

TRAVEL + LEISURE

T+L

JANUARY 2003

500

The Greatest Hotels
in the World

PLUS 10

Quick Winter
Getaways



www.travelandleisure.com
ISSN 1040-3882

Hotel Eden (8642) 

Discreet 18th-century institution (Tom Cruise and Gwyneth Paltrow stay here) in the Via Ludovico gardens, between Via Veneto and the Spanish Steps. **ROOMS** 121 (on the small side) in a simple Empire style (cream walls, a few antiques) with WebTV; 11th-floor rooms have balconies and views. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. Butler service. **FOOD** La Terrazza dell'Eden (one Michelin star) serves dishes such as sea bass in black olive-salt crust and has ravishing views. **FACILITIES** Gym. **COST** Doubles from 464. **49 VIA LUDOVICO, 800/223-6800 OR 39-06/478-521 www.hotel-eden.it**

Hotel Hassler Villa Medici (88 89)


Formal, family-run late-19th-century grande dame atop the Spanish Steps; convenient to chic shopping on Via del Condottino. **ROOMS** 100 (from close-stated to extra-large) with period antiques (original and reproduction), crystal chandeliers, and Venetian mirrors; many have balconies or terraces. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. **FOOD** Rooftop restaurant has an haute Italian menu (branch is a high-profile Roman scene), Salon Eva for snacks. **FACILITIES** New gym with a view. **COST** Doubles from 496. **6 PIAZZA DELLA TRINITÀ DEI MONTI, 800/223-6800 OR 39-06/699-340, www.hotelhasslerroma.com**

St. Regis Grand (84 00) 

Opulent 1894 Belle Époque palace (with the city's oldest functioning elevator), near Via Veneto and convenient to the ancient sites. **ROOMS** 161, all large, with frescoes above beds and Murano chandeliers. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. Butler service on some floors. **FOOD** Vivendo (creative Italian, modern room, formal), Grand Café (light meals). **FACILITIES** Gym. **COST** Doubles from 469. **3 VIA VITTORIO EMANUELE ORLANDO, 800/759-7550 OR 39-06/47091, www.stregis.com**

Westin Excelsior (83 07)

Recently renovated 1906 Beaux-Arts hotel on Via Veneto, especially close to the Trevi Fountain and the Villa Borghese. **ROOMS** 216 with a 19th-century look (reproduction antiques in a mix of styles, oil paintings, chandeliers) and Heavenly Beds. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. **FOOD** Doney for Italian dishes such as potato and pumpkin gnocchetti in a mushroom and turbot sauce. **FACILITIES** Gym, indoor pool. **COST** Doubles from 475. **125 VIA VITTORIO VENETO, 800/223-6800 OR 39-06/47081 www.westin.com**

Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria (8733) 

Three 19th-century buildings (a family-run hotel since 1854) in 5 acres of private gardens in the town center, overlooking the Bay of Naples. **ROOMS** 105 with original furniture from a variety of periods; most with terraces or balconies. Garden views can be pretty, but bay views still preferred. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. **FOOD** Vittoria (regional dishes served under a fanciful painted ceiling), Bosquet (smaller, terrace setting). **FACILITIES** Pool. **COST** Doubles from 484. **308/723-6800 OR 39-081/807-1044, www.enitt.it**

San Tommaso Palace (88 63) 

17th-century monastery surrounded by gardens above town, with views of (distant) Mount Etna. **ROOMS** 108 overlooking water, the gardens, or the cloisters. Ancient convent wing rooms are small but charming; those in the Grand Hotel wing are bigger, more stylish. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. **FOOD** Antico Refettorio (creative Mediterranean dishes), Les Bougainvillées (alfresco, regional staples), Giardini di Limone (poolside, seafood). **FACILITIES** Pool, gym, spa. **COST** Doubles from 455. **39-0942/613-111, www.thi.it**

Hotel Bauer (84 09)

Angular mid-19th-century building joined to a 19th-century Gothic palazzo along the Grand Canal, 3 blocks from Piazza San Marco. **ROOMS** 196, quite large for the city, in an updated classic Venetian style; Palazzo rooms are more expensive and luxurious (and have a separate entrance), most with Grand Canal views. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. **FOOD** De Patis (Venetian fare, formal, indoor and outdoor seating), Bauer Grill (casual, terrace). **FACILITIES** Gym. **COST** Doubles from 150. **800/223-6800 OR 39-041/520-7022 www.ipalazzovenetia.com**

