Where to stay in Florence – a guide to the best areas and neighbourhoods

From smart hotels smack dab in the centre of the city to historic villas in the surrounding hills, our expert gives you the lowdown

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Florence is on many bucket lists around the world – and it's easy to see why Credit: Sharon Lapkin

Nicky Swallow
Destination expert
24 January 2025 4:00pm GMT

All hotels have been independently reviewed and selected. We will earn a commission if you book via the links below, but this never affects our rating.

Florence, and especially its ancient, red roof-tiled centro storico, is a compact little gem of a city, meaning that wherever you choose to stay, you will never be too far from the main sights and a good line-up of restaurants, bars and interesting boutiques. Hotels in Florence span top-of-the-pile five star stays from big-hitting international brands like St. Regis, Four Seasons and Belmond, to affordable under-the-radar boltholes, with plenty inbetween.

You simply have to decide whether you want to be in the thick of the action in the city centre, to take up residence among the artisan workshops and little osterias of lesser-known, offbeat Oltrarno, or to escape to the cypress-dotted hills – a particularly attractive prospect during the often oppressively hot and humid Florentine summer. There's something for everyone; here is our guide on where to stay in Florence.

How we review

Every hotel in this curated list has been visited by one of our expert reviewers, who are usually hosted on a complimentary basis. They stay for a minimum of one night, test at least one meal and trial other experiences that the hotel might have to offer.

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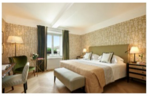
The Duomo and Piazza della Signoria

For many centuries, Florence's religious and civic heart has been centered around the Duomo and Piazza della Signoria. Today, the main drag running between the two is jam-packed with tourists and the inevitable accompanying market stalls, food outlets and souvenir shops. If you want to be in the thick of things – and on the doorstep of such sights as Brunelleschi's magnificent dome, the ancient Baptistery, medieval Palazzo Vecchio and the Uffizi gallery – this is where to make your base.

Fashionistas will find rich pickings among the designer stores of elegant Via Tornabuoni, and there are also lots of worthwhile shopping opportunities in the streets between the Duomo and the Ponte Vecchio to the south. Grandiose it all may be, but you'll need to go further afield if you are after a slice of local life – to the north lies Piazza San Marco, its adjacent convent decorated with superb frescoes by Fra Angelico, and a quiet, mainly residential neighbourhood.

Stretching across the Arno River, the Ponte Vecchio is one of Florence's most iconic sights Credit: Â © Joe Daniel Price/joe daniel price

Where to stay



Hotel Savoy

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

A historic hotel – now part of Rocco Forte's Italian portfolio – located in a prime position between the Piazza del Duomo and the Ponte Vecchio, with a young, fresh vibe and pale design peppered by bright fabrics. It offers top-notch services and a good restaurant, too.

Read expert review

FROM
£643 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

Hotel Helvetia & Bristol

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

This historic hotel, part of the dynamic, Florence-based Starhotels group, offers classic comforts, bags of atmosphere and a super-central location. The largest spa in central Florence and a buzzy cocktail bar adds to the appeal.

Read expert review

FROM
£384 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

In Piazza della Signoria

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

8/10 Telegraph expert rating

This 'residenza d'epoca' combines Florentine elegance with exceptionally warm hospitality in an unbeatable location close to some of the city's most popular sights. The personal input of the owners is well over and above the call of duty.

Read expert review

FROM
£274 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

Il Tornabuoni

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

This smart, stylish hotel enjoys a prime spot on traffic-free Via Tornabuoni and is close to all the main sights and plenty of interesting bars, restaurants and cafés. The USP is the roof terrace with lounge bar and magnificent wraparound views.

Read expert review

FROM
£340 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

25hours Hotel Piazza San Paolino

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

8/10 Telegraph expert rating

A welcome shake-up for Florence's accommodation scene that has certainly set local tongues wagging. Time will tell whether the combination of central location, excellent facilities (including on-site parking) and the quirky design will prove to be a serious rival to the city's more traditional four-star hotels.

