

# The INDEPENDENT

Comment

## Donald Trump's speech on women's empowerment just might be his best joke yet

SARAH DITUM

761 words

31 March 2017

The Independent

IND

1ST

28

English

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Comment

Donald Trump was speaking at a panel on women's empowerment on Wednesday. Donald Trump. Women's empowerment. Really. I wish I was the genius of satire who'd made up something so audacious. At about the time as lawyers for the President were arguing that his power should make him immune to lawsuit from an Apprentice contestant who alleges **Trump sexually** harassed her, the man himself stood on a stage and declared his intention to "make our economy a place where women can work, succeed and thrive like never before." Good one.

People talk about Trump and the art of the deal, but do they yet recognise his mastery of the art of the gag? Take, for example, this line: "I'm so proud the White House and our administration is filled with so many women of such incredible talent." It takes a real craftsman of comedy to hang so much on that one word "filled", because Trump's administration isn't actually full of women, by any definition of that word. Of 24 Cabinet members, four are female. Four! As Trump likes to say while soaking up applause for one of his "zingers", "We didn't get that on Madison avenue"

No I don't know what that expression means either. But then I'm not certain I know what anything means anymore – including the term "women's empowerment", which apparently no longer entails giving women any power, including the power to decide whether they want to be pregnant or not.

Trump's presidential Cabinet is even more dominated by white men than that of Ronald Reagan, and Reagan's administration marked the beginning of the 1980s backlash era in American politics. Trump always has to go one better: if he's going to do backlash, it will be the biggest, most beautiful backlash you've ever seen.

As far as Trump's specific plans for "empowering" women, they amount to a sort of pulpy mush of benevolent sexism and doing absolutely nothing at all. He larded it on about how "scary" women's competence is to men, while offering exactly no explanation of why – if women are so terrifyingly brilliant – we keep on getting paid less and being given worse jobs than men. Never mind; we must just need to "believe in each other and dare to dream".

Actually, that's not quite fair. There was a mention for one political policy: affordable childcare, the signature issue of Trump's daughter Ivanka, which would be a huge boon to women's independence. Well, women in wealthy families; according to one analysis, 70 per cent of the benefits of this proposal would go to families making \$100,000 (£80,000) a year or more. Not much help here, then, for single mothers on the breadline.

Trump's "empowerment" speech was less big on women's liberation than it was on family; less about what the state can do to support and enfranchise women, more about what "potential" can be rinsed out of women in the service of Making America Great Again.

Maybe the model MAGA wife is Vice President Mike Pence's spouse, Karen, who, according to a Washington Post profile, sits in on meetings with her husband and acts as his "gut check and shield". So devoted are the Pences, in fact, that he reportedly "never eats alone with a woman other than his wife" and "won't attend events featuring alcohol without her by his side". So good luck getting your claws into Pence, all you workplace trollops. In fact, good luck getting a lunch meeting with him if he happens to be your boss. If you really wanted to release your potential, perhaps you should have tried harder to be born a man.

Donald wasn't the only Trump speaking on Wednesday. While he was empowering women to dream (as long as they don't dream of taking him to court), his wife Melania was making a rare appearance of her own in Washington at the International Woman of Courage Awards. "The time for empowering women is now," she said. "Wherever women are diminished, the world is diminished."

It was the best joke in her and her husband's entire double-act routine on women that day. The time to empower women was last November, when America could have elected Hillary Clinton, and nobody in modern politics has done as much to diminish women as Donald Trump.

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TEXT 2

# The INDEPENDENT

News

## Porn star is the 11th woman to make a Trump sex claim

HARRIET AGERHOLM

558 words

24 October 2016

The Independent

IND

1ST

23

English

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News

An adult film actress is the latest in a series of women to come forward accusing Donald Trump of unwanted sexual advances.

In a statement, Jessica Drake said the property tycoon offered her \$10,000 (£8,100) and use of his private jet to come to his room alone.

The porn star and sex educator is one of at least 11 women to make claims that the Republican nominee groped them, forcibly kissed them or made inappropriate remarks.

She made the allegations at a news conference organised by Gloria Allred, a renowned discrimination attorney who has introduced two other of Mr Trump's accusers to the public.

Ms Drake said in a statement the tycoon "grabbed" her and another woman and kissed them on the lips without permission.

The 42-year-old said she met Mr Trump at a golf tournament in Lake Tahoe in California in 2006.

"He flirted with me and invited me to walk along the golf course with him," she said.

He then asked her to go to his hotel room, Ms Drake said, and she and two other women went along.

They were dressed in pyjamas and, when they entered, Mr Trump "grabbed each of us tightly in a hug and kissed each one of us without asking permission," she said.

After she returned to her room, Ms Drake said the billionaire called her and asked her to go to a party with him and for her to return to his room alone.

He asked her: "What do you want? How much?"

When she refused, Ms Drake said she received another call either from Mr Trump or another man offering her \$10,000 and use of a private plane if she agreed.

In support of the statement, Ms Allred showed the news conference a photograph of Ms Drake and the Republican candidate at the golf tournament.

The lawyer is well-known for taking on high-profile cases such as those against Bill Cosby and Roman Polanski.

The Trump campaign issued a statement denying the fresh allegations, saying: "This story is totally false and ridiculous."



It added: “Mr Trump does not know this person, does not remember this person and would have no interest in ever knowing her.

“This is just another attempt by the Clinton campaign to defame a candidate who just today is number one in three different polls.”

It held the allegations up as “another example of the Clinton campaign trying to rig the election.”

The Republican candidate has struggled to shake multiple allegations of inappropriate sexual behaviour, although he has claimed: “Nobody has more respect for women than I do.”

Mr Trump and his companies have been accused of sexual harassment and gender discrimination at least 20 times.

Out of 130 employment cases, there are 20 detailed complaints from women who described a culture of sexual harassment dating back to the early 1980s.

The Trump campaign has nosedived following the release of a tape where he described groping women without their permission and bookkeepers have slashed the odds of a Republican president.

The billionaire Republican has said one of his top priorities within his first 100 days of his presidency is to sue all the women who have accused him of inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Independent Print Ltd.

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TEXT 3



News

## He groped my breast and kept asking, 'Do you know who I am?'

CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN

690 words

21 October 2016

The Daily Mirror

DMIRR

1; Ulster

22

English

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### TRUMP SEX PEST ALLEGATIONS Tenth tycoon accuser comes forward

A TENTH woman has come forward accusing Donald Trump of unwanted sexual contact - claiming he groped her.

Yoga teacher Karena Virginia said the property tycoon walked up to her, touched her arm and grabbed her breast at a tennis tournament 18 years ago.

The new sleaze allegations come as the presidential candidate sparked more outrage after refusing to say he would accept the US election result.

In the latest claims, Ms Virginia accused him of "victimising her with inappropriate sexual conduct".

She said the incident happened in 1998 at the US Open tennis tournament in New York.

Ms Virginia claimed she was waiting for a car to take her home when she was approached by Trump and several other men.

During a press conference yesterday, she recalled how she overheard the billionaire talking to the others, saying "look at those legs".

Ms Virginia added Trump, who she recognised but didn't know personally, then walked up to her, touched her arm and grabbed her breast. She said: "I was in shock, I flinched. 'Don't you know who I am? Don't you know who I am?', he said to me. I felt intimidated, I felt powerless."

It was only when her car arrived that Ms Virginia managed to get away.

She added: "After I closed the door, my shock turned to shame.

"I felt ashamed I was wearing a short dress and high heels. That feeling of shame stayed with me for a while and it made me disinclined to wear short dresses or high heels.

"For a number of years afterwards I struggled with what to wear so as not to attract unwanted attention."

Ms Virginia is one of several women being represented by famed US lawyer Gloria Allred who have made sexual misconduct allegations against Trump.

Meanwhile, the Republican has been accused of undermining the US's democratic process after adding to his earlier claims the November 8 vote will be "rigged".

During the third and final presidential debate on Wednesday night in Las Vegas, Nevada, he said: "I will tell you at the time. I will keep you in suspense."

But after the debate his campaign manager Kellyanne Conway said he will "accept the results of the election b h' " h because he's going to win". Trump, who didn't shake Clinton's hand before or after the debate, continued his campaign against the electoral process.

He revived his accusations the election is "rigged" in her favour by "dishonest" media while saying voter f d ld fraud could run rampant. Democratic nominee Clinton, who is leading in most polls, described his comments as "horrifying".

She said Trump always claims voting is fixed when he loses - adding he once said the Emmy awards were rigged when his show The Apprentice lost to a rival. Clinton said afterwards: "That is not the way our democracy works.

"We've been around for 240 years. We have had free and fair elections.

"We've accepted the outcomes when we may not have liked them. And that is what is expected of anyone standing on a debate stage during a general election.

"He is denigrating, he's talking down, our democracy. And I for one am appalled that somebody who is the nominee of one of our two major parties would take that kind of position.

"What he said tonight is part of his whole effort to blame somebody else for his campaign."

The debate began in a more civil and calm way than the two previous debates, in which the pair repeatedly attacked one another. Appearing far more disciplined, Trump avoided his rival's traps as they discussed gun control, the judicial system, abortion and the economy. A CNN poll found 52% of debate watchers viewed Clinton as the winner compared to 39% for Trump.

news@irishmirror.ie VOICE OF THE MIRROR: PAGE 10

For years after I struggled with what to wear to avoid unwanted attention KARENA VIRGINIA in claims against trump

Trinity Mirror Group PLC

Document DMIRR00020161021ecal000hw

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## DailyMail.com

News

**KREMLIN BLAMES BRITAIN FOR TRUMP SEX STORM**

BY LARISA BROWN

785 words

13 January 2017

Daily Mail

DAIM

1

English

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RUSSIA'S relations with Britain went into the deep freeze last night as Moscow blamed MI6 for the dossier of sordid claims about Donald Trump.