Hotel Cipriani (89 08) 

Re-created palazzo (circa 1928) and two 17th-century Byzantine palazzi with lush gardens and an exclusive resort feel on Giudecca, 5 minutes across the water from Piazza San Marco. **ROOMS** 109, all different but most with boat-stopping views and restrained traditional décor. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. Mahogany lunches ferry guests around. **FOOD** Cipriani (inventive Italian cuisine, glorious domed ceiling), Cip's Club (Venetian dishes, jet-set scene, canal views). **FACILITIES** Olympic-sized saltwater pool, tennis court, spa. **COST** Doubles from 1809. Open late February through mid-November. **800/323-6800 OR 39-041/520-7744, www.hotelcipriani.it**

Hotel Danieli (87 28) 

Regal 14th-century palace with the city's most striking lobby (a multi-story riot of pink marble and antiques), plus two later annexes, on the Grand Canal right by the Basilica. **ROOMS** 233 with trompe l'oeil marble panels and lacquered Venetian-style furniture. Book palace rooms for personality, Casa Nuova for size, Danielino for terraces. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. Water shuttle to the Lido. **FOOD** Rooftop terrace for creative takes on Mediterranean dishes. **COST** Doubles from 610. **800/325-3589 OR 39-041/522-6480, www.starwoodhotels.com**

Hotel Gritti Palace (86 77) 

17th-century palace with opulent public spaces (more gilding, marble, and Murano glass than you'd think possible) but an intimate atmosphere; on the Grand Canal just off Piazza San Marco. **ROOMS** 91 with the full-scale Venetian treatment: 18th-century furniture, bright colors, Murano, rich Fortuny fabrics (made here). **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. Water shuttle to the Lido. **FOOD** Club del Doge (Mediterranean and Venetian cuisine, views), Venice's prettiest breakfast terrace. **COST** Doubles from 474. **800/325-3589 OR 39-041/794-811, www.starwood.com**

Luna Hotel Baglioni (87 61)

Updated 18th-century Venetian palace just off Piazza San Marco. **ROOMS** 105 in old-world style with canopied beds, handblown glass chandeliers, gilded mirrors, antique furnishings. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. Guided gondola tours through Venice's waterways. **FOOD** Canova (dishes such as crêpes soufflé with chestnut cream and bitter-orange sauce), Marco Polo Room for breakfast, under frescoed ceilings painted by Tiepolo scholars. **FACILITIES** Business center. **COST** Doubles from 449. **39-041/528-9840, www.baglionihotels.com**

Venetian Europa & Regina (85 13)

Five recently restored 17th- through 19th-century buildings with a more subdued scene than many of the city's top hotels, on the Grand Canal off Piazza San Marco. **ROOMS** 186, some traditional Venetian, others Neoclassical-inspired. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. Water shuttle to the Lido. **FOOD** La Cristina serves dishes such as risotto with lemon and rosemary on a pretty terrace with Grand Canal views; Bar Tiepolo for drinks in a striking space of black and white marble. **COST** Doubles from 440. **800/325-3589 OR 39-041/240-0001 www.starwood.com**

Westin Excelsior

(85 28)

19th-century Spanish-Moorish style resort on Lido Beach, 20 minutes by boat from San Marco. A hot spot during the Venice Biennale. **ROOMS** 196 with a funky retro-looking Moorish theme (ogee doorways, trompe l'oeil vented ceilings). Our favorites: those with Adriatic Sea views. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. **FOOD** 4 choices, informal to formal, all with mixed menus of Italian and standard Continental fare. **FACILITIES** Cabanas on private beach, outdoor pool, tennis courts. **COST** Doubles from 140. Open mid-March through mid-November. **800/228-3000 OR 39-041/526-0301, www.westin.com**

MONACO**Hôtel de Paris** (89 41) 

Glitzy Beaux-Arts (1864) grande dame on Place du Casino. **ROOMS** 191 with Louis XVI-style décor—all have now been redone. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 130 to 1. **FOOD**

