

Enticing Rome

TWO MONTHS SPENT IN ROME CAN GET YOU BORED — BUT NOT SIX. AND AFTER A YEAR YOU MIGHT CONSIDER STAYING HERE FOREVER.

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If you ask people about Rome and collect all those stories, you'll get an incredible picture. You will find that the way people act in this city utterly differs from elsewhere. Tough cookies suddenly fall in love, happy-clappies turn to bon ton, and boors fill with harmony. Basically, people go through quite significant transformations. Moreover, they keep coming back to Rome, whether not noticing the temporary changes, or secretly wishing to experience them again.

We suspect that the city does everything to attract its population ever since the times, when Romulus and Remus were taken care of and suckled by the Capitoline She-wolf, which was something out of the ordinary even back then. The Rome of today still doesn't stop to allure and entice people. It calls into play the perfectly prepared antipasti, served even in some touristic restaurants — not to mention places favoured by locals, and about fifty flavours of ice cream. The illuminated Colosseum against the evening sky and the view from Saint Peter's Dome — if it wasn't for the mountains, it would've been possible to see the ferries in Civitavecchia. Then, there is coffee under the sycamore trees on Via Veneto and cocktails near Villa Borghese, mixed and muddled with the involuntary part of the stone pine aroma spread in the air. And, of course, a brilliantly organised Roman hotel — one of the new functional art objects, not just a place to crash.

There are several of those near Villa Borghese, but only Aldrovandi is not so much a hotel as a city resort, admitted to the top of the Leading Hotels of the World consortium — with a spacious luscious garden and an outdoor swimming pool, where yachts can be tested if needed. For Rome, where not every country can afford to buy a square meter in the historic center of the city, it's an unprecedented luxury on a grand scale and a disregard for conventionalities.

The hotel's building, with the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain being just around the corner, is not that ancient. At least, the end of the 19th century is like two days ago for Rome, architecturally speaking. It was the Cabrini Institute before — the school for girls of proud names, among which were the daughters of Victor Emmanuel III. As it was turned into hotel, the spirit of thoughtful minimalism and elegant reserve was preserved. To a certain extent, of course — the pastel walls and the overall neutral colour palette don't interfere with the exclusivity of the materials and decorative elements that are not so much Art-nouveau as Barocco style. Anyways, we don't want bore our readers by descriptions of interior design and all those boutique-hotel services that are known since long time — they're all implied, as well as their quality. Instead, we will highlight the values that make up the personality of Aldrovandi Villa Borghese. Like the Assaje restaurant under brand chef Andrea Migliaccio. The cuisine is announced as Mediterranean but it mainly serves as an indicator of where the chef draws his inspiration from, since it's very unlikely that even the best Roman home-cooking traditions could include ravioli with pecorino, asparagus and balsamic caviar pearls, or a marinated in tomato water yellowtail with caviar and avocado, or pineapple with anise mousse, cherries and Buffalo milk ice-cream. On top of the standard set of hammam, sauna and different treatment rooms, the hotel spa-center also features a swimming pool for thalassotherapy. The renowned Leg School treatment is represented only in three spas around the world, one of them happens to be in Aldrovandi. It may help you feel your feet again after a day of non-stop walking through the streets of Rome — and that, of course, is very appreciated. Although they'll try to convince you that it was the idea of Mytha Hotel Anthology, which also manages the famous Capri

Palace, Villa Dubrovnik, D Maris Bay and Villa Magna, we believe it's Rome itself doing everything to make you stay.