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Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to lonelyplanet.com/hotels and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Daphne Inn (p257)
- The Beehive (p254)
- Relais Palazzo Taverna (p248)
- Hotel Campo de' Fiori (p249)
- Gregoriana (p255)

SLEEPING

Accommodation in Rome is plentiful, ranging from opulent five-star palaces to chic boutique hotels, family-run *pensioni* (small hotels or guesthouses) and tranquil convents. In recent years, the number of B&Bs has risen exponentially and there are now hundreds dotted around the city. There are also a growing number of hybrid hostel-cum-hotels offering hotel-quality private rooms alongside communal dorms.

Rome is not cheap, though, and rates are uniformly high. Price hikes since the 2002 conversion to the euro have affected everything in the city and accommodation has been no exception.

Most of the hostels and budget *pensioni* are located in the not-so-beautiful area around Stazione Termini. The district has been spruced up in recent years but is still not especially inviting and can be unwelcoming after dark; in particular, women travelling alone may feel uncomfortable at night. However, competition between hotels has forced many places to up their standards and you can find some surprisingly good places to stay.

Nicer by far is the *centro storico* (historic centre) and the warren of streets around Campo de' Fiori and Piazza Navona. Prices are obviously higher, but you'll be right in the heart of the action with many major sights and hundreds of restaurants, trattorias and bars on your doorstep. Be warned, though, that it's not the quietest of areas and light sleepers may have problems.

Over the river, Trastevere is another picturesque and central spot. Its tightly packed streets boast a number of attractive options, many in historic *palazzi* (mansions), although note that space is tight and rooms tend to be small (something that is common in much of the city centre). Again, noise can also be a problem, especially in summer when the area is swamped with partying visitors. The Prati district around the Vatican is a good compromise if you want somewhere beautiful but less hectic.

All these areas are a bus ride or metro journey from Stazione Termini. If you come by car, be warned that there is a terrible lack of on-site parking facilities in the city centre, although your hotel should be able to direct you to a private garage. Street parking is not recommended.

Wherever you decide to stay and whenever you come it's always a good idea to book ahead. For further details on reservations see [p246](#).

Although Rome doesn't have a low season as such, many hotels offer significant discounts from mid-July through August and from mid-November to mid-March (excluding the Christmas–New Year period). Expect to pay top whack in spring (mid-March to mid-July) and autumn (September to mid-November) and over the main holiday periods (Christmas, New Year and Easter).

Most mid- and top-range hotels accept credit cards. Budget places might but it's always best to check in advance. Note that many smaller places offer discounts of up to 10% for payment in cash.

In this book, reviews are in order of price, with the most expensive places listed first. Low-season and high-season rates have been provided unless there's a single year-round price. Icons indicate extras such as air-conditioning, internet availability and wheelchair access. See the Quick Reference on the front inside cover for a list of icons used.

[Rome Tourist Board](#) (www.romaturismo.it) publishes a full list of all officially recognised accommodation in Rome, with prices.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

B&Bs

Alongside the hundreds of traditional B&Bs (private homes offering a room or two to paying guests) there's a growing number of smart, boutique-style B&Bs that offer stylish accommodation at mid- to top-end prices. Many of these are effectively small guesthouses, meaning that you get your own keys

and can come and go as you like. Note also that you're unlikely to be served a cooked breakfast; much more likely is a continental offering of cereal, bread rolls, croissants, ham and cheese.

The tourist office publishes a full list of B&Bs, with prices, at www.romaturismo.it.

The following agencies specialise in B&B accommodation and offer online booking services:

Bed & Breakfast Association of Rome ([Map pp108–9](#); ☎ 06 553 02 248; www.b-b.rm.it; Via Antonio Pacinotti 73; ⌚ 9am–1pm & 3–7pm Mon–Fri) Has more than a hundred properties on its books. As well as rooms in B&Bs it organises short-term rentals of fully furnished flats, usually for a minimum of three nights. Single rooms cost from €50, doubles from €70.

Bed & Breakfast Italia ([Map pp74–5](#); ☎ 06 688 01 513; www.bbitalia.it; Corso Vittorio Emanuele II 282; ⌚ 9am–6pm Mon–Fri) A long-established agency with more than 200 B&Bs divided into three categories. Prices start at €35 per person.

Cross Pollinate (www.cross-pollinate.com) An online agency for *affittacamere* (B&B without the breakfast). Per-person rates start at €55 for a single room and €35 in a double.

Hostels

Rome's hostels are smartening up their act. The number of private hostels is increasing and many now offer smart hotel-style rooms alongside traditional dorms. These are often an excellent alternative to a room in a cheap *pensione*. Hostel facilities vary but typically include internet access, a communal TV area and kitchen; some also have laundry facilities. Curfews are rare and some even offer 24-hour receptions.

The central office of the Italian youth hostels association, the *Associazione Italiana Alberghi per la Gioventù* (AIG; [Map pp90–1](#); ☎ 06 487 11 52; www.ostellionline.org; Via Cavour 44), has information about all the youth hostels in Italy. You can also join Hostelling International (HI) here.

Pensioni & Hotels

The bulk of accommodation in Rome is made up of *pensioni* and hotels (*alberghi*).

A *pensione* is basically a small, family-run hotel. In Rome, they are usually housed in converted flats occupying one or two floors in a large apartment block. Rooms tend to be simple, and although most now come with a private bathroom, those that don't will usually have a basin and bidet.

Hotels are generally bigger and more expensive than *pensioni*, although at the cheaper end of the market, there's often little difference between the two. All hotels are rated from one to five stars, although this rating relates to facilities only and gives no indication of value, comfort, atmosphere or friendliness. Most hotels in Rome's city centre tend to be three-star and up. As a general rule a room in

BOOK ACCOMMODATION ONLINE

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a three-star hotel will come with a hairdryer, minibar (or fridge), safe and air-conditioning. Many will also have satellite TV and internet connections.

A common complaint in Rome is that hotel rooms are small. This is particularly true in the *centro storico* and Trastevere, where many accommodation options are housed in converted *palazzi*. Similarly, a spacious lift is a rare find, particularly in older *palazzi*, and you'll seldom find one that can accommodate more than one average-sized person with luggage.

Breakfast in cheaper hotels is rarely worth a bleary eye so, if you have the option, save a few bob and pop into a bar for a coffee and *cornetto* (croissant).

Religious Institutions

Not surprisingly Rome is well furnished with religious institutions, many of which offer cheap(-ish) rooms for the night. Bear in mind, though, that all religious institutions have strict curfews and the accommodation, while clean, is mostly of the basic, no-frills variety. It's always wise to book well in advance. For a list of institutions, check out www.santasusanna.org/comingToRome/convents.html.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT TIMES

Hotels usually require you to check out on the day of departure between 10am and noon. Later than this and you run the risk of being charged for a further night; check with individual hotels for specific regulations. As to check-in times, there are no hard and fast rules, but if you're going to arrive late in the day, it's probably best to mention this when you book your room.

Many hostels won't accept prior reservations for dorm beds, so arrive after 10am and it's first come, first served. Check-out times are often earlier in hostels, typically around 9am.

LONGER-TERM RENTALS

Apartments in central Rome are not cheap. Bank on spending about €1000 per month (with bills on top) for a studio apartment or a small one-bedroom place. You'll also have to fork out anywhere between €35 and €180 for the monthly *condominio* (building) maintenance charge. However, for a longer stay they can often work out cheaper than an extended hotel sojourn. For a mini-apartment in a hotel block go online at www.romaturismo.it and check the section marked 'residences'. It's also worth checking the following websites:

Flat in Rome (www.flatinrome.it)

Flats in Italy.com (www.flatsinitaly.com)

Italy Accom (www.italy-accom.com)

Leisure in Rome (www.leisureinrome.com)

Rental in Rome (www.rentalinrome.com)

A room in a shared apartment will cost from €600 per month, plus bills. You'll usually be asked to pay a deposit equal to one or two months' rent and the first month in advance.

Several English-language bookshops have notice boards where people looking for accommodation or offering a room on a short- or long-term basis place messages. Try the Almost Corner Bookshop (p177) in Trastevere or Feltrinelli International (p175) near Piazza della Repubblica. Another option is to check the classified ads in *Wanted in Rome* (published fortnightly on Wednesday) or *Porta Portese* (published twice weekly on Tuesday and Friday).

Rental agencies specialising in short-term rentals usually charge hefty commissions for their services – up to two months rent in some cases. They are listed in the telephone directory under *Agenzie immobiliari*.

RESERVATIONS

It is always a good idea to book ahead, and essential if you're coming in high season or for a major religious festival (in particular Christmas or Easter). The easiest way is generally on the internet; otherwise, you'll probably be asked to fax confirmation of your reservation together with a credit card number as deposit. If you don't have a credit card, you'll have to send a money order to cover the first night's stay. Note that although many budget hotels require a credit card number to secure a booking, not all accept them as payment. To

PRICE GUIDE

The following is a guide to the pricing system used in this chapter. Unless otherwise stated, prices quoted are for a double room with private bathroom.

€	up to €120
€€	€120 to €250
€€€	€250-plus

avoid embarrassing scenes when checking out, check in advance.

When reserving a room, make sure you ask for a *camera matrimoniale* if you want a room with a double bed. A *camera doppia* (double room) usually means a room with twin beds.

If you arrive without a reservation, all's not lost. There's a hotel *reservation service* (Map pp90–1; % 06 699 10 00; h 7am–10pm) at Stazione Termini in the hall parallel to platform 24, that will book you a room for a €3 fee. Alternatively, the Enjoy Rome (p295) tourist office can sort you out with a room. Whatever you do, though, don't follow the people hanging around at the train station who claim to be tourism officials and offer to find you a room. Chances are they'll lead you to some dump for which you end up paying way over the official rates.

