

DEBONAIR

N° and issue date: September 2015

Circulation: ---

Pag: 198-205

Frequency: Monthly

Website: <https://debonaironline.com>

D10

# DEBONAIR

jective: (of a man) confident, stylish & charming



COACH  
BALLY  
BURBERRY PRORSUM  
BMW 7 SERIES  
BAUME ET MERCIER  
DE GRISOGONO  
RICHARD MILLE  
PRINCE CASIRAGHI  
LA PERGOLA  
BURNING MAN  
MARTINO ZEGWAARD  
CHAD OPPENHEIM  
A.LANGE & SOEHNE  
LAKE COMO  
ROME CITY GUIDE





## [ DESTINATIONS ]

### [ COLOSSEUM ]

The Roman Colosseum is the largest amphitheatre ever built. The word amphitheatre derives from the Greek - amphi, meaning 'on both sides' or 'around' - and theatron, meaning 'place for viewing'. Before its demise, the Colosseum could hold between 50,000—80,000 spectators.

## DESTINATIONS

[ CITY GUIDE ]

## ROME



### WHY GO?

200

201

History, history, history. From ancient Roman ruins to renaissance palazzos, walking the streets of Rome is akin to wandering around an outdoor history museum. As with any European capital, there are plenty of street side cafes and restaurants at which to rest weary feet during a day of sightseeing. More than anything it's the energy of Rome that is captivating; despite its ancient origins it is a city that is bursting with vitality and filled with people who love to live passionately.

[www.debonaironline.com](http://www.debonaironline.com)

## ESSENTIAL DETAILS

Airports: Fiumicino - Leonardo da Vinci International Airport (FCO) is the main international airport, Rome Ciampino International Airport (CIA) is the secondary international airport and serves as a base for Ryanair.

Entry: some visitors will require a visa before arrival. Check with your passport office before travel.

Time Zone: GMT +1

Currency: Euros

Pocket essentials: street map, Italian phrase book, friendly attitude - many Italians will say good morning and goodbye when entering/leaving shops or bars etc.









## DESTINATIONS



[ ROME ]

CITY GUIDE

## WHEN TO GO

Rome's mild Mediterranean climate makes it a popular tourist destination all year round. The most agreeable time of year to visit is spring and autumn time in terms of the weather however these are also the some of the busiest times, especially around Easter when many people flock to the Vatican to pay their respects. If you want to avoid the crowds entirely try travelling between January to March or, if you can bear the heat, in August, when many of Rome's residents evacuate the city for the beaches.

### ROME MARATHON

Taking place in March, this annual event draws in crowds of participants and spectators who gather to lend their support. Over 15,000 athletes from 110 different countries will traverse 42km across the ancient city. There is a 5k 'fun run' that runs in tandem with the marathon, whose participation in recent years rocketed over 80,000. For the second time this year the finish line will be inside the Circo Massimo.

[www.maratonadiroma.it](http://www.maratonadiroma.it)

[ CAPTION ]

opposite top: many events during the Estate Romana (Roman summer) festival take place at landmarks across the city.  
opposite bottom: street activations during the annual celebration of the city's birthday.

### NATALE DI ROMA

Rome celebrates its birthday every year on April 21 as the history of its foundation can allegedly be traced back to this day in 753 BC. The city throws a big party, organising fireworks, fancy dress parades and sound and light shows amongst some of its most famous relics such as the Circo Massimo and the Capitoline.

[www.culturaroma.it](http://www.culturaroma.it)

### LA NOTTE DEI MUSEI (NIGHT OF THE MUSEUMS)

Part of a Europe-wide cultural initiative, this event sees over 90 museums and cultural spaces open their doors for free to the public from 8pm-2am. There is a substantial events and entertainment program surrounding the late opening that takes place in May.

[www.lanottedeimusei.it](http://www.lanottedeimusei.it)

### ESTATE ROMANA (ROMAN SUMMER)

Running from June-October this citywide programme includes open-air concerts, dance performances, theatre productions, cinema screenings and a host of other events that animate the city during the warmer months. One of the highlights is the Isola del Cinema film festival on Tiber island.

