

VOGUE

TRAVEL

Where to Stay, Eat, and Play in Florence, Italy

BY LAURA ITZKOWITZ
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To the casual tourist, Florence may seem like a city preserved in amber. Wander around the centro storico, where austere Renaissance palaces line the streets and Brunelleschi's dome dominates the skyline, and you might feel like you've stepped onto a movie set. But Florence is very much a living, breathing city. Things may change slowly here, but they do change.

When visiting Florence, it's important to remember that the city has gone through countless ups and downs. It has survived plagues, wars, and floods. It was established as a Roman city, declined during the Middle Ages, and was reborn during the Renaissance. It even had a brief turn as the capital of the newly unified Kingdom of Italy from 1865 to 1871. It drew writers, artists, and aristocrats during the Grand Tour, and it continues to draw legions of visitors today—perhaps *too* many visitors.

At times, it can feel impossible to escape the crowds. It gets unbearably hot in the summer. And yet, it's still one of the most enchanting cities not just in Italy but in all of Europe. There's simply nowhere else like it. No matter how many times you go, the city always has something else to offer. (I've been many, many times so you can trust me on that.) Without further ado, here's how to plan the perfect trip to Florence.

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Where to Stay

Portrait Firenze



Photo: Martino Dini

Overlooking the Arno and Ponte Vecchio, this member of the Leading Hotels of the World, owned by the Ferragamo family, exudes chic residential style. The spacious rooms and suites have marble bathrooms outfitted with the brand's Bianco di Carrara bath products and are decorated with archival photographs and sketches by Salvatore Ferragamo. The restaurant, Caffè dell'Oro, which has sidewalk seating overlooking the river, serves a fabulous buffet breakfast and upscale Italian cuisine for lunch and dinner. A new spa is in the works.

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