ROOM RATES

It's almost impossible to be specific when outlining price ranges, as not only do rates fluctuate madly between periods but also between hotels in the same category. As a very rough guide, expect to pay from €40 to €150 for a double in a one-star hotel; in a two-star €60 to €150; in a three-star €80 to €300; in a four-star €200 to €460; and in a five-star from €300 upwards.

Many hotels offer discounts for low-season visits (up to 50%), long stays or for weekend breaks. Check hotel websites for offers.

Note also that single travellers are not well served, with single rooms often disproportionately expensive.

ANCIENT ROME

Stretching from the Campidoglio down past the forums to the Colosseum and Palatino, Rome's ancient core is what makes this city so special. A busy area of ruins and roads, it has little accommodation and tends to be expensive. That said, it's easy to reach by public transport and there's something magical about sleeping in the shadow of Italy's best-loved ruins.

HOTEL FORUM Map p60

Hotel €€€

% 06 679 24 46; www.hotelforumrome.com; Via Tor de'Conti 25; s €145–240, d €220–340; m Cavour; p a

A stately old pile, the Forum offers some of the best views in town. From the rooftop restaurant, you can look down on all of Ancient Rome, from Il Vittoriano on the right down to the forums and the Colosseum on the left. Inside, the appeal is olde-worlde, with antiques and leather armchairs strewn about the wood-panelled lobby, staff in ties and tails, and chandeliers hanging from every ceiling. Rooms are similarly styled, offering charm in place of hi-tech wizardry.

HOTEL NERVA Map p60

Hotel €€

% 06 678 18 35; www.hotelnerva.com; Via Tor de'Conti 3; s €100–160, d €130–220; m Cavour;

p a
Cheerful and family-run, the Nerva is tucked away on a narrow road behind the Imperial Forums. A small place, it manages to squeeze 22 peach-coloured rooms onto its three floors (the stairs are among the steepest in Rome) as well as plenty of Roman paraphernalia – mosaic flooring in reception, an imperial bust halfway up the stairs, fake frescoes. Rooms are not the biggest but they are quiet, carpeted and simply decorated; two have facilities for the disabled.

CENTRO STORICO

The *centro storico* is the best place to stay if you want to experience Rome to the full. An enthralling tangle of atmospheric squares, shadowy lanes, cafés and historic *palazzi*, this is the baroque heart of the city, the Rome of the Pantheon, Piazza Navona and Campo de' Fiori. Not surprisingly, it's relatively expensive and most hotels, *pensioni* and B&Bs are in the mid- to upper-price bracket.

PANTHEON & AROUND

GRAND HOTEL DE LA MINERVE

Map pp74–5 Hotel €€€

% 06 69 52 01; www.grandhoteldelaminerve.it; Piazza della Minerva 69; s €360–460, d €460–620;

g or j Largo di Torre Argentina; a i w
The grand old Minerve is one of Rome's historic hotels. Housed in an austere 17th-century *palazzo*, it's been in business since the late 18th century. It owes much of its current look, including the flamboyant Art

Deco lobby, to architect Paolo Portoghesi's 1990 makeover. Rooms vary in size and look – some have original 17th-century wood-beamed ceilings, others have frescoes and four-poster beds.

HOTEL SANTA CHIARA

Map pp74–5 Hotel €€€

% 06 687 29 79; www.albergosantachiara.com; Via di Santa Chiara 21; s €143–175, d €223–280; g or j Largo di Torre Argentina; a
Walk into the grandiose entrance hall of the Santa Chiara and you might think you've landed on your feet. Classical statues, marble columns and Murano crystal chandeliers promise luxury on a grand scale. However, go upstairs and you'll find that the guest rooms are disappointingly down-to-earth. They're not uncomfortable, just rather bland with nondescript décor and little character. Those around the internal courtyard are generally quieter.

ALBERGO ABRUZZI Map pp74–5 Hotel €€

% 06 679 20 21; www.hotelabruzzo.it; Piazza della Rotonda 69; s €130–155, d €175–195; g or j Largo di Torre Argentina; a

Few hotels in Rome boast a better location than this popular three-star option, bang opposite the Pantheon. What's more, the rooms are attractive, with parquet, cherry wood furnishings and soft colour schemes, and the owners are a friendly bunch. The one problem is noise – double glazing will keep some of it out but a silent night is unlikely. Breakfast is served in a nearby café.

top picks

VIEWES

- **Hotel Forum** (left) – admire the forums, Colosseum and Campidoglio spread out before you
- **Hotel Scalinata di Spagna** (p256) – from the top of the Spanish Steps, enjoy the evocative spread of Roman rooftops
- **Albergo Abruzzi** (above) – wake up to the Pantheon looming over vibrant Piazza della Rotonda
- **Grand Hotel Parco dei Principi** (p262) – delight in the green spread of Villa Borghese over to St Peter's Basilica
- **Hotel Exedra** (p257) – dip your toes in the pool as you look down on Piazza della Repubblica

HOTEL MIMOSA Map pp74-5 Pensione €
% 06 688 01 753; www.hotelmimosa.net; Via di Santa Chiara 61, 2nd fl; s/d/tr/q €88/118/158/178, with shared bathroom €50/70/90/105; **G** or **J**
Largo di Torre Argentina; **a**
One of the few budget choices in the historic centre, the rough-and-ready Mimosa is popular with foreign students. Don't expect any frills, just basic accommodation in spartan rooms, some of which are cramped but all of which are clean. To book a room you'll need to leave a credit card number even if the hotel accepts payment in cash only.

PIAZZA NAVONA & AROUND

HOTEL RAPHAËL Map pp74-5 Hotel €€€
% 06 68 28 31; www.raphaelhotel.com; Largo Febo 2; s €200-350, d €250-450; **G** Corso del Rinascimento; **p n a i w**
Famous for its ivy-clad façade, the much-loved Raphaël is striking inside and out. Art lovers can admire Picasso ceramics and Miro lithographs in the lobby while diners sit down to alfresco meals at the panoramic rooftop restaurant. The Richard Meier-designed executive rooms on the 3rd floor are sleek and modern whereas those on other floors have an old-fashioned gentlemen's club feel; all have top-end touches such as Bulgari toiletries in the bathrooms. Breakfast costs an extra €22 to €26.

HOTEL DUE TORRI Map pp74-5 Hotel €€
% 06 688 06 956; www.hotelduetorriroma.com; Vicolo del Leonetto 23; s €114-165, d €172-235; **G**
Via di Monte Brianzo; **a**
Tucked away at the end of a tiny side street, the Hotel Due Torri has always offered discretion – first as a residence for cardinals, then as a brothel, and now as a lovely, refined hotel. The look is classic, with huge gilt-framed mirrors, marble statuettes and plump pot plants, and the English-speaking staff are cordial and efficient. Rooms are average sized and tastefully appointed.

TEATROPACE 33 Map pp74-5 Boutique Hotel €€
% 06 687 90 75; www.hotelteatropace.com; Via del Teatro Pace 33; s €90-135, d €140-235; **n a**
Worth inclusion for its location alone – about 50m from Piazza Navona – this crackling three-star is a top choice. Housed in a former cardinal's residence, it has 23 beautifully appointed, soundproofed rooms decorated with parquet flooring, damask curtains

and exposed wooden beams. They're spread over four floors, which means quite a climb if you're on the top floor – there's no lift, just a monumental 17th-century stone staircase.

RELAIS PALAZZO TAVERNA Map pp74-5 Boutique Hotel €€
% 06 203 98 064; www.relaispalazzotaverna.com; Via dei Gabrielli 92; s €80-150, d €100-210, tr €120-240; **a i**
A bargain in central Rome is a rare and beautiful beast. And this chic boutique hotel is just that. But its charms go beyond value for money and a prime location – near the antique shops of Via dei Coronari. Considerable effort has been taken to decorate the 11 rooms in a fun, modern way and all bear the hallmarks of a tasteful eye. Satellite TV and kettles mean that you can put your feet up with a cuppa in front of the box.

HOTEL PORTOGHESI Map pp74-5 Hotel €€
% 06 686 42 31; www.hotelportoghesiroma.com; Via dei Portoghesi 1; s €120-150, d €150-190; **G**
Via di Monte Brianzo; **n a i**
Located on an atmospheric street north of Piazza Navona, the 150-year-old Portoghesi extends a warm welcome. Its smart, carpeted rooms come with mosaic-tiled bathrooms and amenities such as satellite TV and wi-fi, though some (particularly the singles) are very small. Breakfast is served on the roof terrace. No Amex or Diners Club cards.

RESIDENZA ZANARELLI Map pp74-5 Hotel €€
% 06 688 09 760; www.hotelnavona.com; Via G Zanardelli 7; s/d/tr €120/160/225; **G**
Via G Zanardelli; **a**
The smarter sister of [Hotel Navona](#) (below), this quiet, family-run hotel is housed in a late-19th-century *palazzo*. The seven rooms are not huge but they are tastefully decorated with antiques, Persian rugs and brass beds. Flat-screen TVs are a more recent addition.

HOTEL NAVONA Map pp74-5 Hotel €€
% 06 686 42 03; www.hotelnavona.com; Via dei Sediari 8; s €90-110, d €125-145; **G** Corso del Rinascimento; **a**
Spread over several floors of a 15th-century *palazzo*, rooms at this convivial hotel vary in quality: some are big and bright, others are very small, and the décor is largely ad hoc, with an antique desk here and a plastic lamp there. But what you're really paying for

here is the location, a skip and a jump from Piazza Navona. The hotel also offers nearby apartments sleeping two for between €155 and €250 per night including breakfast.

