



ITALY

Best New Small Hotels in Italy



Relais Villa Vittoria, Laglio, Lake Como, Lombardy 6 of 15

Lake Como is famous for its grand hotels; the boutique experience can be hard to find here. Owner Daniela Tagliamonte hits the right note at her waterfront villa, a onetime silk workshop. Eight of the 13 light-filled rooms face the lake, and all have a polished look (whitewashed wooden floors; crisp beige linens). Downstairs there's an elegant lounge, but most guests can be found outdoors, sunning by the glass-walled infinity pool or sipping tea under the jasmine-covered pergola. relaisvillavittoria.it **\$\$**

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Courtesy of Relais Villa Vittoria

by Valerie Waterhouse

Florence often feels like a victim of its success—too beloved by the tourists who crowd its compact historic center, elbowing their way across the Ponte Vecchio bridge and enduring long lines for a look at Michelangelo's *David* statue.

So it's a relief to arrive at an elegant hotel like the 1865 Residenza d'Epoca. With only five rooms, each named for an author who once lived in Florence, this newly converted town house recalibrates your experience of the city. (It's near Sant'Ambrogio market, where locals are still in the majority.) The owners, opera singer Cinzia Borsotti and her husband, coordinate "secret Florence" itineraries as well as themed walks based on the haunts of authors like Henry James.

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Across Italy, we found 10 such stylish newcomers—many family-run—that encourage travelers to get to know Italy in a more personal way. Most of these hotels also occupy an enviable location and offer rooms with a view, whether of cliff-hugging houses along the Amalfi Coast or vineyards in Piedmont.

Even Lake Como, known for its majestic hotels, recently welcomed the 13-room Relais Villa Vittoria to the waterfront in the town of Laglio. Soak up the sun by its infinity pool, or seek some shade, and perhaps another prosecco, under the jasmine-covered pergola.

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Read on for more small Italian hotels, each offering a fresh taste of la dolce vita.

—Kate Appleton

Hotel Pricing Key

- \$** Less than \$200
- \$\$** \$200 to \$350
- \$\$\$** \$350 to \$500
- \$\$\$\$** \$500 to \$1,000
- \$\$\$\$\$** More than \$1,000