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# Radars

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HOTELS

## ROME REIMAGINED

High design gets a personal touch at the Eternal City's most stylish new stay.

When Gabriele Salini opened **O-Rough**, a 10-suite hotel in his family's palazzo just 100 yards from Piazza Navona, he was determined to bring an unconventional idea of luxury to the often staid heart of Rome. As the name would suggest, →

A 1960s infinity mirror, a Dmitri Barfaleb-designed Sputnik chandelier, wood table and chairs by Ico Parisi grace a suite at O-Rough.

## Radar

Salini preserved—even played up—many of the building's imperfections (worn 16th-century tile floors left untouched, deliberately unrestored frescoes, walls sanded down to reveal layers of history). Taking the idiosyncrasy a step further, Salini and his late business partner, Emanuele Carosci (who opened Venice's ultraglamorous Palazzina G in 2009), filled the five floors with iconic Italian pieces from the 1930s to '60s: spider-limbed Sputnik chandeliers by Gino Sarfatti, parchment beds by Guglielmo

Ulrich, bar trolley by Götto Ponti. Salini paid special attention to the fifth floor, where he used to live. Those rooms showcase works from his personal art collection, including a giant photograph by Massimo Vitali of a Turkish beach—not to mention perfectly framed views of the Baroque Sant'Agnese church in Piazza Navona. The intimate sensibility extends beyond the hotel's walls: the staff will arrange out-of-the-ordinary experiences, from private dinners in a palazzo featured in the Oscar-winning film *The Great Beauty* to design tutorials with an instructor at Rome's Academy of Costume and Fashion. "We encourage clients to do far more than just visit the Colosseum," Salini says. *g-rough.com*. \$\$\$\$ —VALERIE WATERHOUSE



A guest room's parchment bed by Guglielmo Ulrich. Left: A cast-iron tub and 1900s Venetian mirror in a 16-level suite.

Check out more of the best small hotels in Italy or [tandl.me/itsmht](http://tandl.me/itsmht).



## THREE MORE BOUTIQUE HOTEL DEBUTS IN ROME

### CASACAU

Five fully serviced apartments close to the Trevi Fountain feature vintage furnishings. Owner Pino Cas supplies recipes for seasonal dishes to cook in your kitchen. *casacau.com*. \$\$

### THE CORNER

This 1930s Art Nouveau villa in the Aventine district has 11 rooms, food by lauded chef Fabio Baldassarre, plus a small but sceney late-night club. *thecornerroma.com*. \$

### D.O.M.

Wooden animal sculptures, Warhol prints, and 18th-century marble walls bearing religious inscriptions fill this 24-room, 17th-century palazzo on Via Giulia. *domhotelroma.com*. \$\$\$

## CRUISING

### RIVER TO THE SEA

When **Viking Ocean Cruises** begins sailing the Baltic and Mediterranean this month, it will become the first major river-cruise company to launch a seagoing offshoot. It's a smart move for Viking, which has already cultivated a fiercely dedicated fan base for its trips down the Danube and other European waterways. Devotees will find much that's familiar on the 930-passenger *Viking Star*: spacious Scandinavian-designed staterooms with private verandas, overnight in key ports, and niceties bundled into the fare (Wi-Fi, wine and beer, city tours). The change of scenery and larger vessel bring plenty of new additions, too: lectures by local experts, a craft beer bar, a Nordic-style spa with a snow grotto, and a culinary emphasis on regional specialties (Black River ostra caviar on Baltic sailings, pea-leek risotto with goat-milk cheese in the Med). The crowd favorite is sure to be the cantilevered, glass-backed saltwater pool, which gives guests the illusion that they can swim right off the stern. —JANE WOODBRIDGE



Viking Star's Aquavit Terrace

PHOTO: VIKING; STYLING: ANDREW DEL CORRAL/STYLING UNLIMITED