HOTEL PRIMAVERA Map pp74-5 Hotel €
% 06 688 03 109; fax 06 686 92 65; Piazza di San Pantaleo 3; s €70-95, d €100-125; **G** Corso Vittorio Emanuele II; **a**
Right in the heart of it, on busy Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, the Primavera is an old-fashioned hotel with an old-fashioned look – think chichi bedspreads and chintzy curtains. Rooms get plenty of natural light, though, and are sparkling clean. Double glazing ensures most of the traffic noise stays outside. Credit cards are not accepted.

CAMPO DE' FIORI & AROUND

RESIDENZA IN FARNESE Map pp74-5 Hotel €€€
% 06 682 10 980; www.residenzafarneseroma.it; Via del Mascherone 59; s €190-350, d €210-520; **G**
Via Giulia; **a i**
With its billiard table, pot plants and chessboard floor, this relaxed four-star resembles a colonial club in the tropics. Rooms are spread over two floors and decked out in classical style – antique furniture, parquet and wall-length curtains. Pick of the bunch is room 309, which retains its original 15th-century fresco.

HOTEL CAMPO DE' FIORI Map pp74-5 Hotel €€
% 06 688 06 865; www.hotelcampodefiori.com; Via del Biscione 6; s €130-160, d €140-250; **G** Corso Vittorio Emanuele II
What was a reliable, if uninspiring, option has transformed itself into a wicked modern hotel. Rich red and lime-green walls have been hung with gilt mirrors and restored bric-a-brac, and everywhere there's an air of provocative playfulness. There's a stylish rooftop terrace with 360-degree views and the basement breakfast room boasts an original vaulted ceiling.

HOTEL TEATRO DI POMPEO Map pp74-5 Hotel €€
% 06 683 00 170; www.hotelteatrodipompeo.it; Largo del Pallaro 8; s €135-160, d €180-205; **G** Corso Vittorio Emanuele II; **a**
Built on top of a theatre that Pompey the Great built in 55 BC (now the basement

breakfast room), this family-run hotel is small and atmospheric. Particularly attractive are the rooms on the 3rd floor with sloping wood-beamed ceilings, terracotta floor tiles and tasteful, dark-wood furniture. Last-minute prices are available if you arrive in person and there's a room available.

CASA BANZO Map pp74-5 B&B €€
% 06 683 39 09; elptomas@tin.it; Piazza del Monte di Pietà 30; r €120-180, apt €260-280; **J**
Via Arenula; **a**
Not an easy place to find (there's no street sign), Casa Banzo is on the 2nd floor of a Renaissance *palazzo* near Campo de' Fiori. The two rooms and two apartments (for up to four people) are quiet, clean and unfussy, and not nearly as grand as the aristocratic reception hall with its stained-glass windows and vaulted frescoed ceiling. There's a minimum stay of three nights in high season.

SUORE DI SANTA BRIGIDA Map pp74-5 Religious Institution €€€
% 06 688 92 596; www.brigidine.org; Piazza Farnese 96, entrance Via di Monserrato 54; s/d €105/190; **G**
Via di Monserrato
This isn't the cheapest convent in Rome, but it's certainly one of the best. Overlooking beautiful Piazza Farnese, it offers pleasant, no-frills room in a picturesque *palazzo* (where the Swedish St Brigid died in 1373) on one of Rome's great squares. The only snag is an 11pm curfew.

HOTEL SMERALDO Map pp74-5 Hotel €€
% 06 687 59 29; www.smeraldoroma.com; Vicolo dei Chiodaroli 9; s €60-120, d €90-180; **J**
Via Arenula; **a i w**
Value for money and a prime central location are what you get at the Smeraldo. Just down the road from Campo de' Fiori, its white-tiled rooms are unexciting but comfy, with air-con, satellite TV and a direct phone line for internet access. Up on the 5th floor, the rooftop garden is an added bonus.

ALBERGO DEL SOLE Map pp74-5 Hotel €€
% 06 687 94 46; www.solealbiscione.it; Via del Biscione 76; s €90-120, d €120-160, s/d with shared bathroom €65/95; **G** Corso Vittorio Emanuele II
The oldest hotel in Rome, the charmingly ramshackle del Sole dates to 1462. It's been done up since then, although the complex warren of low wood-beamed ceilings owes more to medieval design than 20th-century

architecture. There's nothing fancy about the rooms, which are functional and fairly priced, but the 2nd-floor roof terrace, open to 11pm every night, is a definite plus. No credit cards.

HOTEL POMEZIA [Map pp74–5](#) Hotel €€
% /fax 06 686 13 71; hotelpomezia.it; Via dei Chiavari 13; s €60-130, d €80-150; Corso Vittorio Emanuele II; a w

A reliable lower midrange choice, the Pomezia offers plain, good-sized rooms, hospitable staff and an excellent location. Of particular note is the ground-floor room equipped for disabled travellers, with a huge bathroom and lovely parquet floor.

VIA DEL CORSO & AROUND

HOTEL MARCUS [Map pp74–5](#) Hotel €€
% 06 687 36 79; www.hotel-marcus.com; Via del Clementino 94; s €70-125, d €80-165; Via di Monte Brianzo; a

If you're after somewhere to leave your bags and grab a quick night's sleep, the Marcus will do fine. It's well positioned – close to the shopping of Via del Corso – and welcoming, but the rooms are small and can be stuffy. The heady décor (plush scarlet fabrics and thick red carpets) doesn't help much either.

ESQUILINO, QUIRINALE & PIAZZA DI SPAGNA

Ranging from luxury five-star hotels near upmarket Piazza di Spagna to budget *pensioni* around Stazione Termini, this large area provides the full gamut of accommodation options. The bulk of Rome's budget accommodation is concentrated in the Termini area, which, although not the capital's most desirable, is not as bad as it's sometimes made out to be. It has been cleaned up in recent years and there are now some pretty good places to stay. Lone travellers, particularly women, should still take all the usual safety precautions, particularly around Via Giovanni Giolitti.

ESQUILINO & MONTI

RADISSON SAS [Map pp90–1](#) Hotel €€€
% 06 44 48 41; www.radissonsas.com; Via Filippo Turati 171; r €200-356; m Vittorio Emanuele; a i s w
It's now a few years since what was then the Hotel Es burst onto Rome's conservative

hotel scene. And while it's changed name and is now the Radisson SAS, it remains a popular choice with business travellers and design-conscious customers who appreciate the minimalist sci-fi décor and hi-tech gadgetry. The poolside rooftop bar serves swell cocktails and views over Termini's busy rail tracks.

HOTEL BRITANNIA [Map pp90–1](#) Hotel €€€
% 06 488 31 53; www.hotelbritannia.it; Via Napoli 64; s €110-295, d €130-352; Via Nazionale; n a

Part gentlemen's club and part Roman palace, the Britannia is a fun four-star just off Via Nazionale. Dodgy frescoes and 19th-century horse-and-hound paintings hang on walls; floors are parquet one minute, inlaid marble or carpet the next; leather armchairs are tastefully arranged in the wood-panelled bar. The room décor is similarly ad hoc, with antique furniture, floral chintz and sparkling marble-clad bathrooms. Wi-fi is available. Check the website for last-minute offers.

HOTEL COLUMBIA [Map pp90–1](#) Hotel €€
% 06 488 35 09; www.hotelcolumbia.com; Via del Viminale 15; s €113-218, d €150-235; m Termini or Repubblica; a i

In a noisy, workaday area, the friendly Columbia sports a polished look with wood-beamed ceilings, wrought-iron furniture, and dark-wood cabinets. The tasteful white-walled rooms are bright and reasonably big, all have data plugs for laptop-toters and some have beautiful Murano crystal chandeliers. The pretty roof terrace is a further bonus.

HOTEL GIULIANA [Map pp90–1](#) Hotel €€
% 06 488 07 95; www.hotelgiuliana.com; Via Agostino de Pretis 70; s €60-130, d €80-180; m Termini; n a

A cosy little hotel run by a jolly Londoner and her daughter, the Giuliana ticks all the right boxes. Its rooms, divided into standard and superior, are elegant without being excessive; the location, near Via Nazionale, is convenient; and the service is affable and efficient. Travellers for whom a holiday without tea is no holiday should ask for one of the three rooms with a tea service, while smokers can sneak a quick puff on the small internal balcony. There's a 5% discount for payments in cash.

NICOLAS INN [Map pp90–1](#) B&B €€
% 06 976 18 483; www.nicolasin.com; Via Cavour 295, 1st fl; d €120-180; m Cavour; n a
This lovely, bright B&B is at the bottom of Via Cavour, a stone's throw from the **Imperial Forums** (p65). Run by a welcoming young couple, it has four big guest rooms, each of which boasts homely furnishings, colourful pictures and a large bathroom. For such a central place it's also remarkably quiet, a definite plus in this generally noisy city.

HOTEL CARAVAGGIO [Map pp90–1](#) Hotel €€
% 06 48 59 15; www.caravaggiohotel.net; Via Palermo 73-75; s €70-160, d €80-220; Via Nazionale; a
This quiet three-star is only a short aria away from Rome's opera house. The 13 rooms are decked out in old country-style wallpaper and adorned with antique furniture and glass chandeliers; those facing onto Via Palermo also have mosaic floors. Upstairs there's a popular terrace garden.