[www.estateromana.comune.roma.it](http://www.estateromana.comune.roma.it)

### ROME FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its 10th edition, the Rome Film Fest takes place over 10 days from October 16-23 and encompasses everything from film and television to documentaries and animation film. The main venue for the event is the Auditorium Parco della Musica but the festival hosts many event across the rest of the capital as well.

[www.romacinemafest.it](http://www.romacinemafest.it)

202

203



[ ROME ]

CITY GUIDE

## WHERE TO STAY

The range of hotels in Rome is varied and as to be expected in a city with such a degree of history, there can be a distinct line between 'old world glamour' and just plain old. European hotels tend to favour high ceilings and period furnishings over king size beds or interconnecting rooms but if you can bear to be without standardised luxury and prefer frescoes to flat screen TVs then Rome's hotels will suit you just fine.

### WALDORF ASTORIA ROME CAVALIERI HOTEL

This property's distinguishing feature is its location about 20 minutes outside of the city centre. This makes it the perfect spot for exploring Rome for a few hours and then beating a hasty retreat to the calm oasis of the hotel's manicured gardens and five star resort facilities. In addition to the plush rooms, outdoor pool and extensive spa setup, Heinz Beck's La Pergola (three Michelin stars) is on the top floor of the hotel, affording spectacular views and gastronomic delights.

[www.romecavalieri.com](http://www.romecavalieri.com)

### J.K. PLACE

The Rome property is only the third to be opened by the J.K. Places group – a entity so dedicated to customer experience it took over six years to decide on the right location for it. The group's philosophy is to create beautiful spaces in beautiful places that have sense of home about them, whether that detail is in the luxurious linens, the plate of fresh strawberries placed in the room, or a hand written note welcoming you by name to the hotel. There are no 'facilities' by way of a gym or a spa, but there is a rooftop terrace and lounge, which in a crowded city like Rome is a luxury in itself.

[www.jkroma.com](http://www.jkroma.com)

[ CAPTION ]

opposite top: the spectacular finish of the bedroom in the penthouse suite at the Waldorf Astoria Rome Cavalieri, opposite bottom: the pared back luxury of the drawing room and common areas of J.K. Place Roma.

### HOTEL RUSSIE

Another haven within the city, the Hotel de Russie was designed in the early 19th century and has hosted a wealth of famous guests such as Pablo Picasso and Jean Cocteau. The furniture is modern without being pretensions, room service is discreet and there is the small detail of about 30,000 feet of opulent manicured landscaping as a dramatic backdrop. If weather permits grab a cocktail on the piazza in front of the hotel or even better, cornettos (croissants) and coffee on the hotel's patio during the best of the morning light.

[www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/hotel-de-russie](http://www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/hotel-de-russie)

### RESIDENZA NAPOLEONE III

If you'd like to have a glimpse into what life might have been like inside the residence of a 19th century emperor, look no further than the Residenza Napoleone III. This 'hotel' consists of only two accommodations. The emperor's suite is decked out in oil paintings, 16th century tapestries, hand stencilled walls and Italian linens. The slightly less extravagant Roof Garden Suite gives a glimpse into what life might have been like as an emperor's guest as this second option is much smaller and the layout is somewhat 'quirky' but the payoff comes in the form of a multi-level terrace with spectacular views. Bose sound systems, flat screen TVs and air conditioning ensure that the 19th century experience is mainly aesthetic rather than immersive.

[www.residenzanapoleone.com](http://www.residenzanapoleone.com)

### CROSSING CONDOTTI

For a true home-away-from home experience, the Crossing Condotti is more akin to staying in a (wealthy) friend's townhouse than a hotel. All rooms are individually decorated with a focus on understated luxury and while they aren't large, all the luxury comforts are there in the form of LCD screens, complimentary hot drinks and wi-fi and top quality linens. There's no restaurant on site but as the location is so central, you won't mind popping out to eat in the hubbub of the city and then languishing in the comfort of your city centre address whilst you digest.

[www.crossingcondotti.com](http://www.crossingcondotti.com)

204

205





DESTINATIONS



205







## DESTINATIONS

### [ ROME ]

#### CITY GUIDE

## WHERE TO EAT

### LA PERGOLA

Heinz Beck's restaurant is the only one in Rome to hold three Michelin stars and with good reason. Beck's German precision and dedication to nutrition is combined to present consistently beautiful food that is delectable and digestible, not to mention immensely creative. Make sure you try the signature Fagottelli "La Pergola".

