

FEBRUARY 2019

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

HAWAII

THE SEYCHELLES

TENERIFE

SYROS

PORQUEROLLES

## ISLAND ESCAPES

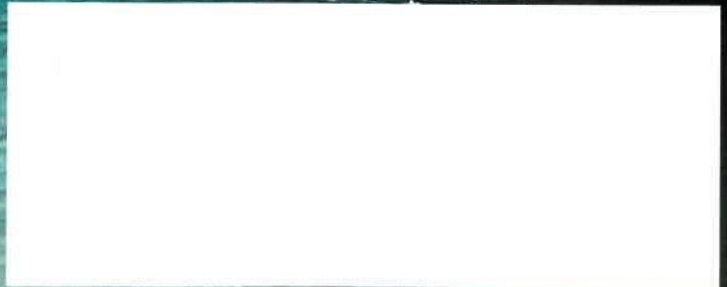
+ THE CARIBBEAN NOW

ST. LUCIA

PUERTO RICO

ST. BART'S

THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



REASONS  
TO

FEBRUARY 2019

# TRAVEL NOW

T+L'S MONTHLY SELECTION OF TRIP-WORTHY PLACES, EXPERIENCES, AND EVENTS.



The library at the St. Regis Rome, which recently completed a \$45 million renovation.

## Head-turning hotels are making the Eternal City feel brand-new.

Rome has long been dominated by a few storied grande dames. But recently, the landscape has shifted, favoring stylish livability over pomp and circumstance. Unconventional spaces—a girls' boarding school, a 17th-century papal palazzo—have been remade into design-centric stays, and today's travelers can find contemporary comforts and a historic feel in a single package.

The newest kid on the block is the **First Roma Dolce Hotel** ([thefirsthotel.com](http://thefirsthotel.com); doubles from \$399) on Via del →

REASONS TO TRAVEL

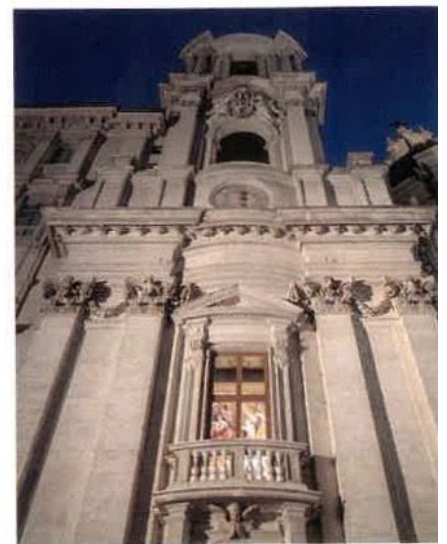
Corso, which takes *la dolce vita* seriously: guests can sate their sweet teeth with pastries from the second-floor *pasticceria*. The 23 plush rooms and suites have a lived-in feel, with modish chaises, well-stocked bookshelves, and pops of orange and red amid the black-and-white palette. Just around the corner, the **Elizabeth Unique Hotel** ([ehrome.com](http://ehrome.com); doubles from \$313) feels like a gallery that happens to have 33 bedrooms. The nearby Galleria Russo curated the property's collection of contemporary art, all of which is for sale. The clean, modern design features nods to a bygone era, like wallpaper printed with reproductions of antique landscape paintings.

Head past the Ara Pacis and down a cobblestoned street to land at the 18-room **Hotel Vilòn** ([slh.com](http://slh.com); doubles from \$500), which lies behind a discreet entrance on the grounds of the 16th-century Palazzo Borghese. Evocative images by Florentine photographer Massimo Listri grace the lobby lounge. Set designer Paolo Bonfini gave the rooms and suites a cinematic flair, with dramatic lighting and massive botanical prints. Each room has a distinct look—gray with

a pop of burgundy here, slate blue and earthy neutrals with a gold side table there.

When a hotel suite won't cut it, the **Holy Deer San Lorenzo City Lodge** ([sanlorenzolodges.com](http://sanlorenzolodges.com); from \$11,340) is the ultimate single-family hideaway. Former Escada executives Giorgia and Stefano Barbini spared no expense in restoring the two-bedroom apartment of Pope Innocent X in Borromini's 17th-century Palazzo Pamphili. They handpicked every extravagant detail, from an antique table inlaid with semiprecious stones in the kitchen to the cashmere-wrapped armoires inspired by Brioni suits in the dressing room.

Rome's grande dames are keeping pace with the changing scene. The **St. Regis Rome** ([marriott.com](http://marriott.com); doubles from \$740), opened by César Ritz in



1894, is fresh off a \$45 million renovation. Designer Pierre-Yves Rochon lightened up the space with a silver-and-blue color scheme and large-scale sculptures by contemporary artists, but the traditional grandeur remains: the 138 rooms and 23 suites still have their crystal chandeliers and crown moldings, and the original ceiling frescoes have been restored. The most inviting space is the sapphire-blue library, where you can cozy up by the fireplace and savor tea or something stronger amid leather-bound books.

Still to come are two spots from the Rocco Forte hotel group: the **Hotel de la Ville** ([roccofortehotels.com](http://roccofortehotels.com); doubles from \$750), a 104-key property slated to open in May near the Spanish Steps, and the five-suite **Rocco Forte Place**, a private palazzo nearby debuting in September. If you're not a guest, it's worth stopping by the hotel for a drink—the rooftop bar promises postcard views of the city. — Laura Itzkowitz



From top: A suite at the Elizabeth Unique Hotel; Holy Deer San Lorenzo City Lodge; Adelaide, the restaurant at the Hotel Vilòn.