ROMAE [Map pp90–1](#) Hotel €€
% 06 446 35 54; www.hotelromae.com; Via Palestro 49; s €45-165, d €50-175; m Castro Pretorio; a i
Smiling English-speaking staff greet guests at this welcoming hotel. Rooms vary in size and style but many have chequered tiled floors and large wooden bedsteads, and all have dataports and air-con. There are also larger rooms for families and a small internal courtyard where you can relax with a drink. New Zealanders might recognise some of the paintings by renowned New Zealand artist Alison Ryde. Wi-fi is available.

58 LE REAL B&B [Map pp90–1](#) B&B €€
% 06 482 35 66; www.58viacavour.it; Via Cavour 58; r €80-150, ste €110-180; m Termini; a
This swish 12-room B&B is on the 4th floor of a towering 19th-century town house. The suave owner has gone to great lengths to produce a stylish environment, with

GAY STAYS

Rome's accommodation scene is fairly conservative but the following are all gay-friendly:

58 Le Real B&B (above)

Hotel Florida (p261)

La Foresteria Orsa Maggiore (p260)

For more on gay and lesbian life in Rome see [p289](#).

modern trappings set alongside classical furnishings. Think leather armchairs and plasma TVs, crystal chandeliers, polished bedsteads and parquet floors. The sexy walk-in showers also merit a mention, as does the panoramic sun terrace.

66 IMPERIAL INN [Map pp90–1](#) B&B €€
% 06 482 56 48; www.66imperialinn.com; Via del Viminale 66; r €80-150; Via Nazionale; a
Sister of 58 Le Real B&B, this smart B&B has seven cool cream rooms, five on the 4th floor and two on the 2nd. With their high ceilings, lush green carpets and double glazing, they are airy, comfortable and quiet. The bathrooms are spotless and the Jacuzzi showers are a treat. As you check in, check out the wall frescoes – they're not the best in town but they add colour.

HOTEL GABRIELLA [Map pp90–1](#) Hotel €€
% 06 445 01 20; www.gabriellahotel.it; Via Palestro 88, 1st fl; r incl breakfast €75-160; m Termini; a
A laid-back, family-run hotel, the Gabriella offers small-ish rooms that while honestly priced and well appointed – harmless pastel walls, satin bedspreads and mosaic-tiled bathrooms – can be a tad noisy. Still, it's good value and breakfast is included.

FORUS INN [Map pp90–1](#) Inn €€
% 06 478 24 745; www.forusinn.com; Via Cavour 194; s €100-130, d €130-160, tr €150-190, q €160-200; m Cavour; a
An elegant bolthole on busy Via Cavour, the Forus offers discreet comfort and classical style. The rooms are small but tastefully decorated with parquet floors, rich fabrics and framed prints; some even have their original wood ceilings. Mod cons include plasma-screen TVs and broadband internet connections.

HOTEL & HOSTEL DES ARTISTES [Map pp90–1](#) Hotel €, Hotel €€
% 06 445 43 65; www.hostelrome.com; www.hoteldesartistes.com; Via Villafranca 20; hostel per person dm €17-26, s €39-65, d €55-95, tr €75-115, hotel per room d €94-159, tr €114-179; m Castro Pretorio; a i
One of the best sleeping options in the Termini district, Des Artistes has a room for everyone. Hostel-goers can choose between plush, carpeted rooms near the 5th-floor reception or more basic four- to

six-person dorms on the 2nd floor. On the intervening floors, the three-star hotel rooms feature polished mahogany wood, gilt-framed canvases and modern trappings such as satellite TV and modem points. Topping everything is a lovely, leafy rooftop terrace.

CARLITO'S WAY Map pp90-1 Hostel €, Hotel €€

☎ 06 444 03 84; www.rome-hotel-carlitosway.com; Via Villafranca 10; hostel per person s €39-65, d €55-95, tr €65-101, hotel per room d €94-159; m Castro Pretorio; a

A dependable choice, Carlito's Way is part of the growing accommodation empire run by the folk at *Hotel des Artistes* (p251). Spread over three buildings but with a centralised reception, it's got clean, functional hostel rooms for budget travellers and smart hotel rooms with air-con and plasma TVs.

YES Map pp90-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 443 63 836; www.yeshotelrome.com; Via Magenta 15; s €74-139, d €94-159; m Termini; a

A new outfit, this slick, modern hotel is friendly and good-looking. The modestly sized white rooms are simple but sharply decorated with linear black furniture, hard leather beds, and plasma TVs. White roses and spangly chandeliers add elegance to the halls and reception area. Service is excellent and the staff are very helpful.

HOTEL DOLOMITI Map pp90-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 495 72 56; www.hotel-dolomiti.it; Via San Martino della Battaglia 11; s €60-100, d €80-150, tr €110-180, q €135-225; m Castro Pretorio; a i A warm, family-run hotel, the Dolomiti is in a converted flat, meaning that the reception is little more than a small counter and the public spaces are built into any available corner. Rooms, on the 4th floor, are colour coordinated with cream walls, cherry-wood furniture, orange fabrics and prints of chubby-cheeked cherubs. The same family also manages the Hotel Lachea two floors below. The combined reception is on the 1st floor.

VILLA DELLE ROSE Map pp90-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 445 17 95; www.villadellerose.it; Via Vicenza 5; s €70-100, d €100-150; m Termini; p a Housed in a lovely villa, this is an excellent option in the Termini district. Grand marble columns and stucco decoration lend grandeur to the downstairs public rooms, while

upstairs the guest rooms are sunny and agreeable. But more than the décor, it's the fragrant courtyard garden and personable atmosphere that set this place apart. Free off-road parking is available for one or two cars in front of the entrance.

HOTEL D'ESTE Map pp90-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 446 56 07; www.hotel-deste.com; Via Carlo Alberto 4b; s €80-90, d €100-140; m Vittorio Emanuele

A charming hotel near the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, Hotel d'Este is full of character. Chandeliers, wood-paneling and brass banisters abound and the guest rooms are big and high-ceilinged. The quiet, old-fashioned atmosphere is a wonderful antidote to the frenzied noise outside. The 1st-floor roof garden is an added bonus.

HOTEL IGEA Map pp90-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 446 69 11; www.igearoma.com; Via Principe Amedeo 97; s €70-80, d €100-130, tr €100-150; m Termini

A reliable if unspectacular choice, the Igea provides spacious, unfussy rooms and efficient, courteous service. The rather grand reception belies the simplicity of the rooms, which are functional, clean and far from memorable. That said, they're quiet – a quality not to be underestimated in central Rome – and good value.

HOTEL ASCOT Map pp90-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 474 16 75; www.hotelascotroma.com; Via Montebello 22, 2nd fl; s €50-75, d €65-130; m Termini

If all you're after is a simple, no-frills room that's clean and quiet, you'll do OK here. Admittedly, there's a somewhat forlorn atmosphere about the place but that shouldn't put you off, as the rooms are large and, by local standards, reasonably priced.

HOTEL CONTINENTALE Map pp90-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 445 03 82; www.hotel-continendale.com; Via Palestro 49; s €40-75, d €75-125; m Castro Pretorio; a

One of several budget *pensioni* in the same building, the Continentale has rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors and its reception on the ground floor. If you've got a lot of luggage you might have trouble squeezing into the rattling old lift, but once up on your floor you'll find the pastel-coloured

rooms are bright and modestly furnished. The staff are friendly and speak several languages, including English and French.

BED & BREAKFAST ANDY & LU

Map pp90-1 B&B €

☎ 06 444 10 13; www.andyelu.com; Via Castelfidardo 31; s €50-90, d €80-120; a

Better for its beds than its uninspiring breakfasts, this budget B&B is north of Termini. There's nothing remarkable about the bright rooms, some of which are very small, but they are smartly furnished, clean and inexpensive. Air-con is an extra €12. The B&B closes from January to March.

HOTEL CASTELFIDARDO

Map pp90-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 446 46 38; www.hotelcastelfidardo.com; Via Castelfidardo 31; s €50-90, d €80-120, s with shared bathroom €40-60, d with shared bathroom €60-100; m Castro Pretorio; a i

One of Rome's best one-star hotels, the Castelfidardo is a welcoming family-run affair. Bright yellow halls lead to spacious rooms furnished with simple taste and a minimum of fuss. However, all have TVs and direct telephone lines for internet access. In the same building and run by the same family, the *Hotel Lazzari* (☎ 06 494 13 78; www.hotellazzari.com; s €50-90, d €80-120, s with shared bathroom €40-60, d with shared bathroom €60-100) offers more of the same.

HOTEL SWEET HOME Map pp90-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 488 09 54; www.hotelsweethome.it in Italian; Via Principe Amedeo 47; s €60-80, d €80-120, s with shared bathroom €55-65, d with shared bathroom €75-85; m Termini

A throwback to *nonna's* day, this modest hotel is classic old-school. Yellowing pictures, dark corridors and an air of fading gentility give it a charm that many newer places lack, while the chintzy rooms vary in size and comfort. Those facing away from the street are larger and quieter.

M&J HOSTEL Map pp90-1 Hostel €

☎ 06 446 28 02; www.mejhostel.com; Via Solferino 9; dm €16-25, s €50-70, d €60-120, d with shared bathroom €50-80; m Termini; n a i Fresh from a major overhaul, the M&J is one of Rome's new breed of hostel-cum-hotels. There are a number of colourful dorms, two of which are women-only and some of which have their own bathrooms.

Private rooms are decked out in a modern Zen style with low beds and black bathrooms. They also have air-con, which dorms don't. There's a communal kitchen with satellite TV, free internet, and breakfast, which is served in the Living Room bar under the hostel. Evening meals (€12) are available in the Living Room between 6pm and 9pm.