In an alarming Twitter post, the Russian embassy in London suggested the dossier's alleged author, former British spy Christopher Steele, was still working for MI6 and 'briefing both ways' against Mr Trump and Moscow.

Mr Steele, who spied in Moscow in the 1990s, was last night in hiding after vanishing shortly before the damning dossier made headlines around the world. Neighbours said he had asked them to look after his three cats, and there were claims last night he was in an MI6 safe house.

A Russian embassy spokesman said the tweet - which said 'MI6 officers are never ex' - 'reflected the mood in

Russia'. A Tory MP said last night the fresh outbreak of Cold War hostilities comes at a time when relations between Britain and Russia were the 'worst they could get in peace-time'.

Just days ago the Russians claimed they knew of 'an impending official anti-Russian witch-hunt, involving the British special services'. In a series of major developments yesterday, it emerged:

? Until 2009, Mr Steele worked as one of MI6's foremost 'Kremlinologists' heading the spy agency's Russia desk;

? He was the first person to conclude Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko had been murdered in 2006 in a Kremlin-sponsored 'hit';

? Litvinenko's widow, Marina, said Mr Steele's life was in danger;

? Mr Steele and his late wife suffered 'constant harassment' by the KGB during his posting to Moscow in the early 1990s, including an incident when Russian agents stole his wife's favourite shoes;

? The company co-owned by Mr Steele made £1million in profit over the past two years;

? A former senior British diplomat, Sir Andrew Wood, last night confirmed he met a Republican senator to discuss claims Mr Trump had been filmed in a compromising position.

Mr Steele, 52, fled his £1.5 million home in Surrey on Wednesday amid concerns there could be a dangerous backlash against him from Moscow. American newspapers named him as the author of the 35-page report, thought to have been commissioned by a wealthy Republican donor who opposed Mr Trump's bid for the White House.

The explosive dossier alleged Mr Trump had been cosyng up to Vladimir Putin and cavorting with Russian



prostitutes. The president-elect has dismissed it as 'false and fictitious'.

And as details of Mr Steele's extraordinary career emerged, Marina Litvinenko told the BBC: 'I believe it is very dangerous, particularly after the death of my husband, because when you just approach very specific information... you just easily might be killed.'

Posted over a picture showing three question marks, the Russian embassy tweet read: 'Christopher Steele story: MI6 officers are never ex: briefing both ways - against Russia and US President.' A spokesman for the embassy said: 'We have obvious questions. We don't raise them with HM Government given the frozen state of our official relationship.'

'The tweet reflects the mood in Russia and speaks for itself.'

Tory MP Crispin Blunt, who is conducting an inquiry into Russia, said the tweet was a sign UK-Russian relations were the 'worst they could get in peace-time'.

Mr Blunt, an ex-Army officer and foreign affairs select committee chairman, said: 'For a peace-time political relationship, it is about as bad as it could get.'

'The mutually official shouting match between UK and Russia isn't helping either country or wider international relations.'

Last month Russia's top UK diplomat accused Britain of 'overt hostility' and of working with Nato to prepare for a 'major war' in Europe.

Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, a former Nato secretary-general, told the Lords yesterday: 'We must be aware of and act on the dangers inherent in the present confrontation between Russia and the West. Without the trip-wires and warning arrangements of the Cold War, we are in grave danger of making a mistake or a miscalculation with potentially catastrophic results.'

Yesterday details of Mr Steele's career emerged, including his part in uncovering Russia's role in Mr Litvinenko's death. Mr Steele, a Russia expert, worked with Mr Litvinenko, who was fatally poisoned with polonium-210 in London in 2006.

Mr Steele's partner in Orbis, former Foreign Office official Christopher Burrows, refused to comment on the dossier. He told ITV News: 'I don't think it would be appropriate for me to make any comments at the moment.'

Downing Street refused to be drawn on whether the Government had offered any assistance to Mr Steele.

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TEXT 5

# The New York Times

OP-ED COLUMNIST  
Editorial Desk; SECTA

## Trump, Sex and Lots of Whining

By GAIL COLLINS

862 words  
12 January 2017  
The New York Times  
NYTF  
Late Edition - Final  
31  
English  
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Finally, Donald Trump held a press conference. I know you want to hear the sex-in-Russia part.

The world learned this week about memos from a retired British intelligence officer on relations between the Trump campaign and the Russians. They included some speculation about whether there were compromising videos of Trump cavorting in a Russian hotel that might explain his enthusiastic support for Vladimir Putin .

The report wasn't prepared by our intelligence agencies -- it was opposition research done on contract for some other campaigns. It had been bouncing around Washington for a while. You didn't hear about it because nobody could confirm any of the allegations.

But a summary of the memos showed up in the briefing Trump got from the intelligence agencies last week. Wouldn't you have liked to be there to see the reaction?

Then a version of the report showed up online, and naturally it came up Wednesday at Trump's press conference.

About that press conference. Here are some of the things we learned:

â– The reason he hasn't shown up to answer questions from reporters since July is "inaccurate news."

â– The Russians don't have any secret tapes of him behaving badly in a hotel room because every time he goes to hotels abroad, he warns everybody: "Be very careful, because in your hotel rooms and no matter where you go, you're gonna probably have cameras." Of everything Trump said during the press conference, this was perhaps the most convincing.

â– He is not going to divest himself of his businesses, but his two adult sons will be running them. He was just doing this out of his ethical heart, since there are no conflict-of-interest rules for the president. ("... as president I could run the Trump Organization -- great, great company. And I could run the company, the country. I'd do a very good job, but I don't want to do that.")

â– He'll release his taxes once the audit is finished. (You remember that audit. Its friends call it Godot.)

â– The inauguration is going to be "a beautiful event" because "we have great talent." (Military bands were mentioned.)

â– "If Putin likes Donald Trump I consider that an asset, not a liability."

â– "Over the weekend I was offered \$2 billion to do a deal in Dubai."

He was all over the place. It was, in a way, a great strategy. We've been waiting for a long time to hear how



Trump would deal with his businesses, and his refusal to divest drove ethics watchdogs crazy. But on Wednesday, the whole topic got drowned in the hubbub over the leaked report. And Trump's relationship with Vladimir Putin . And his theory on hotel cameras.

This kind of rapid-fire diversion could be the work of a political genius, but in fact it's just how our next president's mind naturally seems to operate. It bounces hither and yon. The only ongoing focus is what it all means to Trump. Did he look good? How was the crowd? Did anyone betray him?

He was definitely playing the victim when it came to the leaked report. He blamed the intelligence services, which he compared, with great originality and careful choice of words, to Nazis.

Keep in mind that although government investigators have been looking into these allegations for a long time, they never became public during the campaign. "I would never comment on investigations -- whether we have one or not, in an open forum like this," F.B.I. Director James Comey said during one of the multitudinous Senate hearings this week.

This is, of course, the same guy who told Congress -- 11 days before the election -- that the F.B.I. was investigating Hillary Clinton emails that wound up on a laptop owned by Anthony Weiner, a.k.a. "Carlos Danger," estranged husband of her aide and world-famous sex texter.

The F.B.I. later announced it had found nothing. Meanwhile, people who were already voting in some states had been reminded to connect Clinton with a guy who sent pictures of his private parts to strange women. Clinton thinks it cost her the election. There's no way to tell. She got nearly three million more votes than Trump, but by the rules we live under, she lost. End of story.

Trump is never going to admit his win was anything but a record-shattering triumph. But his preening, and his whining about being persecuted by the intelligence services, really twists the knife.

Since the election, the media and many Democratic politicians have wrung their hands over their failure to pay attention to the legitimate anger in the Trump-tilting parts of the country. And good for them.

But it's time to remember that there are about 66 million Clinton voters who have a right to be angry, too.