[www.romecavalieri.com/lapergola](http://www.romecavalieri.com/lapergola)

### ENOTECA FERRARA

Nestled off of the Piazza Trilussa, this establishment's main attraction is its vast wine cellar, presented in the form of two large compendiums of red and white wine. Sommelier assistance is definitely recommended. You can opt for the full restaurant experience or dine in a more 'tapas' style manner, sharing plates and dishes from the tavern menu. Alternatively, pick up a bottle and a few bits from the deli to take away.

[www.enotecaferrara.com](http://www.enotecaferrara.com)

### [ CAPTION ]

opposite top: the charcuterie and cheese offering at Ginger on Via Borgognona is a prime spot for lunch and people watching.  
opposite bottom: the opulent cigar lounge adjacent to Heinz Beck's La Pergola.

### GELATERIA DEL TEATRO

A visit to Italy would not be complete without gelato and sometimes ice cream can be all you need when you want to take a quick rest stop from sight seeing. Located just next to the busy Piazza Navona, this small gelato shop uses only the purest and freshest ingredients in its wide array of ice creams and sorbets that include both traditional and innovative flavours. The Sicilian peach and Amalfi lemon flavour were top notch.

### ENOTECA CAPRANICA

This traditional Italian eatery is tucked away down a quiet side street and is a good stop between attractions such as the Pantheon or the Trevi fountain. At lunchtime it is pleasant to sit outside under an umbrella and eat at a European pace, which may or may not include a cold glass of Pinot Grigio. The spaghetti a la vongole is particularly good.

[www.enotecacapranica.it](http://www.enotecacapranica.it)

### GINGER

This bijou eatery is in a prime spot for a bit of shopping. Via Borgognona is parallel to Via dei Condotti and between them they house Tod's, Hermes, Ermenegildo Zegna, Salvatore Ferragamo and Louis Vuitton. The focus is on healthy, fresh ingredients that are presented in the form of salads, baguettes, meats and cheeses. It's a very popular spot for lunch so make sure to grab your table early.

[www.ginger.roma.it](http://www.ginger.roma.it)

### LE JARDIN DE RUSSIE

For an other-worldly experience, head to Le Jardin de Russie, the secret garden restaurant located within the hotel of the same name. Chef Fluvio Pierangelini prepares food using a simple approach explaining "The simpler the food, the more we have to pay attention because margins of error increase. Simplicity in the kitchen is an arrival point not a starting one. You need courage for simple cooking."

[www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/hotel-de-russie/restaurants-and-bars/le-jardin-de-russie](http://www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/hotel-de-russie/restaurants-and-bars/le-jardin-de-russie)

206

207

[ ROME ]

CITY GUIDE

## WHERE TO DRINK

Rome's cobbled streets house a wide choice of drinking spots that can range from simple corner cafes and enotecas to sophisticated hotel bars.

### STRAVINSKIJ BAR

The appeal of the Stravinskij is its considerably sized private piazza that draws an eclectic crowd. World-class bartenders mix signature cocktails along with soft libations and home made ice tea. From the Piazzetta Valadier you have the perfect vantage point for people watching as they dine in the Jardin de Russie. Best for a leisurely aperitif, premium spirit or light Mediterranean lunch.

[www.rocfortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/hotel-de-russie/restaurants-and-bars/stravinskij-bar](http://www.rocfortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/hotel-de-russie/restaurants-and-bars/stravinskij-bar)

208

### HASSLER BAR

209

The atmosphere in the Hassler is gentleman's-club-meets-hidden-bar but don't let that put you off. It may be popular with entrepreneurs, diplomats and politicians but for all the best reasons. The dark wood and red leather is classy rather than kitsch and most importantly, the drinks are very good. The Veruschka and Hassler Martini are signature cocktails made with pomegranate juice but the Hassler also makes a mean Negroni.

[www.hotelhasslerroma.com](http://www.hotelhasslerroma.com)

[www.debonaironline.com](http://www.debonaironline.com)

### THE DEER CLUB

Rome's hipster hotel naturally has a hipster lounge concept where people can meet like-minded hipsters. The Deer Club has plush décor, ambient lighting and is open from aperitif-time until after dinner serving cocktails, choice wines and spirits alongside a menu of 'kitchen bites'. The large stag's head might seem affected but it is in fact the emblem of the ancient Regola quarter in which the hotel is located. In summer the action opens out onto a rooftop terrace.