WELROME HOTEL Map pp90-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 478 24 343; www.welrome.it; Via Calatafimi 15-19; s €50-100, d €50-110; m Termini

The main selling point of this small, spotless hotel is the chatty owner. She enthusiastically points out where's good to eat and what's good to do, even advising that it's cheaper to breakfast at one of the local bars than in her own hotel. The seven large rooms feature unfussy décor and, importantly for such a noisy area, double glazing. Families are well catered for – wooden cots are provided on request and the Spagna room is perfect for four.

FUNNY PALACE Map pp90-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 447 03 523; www.funnyhostel.com; Via Varese 33; dm €15-29, s €30-70, d €55-100; n i Run by a friendly international crew, this great little hostel has doubles, triples and quads, all with a comfortable, homey feel. Thoughtful touches such as clean towels, a bottle of wine on arrival and vouchers for breakfast in a nearby café make it a truly excellent choice. Wi-fi is available, as is Skype. No credit cards.

PAPA GERMANO Map pp90-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 48 69 19; www.hotelpapagermano.it; Via Calatafimi 14a; dm €20-30, d €100, s/d with shared bathroom €45/75; m Termini; a i Easy-going and popular, Papa Germano is a budget stalwart. There are various sleeping options, ranging from four-person dorms to private rooms with or without private bathrooms. Rooms are fairly anonymous but the décor is harmless and all are clean. Breakfast is included, internet costs €2 per hour, and air-con is €5.

HOTEL BEAUTIFUL Map pp90-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 447 03 927; www.solomonhotels.com; Via Milazzo 8; dm €15-29, s €30-70, d €55-100; m Termini; n a A cross between a hostel and a hotel, this two-star place has 14 clean, basic rooms.

There are doubles, triples and dorms, all with plenty of light, air-con and their own bathrooms. Breakfast is served in the rooms. The same management also runs the popular **Hostel Beautiful** (Map pp90–1; % 06 446 58 90; Via Napoleone III 35; dm €15–29; i) on the other side of Stazione Termini.

ALESSANDRO PALACE HOSTEL

Map pp90–1 **Hostel €**
% 06 446 19 58; www.hostelsalessandro.com; Via Vicenza 42; dm €18–35, d €66–90; m Termini or Castro Pretorio; n a i

The popularity of this long-standing favourite shows no signs of waning. It offers spick-and-span hotel-style doubles, triples and quads, as well as dorms sleeping from four to eight. Every room has its own bathroom and all have air-con. Popular features include the downstairs bar, which serves free pizza from 8pm and has satellite TV. Internet costs €2 per hour. The same owners also run the more basic **Alessandro Downtown Hostel** (Map pp90–1; % 06 443 40 147; Via Carlo Cattaneo 23).

HOTEL CERVIA Map pp90–1 **Pensione €**

% 06 49 10 57; www.hotelcerviaroma.com; Via Palestro 55; s €40–70, d €50–90, s with shared bathroom €30–40, d €40–70; m Castro Pretorio
Run by two chatty, multilingual ladies, the Cervia offers plain, high-ceilinged rooms and a pleasingly warm welcome. There's nothing glamorous about the small rooms (the bathrooms are positively miniscule), but it's a friendly enough place and the rooms offer reasonable value. Children are welcome, with free cots available on request. On the 2nd floor the **Hotel Restivo** (% 06 446 21 72; www.hotelrestivo.com) is run by the same people.

ALBERGO GIUSTI

Map pp90–1 **Religious Institution €**
% 06 704 53 462; s.annagiusti@tiscali.it; Via Giusti 5; s/d/tr €50/85/110; m Vittorio Emanuele; a
This excellent budget option is in a convent near the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore. Guest rooms are salmon pink and simple, with a minimum of furniture, and gleaming bathrooms. You can dine on-site for €15 and the hospitable nuns will even set you up with a picnic lunch bag for €6. Families, groups and lone travellers are welcome, night owls less so – there's a midnight curfew.

THE BEEHIVE Map pp90–1 **Hostel €**

% 06 447 04 553; www.the-beehive.com; Via Marghera 8; dm €22, d with shared bathroom €70–80; m Termini; i
More boutique chic than backpacker crash pad, the Beehive is one of the best hostels in town. Run by a southern Californian couple, it's an oasis of style with original artworks on the walls, funky modular furniture, a vegetarian café and a yoga studio. Beds are in a spotless, eight-person mixed dorm or in one of six private double rooms. Needless to say, it's very popular, so make sure you book ahead. The owners also have three self-contained apartments (per person €30 to €35) for up to 10 people, although these lack the verve of the main hive.

HOTEL KATTY Map pp90–1 **Pensione €**

% /fax 06 444 12 16; Via Palestro 35; s €35–60, d €45–75; m Castro Pretorio; a
Rooms at this homely 4th-floor *pensione* are clean, bright and unfussy. Some are bigger than others but all are uniformly old-fashioned, with gadgetry limited to air-con between April and November, and a telephone. However, you're not paying much and the owner is a friendly host.

YWCA Map pp90–1 **Hostel €**

% 06 488 04 60; foyer.roma@ywca-ucdg.it; Via Cesare Balbo 4; s/d €40/50, s/d/tr/q with shared bathroom per person €40/33/28/28; g Via Cavour
A cheap, no-frills place with a midnight curfew, the YWCA is better suited to early birds than night owls out to party. It's a quiet place with simple, spick-and-span rooms, an old-fashioned contemplative air and modest facilities. On the 2nd floor there's a breakfast room and kitchen, while on the ground floor the welcoming TV room opens onto a small patio. Breakfast is included and payment is cash only.

THE YELLOW Map pp90–1 **Hostel €**

% 06 493 82 682; www.the-yellow.com; Via Palestro 44; dm €22–36; m Castro Pretorio; n a i
Don't let the eye-catching neon reception or cavernous common room fool you, this is a hard-core hostel for a young, fit crowd (there's even an age limit – 18 to 40). Regular pub crawls and the outgoing international staff ensure an upbeat vibe, while accommodation is in dorms of up to 12 people. Some dorms have bathrooms

but the bigger ones don't. Internet is free, there's wi-fi, and the downstairs bar has outdoor tables where you can while away hours into your beer.

QUIRINALE TO THE TREVİ FOUNTAIN

B&B 3 COINS Map pp90–1 **B&B €€**

% 06 446 06 34; www.3coinsbb.com; Via dei Crociferi 26; d €80–130; g Via del Tritone; a
You don't have to pay a king's ransom to stay near the Trevi Fountain, as this modest B&B proves. Make it past the fraying carpet up to the 3rd floor and you'll find a warm, characterful apartment full of family knick-knacks and old clocks. No two of the seven rooms are exactly alike – some are bigger, some are carpeted and two have external bathrooms – but all are clean and all come with TV and air-con.

PIAZZA DI SPAGNA & AROUND HASSLER VILLA MEDICI

Map pp90–1 **Hotel €€€**

% 06 69 93 40; www.hotelhassler.com; Piazza della Trinità dei Monti 6; s €430–460, d €550–810; m Spagna; a i
When Tom Cruise moved in before marrying Katie Holmes in November 2006, he became the latest in a long line of VIPs to have stayed at the Hassler. A byword for luxury, it sits on top of the Spanish Steps, seducing its guests with ravishing views and sumptuous hospitality. Rooms, no two of which are the same, are mod-conned and opulent, and the service is slick and professional. Special weekend and 'romance' packages are often available, so check online.

HOTEL DE RUSSIE Map pp90–1 **Hotel €€€**

% 06 32 88 81; www.hotelderussie.it; Via del Babuino 9; s/d/ste from €440/650/1320; m Flaminio; p a i w
Favoured by Hollywood celebs, the de Russie is the embodiment of modern luxury. Standard rooms, which overlook either Piazza del Popolo or the hotel's exquisite terraced gardens, boast state-of-the-art entertainment systems, massive mosaic-tiled bathrooms and beds with linen sheets. To wash away the stress of the city, the hotel's health spa is one of Rome's best, and organic toiletries are provided in the rooms.

HOTEL ART BY THE SPANISH STEPS Map pp90–1 **Hotel €€€**

% 06 32 87 11; www.hotelart.it; Via Margutta 56; s €297–396, d €429–561; m Spagna; a
A striking marriage of old and new, this glam hotel is on arty Via Margutta. The vaulted lobby is quite a sight, with the reception set into two white Plexiglas pods and a bar incorporated into an old chapel. Rooms are smaller and more low key, with parquet and modern furniture. In the basement there's a small gym and a sauna.

IL PALAZZETTO Map pp90–1 **Boutique Hotel €€€**

% 06 699 34 10 00; www.ilpalazzettoroma.com; Vicolo del Bottino 8; r €275–396; m Spagna; a
For that very special occasion, pull out all the stops and book one of the four luxurious rooms at this delightful boutique hotel. Three of the four rooms overlook the adjacent Spanish Steps and all combine impeccable classical décor with discreetly fitted mod cons. Upstairs, on the 5th floor, there's a terrace cocktail bar and superb restaurant serving high-class Roman cuisine. Breakfast is served in the nearby **Hassler Villa Medici** (left), where guests have full access to services such as a business centre and gym.