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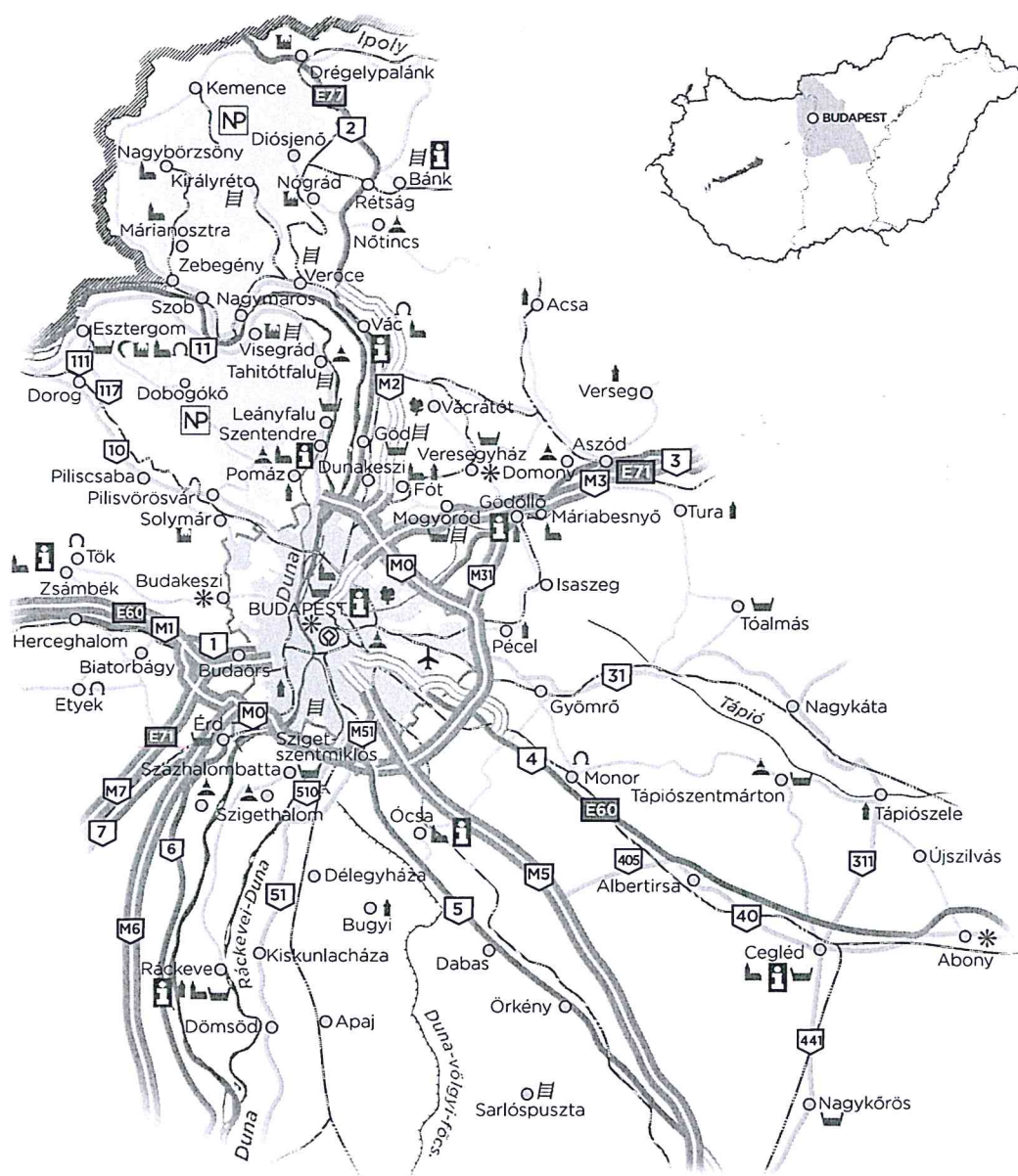
THINK HUNGARY, MORE THAN EXPECTED



# MAGICAL BUDAPEST

# BUDAPEST AND SURROUNDINGS

## REGIONAL MAP



- |                                      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Tourist Information centre           | Thermal bath                                |   |
| Airport                              | Palace                                      | Zoo                                       |
| UNESCO World heritage site           | Castle                                      | Arboretum                                 |
| Duna-Ipoly National Park             | Minaret, mosque                             | Wine tourism centre, wine cellar          |
| Outdoor exhibition space, theme park | Religious centre, historic church, Basilica | Adventure park, playground, skills course |



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# THE MOST CREATIVE CITY OF EUROPE

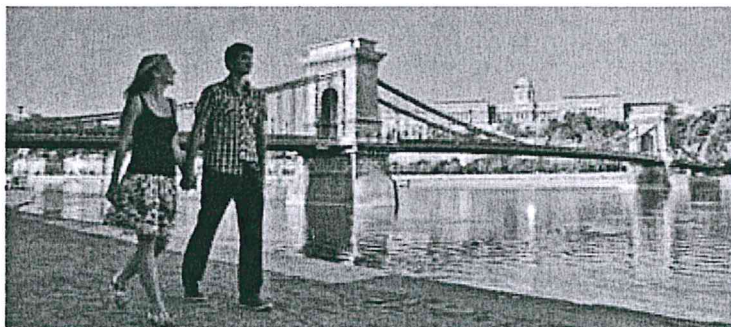
text and photos » Hungarian Tourism Ltd.

Hungary's capital is a truly cosmopolitan European city, developing at such a pace that it can continuously offer something new to even those who are living here, embracing the future without forgetting the past. Budapest is a city of living history where every inch tells a fascinating story, whilst the ingenuity of the latest generation of Hungarians writes a whole

new chapter. Ruin pubs are re-interpreting centuries old café-culture, where young minds and ideas meet from every corner of the world. A new wave of inspired chefs is rejuvenating the prestigious Hungarian cuisine garnering the highest praise from home and abroad. Elegant wine bars bring the best of Hungarian vineyards into the heart of the city. A night might start in

one of these bars and end with a raucous party in a centennial thermal water spa. Budapest is perfect as both a destination and a starting point, whether you are seeking entertainment, culture, relaxation or just wish to explore the natural and historical treasure the region has to offer. The capital of Hungary warmly welcomes you and your loved ones every day of the year!

Together  
in Budapest





## HOME OF THE CREATIVE MIND

# PRIVATE INVITATION TO WONDERLAND

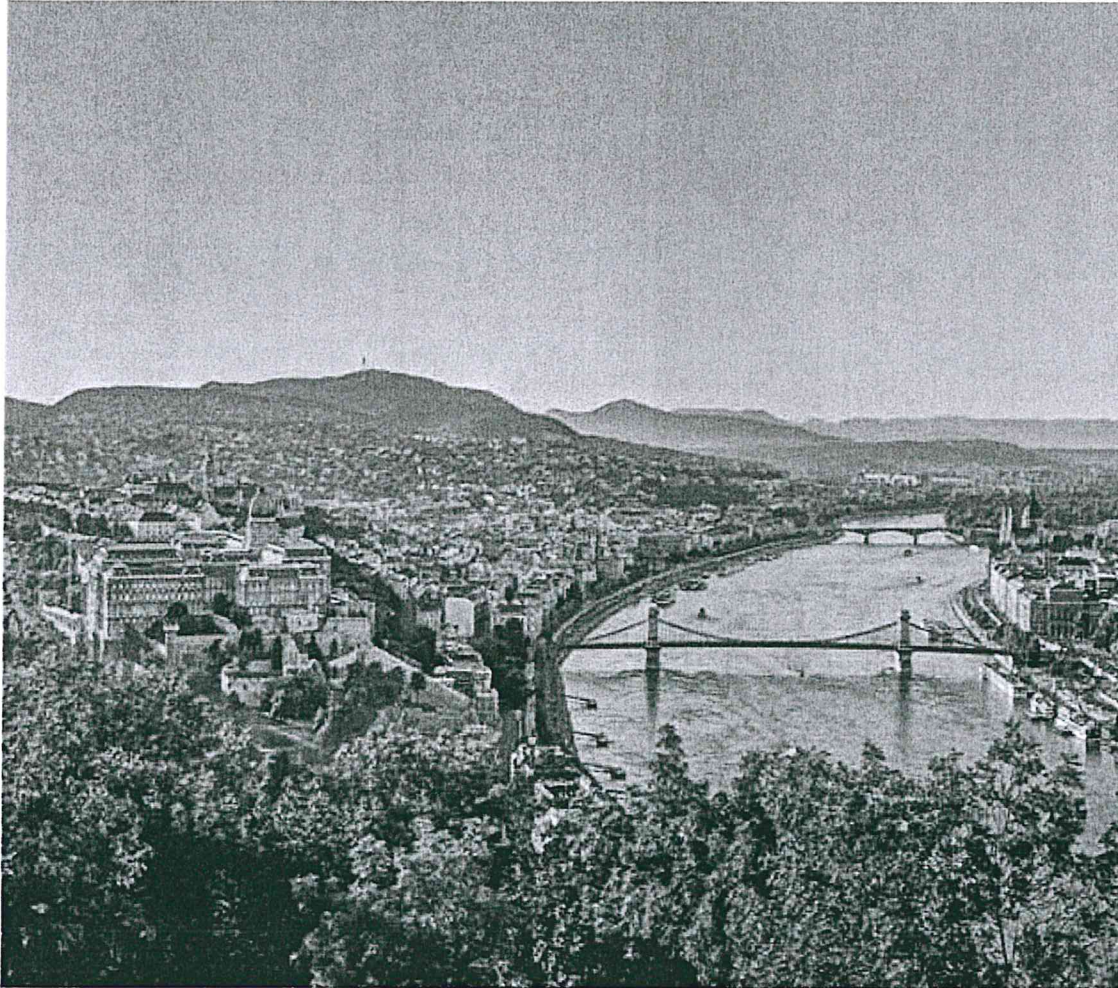
text and photos » Hungarian Tourism Ltd.

Budapest has long been an attractive tourist destination with its UNESCO world heritage sites such as the majestic Heroes' Square, magnificent Buda Castle, and the impressive Danube banks.

Together  
we share many  
adventures -  
Budapest  
and you



Walking down leafy Andrassy Avenue is a pleasure in itself, but the glittering flagship stores of international brands also make it a favourite destination for the discerning shopper. The museums and national galleries of the city are home to contemporary and classical art collections and the world's most prestigious travelling shows. Together with countless art galleries, Budapest will inspire and engage lovers of the old masters and seekers of new talent. Once intellectually refreshed, the historical baths and modern day spas reinvigorate the body and the soul. In recent years there have been a number of revolutions of an altogether more hedonistic kind that have put Budapest on the map for mo-



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modern urban travelers. For many, Budapest has become synonymous with ruin pubs; abandoned apartment buildings taken over by entrepreneurial young creatives and turned into profitable and fashionable hang-outs for their like-minded peers. Szimpla served as the ignition point of the movement, not only becoming an institution and an unmissable stop on every tour-

ist route, but also almost single-handedly ushering in the ruin pub phenomenon that has reinvigorated the forgotten Kazinczy Street and its environs into a hub of Budapest nightlife. The ruin pub revolution was only the beginning - new trends are adding new colour at a rapidly growing rate to this city that is constantly reinventing itself. While ruin pubs are still thriving, the bis-

tro revolution is redefining our relationship with eating out, craft beer appreciation is a serious pastime and chic wine bars are giving prestige and recognition to the wide variety of wines that come from Hungary's far flung wine regions, introducing them to Budapest and through her, the World. Somewhere in the depths of the city a bottle of passion is waiting for you!



