

THE FALL FASHION ISSUE

Robb Report



ITALIAN GENIUS

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Time Well Spent

Rome has captivated visitors for centuries with its awe-inspiring monuments and traditional cuisine. But there's another side to the Eternal City—one where new hotels, bars, artisans, and insiders are bringing a vibrant and innovative energy to this age-old destination.

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 7



CITY FILE ROME

Look beyond the cobblestone streets and historic facades to uncover an of-the-moment evolution in the Eternal City.

By Jill Newman



Rome is first a city of ancient beauty,

where a baroque fountain or ornate piazza is always just around the corner and magnificent feats of art and architecture stand where they have stood for centuries. But beyond its checklist of monuments and masterpieces, the Eternal City is an evolving one, where hotels, restaurants, and artisans are infusing new life into long-held traditions. 🗨️ Those who check in at the new Hotel De' Ricci (hoteldericci.com) will discover a novel approach to Roman hospitality: Each of the property's eight suites comes with an in-room wine cellar and a personal sommelier. Owner Lorenzo Lisi, of the renowned Pierluigi restaurant, oversees wine tastings and tours exclusively for his guests.

That personal touch is likewise evident in new shops like Chez Dédé (chezdede.com), a gallery concept store on Via di Monserrato where Daria Reina and Andrea Ferolla—two of Italy's top creative directors—curate an original selection of art, books, accessories, and products. Updating the traditional tailored suit is Sartoria Giuliva (sartoriagiuliva.it), where co-owner Gerardo Cavaliere pairs old-school practices with a young, fresh fit that exemplifies the new Rome.

"Cycling along the banks of the Tiber River with my family is priceless. Because the river sits at a lower level than the city, noise is minimal. It feels like an escape."

LUCA VIRGILIO

Ensuring that old Rome doesn't get left behind is the Hotel Eden (dorchestercollection.com). Last April, the 128-year-old grande dame completed an 18-month renovation that transformed its guest rooms with custom Italian furnishings and slick marble bathrooms and reinvigorated its restaurant with modern takes on Roman classics.

Of course, even amid all this progress, some Roman traditions are not to be altered. Head to J. K. Place Roma's (jkplaceroma.com) stylish bar or Hotel Locarno's (hotellocarno.com) colorful courtyard for a late-afternoon aperitif, and you'll find locals lingering over Campari cocktails. Sidewalk trattorias serving classic *cacio e pepe* and *spumante* remain the restaurants of choice. And long evening walks past ancient piazzas and monuments (some, admittedly, recently renovated) are still the only way to end a perfect day in the timeless city.

"I love to get lost in the narrow streets of Rome, discovering the unexpected and catching the essence of the Eternal City."

FABIO SALINI

LOCAL FAVORITES

| | STAY | EAT | DRINK | SHOP | DO |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
|  <p>FABIO SALINI JEWELRY DESIGNER</p> | <p>Palazzo Dama 4 is a boutique hotel in a patrician Roman villa along the Tiber River close to Piazza del Popolo. It's a luxurious and welcoming place; it feels as if you are in the home of your dreams. palazzodama.com</p> | <p>My heart is anchored to Al Moro, a restaurant close to Fontana di Trevi where I like the intimate and friendly atmosphere and the traditional Roman cuisine. ristorantealmororoma.com</p> | <p>The bar at the Hotel Locarno 6 is an oasis in the heart of Rome. It has an elegant and intimate atmosphere inside, and a courtyard where you can forget about the time. hotellocarlo.com</p> | <p>Chez Dédé is a very special place where you can indulge your senses: the scent of candles and perfumed paper, the beauty of a new and creative handbag. Drawings, refined books, and poetic objects are all in one place here. chezdede.com</p> | <p>I love to get lost in the narrow streets of Rome, discovering the unexpected and catching the essence of the Eternal City at historical palaces, ancient ruins, little squares where people play chess, and old artisanal workshops.</p> |
|  <p>PIERLUIGI ROSCIOLI RESTAURATEUR</p> | <p>I married my wife at Hotel de Russie, and I'll always be in love with this place. But for an unconventional stay, I suggest G-Rough, a collection of suites filled with Italian designs from the 1930s to 1950s. roccofortehotels.com; g-rough.com</p> | <p>For lunch, I like Emma, a high-quality pizzeria. My favorite spot for dinner is L'Arcangelo. Its chef, Arcangelo Dandini, is famous for his recipes that stick to pure Roman tradition and his glorious interpretations of classic dishes. emmapizzeria.com; larcangelo.com</p> | <p>The Jerry Thomas Project 2 is the first speakeasy in Rome. It is original and fun. thejerrythomasproject.it</p> | <p>I love Iosselliani for jewels and Frank Lo for glasses. iosselliani.com; franklo.it</p> | <p>Cycle the banks of the Tiber, visit the Maxxi museum, and relax in Villa Doria Pamphilj's park. maxxi.art; doriapamphilj.it</p> |
|  <p>CARLOS SOUZA WORLDWIDE BRAND AMBASSADOR, VALENTINO</p> | <p>I enjoy the terraces of the Hotel Eden 7, with its magnificent views. And the cool and clean tones of J. K. Place Roma offer a restful oasis from the hectic pace of the city. dorchestercollection.com; jkroma.com</p> | <p>Al Moro is one of my favorites because they make the best carbonara in the world. ristorantealmororoma.com</p> | <p>I love the special drink mixes at Charade Private Bar at Hotel De' Ricci. Another good spot is the outdoor garden at Hotel de Russie. hotelder Ricci.com; roccofortehotels.com</p> | <p>I love the particular taste of Chez Dédé 3. They have myriad special items, and I love their pajamas and incense. chezdede.com</p> | <p>At Palazzo Altemps, you will see a great collection of Greco-Roman sculptures from the Ludovisi family that are very unique. archeoroma.beniculturali.it</p> |
|  <p>LUCA VIRGILIO GENERAL MANAGER, HOTEL EDEN</p> | <p>Obviously, my favorite hotel is Hotel Eden, a calm oasis in the heart of Rome. My favorite room is the Aurora Terrace Suite—which was once home to Ingrid Bergman—for its view of the private gardens of Villa Aurora. dorchestercollection.com</p> | <p>Molto, in the residential Parioli district, has wonderful ambience and lovely service, and serves one of the best steaks in town. Marco, the owner, is a perfect host. moltoitaliano.it</p> | <p>Salotto 42 is an enchanting location in one of the quaintest little squares in the center of the city. The ambience is chic and relaxed, with carefully selected furniture and a curated selection of fashion and photography books. salotto42.space</p> | <p>I buy all my elegant shoes at Il Gergo. They are superb quality and made in Italy's Marche region by generations of shoemakers. ilgergo.it</p> | <p>Cycling along the banks of the Tiber River with my family is priceless. Because the river sits at a lower level than the city, noise is minimal. It feels like an escape.</p> |
|  <p>PRINCESS MAFALDA VON HESSEN FASHION DESIGNER</p> | <p>Hotel de Russie 5 is wonderful since it is central—and the garden is a hangout even for local Romans. roccofortehotels.com</p> | <p>Dal Bolognese is where I always meet friends; Nino is great for a business lunch and if you shop around Via Condotti; and Pierluigi has great fish in the beautiful Piazza de' Ricci. dalbolognese.it; ristorantenino.it; pierluigi.it</p> | <p>Caffè Perù is the bar where my kids have a beer. It's always crowded and you see people you know because it is in Piazza Farnese. caffeperu.it</p> | <p>The Monti area has a variety of fun stores, from thrift shops and antique stores to old lamp shops and cool fashion boutiques.</p> | <p>It's easy to take day trips from Rome. My favorites are to Naples (1 hour by train) and Florence (just over an hour by train).</p> |