GREGORIANA Map pp90–1 **Hotel €€€**

% 06 679 42 69; www.hotelgregoriana.it; Via Gregoriana 18; s €148–168, d €248–288; m Spagna; a
Eschewing the limelight, this charming hotel offers stylish Art Deco rooms and friendly, unpretentious service. Polished wood predominates in the guest rooms with circular bedsteads made of maple and

top picks

LOVE NESTS

- **Il Palazzetto** (above) – sheer unadulterated luxury in the shadow of the Spanish Steps
- **Domus Julia** (p257) – slip into a suite here and you won't want to leave
- **Residenza Cellini** (p257) – a honeymoon favourite with large beds and personal service
- **Casa Howard** (p256) – get steamy in the Turkish bath at this kooky boutique hotel
- **Hotel Villa S Pio** (p259) – escape the hordes at this refined hideaway on the leafy Aventino

evocative rosewood furniture. Unusually, none of the rooms are numbered but are instead adorned with letters by the 1930s French fashion illustrator Erté.

HOTEL SCALINATA DI SPAGNA

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€€

☎ 06 679 30 06; www.hotelscalinata.com; Piazza della Trinità dei Monti 17; s €130-190, d €170-270; m Spagna; a i
It's not cheapest hotel in Rome but given its prestigious location – at the top of the Spanish Steps – the Scalinata could cost a whole lot more. An informal and friendly place, it's something of a warren, with low corridors leading off to smallish, old-fashioned rooms, some of which boast magnificent views over the city. Public spaces are tiny but the fantastic roof garden more than compensates. Surprisingly for such an old-school hotel, wi-fi access is available. Book early for a room with a view.

HOTEL MOZART

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 360 01 915; www.hotelm Mozart.com; Via dei Greci 23b; s €144-180, d €204-255; m Spagna; a i
Right in the heart of Rome's shopping district, the Mozart is a stone's throw from Piazza del Popolo. Inside the modest entrance, large and classically attired public spaces lead through to light, spacious rooms decorated with elegant taste. Upstairs, the roof garden is a memorable place for a sun-downer. A short walk from the main hotel, a separate wing houses more stylish rooms.

HOTEL FORTE

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 320 76 25; www.hotelforte.com; Via Margutta 61; s €125-176, d €156-255; m Spagna; a
Hotel Forte is a friendly little hotel in a lovely 17th-century *palazzo* around the corner from Piazza di Spagna. It's a bright place decorated in faux-classical style with fake columns in the corridors and antiques in every corner. The rooms are reasonably sized and comfortable although the heavy fabrics and cloying wallpaper might not appeal to everyone. Wi-fi is available.

CASA HOWARD

Map pp90–1 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 06 699 24 555; www.casahoward.com; Via Sistina 149 & Via Capo le Case 18; s €150-210, d €160-240; m Spagna; a i
Once seen, Casa Howard is not forgotten. Its 10 rooms, split between two houses, reveal a

wealth of playful styles, ranging from full-on floral chintz to kitsch retro and oriental chic. They are all eye-catching but some are small (the Chinese Room, in particular), and at Via Capo le Case three have their private bathrooms separate from the guest room (a kimono and slippers are provided for the walk). There are Turkish baths at both locations and breakfast costs €10 extra.

PENSIONE PANDA

Map pp90–1 Pensione €

☎ 06 678 01 79; www.hotelpanda.it; Via della Croce 35; s €75-80, d €98-108, tr €130-140, q €170-180; m Spagna; a
In an area of Rome where a bargain is a Bulgari watch bought in the sales, this lone *pensione* boldly flies the flag for the budget traveller. There really is nowhere else you can get a room this close to the Spanish Steps for so little. And an attractive room to boot, with high ceilings, warm wooden furniture and the odd statue or two. Air-con costs an extra €6 and wi-fi is available.

PIAZZA BARBERINI & AROUND

HOTEL EDEN

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€€

☎ 06 47 81 21; www.hotel-eden.it; Via Ludovico 49; s/d €480/750, ste from €2100; m Barberini; p a i w
Impeccable service, refined rooms and superb views are what you get at the Eden, one of Rome's most glamorous hotels. Rooms vary but most feature traditional antique furniture, thick carpets and gleaming marble-clad bathrooms. The welcome basket of Mars bars, sweets and crisps will win over the most presidential of guests. For a more sophisticated fill-up, book a table at the highly rated rooftop restaurant.

ALEPH

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€€

☎ 06 42 29 01; www.boscolohotels.com; Via di San Basilio 15; r €300-700; m Barberini; a i
More style than substance? Possibly, but for fashionistas on the move this is *the* place to be seen. Based on designer Adam D Tihany's vision of heaven and hell, the eclectic décor features acres of black marble, life-size models of samurai warriors and plenty of red leather. Rooms – the heaven part of the theme – boast contemporary furniture set against magnified photos of Roman sights. Service can at times be snooty.

LA RESIDENZA

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 488 07 89; www.hotel-la-residenza.com; Via Emilia 22/24; s incl breakfast €100-110, d incl breakfast €200-220; m Barberini; a
La Residenza is pleasantly old-fashioned. The ground-floor public rooms, reminiscent of a 19th-century gentlemen's club, make a fine impression, while the carpeted guest rooms are comfortable, clean and spacious, if slightly bland. Some even have their own balcony, although the hotel won't guarantee a balcony when you book. However, what sets this unpretentious four-star apart is its magnificent buffet breakfast (included in the price), which features bacon, eggs, sausages, fruit, cereal, bread rolls and coffee.

DAPHNE INN

Map pp90–1 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 06 478 23 529; www.daphne-rome.com; Via di San Basilio 55; s €110-150, d €130-200, s with shared bathroom €80-100, d with shared bathroom €90-130; m Barberini; n a i
A top contender for the title of best small hotel in Rome, the Daphne is a star. Rooms come in various shapes and sizes but the overall look is minimalist modern with cooling earth tones and linear, unfussy furniture. The superhelpful English-speaking staff go out of their way to help, even lending you a mobile phone for your stay. Other extras include free wi-fi, an iron and board in each room, and a delicious breakfast. There's a second outfit, the *Trevi Daphne* (Map pp90–1; ☎ 06 478 23 529; Via degli Avignonesi 20; s €100-130, d €130-200, ste €280-500), which opened two new suites in April 2007.

HOTEL MODIGLIANI

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 428 15 226; www.hotelmodigliani.com; Via della Purificazione 42; s €110-163, d €120-197; m Barberini; a
A quick glance in the guest book at the Modigliani reveals recurring phrases such as 'loved this place' and 'charming staff'. Run by an artist and his musician partner, it is indeed an excellent choice. Staff are young and helpful, rooms are pearl-grey in colour, spacious and light, and the location (just off Piazza Barberini) is great. There's also a quiet courtyard for drinks and a number of apartments sleeping from four to six people (€270 to €450). For a room with a view, book a 'superior double' (€210 to €266).

FELLINI B&B

Map pp90–1 B&B €€

☎ 06 427 42 732; www.fellinibnb.com; Via Rasella 55; s €70-170, d €90-180, apt €100-255; m Barberini; n a
More a small hotel than traditional B&B, the Fellini pays homage to Italy's great director, whose film *La Dolce Vita* made a star of the nearby Trevi Fountain. The 13 rooms are quiet and comfortable with firm beds, well-equipped bathrooms and satellite TV. Of the three mini-apartments, go for the one on the top floor. It's got parquet, a low sloping roof and a huge private terrace with views over the surrounding rooftops.

DOMUS JULIA

Map pp90–1 B&B €€

☎ 06 474 57 65; www.domusjulia.it; Via Rasella 32; d €88-170, ste €99-220; m Barberini; n a
Refined, discreet and romantic, the two large suites in this 18th-century *palazzo* are ideal for a stolen weekend with a loved one. With their parquet floors, exposed wood-beamed ceilings and imposing antique furniture they're guaranteed to bring out the Casanova in anyone. The other four rooms are smaller and more modern but smart and spacious all the same.

PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA & AROUND

HOTEL EXEDRA

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€€

☎ 06 48 93 81; www.boscolohotels.com; Piazza della Repubblica 47; r €600-800; m Repubblica; a i s w
Overlooking Piazza della Repubblica, the Exedra manages to be as grand inside as out. The vast marble lobby is no less striking than the neoclassical colonnaded exterior, and the rooms are all impressive. Some are classical, with striped wallpaper and gilt-framed mirrors; others have low, wood-beamed ceilings and a cosy feel; others still are modern with neutral colours and contemporary furniture. Topping everything is a tiny dipping pool with freezing water and sensational views.

RESIDENZA CELLINI

Map pp90–1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 478 25 204; www.residenzacellini.it; Via Modena 5; r €145-240, ste €165-260; m Repubblica; a i
A romantic bolthole in a nondescript *palazzo* near Piazza della Repubblica, the Cellini is small and intimate. Fresh flowers adorn a

bright hall, which leads to six vast rooms boasting parquet floors, choice antiques and fine fabrics. The mosaic-tiled bathrooms are equally appealing. Mod cons, including dataports, are incorporated and the service is impeccable. Two floors above on the 5th floor, there are a further five rooms.

ABERDEEN HOTEL Map pp90–1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 482 39 20; www.travel.it/roma/aberdeen; Via Firenze 48; s/d/tr €120/170/190; m Repubblica; a i

For a decent, easy-going hotel in a well-connected central location, you could do a lot worse than this sparkling three-star. The spacious mustard-yellow rooms feature chequered chessboard floors, comfy beds (orthopaedic mattresses are standard) and spotless mint-green bathrooms. Buffet breakfast is served under a charming coffered wood ceiling and everywhere you go the staff are cheerful and cordial.

HOTEL OCEANIA Map pp90–1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 482 46 96; www.hoteloceania.it; Via Firenze 38; s/d/tr/q €125/158/190/212; m Repubblica; i With its red carpet and homely demeanour the Oceania is a welcome break from the bustle of the streets five floors below. An intimate, personable hotel, it has 15 tastefully attired rooms spread over two adjacent apartments. Extras include satellite TV, modem plugs and free internet, excellent coffee and English newspapers. Book early to bag a room.