## WHEN JUST A MUSEUM IS NOT ENOUGH

# CITY OF CULTURE

text and photos » Hungarian Tourism Ltd.

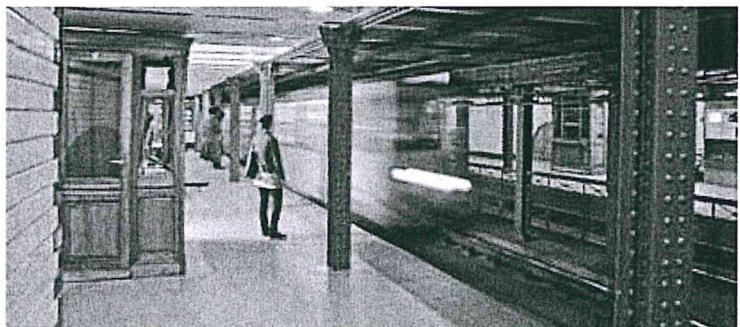
Budapest always offers more than it is immediately apparent; the imposing facade of an Andrassy Avenue palace might display luxury accessories, or hide a ruin pub...

While Budapest embraces innovation and new talent, traditions and legacy are still cherished and nurtured. The café culture of Budapest stretches from the fin du siècle gilded splendour of the New York Palace and Centrál Café, which are the regular meeting places of writers and journalists, to the new wave barista heavens that offer a selection of single plantation beans to go with the free Wi-Fi. Mesterségek Ünnepe, an arts and crafts festival, introduces modern audiences to the tactile pleasure of handicrafts and folk art. The Pal-

ace of Arts (Művészetek Palotája) is a bold architectural statement on the bank of the Danube, serving as the home base of the Budapest Festival Orchestra, counted among the world's best classical orchestras. It is also the home of the Ludwig Museum, curating one of the most significant contemporary art collections in Central-Europe. Beside traditional bastions of culture like the National Museum, the National Museum of Fine Arts and the Art Hall (Műcsarnok), the National Dance Theatre and Hungarian Heritage House,

countless independent galleries, exhibition spaces, workshops and incubator houses keep the artistic pulse of the city racing. Talking about racing, the best non-unusual vehicles for looking around in Budapest are a segway, a rickshaw, a tuktuk, a beerbike, or the Millennium Underground Railway (Metro line M1). Reaching Heroes's Square, the cultural ignition point of the city, Deák Square, the meeting point of everyone in town or the historical thermal baths has never been so easy before! Discover our culture in style!

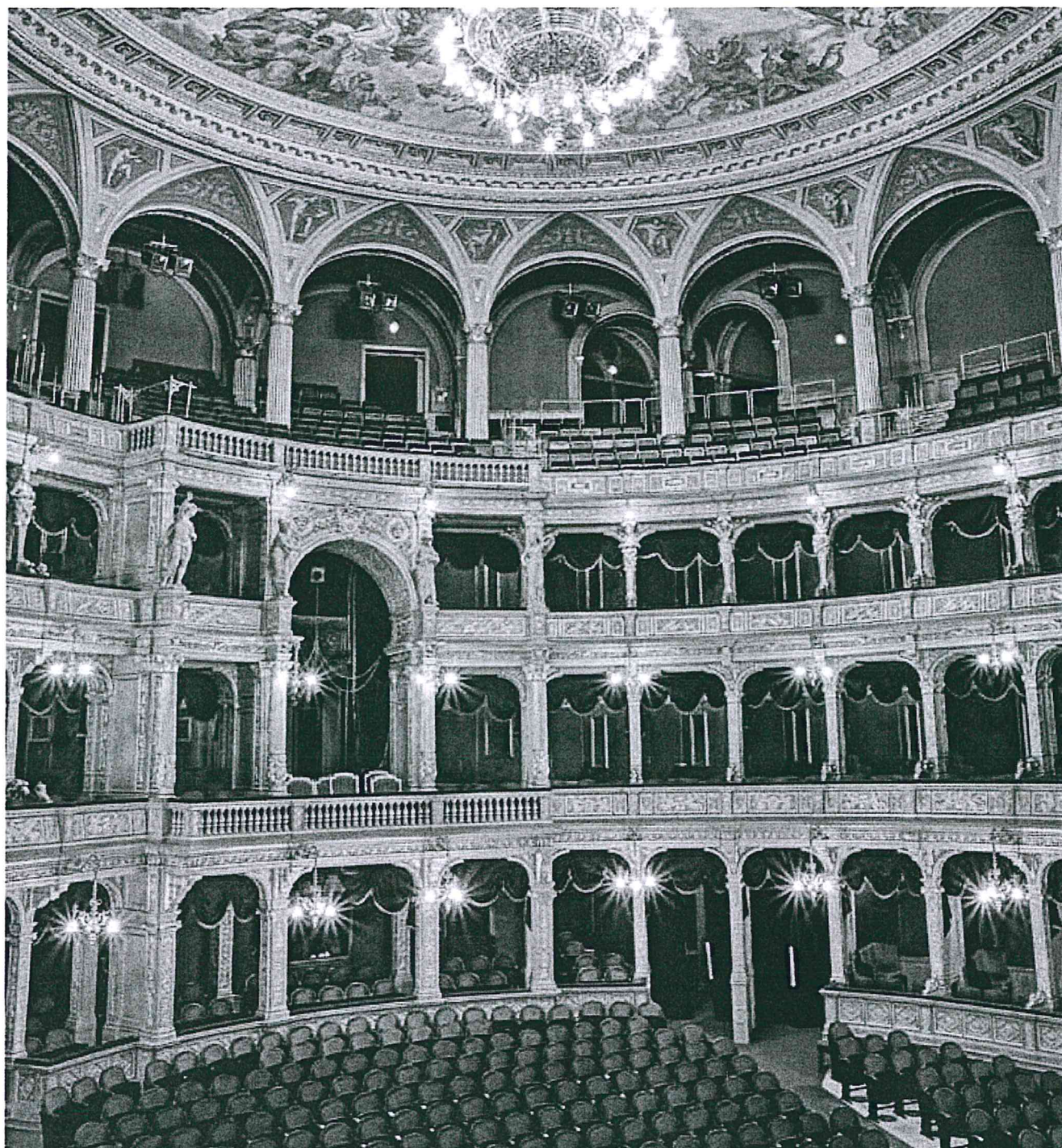
Catch  
a rickshaw  
and discover  
the city













## IN BUDAPEST EVERY STEP IS A JOURNEY

# OUR TRADITION IS YOUR INSPIRATION

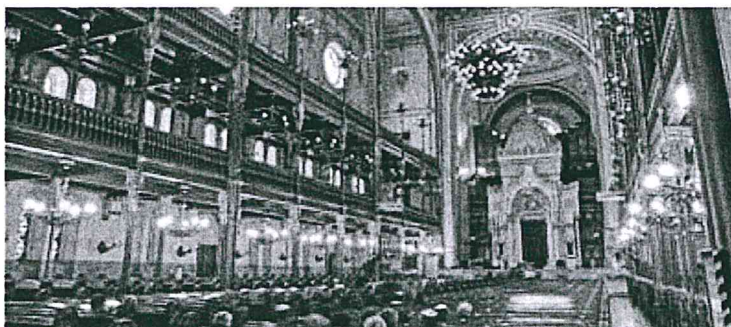
text and photos » Hungarian Tourism Ltd.

Traditional and contemporary, highbrow and popular, timeless and seasonal - Budapest means culture, throughout the year and for the whole family. Summer is peak festival season and tens of thousands of visitors flock to the wide range of music festivals that are on offer in Hungary. Sziget is one of the largest and best-loved popular music festivals in Europe and is unique because it takes place on an island

within Budapest. It allows festival-goers not only to attend concerts, but to engage with the city, breathe with it for a while, honour its beauty and go home with the complete Budapest experience! Budapest Spring Festival and the Jewish Cultural Festival bring the best of international classical music and jazz to Budapest. Festivals are not just for music though, they appeal to all the senses. In Budapest one

can find a festival dedicated to almost every food group, wine, pálinka, artisanal beer, Belgian beer, mangalica and bread festivals abound. The magnificent area of the Castle district is the home of many festivals, as one of the most enthralling parts of Budapest. While sipping a glass of wine above the city, the breathtaking view of the Danube and the night sky fascinates us in a truly inspiring festival moment.

Tradition and  
inspiration





## BUDAPEST: CITY OF SPAS SINCE 1934

# THE WATERS OF LIFE

text and photos » Hungarian Tourism Ltd.

