THE PLACE OF WONDERS

FOUNDATION

Experience available

Monday to Friday: **9:30 am – 1:00 pm**
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Saturday: **10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Experience duration: **1.5 hour**

One week's notice of booking required

THE ART OF SHOEMAKING WITH MATTEO 1TO1

Italian leatherwork dates back as far as the Middle Ages and specific to Tuscany, the ancient Etruscans were tanning animal skins as early as 800 BC. Today you cannot walk the streets of Florence without coming upon the rich scent of leather emanating from historic workshops and the various leather stands that dot the city. Much of the highest quality leather comes from the leather school in Santa Croce. Meanwhile, Tuscany's tanneries still supply world-renowned luxury brands that value the importance of "Made in Italy."

Matteo Caparrini, aka Matteo 1to1, handcrafts custom sneakers in the beating heart of Tuscany's green landscape, continuing the family tradition of shoemaking his grandfather began in 1932. Matteo made his first pair of shoes in the family workshop when he was just nine years old. Today, the shoemaker uses the third-generational knowledge he acquired throughout his childhood and early career to handcraft custom sneakers and shoes from scratch, using Tuscan materials and local Florentine leather in his 1to1 lab near Vinci. Each pair of sneakers is infused with the personality of his clients, who often discover Matteo through word of mouth or online, commissioning his unique approach to shoe design from all over the world.

"My clients are my inspiration. I pour their personality into the shoe," he says.

To visit Matteo in his contemporary workshop, surrounded by prototypes and finished sneakers in an array of colors and leather textures, alongside his worktable and tools, is visual proof of the skillset and labor of love he pours into every pair of shoes. Better yet, Matteo wants to share his enthusiasm and innovative approach to this traditional craft with the next generation, hosting regular workshops and tutorials for students.