



FEAST OF TUSCANY 30 November



In the year 2000, the Tuscan Regional Council approved a law to celebrate, on 30 November, the '*Festa della Regione Toscana*', in commemoration of the anniversary of the Penal Reform introduced on 30 November 1786 by the Grand-duke of Tuscany, Pietro Leopoldo of Lorraine. As a result of this reform, Tuscany became the first state in the world to abolish the death penalty, one of the most uncivilised measures perpetuated up to this date by all world governments, and "suitable - according to Pietro Leopoldo – only for Barbarian peoples". The 30 November, therefore, opened a new chapter in the history of human civilisation from the eighteenth century onwards.

Along with the abolition of the death penalty, the Grand-duchy of Tuscany also put an end to the use of physical torture and mutilation. This law found its principal inspiration in the philosophical concepts of the Enlightenment, and above all in the most famous work of the Italian Enlightenment, *Dei delitti e delle pene*, (*On Crimes and Punishments*) which Cesare

Beccaria first published in Tuscany, in Livorno, in 1764. In recent times, in the Cortile della Dogana of Palazzo Vecchio, the Florence City Council has set up a marble tablet bearing a text composed in the eighteenth century commemorating the passing of the law.

Within the framework of the celebrations organised by the Tuscan Regional Council, the Municipal authorities also wish to mark the day of the Tuscan Region Festival with a series of different initiatives involving, as well as historians and politicians from Tuscany and elsewhere, the citizens and all those who live in Florence.