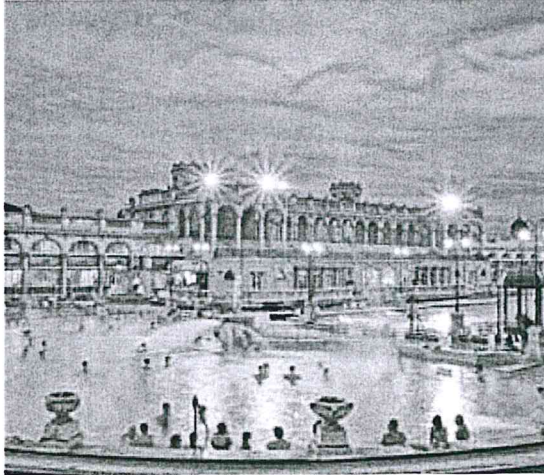
Since 1934, Budapest proudly wears the Spa city title, but it's good to know, that its unique facilities were fully recognised by Roman legionaries over 2000 years ago!

Bringing your swimsuit is highly recommended at all times of the year - our thermal spas are waiting for you!

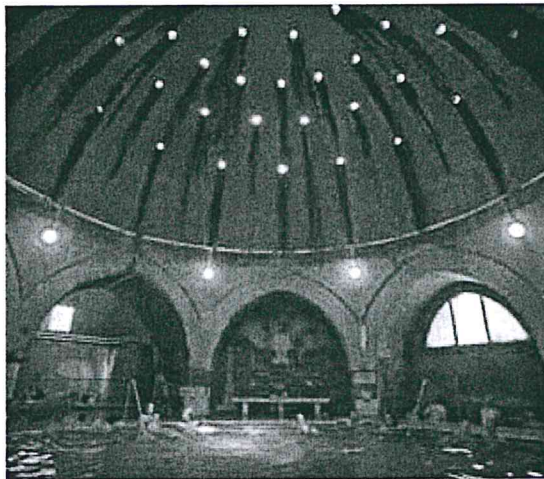


Baths, day spas and lidos are an integral part of Budapest life, all year round serving as places of family entertainment, wellbeing and lately even of sensational pool parties. Budapest is exceptional for being a capital rich in thermal springs and aquifers, providing eight therapeutic spas and several lidos with thermal waters that have proven health benefits. These thermal springs have been popular for a very long time according to archaeological finds of 18 Roman baths around Aquincum, on the site of one of which is the Római Lido today. Spa culture really flourished under Turkish occupation during the 16th and 17th centuries, bathing being an important part of social and religious life. Of the eight baths built in the period two can still

be enjoyed today in their original function, the Rudas and Király baths in Buda. Rudas has been extended with swimming pools and health treatments over the years, but the Turkish part of the building still retains its original layout of a central pool surrounded by smaller pools of varying temperature, going all the way up to 42°C under a domed ceiling. Previously open only to men, since the 2005 renovations Rudas is open to both sexes on certain days, most notably during late night sessions on the weekends that are an unmissable experience for any visitor to Budapest. The third golden age of Budapest spa culture started in the second half of the 19th century and we can safely say that it's still going strong today. The Balneological Society was



The magnificent Széchenyi Bath is a calm playground for everyone



In Budapest each and every bath is different

founded to study and promote the health benefits of the thermal waters found under Budapest, and the first hot water artesian aquifer was drilled on Margaret Island, then in City Park. Old baths were renovated and new ones built that today provide not only medicinal benefits and recreation, but are significant tourist attractions, the most popular

of them being the Gellért, Lukács and Széchenyi baths. Széchenyi, the largest spa complex not only in Hungary but in Europe as well celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2013. The lavishly decorated building houses several indoor and outdoor pools, the thermal waters of which are particularly beneficial for joints, and there are massages and medical

treatments available. The image of people playing chess whilst taking the waters in the pool has become one of the most recognisable symbols of Budapest. In the summer every Saturday night the Széchenyi, popularly known as Szecska, is taken over by young revellers for a pool party with DJs, drinks and live acts.

«







## THE DANUBE BEND. A GIFT OF NATURE.

# AS MAGICAL AS IT LOOKS

text and photos » Hungarian Tourism Ltd.

Forest trains, leafy canopies, terrain segways, summer bob sleighs and dragon boats in the wonderful hiking paradise of Hungary.

Close to you -  
Szentendre and  
Visegrád



The stretch of the Danube north of Budapest offers cultural experiences as well as outdoor sports activities in beautiful natural settings, including the majestic Danube Bend. The first stop is romantic Szentendre, long a favourite with artists as well as recreational sportsmen. It's the perfect destination for a day trip by bike, or on the river by kayak or canoe, starting from a boat house on Budapest's Római beach. Further afield Vác and Esztergom await. For walkers and mountain bikers the Börzsöny, Visegrád and Pilis mountains offer numerous tourist trails of varying difficulty. Dobogókő is the highest peak in the Visegrád Mountains, affording breath-taking views of the Danube Bend and the surround-

ing hills, - a favourite destination of Budapest residents who wish to leave the hustle and bustle behind for the day. Dobogókő boasts Hungary's oldest post-WWI ski slope and its first tourist inn, which today functions as a museum. There is a large network of well-marked tourist trails of varying difficulty; one of the most popular ones is Rámszakadék, a miniature canyon that is one of the most adventurous yet easily accomplished trails in Hungary. The Children's Railway that operates in the Buda hills is always a firm family favourite run by supervised children between the ages of 10-14. The Danube Bend is the ideal place for discovering the rich historical and natural heritage of Hungary.



## SURROUNDINGS OF BUDAPEST

# A JOURNEY TO SUNSET

text and photos » Hungarian Tourism Ltd.

Jump on a horse and ride into the mysterious silence of the sunset in the low lands of Hungary!

Never the same -  
the monastery  
of Zsámbék and  
the magnificent  
Royal Palace of  
Gödöllő



A host of natural treasures, national heritage sites and gastronomic delights await travelers just a short drive away from Budapest. Easily accessible by HÉV light railway is Gödöllő, a charming small town home to Hungary's most extensive (and recently renovated) Baroque palace. Built in the 18th century by Count Grassalkovich, Gödöllő was a favourite residence of Queen Elisabeth, wife of Franz Joseph I. Affectionately known as Sisi, Queen Elisabeth was adored and admired by her Hungarian subjects, and Gödöllő is an unmissable site for Sisi fans today. The beautifully restored palace and gardens host art events, fashion shows, film festivals and concerts. Mogyoród, the home of the Hungarian F1 Grand

Prix is located nearby. One does not have to travel far south from the capital to get a taste of life on the "puszta", the Great Hungarian Plain. The Kiskunság National Park is a designated UNESCO biosphere, an absolute heaven for birdwatchers. The romantic islands and waterways of Ráckeve, along the "Kis-Duna" (small Danube) offer an ideal destination for lovers of cycling, walking and rowing. Etyek lies at the southern edge of the Zsámbék Basin, where the gently rolling hills invite you to try horse riding and bicycle tours. Visiting Zsámbék, Ócsa, Monor, Cegléd, Szigetszentmiklós or Százhalombatta is only a short trip from Budapest, with plenty of sights to see. Having another adventure is always a good idea!

## GOOD TO KNOW IN BUDAPEST!



**Pálinka »** The national spirit of Hungary made from 100% Hungarian fruits. Find your favourite flavour!

**Ruin pub »** an abandoned building turned into a new wave, uniquely Hungarian bar, with creative thrift-shop décor and a huge dose of Hungarian passion!

**Mangalica »** The blonde mangalica was developed from older hardy types of Hungarian pig (Bakonyi and Szalontai) crossed with the Hungarian Wild Boar breed of Hungarian origin. Its meat is one of the most delicious savoury you will ever taste!

**Hungarikum »** The community protected Hungarikum is a special, unique, specific Hungarian item, which has brought

world-wide fame for Hungary, such as Tokaj wine, Herendi porcelain and the Rubik's cube.

**Thermal water »** Hungarian thermal water is a proven cure for locomotor and circulatory diseases and for women's health problems. Also, Budapest is called the Mecca of Rheumatics due to the salutary effects of its thermal water.

**Spa »** Sanitas Per Aquam, which means "health through water". The term spa is associated with water treatment which is also known as balneotherapy.

**Fröccs »** The greatest thing since sliced bread. Honestly. Quality Hungarian white or rosé wine mixed with soda water. This is what we call "fröccs", the



official drink of spring, summer and autumn in Budapest!

**National Tobacco Store »** A brown, red, white and green circular sign, with a large letter "T" in the middle. The windows have frosted glass, so children cannot see inside. These are the Hungarian National Tobacco Stores.

«



# ULTIMATE HOTEL & DESTINATION GUIDE

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Be on the lookout throughout this year's guide for top activity and tour info for each destination, only from **ARCMarketPlace.com**!



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[FROM TRAVEL WEEKLY'S EDITOR IN CHIEF]

## The 2013 Ultimate Hotel & Destination Guide



As we round the bend into 2013, the outlook for leisure travel continues on a positive trajectory. The U.S. Travel Association predicts that total leisure trips taken by Americans next year will increase by 1.2 percent over 2012 rates—though travel

agents seem to have more bullish expectations when asked about sales to their most popular destinations.

*Travel Weekly's* Advisor Surveys, fielded to our agent audience throughout 2012, revealed continued excitement around new airlift options to Hawaii and the Caribbean, and Mexico continues to draw visitors as the No. 1 international travel destination for U.S.-based travelers. Europe has become a better value again, with an advantageous exchange rate for U.S.-based travelers, which is driving interest in both traditional and emerging destinations in the Eurozone. Asia and South America continue to draw curious travelers to new and exciting destinations.

