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Apri

This tiny hotel with palatial suites has Rome’s best rooftop terrace

The boutique Portrait Roma in the capital’s designer district has detail-rich rooms and a knockout roof terrace — and it’s just moments from the Spanish Steps



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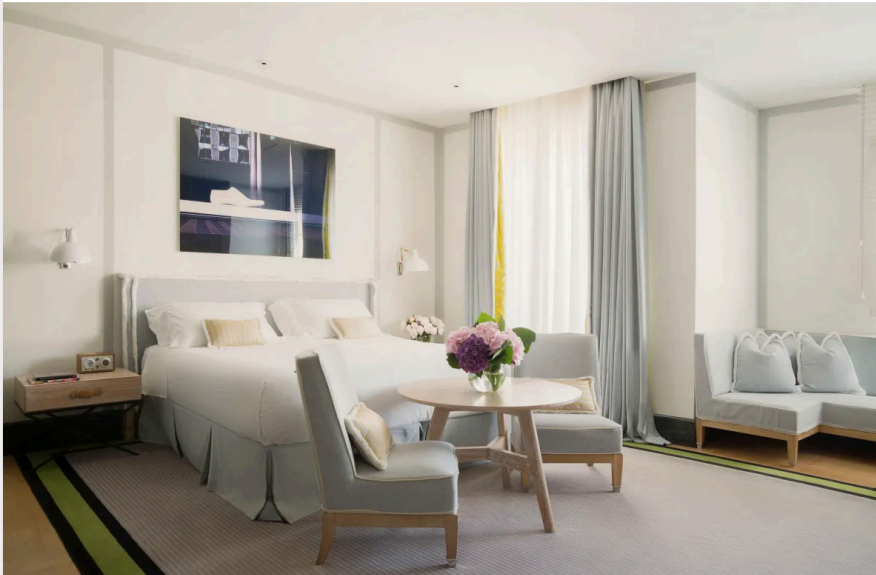
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Hidden behind a discreet entrance next-door to Ferragamo’s store on Via Condotti, this is the flagship property of the fashion label’s hotel chain, Portrait. In part a paean to its founder, walls are lined with photographs of Salvatore Ferragamo at work, while extracts from his autobiography are displayed in the lift. However, even those indifferent to shoe design will find much to enjoy here — service is smooth and insightful, and all 14 of its enormous suites embody luxurious design and an exquisitely specific approach to comfort. Breakfast is served on its private rooftop, and may well be the best in Rome.

Overall score 8/10

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Rooms and suites



Score 10/10

Even the entry-level Portrait Studio is extremely spacious, its 33 sq m amply accommodating a vast bed and walk-in wardrobe as well as a kitchenette and generously appointed marble bathroom. Though each room is unique, they share high ceilings and a restrained palette — grey and white walls, plenty of leather and black wood — plus opulent soft furnishings. For example, slate-coloured curtains are pink-lined and trimmed with fake fur, evoking a monarch's robe. While the decor is uniformly stylish, what really stands out is the attention to detail. These include glowing pinprick dots on the bedside light switch to help you find it in the night, a yoga mat and weights for in-room workouts, jars filled with complimentary snacks and sweets, and silk-smooth cotton sheets.



Bathroom toiletries, too, are above and beyond — including Ferragamo-branded eye cream, face moisturiser and lip balm as well as the usual holy trinity of shampoo, conditioner and shower gel. Portrait Roma's bigger rooms are more like small apartments than suites (the Penthouse Floor sleeps seven), and several have balconies or terraces. Families are also well-catered for, with three rooms where children can sleep in a separate, adjacent space. Every junior guest is greeted with a small present, and staff are happy to arrange babysitting.

Food and drink



Score 8/10

Displayed in a manner reminiscent of a painted cornucopia, Portrait Roma's breakfast is a veritable banquet of quality local produce. Serving plates are piled high with exotic fruits, fresh loaves of focaccia and local pastries — including the maritizzo romano, Lazio's cream-filled bun — while cast-iron cookware contains perfectly cooked scrambled eggs and crispy pancetta. This is served on the suntrap rooftop terrace, which is also a peerless spot from which to enjoy the aperitivo hour, offering tables scattered with art books, newspapers and a leather chess set.



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Drinks from its classic cocktail menu were rather inexpertly prepared given their high price, but won points for being served with a buffet of snacks in addition to bowls of crisps, nuts and olives. There's no restaurant, but with ample dining options on the doorstep you'll hardly care. Dillà is a three-minute walk away and serves flavourful pasta dishes and vegetable sides (don't miss the chicory in anchovy sauce) to a largely local crowd.

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What else is there?

Score n/a

Apart from the rooftop terrace there are no real facilities to speak of, but the hotel's "lifestyle team" goes some way to make up the shortfall – from providing genuinely useful in-person tips to WhatsApping guests to offer help making dinner reservations.

Where is it?



Score 9/10

On a Mayfair-equivalent street smack bang in the middle of the Centro Storico, the hotel is within 15 minutes' walk of some of Rome's biggest sites including the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and Villa Borghese. Hotel guests get 10 per cent off at Ferragamo's store on Via Condotti, also home to many other luxury brands. It's an hour by taxi or public transport to either of the city's major airports, Fiumicino and Ciampino.



Price B&B doubles from £749

Restaurant n/a

Family-friendly Y

Accessible N

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