Read expert review

FROM
£155 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

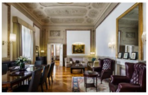
- The best hotels in Florence

Santa Croce and the east

The wide open space that is Piazza Santa Croce is surrounded by leather shops, markets stalls, restaurants and cafés. To the northeast is the buzzing neighbourhood of Sant'Ambrogio, centered around one of the liveliest markets in Florence and characterised by independent boutiques, artisan workshops, characterful restaurants, cafés packed with locals and the odd tripe stand. It has a feel of 'real Florence' yet the main sights are only five minutes away on foot. On the doorstep is the church of Santa Croce itself – filled with frescoes by Giotto and Gaddi – the tombs of Machiavelli, Dante et al, the Pazzi chapel, the Bargello museum and the ancient Badia Fiorentina. At night, the square and surrounding narrow streets fill with partying students and late-night clubbers.

The wide open space that is Piazza Santa Croce is surrounded by markets stalls, restaurants and cafés Credit: © Scenics & Science / Alamy Stock Photo

Where to stay



Relais Santa Croce

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

8/10 Telegraph expert rating

This boutique-style, five-star hotel is housed in grand Palazzo Ciofi-Jacometti and will appeal to anyone who cares for a taste of aristocratic living. With the excellent in-house restaurant as well as a three-star Michelin restaurant in the same building, it also has particular gourmet cachet.

Read expert review

FROM
£358 per night

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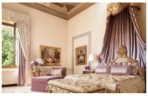
Rates provided by Booking.com



Four Seasons Hotel Firenze

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

Florence's most lavish hotel is housed in a magnificent Renaissance palazzo and set in 11 acres of mature gardens. It's well-removed from the tourist hordes, and offers superb resort facilities and the sort of polished service you would expect from the

Four Seasons brand.

Read expert review

FROM
£846 per night

Check availability

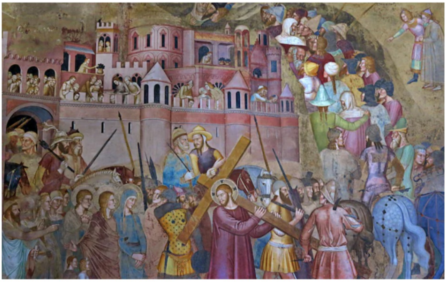
Rates provided by Booking.com

- The most romantic hotels in Florence

Santa Maria Novella, San Lorenzo and the west

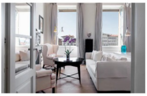
These two medieval parishes stand side-by-side – part of Florence's centro storico – and take in a swathe of the city from the northwest bank of the Arno to the main train station and the San Lorenzo market. Stuffed with historic palazzi and museums, both neighbourhoods nonetheless have a more earthy side. The lively market area, home to the Mercato Centrale food hub as well as stalls selling affordable leather, clothing and accessories, is full of cheap trattorie and cafés, funky boutiques and ethnic grocer's shops and teems with a mix of locals and foreigners.

For culture vultures, there's plenty to see: the glorious churches of Santa Maria Novella and San Lorenzo; the Medici chapels; Ghirladaio's Last Supper painting in the church of Ognissanti; and Benozzo Gozzoli's exquisite, jewel-coloured frescoes in the Chapel of the Magi.



The frescoes at the church of Santa Maria Novella are a sight to behold Credit: Izzet Keribar

Where to stay



The Place Firenze

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

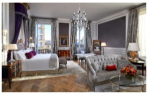
The Place occupies a tall, elegant townhouse in the centre of Florence, just south of Santa Maria Novella Station. With its immaculate interiors, cocooning atmosphere and exceptional service, it's the perfect Florentine pied-à-terre. The buzzy terrace bar is a cool hangout on sultry summer evenings.

Read expert review

FROM
£601 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com



The St. Regis Florence

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/ 10 Telegraph expert rating

A hotel in the grand style, the St. Regis offers a wonderful location on the north bank of the Arno, professional yet very pleasant five-star service and all the luxuries you would expect from the brand. The Michelin-starred restaurant is an added bonus.