In order to sell any destination successfully, agents must have a deep understanding of the product available: transportation, tours, activities—and, of course, the hotel market. To that end, the editors of the 2013 Ultimate Hotel & Destination Guide

sat down with senior hotel executives across three major verticals—international chain hotels, all-inclusives and boutique hotels—to talk about major trends in their categories and about what travel agents will have to do to sell these products successfully in 2013. One crucial takeaway is the importance of understanding the proliferation of brands taking place in the hotel market—and how to target all these brands to agents' clients.

Finally, we are excited to present a new feature in our annual Hotel & Destination issue. In conjunction with the improved Hotel Search function that we now offer on *Travelweekly.com*, our database managers have helped to identify the Top 10 destinations our online community has searched during the past year. Starting on page 23, you will find the 2012 rankings by the number of hotel searches performed for a given destination, plus colorful editorial features that highlight the best of this year's Top 10.

We look forward to offering this as an annual feature, so continue to use *Travel Weekly's* Hotel Search and we'll track the trends!

To a successful year,

Arnie Weissmann  
Editor in Chief, *Travel Weekly*

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# EUROPE

## An Overview

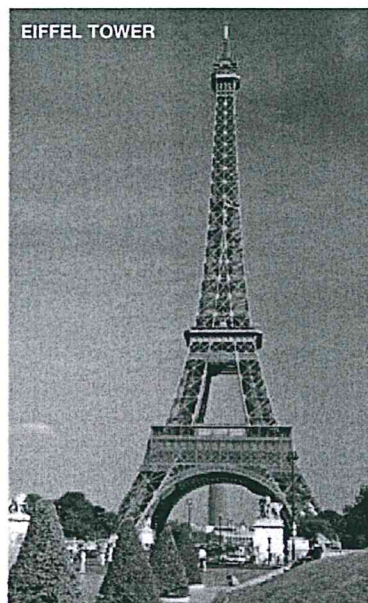
Europe is the most popular destination for travelers the world over. According to the United Nations World Travel Organization, this region maintains six of the top 10 travel destinations in the world, as measured by international air arrivals and travel receipts. On the list: France (at No. 1), Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, Turkey and Germany. Along with the more traditional favorites, there are plenty of up-and-coming destinations in Europe as well. Hungary, the Czech Republic and Croatia have been on the hotlist for many world travelers over the past few years.

The region's excellent rail service is a standout for allowing travelers to experience many different destinations in a single trip. Just as satisfying, however, is matching the traveler with the perfect destination and immersing them in the rich local culture that Europe has to offer.

### France

One of the best ways to get to know France is to visit a local market. For visitors, all of France can seem like a market—it's one of those rare countries where every region offers something worthwhile and distinctive.

Paris represents the height of fashion, art and food—its sense of style is so strong it intimidates some visitors, yet the city can also be remarkably comfortable and intimate. It's iconic sites draw visitors from around the world: the Eiffel Tower; Arc de Triumphant; the Louvre; Notre Dame; the broad sidewalks, elegant cafés and shops of the Champs Elysees... the list of must-sees goes on and on. But it may be a moment on a park bench or impossibly perfect sandwich of *jambon et fromage* that enchants the traveler forever.



Each of the French provinces offers its own landscape and culture: the glittering crowds of the Cote d'Azur, the elegant *chateaus* of the Loire Valley, the hospitable vineyards of Bordeaux, the rocky coasts of Brittany, the dramatic slopes of the Alps and the Pyrenees, and the charming farms and villages of Provence.

France can satisfy just about any traveler's taste.

### Italy

Land of *la dolce vita* (the sweet life), Italy is one of the world's best-loved destinations, and no wonder—two-thirds of the world's historical artistic heritage

is there. Tuscany alone possesses more artistic treasures than the whole of Spain, which is the second country in the world for cultural heritage.

Whether you crave culture, gastronomy, cutting-edge design, sybaritic pleasures or simply the art of *il dolce far niente*—the sweet doing nothing—this is a country for lovers of all that is good in life. A visit to Italy is a lesson in living well. Open-air vegetable and fruit markets, neighborhood bakeries and fresh cheeses made daily are fixtures of Italian life. Tradition reigns: Neighbors still meet in the *piazza* to discuss the day, laundry is still line-dried, even in the largest of cities, and the *passeggiata* (leisurely stroll) is still made in the evening air—preferably with a gelato in hand. From the mountains to the coasts, the emphasis is on simple pleasures and high quality.

### Spain

Spain offers visitors a richness and complexity that may surprise. All the tempting postcard fantasy pictures are there in reality, side-by-side with other, less-expected ones.

You may come across *fiesta* dancers in a village square, a young man practicing flamenco guitar, a medieval Arab fortress or windmills so enormous Don Quixote could be forgiven for thinking they were giants.

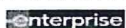
But there's also the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, its mind-bending shapes like those of no other museum in the world, just as the exuberant architecture of Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona makes it like no other church in the world.

You may see ultracool young Madrilenos toggled out in urban chic, talking endlessly on their cell phones; international businesspeople hurrying to appointments; and tourists and golfers of many nations flocking to Spain's spectacular countryside and balmy beaches. There are super-fast trains, and there are villages where life goes at a pace that has changed little for centuries.

Spain today is a vibrant member of the European Union that has transformed itself from a remote backwater to a modern nation, all within living memory. The contrasts, the colors and the vibrant spirit of the place will stay with you for a long time.

### United Kingdom

Regardless of whether it's England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland—each a distinctive and proud entity—both pastoral countrysides and metropolises in these regions are steeped in history and cultural traditions. One only needs to conjure thoughts of Stonehenge, Westminster Abbey or a cozy country pub to recognize the significance of its remarkable past. But the U.K. is also intrinsically modern and takes great pride in its cutting-edge innovations, whether they're in art, fashion or technology. A strong economy and a cosmopolitan attitude have propelled the U.K. into a new century with the hope that it remains a serious player on the world stage.



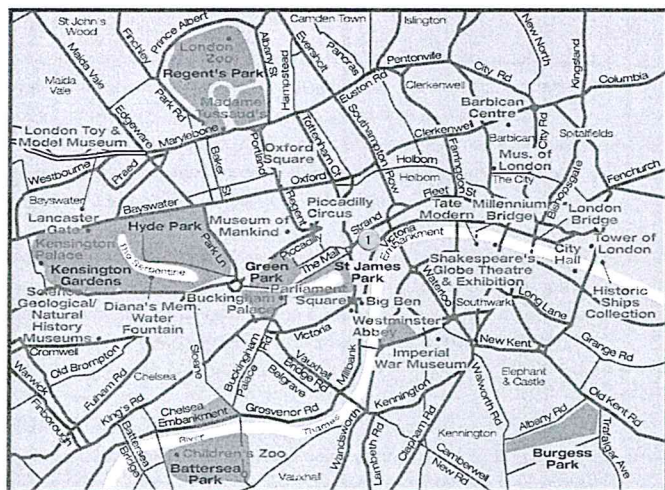
Enterprise Rent-A-Car has more than 300 locations in England.



## An Overview

**MAP LEGEND**  
The Savoy, A Fairmont Hotel 1

## LONDON



Visiting England is like finding your way through a well-developed hedge maze: Around nearly every bend in the road you'll find stately homes, crumbling castles, magnificent gardens, thatch-roofed cottages, cozy pubs and beautiful churches to explore. And few visitors to London will fail to be impressed by the grandeur and craftsmanship of its monumental sights.

Attached to but very different from England, Wales conserves the oldest Celtic traditions of Britain in its language, its literature and its songs. It's a mountainous country skirted on three sides by a rugged coast. There are many castles, especially along the border with England.

In contrast, Scotland's urban and vibrant cities have become every bit as popular as its sweeping pastoral landscapes. Glasgow is an important center for architecture and design, and the annual Edinburgh International Festival, one of the largest in the world, gets bigger and zanier every year.

From the vibrant capital Belfast to the walled city of Londonderry to seaside resorts and pretty coastal villages, there is much to explore in Northern Ireland. Inland, there are tranquil *loughs* (lakes) and woodlands, the beautiful Antrim glens and Mourne Mountains, and the stunning scenery of the Antrim coast—including the phenomenal Giant's Causeway.

### Turkey

Turkey has exoticism to spare, with its covered bazaars, whirling dervishes, sultans' treasures and Byzantine mosaics. And its natural beauty is abundant, with great stretches of sandy beaches and romantic rocky coves. Travelers will find Turks to be exceptionally gracious hosts, which makes

sense given the country's place as a crossroads between Europe and Asia. The country has dramatically improved its tourist infrastructure, too.

This appealing mix does have a few drawbacks—increasing prices (though it's still an inexpensive place to travel), sprawling new development and growing crowds—but they're hardly enough to spoil a visit. The country is best experienced in leisurely excursions to places of remarkable history and beauty (such as Cappadocia and Ephesus) and in extended visits to fascinating and energetic cities (such as Istanbul).

Under Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey is pursuing membership in the European Union, although progress in such talks waxes and wanes in large part because of the ongoing conflict over Cyprus as well as concern about the pace of Turkey's reforms and opposition from key EU countries such as France and Germany.

Turkey will appeal to adventurous, well-traveled people who enjoy the combination of exotic cities, beautiful beaches and historical attractions. Standards in accommodations have increased dramatically in the past few years, but travelers who seek every Western comfort may be more comfortable if they confine their trips to major cities and tourist resorts.

### Germany

Though Germany is weathering the world financial difficulties better than most countries, the impact of unification at the end of the Cold War means there are still significant disparities between east and west. Nevertheless, continued significant investment in public services, research and development, and infrastructure projects has ensured that Germany has one of the highest standards of living in the world.

