

Roman holiday

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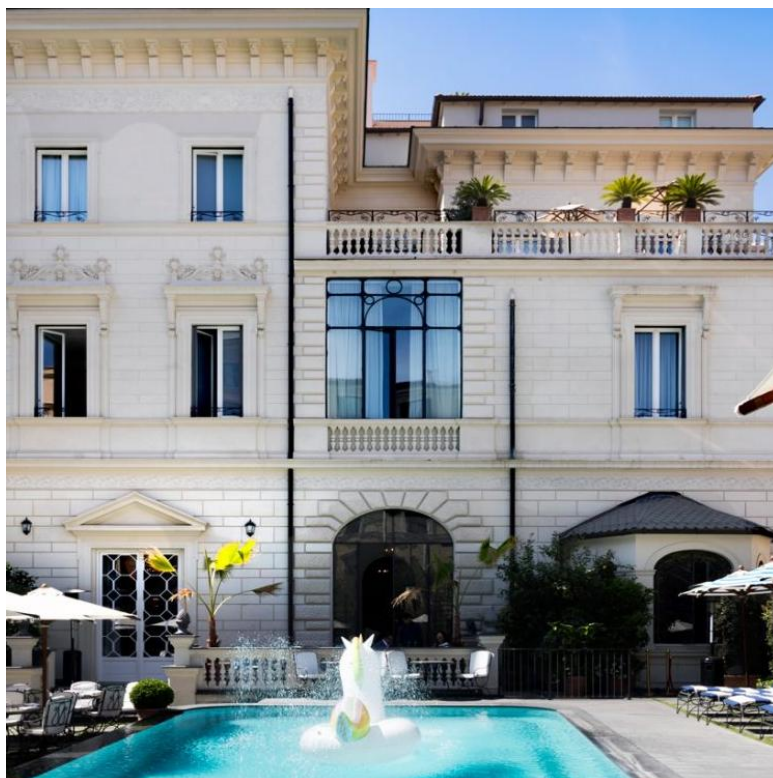
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Few years ago, I moved to Milan from New York. It wasn't an easy decision, but I knew I needed some changes in my life, just as Elizabeth Gilbert's heroine in "Eat, pray, love." Travelling all over the world, I've never had a chance to fully explore beautiful Rome. So I was really excited to visit Italian capital one more time and hunt for the best spots to stay, dine and relax.

The ideal hotel

I love luxury, elegance, staying private. I also value good food and excellent service. You say I am high maintenance, but I just prefer quality to quantity. My hotel of choice in Rome was magnificent 5 stars **Palazzo Dama**, once a Roman villa served as both the Malaspina family home and a backdrop to high society gatherings where the family entertained diplomats, aristocrats, and prominent cultural figures. **Palazzo Dama** is named to honor the dignified elegance of the aristocratic women – the dames (or dame in Italian), who once roamed the halls throughout the generations of Malaspina dignitaries. The hotel's name, in particular, pays homage to Anna Maria Malaspina, an 18th century Marquise who was admired for her refinement and recognized equally for her great many writings and poems as she was for her exuberant, playful and witty spirit.



Palazzo Dama was recently renovated into luxurious and opulent hotel by a young architect Antonio Girardi . Hidden behind historical façade, this hotel gave me a warm welcome with it's relaxing cozy atmosphere. Yet, it felt very intimate and private. I must add that welcoming staff and the owner of the hotel demonstrated the ideal level of hospitality and made my stay at Palazzo Dama more special. "Staying in a big hotel you don't have privacy. You are just one of the many guests, – explains Antonio Girardi. – Of course, you can take President Suite to guarantee your privacy, but if you stay in an ordinary room in a 150's room hotel, you are just one of the 300 people in a crowded space. In Palazzo Dama we offer 28 rooms, so that everyone feels unique and special."



The atmosphere of this luxurious hotel is based on its unique design. Going through halls and rooms, sometimes it felt like I travelled in time and witnessed the opulence of Great Gatsby's NY or enter the precious Ralph Lauren world, where antic luxury meets modern design. "Everything you see here: candle lights, paintings, velvet couches, was bought by me on the auctions all over the world, – says Antonio. – I'm a passionate collector and this hotel is perfect place to display my finds».

It is true. This, sometimes over the top, interior with a lot of details and exquisite art collection is unique and it makes it 100 percent my style. Original artworks of the likes of Picasso and Warhol, historic mosaics, mind-blowing chandeliers and original stairs, sumptuous Loro Piana fabrics, rooms of the unexpected clean and minimalistic design – all this makes the hotel stand out from the crowd. And the courtyard garden, shaded by lemon and olive trees, invites you to spend lazy afternoons by the pool with unicorns and cocktails.



Another treasure of **Palazzo Dama** is Pacifico. With gilded paneling and button-tufted banquettes, the villa's restaurant has a decadent vibe that harks back to the glamour of the palazzo's past, yet it celebrates the taste of today with from one of the best Chef in the world, Jaime Pesaque. The taste of Peruvian cuisine has always been a mystery for me, a Pandora box with flavors and spices I wanted to open for many years. Imagine my excitement when I found out that Pacifico is in **Palazzo Dama** and I have a chance to explore the secrets of menu that celebrates Asian-Peruvian cuisine. *Lingua di vitella sope* and *Roca de Camote* – perfectly balanced new tastes from freshly presented menu were my personal favorites.