TARGET INN Map pp90–1 Inn €€

☎ 06 474 53 99; www.targetinn.com; Via Modena 5, 3rd fl; s €80-125, d €95-150, ste €140-250; m Repubblica; n a Forget any ideas of an olde-worlde timber-beamed inn – the Target is up-to-the-minute modern. Sexy red leather furniture, abstract art and black wardrobes are stylishly set against neutral walls and traditional parquet floors in the seven guest rooms. Families should go for the suite, which sleeps four and has the biggest TV screen this reviewer has ever seen.

HOTEL SEILER Map pp90–1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 488 02 04; www.hotelseiler.com; Via Firenze 48; s €45-99, d €75-145; m Repubblica Pronounced 'sailor', the Seiler is a safe if uninspiring choice. Spread over four floors of a huge 19th-century *palazzo*, guest rooms

leave little lasting impression with their indifferent décor and tiny bathrooms. The one exception is room 405, known as *la camera degli angeletti* (room of the angels) for its ceiling fresco of angels dating from 1885. Staff are laid-back, sometimes frustratingly so.

HOTEL ERCOLI Map pp90–1 Pensione €

☎ 06 474 54 54; www.hotelercoli.com; Via Collina 48; s €75-95, d €110-130; g Via Piave; a Old-fashioned and friendly, the 3rd-floor Ercoli is a straight-up, no-frills *pensione*, popular with foreign students. It's not a big place and the 14 rooms are functional rather than memorable, but they're all sparkling clean, breakfast is included and the air-con works.

SOUTHERN ROME

Southern Rome is best suited to those who want to be near, but not on top of, the action. Stay on the Celio, the hill to the immediate south of the Colosseum, and you're within walking distance of the ancient sites and San Giovanni, famous for its monumental basilica; stay on the Aventino, a quiet residential district overlooking the Tiber, and you've got Testaccio, Rome's nightlife mecca, a short hop away. Hotels, however, are fairly expensive.

CELIO

HOTEL CAPO D'AFRICA

Map pp108–9 Hotel €€€

☎ 06 77 28 01; www.hotelcapodaffrica.com; Via Capo d'Africa 54; s €300, d €320-400, ste €540; m Colosseo; n a w A short walk up from the Colosseum, this is a chic but refreshingly unpretentious designer hotel. The look is contemporary, an eye-catching ensemble of neutral backgrounds, colourful furniture and bold artwork, and rooms are spacious and sunny. There's a charming terrace overlooking the medieval *Chiesa di SS Quattro Coronati* (p111), a small gym and attentive staff. Rooms on the 2nd-floor are nonsmoking.

HOTEL CELIO Map pp108–9 Hotel €€€

☎ 06 704 95 333; www.hotelcelio.com; Via dei Santissimi Quattro Coronati 35c; s €100-280, d €170-340; m Colosseo; a i w Over the top, kitsch and fun, the extraordinary décor at this small hotel marries mosaic floors with heavy baroque furnishings, frescoes and *trompe l'oeil*. The mid-sized

rooms, equipped with flat-screen TVs and wi-fi internet access, are themed on the Renaissance artists after whom they're named. Upstairs on the roof there's a mini-gym with jogging machines and inspirational photos of Sophia Loren.

AVENTINO & TESTACCIO

HOTEL VILLA S PIO Map pp108–9 Hotel €€

☎ 06 574 52 31; www.avinot-hotels.com; Via Melania 19; s €105-160, d €150-240; g Via Marmorata; p a w An excellent place to escape the crowds, the Villa S Pio is a refined hotel in a quiet residential area. It's some way from the tourist hot spots but more than makes up for this with huge, classically decorated rooms and swish bathrooms decked out in sexy black marble. Breakfast is served in the leafy garden that connects the hotel's three separate blocks. Some rooms have disabled facilities.

TRASTEVERE

Light sleepers should give Trastevere a wide berth. This beautiful and animated area is thick with restaurants, pubs and cafés and gets incredibly busy, especially on hot summer nights when crowds swell its picturesque streets until the small hours. That said, it really is pretty and there are a number of good-value hotels, many of which are housed in centuries-old *palazzi*.

EAST OF VIALE DI TRASTEVERE

RIPA HOTEL Map pp122–3 Hotel €€€

☎ 06 5 86 11; www.ripahotel.com; Via degli Orti di Trastevere 3; s €230-250, d €270-290, ste from €360; g or j Viale di Trastevere; a i Minimalism might no longer be cutting edge but the Ripa still looks good, at least on the inside. Behind an ugly concrete façade, rooms sport a linear look with modular furniture, natural white light and discreet mod cons. Suites are more colourful with vivid carpets and the odd decorative bauble.

HOTEL DOMUS TIBERINA

Map pp122–3 Hotel €€

☎ 06 581 36 48; www.hoteldomustiberina.it; Via in Piscinula 37; s €75-110, d €95-150; g or j Viale di Trastevere; a On the quieter side of Trastevere, near the Ponte Cestio, this is a friendly, popular hotel. It's a tight fit and rooms are not the biggest but they're attractive in an old-fashioned

way, with bright majolica tiles, floral designs and the occasional exposed wood beam.

HOTEL ANTICO BORGO DI

TRASTEVERE Map pp122–3 Hotel €€

☎ 06 588 39 24; www.hotelantiborgo.it; Vicolo del Buco 7; s €75-110, d €95-150; g or j Viale di Trastevere; a Not for claustrophobics, this quaint hotel occupies a small 19th-century *palazzo*. It's an atmospheric place whose rooms tastefully incorporate bare brick walls, exposed wood beams and heavy wooden shutters, but it's tiny and some of the rooms are not much bigger than the double beds they contain. Breakfast is served in your room.

WEST OF VIALE DI TRASTEVERE

HOTEL SANTA MARIA Map pp122–3 Hotel €€

☎ 06 589 46 26; www.htlsantamaria.com; Vicolo del Piede 2; s €150-180, d €165-220; g or j Piazza Sonnino; p n a i w Arguably Trastevere's best hotel, this inviting three-star is a haven of calm. Housed in a spacious 17th-century cloister, it has 19 rooms set, hacienda-style, around a romantic courtyard garden with orange trees and plenty of seating. The rooms are all cool and relaxing, their décor a combination of terracotta tiles, cream walls and showy bedsteads. The English-speaking staff are very professional and service levels are unusually high.

RESIDENZA SANTA MARIA

Map pp122–3 Hotel €€

☎ 06 589 46 26; www.htlsantamaria.com; Via dell'Arco di San Callisto; s €150-180, d €165-220; g or j Piazza Sonnino; a Opened in August 2007, this promises to be a great place to stay. It boasts a good pedigree – the owners are the people behind the excellent *Hotel Santa Maria* (above); the location is excellent – on a picturesque side street in the heart of Trastevere; and the décor is an appealing mix of brick, exposed wood beams and terracotta floor tiles. Wi-fi access is a further plus.

VILLA DELLA FONTE Map pp122–3 Hotel €€

☎ 06 580 37 97; www.villafonte.com; Via della Fonte d'Olio 8; s €90-110, d €130-160; g or j Piazza Sonnino; a A hidden jewel near Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere, this charming little hotel extends a warm welcome. There are only five rooms,

all simply decorated with tasteful furniture, firm beds and fine linen. The tight corridors are lined with black-and-white photos of cheeky street urchins and the garden terrace is a wonderful spot for a siesta in the sun.

HOTEL CISTERNA Map pp122-3 Hotel €€

☎ 06 581 72 12; www.cisternahotel.it; Via della Cisterna 7-9; s/d/tr/q €80/130/155/180; ☒ or j Piazza Sonnino; a

Offering excellent value for money and a prime location near Trastevere's focal Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere, the Cisterna has bright modest rooms with creamy yellow walls and unobtrusive furniture. Service is courteous and there's a small internal courtyard for early evening drinks.

HOTEL TRASTEVERE Map pp122-3 Hotel €€

☎ 06 581 47 13; www.hoteltrastevere.net; Via Luciano Manara 24a-25; s/d/tr/q €80/103/130/155; ☒ or j Viale di Trastevere

Overlooking the market square of San Cosimato (think noise), this modest, unpretentious hotel is one of Trastevere's few budget options. There's a bit of a run-down feel about the place but the rooms are large, clean, and fine for the money. The owner's a friendly guy, too.

LA FORESTERIA ORSA MAGGIORE

Map pp122-3 Guesthouse €

☎ 06 689 37 53; www.casainternazionalelledelle.donne.org/foresteria; Via di San Francesco di Sales 1a; dm €24-26, s/d €75/110, s/d with shared bathroom €52/72; ☒ Piazza Trilussa; n i w

This women-only guesthouse (boys aged 12 or younger can accompany their mums) is in a beautifully restored, 16th-century convent. It is run by the Casa Internazionale delle Donne (International Women's House) and offers safe and well-priced accommodation in a quiet corner of Trastevere. Rooms sleep two, four, five or eight. Most look onto the attractive internal garden and share institutional-style bathrooms. There's also a communal room and restaurant where breakfast is served. There's a 3am curfew.

VATICAN CITY & BORGO

A year-round mecca for pilgrims, the Vatican is well set up with accommodation. In the streets north and northeast of St Peter's Basilica you'll find everything from cheerful old-school *pensioni* to smart three-stars, B&Bs and tranquil

convents. It's a popular area, though, and you'll need to book ahead, particularly if you want to stay during the big religious holidays (Christmas and Easter). Busy during the day, the Vatican is well connected and quiet at night.