In real terms, this means that travelers are likely to move around the country faster, dine better and experience newer attractions, such as the Reichstag's glass dome. A lot has changed, yet chances are that repeat visitors will still find the things they always liked: the restaurant serving huge helpings of sauerbraten or the *biertgarten* with liter upon liter of beer.

Rather than looking at the country in terms of east and west, Germany is best seen as a host of regions sharply defined by dialect, food, traditions and history. For the best perspective, sample as many regions as possible.

Culturally, Berlin is booming, and it is now the country's No. 1 tourist magnet. Visitors to the cultural centers of Dresden, Leipzig and Weimar in eastern Germany will find improved amenities there as well. The north has the delightful old seafaring cities of Hamburg and Bremen. Along the Rhine and Moselle rivers are picturesque castles and steep, terraced vineyards. The Grimm Brothers collected the tales they heard in a trail of villages from Hanau to Bremen. In the south are snowcapped Alps, the alluring Black Forest, Munich, and Bavaria's boisterous beer halls and rococo palaces and churches.



Enterprise Rent-A-Car has more than 300 locations in England.







## Amalfi Coast

Santa Maria Assunta, which dates back to 1200 and houses a stunning Byzantine Black Madonna and Child.

Two lovely beaches, Spiaggia Grande and Spiaggia del Fornillo, invite visitors to soak up the Mediterranean sun. Fornillo draws younger travelers and offers more activities including kayak rentals and casual beachfront bars open late in the summer. Spiaggia Grande is larger, with easier access to the city center. Daily excursions to Capri and surrounding islands depart and return from the port at the end of Spiaggia Grande.

Most Positano boutique-hotels lie along Via Cristoforo Colombo, and almost all of them boast spectacular views of the sea during the day and the twinkling lights against the cliff side at nightfall.

### Destination Spotlight – Florence

Florence is one of the most beautiful cities in the world—and for many visitors, it is the most splendid. While travel to the city usually centers on its attractions, including museums, palaces and churches that overflow with masterful paintings and sculpture, it is not limited to those destinations.

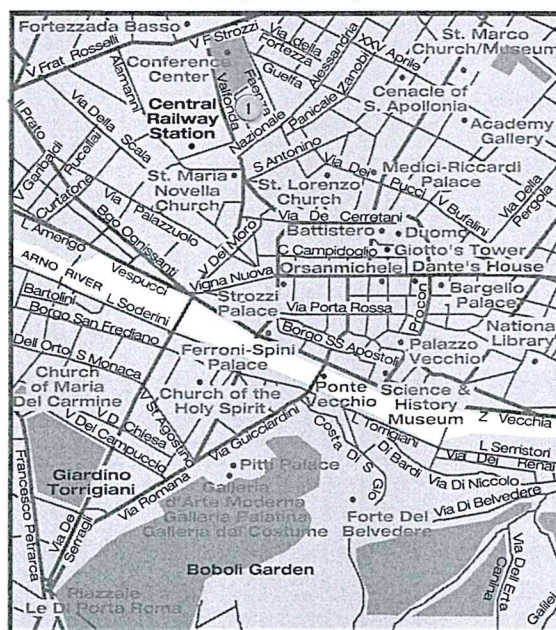
As the birthplace of the Renaissance, Florence combines unequalled beauty with centuries of history in a heady mix. Visitors' first glimpse of the Duomo, set incongruously in the midst of streaming traffic, is likely to take their breath away.

### GETTING AROUND

The historic city center of Florence, the Centro Storico, is home to most of the city's monuments and attractions. The area was once encircled by medieval city walls. In the 1860s, the walls were replaced by large boulevards that today form a ring road around the old city. The city falls naturally into two sections: the Duomo side of the Arno River and—across the river—the Oltrarno side.

On the Duomo side, Piazza della Signoria and the Duomo itself are grand, historic centers of religious and political power. The Oltrarno has its share of monuments such as the Palazzo Pitti and the churches of Santo Spirito and Santa Maria del Carmine, but it is less imposing and can feel more ac-

### FLORENCE



### Hotel Villa Franca

**Rates:** \$268-\$313

Charming hotel with a panoramic view of Positano. Romantically decorated guest rooms and elegant public rooms.

**Accommodations:** 37 rooms, 5 floors, built in 1932, last renovated in 2007. Rooms include Satellite TV, radio, minibar, direct dial telephone, safe, internet access free of charge, and private bathroom. Full breakfast included.

**Facilities/Services:** Restaurant on site, swimming pool, wellness center, concierge services, laundry service/dry cleaning, multi-lingual staff, fax, babysitting & Wi Fi Network available in hotel.

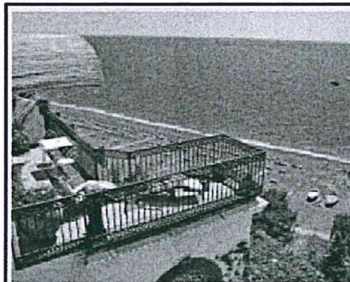
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### Buca Di Bacco

**Rates: Standard:** Euro 260 – 500

Early 19th century family-run seaside mansion situated on a hillside - Simply decorated rooms have small balconies with sea views.

**Accommodations:** 47 rooms, 3 floors, built in 1900, last renovated in 2000. Rooms include Satellite TV, minibar, direct dial telephone, safe, internet access free of charge, and private bathroom. Non-smoking rooms available on request.

**Facilities/Services:** Restaurant on site, concierge services, laundry service/dry cleaning, multi-lingual staff, fax, babysitting, and Wi Fi Network available in hotel.

**GDS Codes:** Amadeus: WV NAPCCO, Galileo/Apollo: WV 67797, Sabre: WV 079824, WorldSpan: WV 14357

**Reps:** Euro-Connection, and PTI Associates

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# ITALY

## Florence

historic centers of religious and political power. The Oltrarno has its share of monuments such as the Palazzo Pitti and the churches of Santo Spirito and Santa Maria del Carmine, but it is less imposing and can feel more accessible. The last bastion of old Florentine popular culture is in the Oltrarno: The San Frediano neighborhood is still known for its artisans who handcraft shoes, restore furniture and practice goldsmithing.

### SEEING THE SIGHTS

Any visit to Florence, brief or extended, should begin with the magnificent Duomo. Go inside and gaze at the frescoes and take in the view from the top of the dome. Afterward, check out the exquisite detail of the famed bronze doors of the adjacent Baptistry.

The striking Palazzo Vecchio on Piazza della Signoria still functions as city hall. Take a tour and learn about the palace's integral role in Florentine history.

The most celebrated art museum in the city is the Uffizi Gallery, considered by many to be, along with the Louvre and El Prado, one of the most important museums in the world. The Uffizi has 13th- to 18th-century Italian and European masterworks. The line at the Uffizi can get very long, so advance reservations are encouraged (see Insider Tips: Florence, this page).

Another fabulous art museum is the Bargello, with its impressive collection of medieval and Renaissance armor, furnishings and sculpture. The Accademia, near Piazza San Marco, is chiefly known for housing Michelangelo's David.

Cross the Arno on the Ponte Vecchio, which has spanned the river since

1345. The Vasari Corridor, which runs above the bridge, links the Uffizi with the Palazzo Pitti, which stands as the archetype of all European royal residences and one of the best preserved. Travelers should not miss the Palazzo's Palatine Gallery or the Boboli Gardens on the hillside.

### Destination Spotlight – Milan

From the enchanted rooftop world of the Duomo, you can see the graceful porticoes and ornate friezes of medieval Milan, Italy, fade into the sharp lines and angles of the modern city.

### Florence: The Insider Tips

Museum times and prices change frequently, and museums occasionally close unexpectedly. Some close for the day at 1 or 2 pm, and most are closed during religious holidays.

Entrance tickets for state-run museums can be booked in advance by calling Firenze Musei. A service fee of 3 euros is charged. The service fee for the Uffizi Gallery and Galleria dell'Accademia, the two sights where lines for entrance are the longest, is 4 euros. Visit [www.firenzemusei.it](http://www.firenzemusei.it).

The Firenze Card offers admission to more than 30 museums in Florence, as well as bus and tram transportation throughout the city. The card is valid for 72 hours and costs 50 euros. In many cases travelers can avoid ticket lines by using the card. Check the advantages of the card against the planned itinerary; it is not guaranteed to save money. Visit [www.firenzecard.it](http://www.firenzecard.it).

FLORENCE





# ITALY

## Milan

### MILAN



| MAP LEGEND             |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Cavour Hotel           | 1 |
| Hotel Spadari al Duomo | 2 |

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splendor of the Duomo to the *beaux arts* filigree of Galleria Vittorio Emanuele. Its museums and galleries hold many treasures, from Da Vinci's The Last Supper to Michelangelo's Rondanini Pieta.

On the flip side, Milan is a powerhouse of smart, ubercool shops and trendy restaurants filled with dressed-to-kill locals, right in the heart of its ancient past.

#### Destination Spotlight – Como

Approximately 25 miles north of Milan and bordering Switzerland is the town of Como. It is sought out by tourists for its proximity to Lake Como and to the Alps. The city and the lake have been chosen as the filming location for various recent popular feature films, and this, together with the increasing presence of celebrities who have bought lakeside properties, has heightened the city's international profile and given a further boost to international tourism.

#### Destination Spotlight – Rome

Rome is a great open-air museum with a high concentration of monuments, churches and artwork, enmeshed in a modern city with a lot of fast cars, mopeds and people strolling around in very stylish shoes. Even the smallest courtyard hidden in the narrowest street may hold a



#### Metropole & Suisse Au Lac

Rates: 99-228 €

Historic hotel dating from 1892 situated in city center, close to main shopping area, overlooking the lake.

