

VOGUE

TRAVEL

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

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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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Hotel Lungarno



Photo: Courtesy of Hotel Lungarno

Just across the river from Portrait Firenze, Hotel Lungarno—also owned by the Ferragamo family—exudes retro style, with nautical blue and white interiors and a blue-chip art collection that includes sketches by Picasso and Miro. It feels like the kind of place where Wes Anderson would stay. Sunset *aperitivo* on the riverfront terrace of Picteau is a must, while the Michelin-starred Borgo San Jacopo is perfect for a romantic dinner date.

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