HOTEL BRAMANTE Map pp130-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 688 06 426; www.hotelbramante.com; Vicolo delle Palline 24; s €100-160, d €150-220; ☒ Piazza del Risorgimento; a

The pick of the Vatican hotels, the Bramante is a model of effortless elegance. Tucked away in a side street behind St Peter's, it's housed in the 16th-century building that was home to architect Domenico Fontana before Pope Sixtus V banished him from Rome. Wood-beamed ceilings top graceful rooms equipped with satellite TV, tea- and coffee-making facilities and gleaming bathrooms.

HOTEL AMALIA Map pp130-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 397 23 356; www.hotelamalia.com; Via Germanico 66; s €79-130, d €99-210; ☒ Ottaviano-San Pietro; a i

Comfort and convenience are what you're paying for at this large, characterless hotel. With Piazza San Pietro an easy 10-minute walk away, it has smart, good-sized rooms on five floors of a towering 19th-century *palazzo*. Service is efficient although staff are not always the friendliest. High-speed internet connections are available.

HOTEL LADY Map pp130-1 Pensione €€

☎ 06 324 21 12; www.hotelladyroma.it; Via Germanico 198, 4th fl; d €145, s with shared bathroom €60-80, d with shared bathroom €90-100; ☒ Lepanto; n

This authentic old-fashioned *pensione* is cosy and warm. All the rooms are slightly different and even if they're small they're pleasantly decorated with rustic furniture. Particularly attractive are rooms 4 and 6, which still have their original wood-beamed ceilings. The shared bathrooms are modern and clean. The owner and his wife don't speak English, but will merrily chat to you in Italian and serve you breakfast (€10) in their smart salon.

HOTEL ADRIATIC Map pp130-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 688 08 080; www.adriatichotel.com; Via Vitelleschi 25; s/d €100/130, with shared bathroom €60/90; ☒ Piazza del Risorgimento; a

About five minutes' walk from St Peter's Basilica, the Adriatic offers decent, mid-range rooms. The décor is fairly insipid,

with faux-antique furniture, but rooms are a reasonable size and right for the price. Upstairs, the small terrace is a good spot for a quiet breather. Air-con costs €10 per day.

HOTEL DEI QUIRITI Map pp130-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 360 05 389; quiriti@tiscalinet.it; Via Germanico 198; s €89-99, d €99-129; ☒ Ottaviano-San Pietro; a

In the quiet Prati area, this welcoming little hotel is one of several options in the same building. There are 10 traditional and warmly decorated rooms on the 4th floor and a small breakfast room adjacent to the 1st-floor reception. The staff, some of whom speak English, are helpful and friendly.

HOTEL GIUGGIOLI Map pp130-1 Hotel €€

☎ 06 360 05 389; quiriti@tiscalinet.it; Via Germanico 198; s €89-99, d €99-129; ☒ Ottaviano-San Pietro; a

In the same block as its sister hotel, *Hotel dei Quiriti* (above), the Giuggioli is smaller and more modern than its sibling. Its 1st-floor rooms sport a dapper, pearl-grey look with a minimum of furniture and large, comfortable beds. There's nothing large about the bathrooms, though, which are tiny. The helpful staff will arrange babysitting on request.

COLORS HOTEL & HOSTEL

Map pp130-1 Hotel, Hostel €€

☎ 06 687 40 30; www.colorsshotel.com; Via Boezio 31; hostel dm €18-27, d with shower & shared toilet €70-110, d with shared bathroom €60-100, hotel r €80-130; ☒ Piazza del Risorgimento; n a i

One of Rome's best hostels, Colors has expanded and is now a dishy hostel-cum-hotel. The core of the operation is still the 4th-floor hostel – seven brightly coloured dorms, spotless bathrooms and well-stocked kitchen – but there are now hotel rooms on the 1st and 3rd floors. Those on the 1st floor are a kaleidoscope of electric oranges and greens; those upstairs feature cool greys and modern bathrooms. Internet costs €1 for 20 minutes and air-con is included between mid-June and mid-September.

HOTEL FLORIDA Map pp130-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 324 18 72; www.hotelfloridaroma.it; Via Cola di Rienzo 243; s €60-85, d €75-120, s with shared bathroom €30-40, d with shared bathroom €60-80; ☒ Piazza del Risorgimento; a

The late 20th century seems to have bypassed this defiantly old-school establish-

ment. Homely, high-ceilinged rooms are decorated with solid wooden furniture and an almost complete lack of mod cons, unless, of course, you count a TV and phone as mod cons. Air-con is available in all rooms with bathrooms and discounts are available for cash payment.

HOTEL SAN PIETRINO Map pp130-1 Hotel €

☎ 06 370 01 32; www.sanpietrino.it; Via Giovanni Bettolo 43; d €80-115, s with shared bathroom €35-65, d with shared bathroom €50-90; ☒ Ottaviano-San Pietro; a i

A winner on all counts, this hotel gets everything right. It's good value for money; it's conveniently located near a metro station and within walking distance of the Vatican; and its owners are welcoming and helpful. Rooms are small but tasteful with cream walls, terracotta floors and dark-wood wardrobes. Extras such as a TV and DVD player and wi-fi access are rare in this price bracket.

MATTEO B&B Map pp130-1 B&B €

☎ 06 976 00 788; www.matteobb.it; Viale Angelico 36/B; d €80-100; ☒ Viale Giuseppe Mazzini A 15-minute walk north of the Vatican, this basic B&B offers a quiet, homely atmosphere. There's little in the way of luxury, with two small, Ikea-inspired guest rooms and not a lot else, but for somewhere inexpensive to lay your head down, it'll do fine. Note that it's closed in August and from mid-January to the end of February.

HOTEL JOLI Map pp130-1 Pensione €€

☎ 06 324 18 93; www.hoteljoliroma.com; Via Cola di Rienzo 243; s €50-75, d €80-110; ☒ Piazza del Risorgimento; a

Family-run, unpretentious and a little tatty around the edges, the Joli is a popular *pensione* six floors above busy Via Cola di Rienzo. There are few frills but rooms are luminous and the décor is harmless. Bathrooms, while clean enough, could do with a little attention – the addition of shower curtains would be a good start. Air-con costs an additional €10.

PENSIONE PARADISE Map pp130-1 Pensione €€

☎ 06 360 04 331; www.pensioneparadise.com; Viale Giulio Cesare 47; s €50-60, d €85-95, s with shared bathroom €50-60; ☒ Lepanto

You won't find any miracles, or mod cons, here, just simple, bright rooms with terracotta-tiled floors and basic furniture.

The location is good, near Lepanto metro station, and the owner amiably greets all his guests in English or Italian.

CASA DI ACCOGLIENZA PAOLO VI

Map pp130–1 Religious Institution €
% 06 390 91 41; casapaolosesto@pssf.it; Viale Vaticano 92; s/d/tr/q €32/55/73/85; m Ottaviano-San Pietro; n a

Opposite the entrance to the Vatican Museums, this convent is a bargain. It's also popular, so you'll need to book early if you want to snaffle one of the spotless rooms, all of which come with modern bathrooms and air-con. The sisters who run the place are welcoming and you're free to come and go as you please as long as you're back by midnight.

VILLA BORGHESE & NORTHERN ROME

Stretching outwards from Piazza del Popolo and Villa Borghese, northern Rome is affluent and smart. It's here you'll find some of the city's most expensive real estate as well as a number of fascinating museums. However, it's not somewhere you'll spend much time exploring and parts can be ghostly at night. The best accommodation is near Piazza del Popolo.

VILLA BORGHESE & AROUND

GRAND HOTEL PARCO DEI PRINCIPI

Map pp150–1 Hotel €€€

% 06 85 44 21; www.parcodeiprincipi.com; Via Frescobaldi 5; s/d €480/550; g Via Giovanni Paisiello; p a s

Boasting the best outdoor swimming pool in central Rome, this luxury hotels sits on the edge of Villa Borghese. Decidedly

traditional in look, it features wood-pannelled walls, marble columns, chandeliers, heavy drapes and gilt-framed paintings. Upstairs, the terrace restaurant commands some wonderful tree-top views over to St Peter's Basilica. The swimming pool is open to nonguests for €60 per day.

PIAZZA DEL POPOLO & AROUND

HOTEL LOCARNO Map pp150–1 Hotel €€€

% 06 361 08 41; www.hotellocarlo.com; Via della Penna 22; s €150-200, d €230-320; m Flaminio;

a i w
With its ivy-clad exterior, stained-glass doors, and rattling cage-lift, the Locarno is an Art Deco classic. Rooms, spread over two sites – the main building and, over the road, the Anahi annex – vary in size and décor. Some have red silk wallpaper and period furniture, others light cream walls and wrought-iron beds; all have spotless bathrooms. Rooms in the Anahi wing are nonsmoking and cheaper as there's no room service. There's a lovely roof garden, a restaurant and guests have free use of bicycles.

OKAPI ROOMS Map pp150–1 Hotel €€

% 06 326 09 815; www.okapiroma.it; Via della Penna 57; r €120-180; m Flaminio; a

When we passed by, the finishing touches were being put to what promises to be an excellent low midrange option. Run by the owners of [Pensione Panda \(p256\)](#), it has rooms spread over six floors (there is a lift). Most are simple, airy affairs with cream walls, terracotta tiles and double glazing, but some are more elaborate. A room on the 4th floor has four statues and a small terrace; those on the top floor have sloping electronic windows and miniscule bathrooms.

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