

Client: Hotel Continentale

Source: Hello!

Date: 5 August 2019

**HELLO!**  
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**THE BEAMING BIRTHDAY BOY  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MUM KATE**

**ROYAL EXCLUSIVE**

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GEORGE  
AT SIX**  
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STUNNING NEW  
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**ELIE SAAB JR'S  
FAIRYTALE DAY**  
THE STAR GUESTS, SUMPTUOUS  
SETTING, GLITTERING GOWN -  
AND GIANT CAKE

**EXCLUSIVE: FAYE TOZER REVEALS HER SECRET 'STRICTLY' HEARTACHE**

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HELLO! MAGAZINE  
STREET - VAN C. GORRWANTZ, C/O K. HOFFMANN, C/O P. FRANGE, AUSTRIE

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# STAR ESCAPES

*With majestic architecture, fine restaurants and an abundance of world-class galleries, Tuscany's capital is a feast for the senses*

## Florence



Gwyneth Paltrow has been sightseeing in Florence

### STAY

Standing at the end of the iconic Ponte Vecchio, Hotel Continentale (3) couldn't be better placed. Airy and contemporary, this inner-city sanctuary boasts bold 1950s fashion portraits and bright pops of colour. The suites and bedrooms, with soft white beds, are a lesson in elegant simplicity. Some offer sublime vistas across the River Arno, others have suntrap terraces. The obliging team can arrange painting classes with Florentine artists, photography workshops with renowned photographers and tours of jewellery ateliers. Afterwards, retreat to a daybed in the Relax Room to watch the world go by.

### TASTE

From delightful trattorias in the city's narrow back streets to the impressive Mercato Centrale, where you can stop for a plate of gnocchi, foodies are spoilt for choice. Aromatic truffles are the order of the day at Mangiafoco, a cosy osteria in the centre of the city. Or join the locals at Trattoria Cammillo in the sleepier Oltrarno district, where you can tuck into bistecca alla

Fiorentina. After dinner, head to the stylish La Terrazza on Hotel Continentale's rooftop (1) for a cocktail or two.

### INDULGE

Lined with bookshops and jewellers, Via del Parione has an air of Old Florence. Stop at Patrizia Daliana for handcrafted pendants, and quaint Alberto Cozzi for leather-bound notebooks and marbled wrapping paper. Home to every Italian fashion house under the sun, Via de' Tornabuoni is a must for a wide-eyed stroll, and scented oils and tinctures await at the Officina Profumo Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella.

### EXPLORE

From the magnificent Duomo (2) to the Piazza della Signoria, there's a sight to behold at every turn. The Uffizi Gallery holds the finest collection of Italian Renaissance art in the world, the Giardino dell'iris offers a welcome respite from the crowds, and the hike up to San Miniato al Monte is well worth it.

► Rates at Hotel Continentale begin at £230 per night excluding breakfast; visit [lungarnocollection.com/continentale-hotel](http://lungarnocollection.com/continentale-hotel). Vueling flies from Luton to Florence from £54.64 one way; visit [vueling.com](http://vueling.com).



### WHAT TO PACK



Gucci Rouge à lèvres Voile Luminous Sheer Lipstick in Odalie Red, £34, from [harrods.com](http://harrods.com)



Gold Calima hoops, £115, Missoma; visit [missoma.com](http://missoma.com)

REPORT: ROSALIND POWELL & HARRIET CHARNOCK-BATES; PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES