

Esquire

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Style & Substance

A black and white photograph of Cara Delevingne. She is lying down, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. Her long, wavy hair is spread out around her head. Her right hand is raised to her forehead, with fingers slightly curled. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her facial features and the texture of her hair.

Everybody wants Cara

Exclusive interview with the face of her generation

By ALEX BILMES Photographs by SIMON EMMETT





The restaurant at Rome's Palazzo Dama hotel.



Villa d'Este, on the shore of Lake Como

Lake Como

Villa d'Este



If you're considering a trip to the great Italian lakes, it has to be Como, and if you're going to Como, your first port of call should be Villa d'Este on the southeastern bank. First built as a summer residence in the 16th century, it's the height of grand continental elegance. Drink in the Canova Bar, dine in Veranda, dance in D'Este Club and sleep in a lake-view suite. It's the closest you'll ever get to starring in your own Fellini movie.

Via Regina, 40, Cernobbio 22012. villadeste.com

Rome

Palazzo Dama



Rome has always had a lot going for it. History, sublime architecture and mega pasta aside, the Italian capital is in a regeneration phase. Shoe brand Tod's has pumped £25.5m into the renovation of the Colosseum, while Fendi contributed £1.85m to the restoration of the Trevi Fountain; in short, Rome has had a facelift and it's never looked so good. So now is the time to visit, and you should stay in the super-chic Palazzo Dama. Housed in one of the city's most opulent villas (formerly owned by the noble Malaspina family), the Antonio Girardi-designed hotel is situated near the Tiber and comes complete with an outdoor pool – unheard of in most Italian urban hotels – and extraordinary views over Vatican City from its perfectly appointed roof terrace. Did someone say *aperitivo*? Lungotevere Arnaldo da Brescia, Rome 200196. From £270pn, palazzodama.com

Eat

At a favourite of the locals, Trattoria da Teo is one of the Italian capital's best kept secrets (and about as Roman as the Colosseum). Order a plate of *tartuffi di carciofi*, bag a table outside and sip Barolo into the wee hours. trattoriadateo.it



A Junior Suite at the Dama



Hotel Lungarno's Studio Suite Torre

Florence

Hotel Lungarno



Owned by the Ferragamo family, the Lungarno collection of hotels is the most prevalent in Florence. The Hotel Lungarno is the jewel in the crown. On the edge of the Arno, next to Ponte Vecchio, and with views over Piazza del Duomo and the Uffizi Gallery, this is the only place to stay when you're in the Tuscan capital. What's more, it's just a stone's throw from the palatial Ferragamo flagship store – useful, should you find yourself short on footwear or bags. Borgo San Jacopo 14, Florence 50125. lungarnocollection.com



Eat

At Trattoria Cammillo, a low-key, little restaurant just a linguine length from Hotel Lungarno, set back from the river near Ponte Santa Trinita up a side street. It serves some of the best *mazzarella fritti* and *cotoletta Milanese* to be found in the city. Borgo San Jacopo 57r, Florence 50125.