ILLUSTRATIONS: GARY WILLIAM MUSGRAVE. 1, 3: MARK MANN; 4: ROBERTO GILI; 5: JANOS GRAPOW

Toga Not Included

THERE'S MORE TO Rome than meets the eye. Behind—and even below—the city's classical facades and narrow streets lies a hidden world filled with secret medieval chapels and subterranean ancient ruins. Surprisingly, the best way to see it all is through the city's top hotels. **Hotel de Russie** (roccoforte.com) offers curated experiences exclusively for guests staying in its Vaselli, Popolo, Nijnsky, and Picasso suites, including the Baroque Masterpieces tour, which traces the works of Bernini, Borromini, and Caravaggio in various locations throughout the city. In addition to hard-to-access tours like private viewings of the Sistine Chapel, the **Rome Cavalieri** (romecavalieri.it) offers gladiator-training classes in which participants learn Roman fighting techniques. And at the Dorchester Collection's **Hotel Eden** (dorchestercollection.com), guests can arrange intimate viewings of private villas, palaces, and art collections.



Pasta Wars

Hotel Eden's executive chef, Fabio Ciervo

THE SEARCH for the best *cacio e pepe*—a classic Roman spaghetti dish served with butter, cheese, and a touch of black pepper—is a long and sometimes contentious topic among locals. Take a tour of the city's top purveyors

of this beloved dish and decide for yourself. Start at **La Terrazza** (dorchestercollection.com), Hotel Eden's gourmet restaurant, where executive chef Fabio Ciervo serves a contemporary version topped with imported Madagascar

pepper. The next stop is **Roscioli** (salumeriaroscioli.com), a local favorite that delivers a thoroughly authentic iteration of the dish. **Piperno** ([ristorante piperno.it](http://ristorantepiperno.it)) in the old Jewish Quarter and **Pierluigi** (pierluigi.it) on Via de

Monserrato also offer classic takes with their own unique spins. And for an ultratraditional *cacio e pepe* that hasn't changed in nearly a century, head to **Nino's** (ristorantenino.it), where local *nonne* (grandmothers) still run the *cucina*.



All That Glitters

BULGARI'S BOUTIQUE on Via dei Condotti has been an Eternal City landmark for more than a century, serving as a showcase for the Italian brand's (bulgari.com) bold, Roman-inspired designs since opening in 1905. For a select group of VIP shoppers, the jeweler will open its Tiber River creative atelier for private consultations with creative director Lucia Silvestri. "I enjoy working closely with special clients on making their vision come to life," she says. "It allows me to tell the story of Bulgari so they understand the heart and soul of the brand." For even more one-of-a-kind jewelry, head to the local boutiques of **Fabio Salini** (fabiosalini.it) and **Hedy Martinelli** (hedymartinelli.com), where you can customize your own pieces over a glass of Prosecco. **R**

Bulgari's creative director, Lucia Silvestri