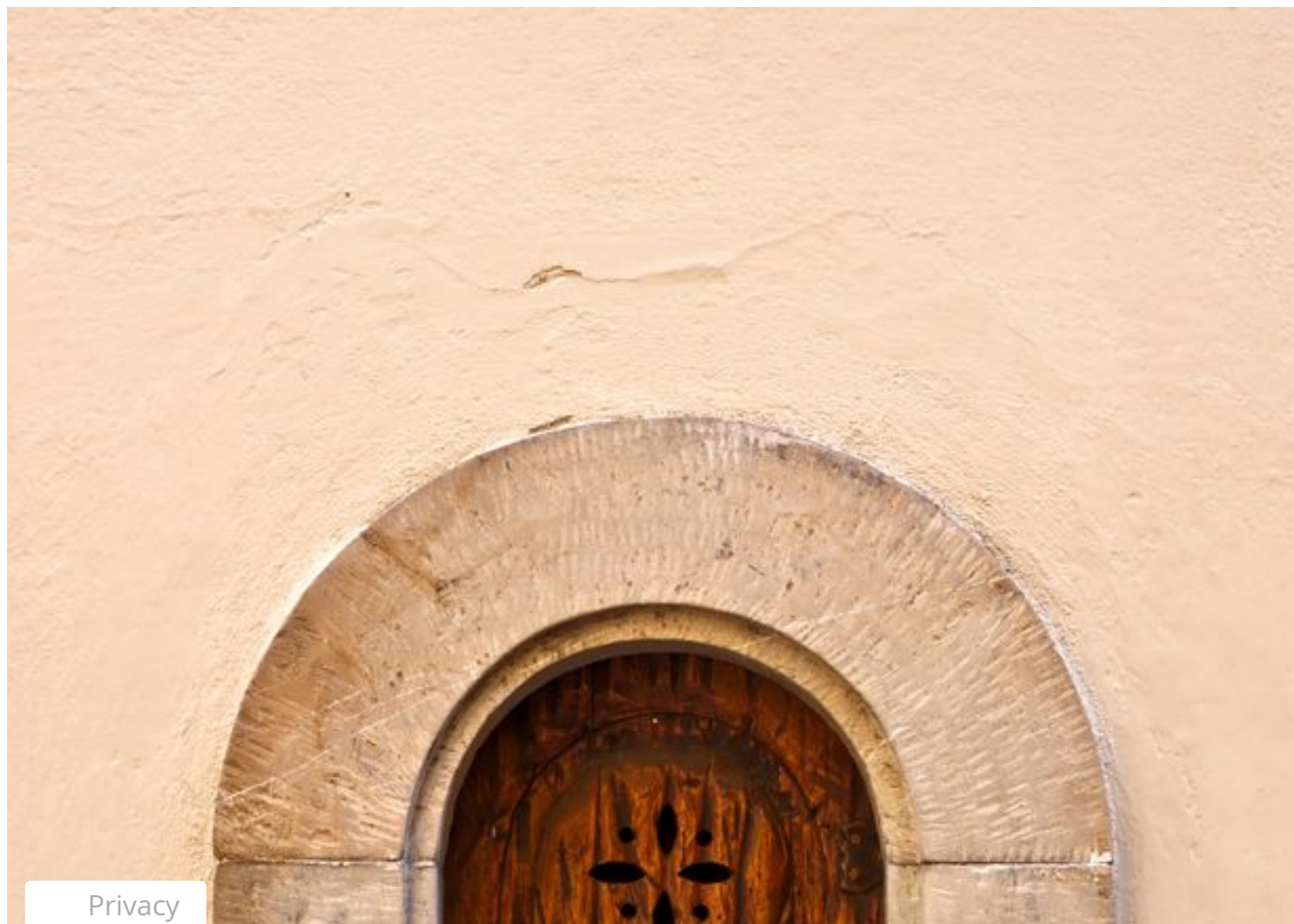
Following the Black Death, outbreaks of the bubonic plague swept across the world until the early 19th century.

A major outbreak of the plague occurred in Italy in the 1600s, during which time merchants came up with a clever way to continue selling wine without getting sick.

Across Florence hundreds of small windows were made in walls, which glasses of wine were served through in a socially distanced manner.

These were known as *buchette del vino*, which in English means wine window.

They haven't been used in centuries, but have started to reopen in recent weeks, due to the [coronavirus](#) pandemic.



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The windows date back to the 1600s (Image: Getty Images/iStockphoto)

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According to the [Wine Window Association](#), they are now being used to serve more than just wine.

They said: "Some enterprising Florentine Wine Window owners have turned back the clock and are using their Wine Windows to dispense glasses of wine, cups of coffee, drinks, sandwiches and ice cream — all germ-free, contactless!"

Some are also offering cocktails such as Aperol Spritz at the windows.



 **They've been given new purpose during the coronavirus pandemic** (Image: Getty Images/iStockphoto)

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The Wine Window Association, which was set up in 2016, believes there are around 150 buchette del vino inside Florence's city walls, while another 100 or so have been cataloged beyond the
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He said: "People could knock on the little wooden shutters and have their bottles filled direct from the Antinori, Frescobaldi and Ricasoli families, who still produce some of Italy's best-known wine today."

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He went on to explain what happened to them after the plague: "The wine windows gradually became defunct, and many wooden ones were permanently lost in the floods of 1966."

"We want to put a plaque by all the wine windows, as people tend to respect them more when they understand what they are and their history," he added.

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