Venice

5 options, including the famed Le Louis XV (2 Michelin stars), where Alan Ducasse's menu is divided into themes (kitchen garden, sea, farm, pastures) and served in a Boccaccio dining room. **FACILITIES** Outdoor pool, private beach area, casino, use of nearby Thermes Marins spa. **COST** Doubles from 1370. **PLACE DU CASINO, 377/9216-3000, www.montecarloresort.com**

Hôtel Hermitage (87 63)

Turn-of-the-century architectural confection overlooking Port d'Heracle. The discreet choice in town. Ongoing renovation and expansion through 2004. **ROOMS** 229 in Belle Époque style; book one in the Prince's Wing, the first to be redone (by May). **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. **FOOD** Le Vistamar (one Michelin star) for haute seafood; until May it is serving in the winter garden under the handsome Gustav Giffel dome. **FACILITIES** Use of the attached Thermes Marins spa (pool, hammam, private treatment rooms in a spectacular light-filled space overlooking the sea). **COST** Doubles from 1490. **SQUARE BEAUMARCHAIS, 377/9216-4000 www.montecarloresort.com**

Monte Carlo Grand Hotel (83 74)

Spawling 7-story contemporary hotel (formerly Loews) hugging the coastline, next to the Monte Carlo Casino. **ROOMS** 619 with a resort look (white lacquered furniture, tropical prints) and balconies. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. **FOOD** 5 restaurants, from L'Argentin (South American grill) to the rooftop Le Patio (Mediterranean) to La Truffe (truffle-flavored dishes). **FACILITIES** Rooftop pool, gym, casino. **COST** Doubles from 430. **12 AVE. DES SPÉLUGUES, 377/9350-6500 www.mosace.mc/grandhotel**

THE NETHERLANDS**Amstel InterContinental** (83 49)

19th-century palace-style hotel on the Amstel River, centrally located in the financial district. **ROOMS** 79, all large with Frette linens, many with pretty Delft-inspired wallpaper. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. **FOOD** Le Rive (one Michelin star) for nouvelle French-Mediterranean dishes such as turbot and truffles wrapped in potato spaghetti. **FACILITIES** Gym with indoor pool, Turkish bath, and massage; 3 antique canal boats for sightseeing tours. **COST** Doubles from 448. **1 PROFESSOR TULPPIJN, 800/327-0200 OR 31-20/623-6040 www.amsterdam.intercontinental.com**

Hôtel de l'Europe (84 47)

19th-century Victorian landmark on the Amstel, opposite the central flower market and Munt Tower. **ROOMS** 100 individually done in an eclectic mix of prints and patterns and reproduction antiques; some have half tester beds and balconies. **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1. **FOOD** 3 French restaurants, from informal to the formal Excelsior. **FACILITIES** Gym with indoor pool and massage. **COST** Doubles from 130. **3-8 NIEUWE DOLENSTRAAT, 800/223-6800 OR 31-20/531-1777, www.leurope.nl**

PORTUGAL**Hotel Quinta do Lago**(84 72) 

Modern 6-story Algarve resort that blends into a 2,000-acre nature reserve and overlooks the Ria Formosa lagoon. **ROOMS** 141 with blond wood furniture, Portuguese prints and painted tiles, and balconies overlooking the gardens (the bottom 3 floors) or the sea (the top 3). **SERVICE** Staff-to-guest ratio of 0.5 to 1. **FOOD** Brisa del Mar (classic Portuguese), Ca' d'Oro (Italian). **FACILITIES** 4 golf courses, one indoor and 3 outdoor pools (one for kids), gym, 2 tennis courts, nearby beach. **COST** Doubles from 145. **800/223-6800 OR 351-286/350-350, www.orient-express.com**

Four Seasons Hotel The Ritz (87 38)

1950's concrete block with striking public areas (Portuguese modern art collection, tapestries, antiques) facing Parque Eduardo VII, not far from the Old City. **ROOMS** 282 in plush Four Seasons style with high-speed Internet. All but 10 have balconies; odd-numbered rooms view greenery.

 With 27 hotels in the 500—including 7 in Venice alone—Italy has more qualifying hotels than any other European country.