[www.domhotelroma.com](http://www.domhotelroma.com)

### JERRY THOMAS PROJECT

For purists and fanatics, this speakeasy is one of a handful of bars in Rome that serves top notch cocktails. You'll have to follow the rigmarole of becoming a member (for a very small fee) and booking ahead, as well as providing the answer to an alcohol-related question as a way of gaining entry through a discreet door. Once inside, you'll have access to some of the best mixologists in town, just remember to follow the speakeasy rules - cash only, no texting and no photos - the drinks are worth it.

[www.thejerrythomasproject.it](http://www.thejerrythomasproject.it)

### CASA BLEVE

Housed in a fantastic glass-roofed courtyard, Casa Blevé is one of Rome's most elegant wine bars. The building features Augustan period wine cellars that are reputed to be some of the most beautiful in Rome's historic centre. A husband & wife team have been running the show since 2003, serving a menu of fresh, seasonal ingredients alongside an impressive catalogue of wines.

[www.casableve.com](http://www.casableve.com)

### OPEN BALADIN ROME

This large bar is part of a network of bars run by the Piedmont-based craft brewery, Baladin. This particular venue is one of the larger ones and certainly larger than most bars in the city. There are over 40 Italian draught beers on tap and more than 100 in bottle. If this wasn't reason enough to visit, Open Baladin also serves (amongst other things) freshly-made potato chips with unique flavours such as paprika, pecorino and liquorice.

[www.openbaladinroma.it](http://www.openbaladinroma.it)

[ CAPTION ]

opposite top: the clubby art house interiors of the Deer Club at the D.O.M. Hotel

opposite bottom: the Hassler Bar is the perfect spot for a well-mixed Negroni or house cocktail using fresh pomegranate juice.











## [ ROME ]

### CITY GUIDE

## WHAT TO DO

### ARA PACIS

This monument is the perfect marriage between ancient and modern worlds; showcasing Caesar Augustus' altar to Pax (Roman goddess of peace), built in 13BC, in a modern structure of steel, glass and marble, built in 2006 AD. The space also hosts photography and painting exhibitions.

[www.arapacis.it](http://www.arapacis.it)

### GALLERIA BORGHESE

One of the world's greatest art collections is housed in an early 17th century villa and includes works by Caravaggio, Bernini, Canova to name but a few. The gallery is just a small part of the attractions of Villa Borghese – a magnificent 17th century aviary and a series of secret gardens flank the house and there is also a lake for boating. Visits to the gallery have designated time slots that must be booked in advance. Ticket collection is advised 30 minutes prior to your entry time.

[www.galleriaborghese.it](http://www.galleriaborghese.it)

## [ CAPTION ]

opposite: one of the magnificent galleries within the Villa Borghese, a 17th century villa housing one of the world's greatest art collections.

### MAXXI

Rome's National Museum of the 21st century Arts is nothing if not controversial. Flamboyant architect Zaha Hadid has built a multi disciplinary space dedicated to experimentation and innovation within the arts field and the building's composition of oblong tubes are a perfect reflection of that goal. Whether a fan of the building or not, the exhibitions draw acclaim and have featured works by artists such as William Kentridge, Francesco Vezzoli and Antonio Citterio. A courtyard and outdoor café make MAXXI a family-friendly choice.

### PALAZZO COLONNA

This privately owned home was closed to all but VIPs until recently but now its private galleries are open to the public and filled with a collection of artworks so grand it would be worthy of a museum wing. The gallery is open every Saturday from 9.00 to 13.15. Private tours are available by appointment.

[www.galleriacolonna.it](http://www.galleriacolonna.it)

### SCOOTEROMA

For anyone who has a Roman Holiday-inspired dream of buzzing around Rome on the back of Vespa, the folks at Scooterama can hook you up. Run by American/Italian husband and wife team Annie and Giovanni, tours vary from four-hour circuits of the city, to full-day explorations with stops for lunch, coffee and pastries along the way.

[www.scooteroma.com](http://www.scooteroma.com)

210

211