Read expert review

FROM
£602 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by **Booking.com**

Palazzo di Camugliano

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/ 10 Telegraph expert rating

This hotel is a perfect choice for those enticed by the idea of sampling life in a grand palazzo. The place is stuffed with a plethora of original features and rooms filled with family heirlooms add a discret air of luxury. The property is well-placed for visiting the sights yet feels removed from the worst of the crowds. A lovely hanging garden is a delightful surprise.

Read expert review

FROM
£231 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by **Booking.com**

Velona's Jungle Luxury Suites

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

8/ 10 Telegraph expert rating

In a city that sometimes seems devoid of locals, Florence's impressive Velona's Jungle Luxury Suites stands out not only for its exquisite interior design, featured on the cover of Italian Architectural Digest, but also for its authentic Florentine hospitality.

Read expert review

FROM
£114 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by **Booking.com**

The Social Hub Florence

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

8/ 10 Telegraph expert rating

The first Italian opening of Dutch brand The Social Hub (formerly The Student Hotel), lies a couple of tram stops from the centre of Florence. It has a hip, buzzy, community-orientated vibe, highly competitive rates and there are fantastic facilities including co-working spaces, a bookshop and a rooftop pool.

Read expert review

FROM
£137 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by **Booking.com**

- The best luxury hotels in Florence

The Oltrarno

The area of the city that lies 'beyond the Arno' hugs the south bank of the river – it's a long, narrow swathe of land that encompasses a number of Florence's most important monuments (Palazzo Pitti, the Brancacci Chapel, the Boboli gardens and the church of Santo Spirito), some great places to eat and drink and no shortage of bohemian allure. Pretty, tree-filled Piazza Santo Spirito, the hub of the 'quartiere', hosts a small market most mornings where locals still come to shop and gossip about the day's goings-on. At night, the area fills with a lively mix of students, uber-cool Florentines and tourists; on warm summer evenings, they hang out in the square until the small hours.

The Oltrarno is famous for its plethora of artisan workshops, and a wander round the narrow cobbled streets around Piazza Santo Spirito, Via Maggio and Piazza Pitti will turn up iron mongers, book binders, framers and furniture restorers. If you are looking for a more authentic Florence, this is a great neighbourhood to be based in.

History-steeped Palazzo Pitti houses a number of notable museums and galleries Credit: Jose A. Bernat Bacete

Where to stay

AdAstra

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

AdAstra is set in the largest private garden 'intra moenia' (between walls) in Europe. Inspired by the concept of a Parisian hotel particulier, this boutique hotel has the feel of an aristocratic private apartment which is not far from the truth – the Marchese Torrigiani lives on the ground floor.

Read expert review

FROM

£155 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

SoprArno Suites

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

8/10 Telegraph expert rating

A stylish guesthouse with a spot-on retro vibe and a wonderful location in the hip Oltrarno district – with reasonable prices to boot. This place will appeal to independent travellers and fans of vintage design, and there are cultural attractions right on the doorstep, including the Pitti Palace and Ponte Vecchio.

Read expert review

FROM
£200 per night

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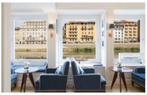


Hotel Lungarno

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

This is the flagship hotel of Florentine fashion heir Leonardo Ferragamo's Lungarno Collection, and the most traditional of the group. It provides its guests with an unbeatable location just steps from the Ponte Vecchio, alongside five-star service, magnificent river views and superb Michelin-starred dining at Ristorante Borgo San Jacopo.

Read expert review

FROM
£596 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

Palazzo Guadagni

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

8/10 Telegraph expert rating

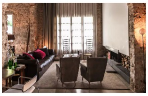
This small, quiet hotel has a prime location in the heart of the Oltrarno. Inside, the atmosphere is reminiscent of Forster's 'A Room with a View', but benefits from plenty of modern-day amenities. The unique selling point is the magnificent wrap-around loggia, surely one of Rome's most romantic spots for post-sightseeing drinks.

Read expert review

FROM
£166 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com



Riva Lofts Florence

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

7/10 Telegraph expert rating

A hip, laid-back home-from-home with a party-house feel and a location that is as offbeat as the hotel itself. Riva is a stylish retreat offering sharp design and keen prices, as well as modern suites, a riverside garden, swimming pool and complimentary bikes.

Read expert review

FROM
£124 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

- The best boutique hotels in Florence

The hills

Florence is surrounded on three sides by hills confettied with mellow villas and planted with cypresses and olive groves; in high summer, when temperatures in town soar and humidity levels become unbearable, these suburbs offer cool relief and a sense of rural bliss.

Some of Florence's most exclusive hotels are located here, set in beautiful gardens complete with pools and spas and yet only a few minutes' shuttle bus ride from the centro storico and all it has to offer. This means that you can put in a whole day's sightseeing in town and be back at your hotel in time for an early evening swim followed by a moonlit dinner on the terrace.

The cool, cypress-studded hills surrounding the city are dotted with storied villas Credit: Massimo Borchi

Where to stay

Belmond Villa San Michele

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

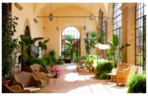
Villa San Michele – one of Florence's most expensive hotels – is housed in an ancient former monastery, and combines Renaissance atmosphere with 21st-century comforts galore. For some, the off-radar location will be a boon while others may feel out of things. Note that the hotel closes in winter.

Read expert review

FROM
£1,752 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com



Torre di Bellosguardo

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

8/10 Telegraph expert rating

A Renaissance villa in the grand style, with its exquisite original features still intact. The Torre di Bellosguardo provides an authentic atmosphere rather than utmost luxury and offers a bucolic setting in a superb location away from the crowds – all at reasonable prices.

Read expert review

FROM
£309 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

Villa La Massa

Tuscany, Italy

8/10 Telegraph expert rating

With its peaceful, rural setting on the south bank of the Arno just upstream from

Florence, Villa La Massa will appeal to those seeking the best of both worlds. This Medici villa is to all intents and purposes a country resort, but just 20 minutes' drive away from Florence's artistic treasures.

Read expert review

FROM
£537 per night

Check availability

Rates provided by Booking.com

Frequently asked questions

Where should I stay in Florence as a first time visitor?

The Duomo and Piazza della Signoria are at the historic core of Florence. The Duomo (Florence Cathedral) features the iconic dome by Filippo Brunelleschi. In this area, you'll also find major sites such as the Baptistery, Palazzo Vecchio and the Uffizi gallery.

What is the most romantic area to stay in Florence?

While the central Duomo and Santa Maria Novella areas boast romantic hotels such as The Place Firenze, Palazzo di Camugliano, Antica Torre di Via Tornabuoni 1, and The Continentale at the north end of the Ponte Vecchio, the most romantic neighbourhood to stay in is the Oltrarno (south of the Arno River) where we you'll find hotels including The Lungarno and Ad Astra, as well as the Boboli Gardens, Palazzo Pitti and artisan workshops. Or head to the hills for the ultra-romantic Villa Cora. See more romantic hotels in Florence.

Where is best to stay in Florence with family?

For minimum walking with children, stay close to the main attractions in the Duomo district. Family-friendly hotels here include Hotel Savoy and Portrait Firenze. In the neighbouring Santa Maria Novella district, Hotel Santa Maria Novella and Grand Hotel Minerva cater well to families. Or head out of town to give them more space to run around; try Villa La Massa or Belmond Villa San Michele. See more family-friendly hotels in Florence.

The best hotels in Florence

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Villa Cora

Hotel | Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

A fantasy world of immaculately-restored luxury, Villa Cora is an outstanding hotel offering a su... Read expert review

FROM
£405 per night

The Place Firenze

Hotel | Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

The Place occupies a tall, elegant townhouse in the centre of Florence, just south of Santa Maria... Read expert review

FROM
£601 per night

Ville Sull'Arno

Hotel | Florence, Tuscany, Italy

9/10 Telegraph expert rating

A pleasant stroll along the Arno brings you to this relaxing five-star riverside retreat. Enjoy l... Read expert review

FROM
£220 per night

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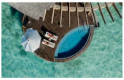

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