**Accommodations:** 71 rooms, 5 floors, built in 1700, last renovated in 2004, located 35 km west of Malpensa, located 48 km south of Linate.

**Facilities/Services:** concierge services, laundry service/dry cleaning, business center, multi-lingual staff, fax, babysitting, restaurant, 1 bar, room service, 2 meeting rooms, with a total capacity of 120 people, pets allowed. **New restaurant opened in 2009.**

**Technology:** broadband internet access available in common areas (fee), broadband internet access available in meeting rooms (fee).

**Sports/Recreation:** golf nearby, beach nearby, shopping mall/area nearby, water skiing nearby.

**GDS CODES:** Amadeus SX MXPMT, Galileo/Apollo: SI00809, Sabre: SX 42233, WorldSpan: SX 36510, WorldSpan: SX COMSI

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

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Located in the centre of Milan's shopping district and within few minutes from the 'Duomo' and the 'Teatro alla Scala'. All rooms with: mini-bar, LCD satellite TV, air conditioning, wi-fi and PC connect facilities.

The Conte Camillo restaurant offers the finest of Italian cuisine. Meeting rooms up to 60 people.

An ideal hotel providing a sure guarantee of a successful and pleasant visit to Milan both for business or pleasure.

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ITALY

# Rome

tiny, wonderful detail—a decorated sidewalk or a stray column, fresco or fountain.

Walking (in comfortable shoes) is the best way to get the most out of a visit here. But before setting off, visitors should stop by one of the information kiosks that dispense maps, brochures and advice in several languages. And, above all, remind your clients that Rome was not built in a day—and nor can they see it all in a day.

Vatican City – World-famous examples of Christian and pre-Christian art and architecture are contained in St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums in Vatican City. Vatican City is an independent city-state, surrounded by Rome, and the ecclesiastical



## MAP LEGEND

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Albani Hotel              | 1 |
| Alexandra Hotel           | 2 |
| Hotel Barocco             | 3 |
| Hotel Capo d'Africa       | 4 |
| Clarion Collection        | 5 |
| Principessa Isabella      | 6 |
| Comfort Inn Bolivar Hotel | 7 |
| Hotel Palladium Palace    | 8 |
| Hotel Tirreno             | 9 |
| Visconti Palace Hotel     | 9 |

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## Hotel Tirreno

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Completely renovated in March 2006. In the heart of "Ancient Rome", few blocks from Rome's Termini train station, between Santa Maria Maggiore's Basilica and the Colosseum. 44 tastefully furnished rooms, many overlooking the terrace garden, some with private terrace, all with bath or shower and hair-dryer, direct dial telephone, LCD satellite TV, american bar, safety box. All rooms with air-conditioning. Garden-solarium, breakfast saloon, bar, Free wifi connection available in the lobby. Rates inclusive of breakfast, tax & service - see listing for details.



### Internet addresses:

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# ITALY

## Rome



home of Roman Catholicism. It is bordered by the Tiber River on the east and stretches west. The first building seen from St. Peter's Square is the largest church in the world, St. Peter's Basilica. The highlights inside include many works by Bernini (the tomb of Urban VIII, the Cattedra and his ornate baldacchino over the central altar), Michelangelo's Pieta and what may be the oldest statue of St. Peter in existence (whose foot has been worn completely smooth over the centuries by pilgrims who have rubbed it for good luck).

Plan at least three hours to navigate in and around St. Peter's: Be sure to take the elevator or climb the dome to the roof for a spectacular 360-degree view (try to time it for the beautiful sunsets), visit the treasury museum and see the grotto below the church (where St. Peter and other popes are interred). If visitors have more time, they should consider applying for a tour of the Vatican gardens or the Scavi, excavations of the necropolis below St. Peter's. These tours must be arranged in advance at the Vatican information desk.

Other Vatican sights include Bernini's Piazza St. Pietro with its massive colonnade and the various Vatican museums. To many, the highlight of the

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# ITALY

## Rome

museums is the Sistine Chapel, whose ceiling, single-handedly painted by Michelangelo, has undergone a controversial restoration that revealed colors much brighter than seen previously.

**Centro Storico** – The historic heart of the city, this is where travelers find the Imperial Forums, including the Roman Forum, Trajan's Column and Markets, and the Palatine Hill. Nearby are the Arch of Constantine, the Colosseum and the Circus Maximus. Then a small detour will take visitors to the palaces around Piazza del Campidoglio, which contain the Capitoline Museums.

**The Forums and Piazza del Popolo** – The area between these two landmarks is filled with opportunities for tourists. They'll pass the facades of noble palaces and churches and stroll through elegant squares. Along the way, they'll want to turn off the Via del Corso to visit the Pantheon to the west and the Trevi Fountain to the east. Reaching Piazza del Popolo, many visitors take time to enjoy the green expanse of the Pincio Gardens. The nearby Villa Borghese is home not only to umbrella pines but also to three world-class museums: Galleria Borghese, Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna and Museo Nazionale di Villa Giulia.

**Medieval Districts** – The medieval district of Trastevere, across the river from the oldest part of Rome, has one of the oldest churches in Christendom, Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere. But it's also a great place to stroll, dine or shop, especially at night, when the bohemian streets come alive. Back across the river, on the left bank, the Jewish Ghetto is another medieval area full of ambiance. If time permits, you can also visit the Catacombs of San Sebastiano or San Callisto or, invariably, one more church.

### LIVING LA DOLCE VITA

With so many historic and cultural landmarks, it may be hard for first-time visitors to remember that Rome is also a vital and modern city where there are plenty of additional pleasures to be found.

Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* depicted a lifestyle of savoring the city's sidewalk cafes and nightclubs—a portrayal that's still very accurate today. A typical Roman evening begins with a late dinner, followed by the *passaggiata* (a stroll). This involves strolling through the *piazze* of the city and stopping for coffee, gelato or a drink at a local pub or *enoteca* (wine bar). Nightclubs remain virtually empty until about 1 a.m. The majority of bars close at 2 a.m., with nightclubs shuttering around 4 a.m. However, this only means they stop entry. People already inside are permitted to stay until dawn, or even longer.

The Centro Storico offers a wide range of bars, primarily filled with tour-

ists (the Campo dei Fiori is especially popular). Trastevere is the spot for locals and students, with literally hundreds of bars and restaurants, dozens of movie theaters and a few nightclubs—all in an accessible, pedestrian-friendly area. Most clubs are in remote corners of the city. The Testaccio area near the Piramide metro stop is one exception. Late-night restaurants and bars flank some of the best dance spots. But, visitors shouldn't dally on the streets at night at the risk of being pickpocketed.

The city's live-music scene gets hopping late, with everything from South American rhythms to jazz.

### Rome: The Insider Tips

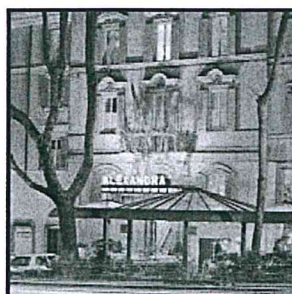
Rome attracts millions of tourists every year. Lines to visit major sites can be very long. Good planning—including reservations at must-see locations—is advised. Here are a few tips for navigating this incredibly rewarding destination.

**Ticket Brokers** – One way to make planning easier is to use a ticket broker that specializes in booking museums and historic sites. Pierreci books visits to museums and guided tours to landmarks in the city ([www.pierreci.it](http://www.pierreci.it)). Ticketeria books tickets to museums and landmarks, as well (phone 06-32810 Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm; [www.ticketeria.it](http://www.ticketeria.it)). Whether you book by phone or online, get a confirmation number for the reservation, and provide it to your client. They will be charged a booking fee, but it's worth it for the convenience.

**Tourism Passes** – The city of Rome also has a wide selection of passes that offer discounts on admission to many of the most popular historic sites, museums and galleries. The Roma Pass is the most popular option: 30 euros gets you free admission to two sites (including the Colosseum, with the added benefit of getting to skip the long line), three-day public transportation passes and reduced rates at subsequent sites. Travelers can purchase passes directly at tourist offices, most participating museums and galleries or online: [www.romapass.it](http://www.romapass.it).

**Dress Code** – To enter churches, women must have their shoulders covered, and men must have their knees covered.

**Hours of Operation** – As a rule, most churches are open in the morning, close around 12:30 pm for lunch and reopen at 3:30 pm. Advise clients about these guidelines, and they'll avoid the dreaded *chiuso* (closed) sign. Much of Rome—and indeed, Italy—shuts down for several weeks in the summer heat. This period, known as Ferragosto, can stretch from mid-July through August. Summer travelers should be advised.



### Hotel Alexandra

Rates: € 120-€ 580

Small family-owned hotel located in Via Veneto, the most fashionable section of Rome, near Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and Borghese Park.

Accommodations: 59 rooms, 6 floors, built in 1890, last renovated in 2003, located 35 km west of Rome/Fiumicino, located 25 km south east of Ciampino.

Facilities/Services: concierge services, laundry service/dry cleaning, business center, administrative services, multi-lingual staff, fax, babysitting, restaurant, room service, 1 meeting room, with a total capacity of 30 people, gluten free meals.

Technology: Free broadband internet access wi-fi.

Sports/Recreation: golf nearby, shopping mall/area nearby, spa nearby.

GDS CODES: Amadeus: SX ROMA, Galileo/Apollo: SX 62508, Sabre: SX 38345, WorldSpan: SX ROMAX

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