An urban oasis in the magical city of Florence, this grand Renaissance hotel enchants guests with its timeless art, lush gardens and luxurious modern amenities. Photography by Barbara Kraft.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL FIRENZE



While embracing its rich historic past, The Four Seasons Hotel Firenze in Florence, Italy offers guests the finest in luxurious and modern amenities.

TEXT BY **SUSAN SHERMAN**
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **FOUR SEASONS HOTELS LIMITED**

In a centuries-old European country anointed with beauty and intrigue, this lavish hotel rich with historic sights and sounds, provides the superior amenities of a modern-day, 5-star resort, yet transcends time in an elegant, Old World setting. The Four Seasons Hotel Firenze in Florence, Italy, is part of the renowned Four Seasons chain of the world's finest hotels. Now considered a "metropolitan oasis," the magnificent property was once a 16th-century renaissance palace of Florentine nobles named "Palazzo Scala Della Gherardesca," before joining the Four Seasons family in 2008. The exquisite 710,000-square-foot property with a one-acre, lush private park has been restored with period architectural details, frescos and regal interiors with furnishings by famed interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon.

Whether a stay in the 500-year-old main house or the 16th-century converted convent, "Conventino," each of the elegantly appointed, 72 guest rooms and 22 suites, many surrounded by

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ABOVE: As the sun sets on the Arno River, guests savor the stunning view from the Ponte Vecchio, Florence's signature arch bridge, that can be seen from the hotel's exclusive open-air terrace. Photography by Richard Waite.



IN THE REGAL ROYAL SUITE, AN ELEGANTLY APPOINTED DINING ROOM WITH A SOARING FRESCOED CEILING COMFORTABLY SEATS EIGHT.

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private gardens or views of the Palazzo's courtyard, are designed to feel welcoming and comfortable. Created in soft traditional or brightly hued palettes with walls adorned in charming streetscapes, classical art, friezes and hand-painted sculptures mingle with modern amenities such as spacious vanities with marble, European soaking tubs and ultra-soft duvets.

Indulge in a renaissance-style romantic dinner on the fourth-floor open-air private terrace on the Ponte Vecchio, Florence's signature arch bridge. Sample authentic flavors with the freshest homegrown ingredients at one of the hotel's three restaurants and bars that feature traditional

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RIGHT: The Noble Suite offers magnificent views of the hotel's landscape. The frescoed vaulted ceiling in the bedroom and the breathtaking paneled and gold decorated ceiling in the living room, lend this suite an authentic Renaissance feel with modern day comforts. Photography by Barbara Kraft.



LEFT: Originally planted as a Renaissance garden in the 15th century, the garden, "Giardino," has been restored to its 19th-century design presenting a showcase of botanical plants, as well as original statues and the Kaffeehaus, a small iconic temple and pavilion. Photography by Barbara Kraft.

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and contemporary European cuisine under the direction of Executive Chef, Vito Mollica. Complement your meal with a Tuscan wine from the hotel's own winery, the centerpiece of its Il Palagio restaurant.

A personal oasis inspired by the beauty of Italy, the spa offers signature services in 10 treatment rooms designed in traditional cream and gold tones. Indulge in a deep-soaking tub crafted from a single piece of pietra serena sandstone or relax in the grand spa couple's suite with floor-to-ceiling windows that overlooks a private garden. The hotel's outdoor pool, whirlpool, steam room and relaxation lounge enhance the total resort experience. For more information, please call +39 (055) 2626 1 or visit www.fourseasons.com.