

## Hotel of the week: J.K. Place Roma, Italy

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J.K. Place Roma, Italy Source: Supplied

### **THERE'S a chic new place to stay near Rome's Spanish Steps.**

Audrey Hepburn wouldn't have looked out of place reclining on the groovily upholstered sofas of this newly-opened hotel, tucked away behind Fendi's flagship store on the Via Monte d'Oro near Rome's famous Spanish Steps.

Housing just 30 guestrooms and suites over three floors, J.K. Place Roma occupies a handsome 17th-century building that was once home to a university architectural school, and is moments from the shops of the Via Condotti.

Featuring bespoke Italian furniture and refurbished vintage pieces that cleverly recapture the golden era of mid 20th-century travel to Europe, the interiors are courtesy of Florentine maestro Michele Bonan, the designer responsible for J.K. Place's glamorous sister properties in Capri and Florence. All three are owned by young entrepreneur Ori Kafri.

With an almost hidden front door (guests ring the bell on arrival) and a friendly team led by hands-on general manager Samuel Porreca, the J.K. is more residence than hotel, a home away from home in the eternal city.

La dolce vita interiors include working fireplaces, velvet upholstered seats in the elevator and a romantic rooftop garden bar.

The large guestrooms, some with balconies, others with rosewood canopy beds, feature crisp white monogrammed linens and luxe Carrara marble and teak floored bathrooms. Mod cons number LED television with satellite and movie channels, iPod docking station and free WiFi. The mini bar is stocked with complimentary soft drinks. In-room massages and the services of a personal trainer are also available.

#### WHERE TO EAT

The JK Cafe Lounge, Bar & Restaurant offers Roman specialties, including fried artichokes and spaghetti carbonara prepared with ingredients sourced at the nearby farmers market. Try executive chef Antonio Martucci's signature Gnocchi Cacio & Pepe (homemade potato gnocchi with local pecorino and black pepper, topped with cardamom powder). Or the J.K.Burger, a house-baked bun filled with prime Fassone beef from Piedmont, melted cheddar and Tuscan bacon.

If you fancy a night out: Try Taverna Trilusa (in the Trastevere area), Ristorante Pierluigi (in Campo de' Fiori) or Da Felice (in Testaccio).

#### DON'T MISS

A movie alfresco. Beginning next summer, the hotel's rooftop terrace bar will screen Fellini classics.

#### STAND-OUT FEATURE

The hotel library is the perfect place to escape Rome's busy streets.

#### CONCIERGE'S TIP

Book a private visit to the hidden "Meridiana" Roman clock built more than 2000 years ago. In 2014, Rome is celebrating 2000 years since the death of Augustus and there are many special tours planned relating to the first Roman Emperor, says J.K. Roma's concierge.

#### BEST RATE

Rooms from 700 Euro a night including taxes, buffet breakfast and complimentary mini-bar. More: + 39 06 982 634; [www.lhw.com](http://www.lhw.com) (<http://www.lhw.com>).