

**FLORENCE**

Hot Chefs,  
Shops, Museums

**HAWAII**

The Big Island's  
Big Adventure

**BERLIN**

24 Hours in the  
Capital of Cool

**READERS'  
CHOICE  
AWARDS**

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL // NOVEMBER 2012

CONDENASTTRAVELER.COM  
YOUR DAILY TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE

TOP

# 1000

## BEST IN THE WORLD!

### HOTELS • ISLANDS • CITIES • CRUISES • AIRLINES

(Rated by 47,000 of the most discerning travelers on earth)



#### **PIG HEAVEN**

22 KNOCKOUT  
MEALS IN  
THE SOUTH  
(Pork, grits, the works)

p. 182

#### **IRELAND**

5 PERFECT DAYS  
IN DUBLIN  
AND BEYOND  
(A step-by-step guide)

p. 95



#### **SERENITY NOW!**

9 GLORIOUS PLACES  
WHERE YOU  
CAN'T BE REACHED  
(No Wi-Fi, no e-mail, no nothing)

p. 67

PG. **172**  
NOVEMBER 2012  
CONDÉ NAST  
TRAVELER

FOR THE TENTH  
CONSECUTIVE YEAR,  
FLORENCE WAS VOTED  
THE NO. 1 EUROPEAN  
CITY IN OUR READERS'  
CHOICE POLL.

**TWO FOR THE ROAD** There's nothing like tootling through the Uffizi's courtyard in a vintage Fiat rented via the 500 Touring Club (500touringclub.com); get there before 8:30 A.M., while the tourists and vendors are still asleep. Her dress by Dior, shoes by Jimmy Choo, watch by Cartier, bangle by Amrapali. His jacket and pants by Calvin Klein, shirt by Brunello Cucinelli, watch by Audemars Piguet. Luggage by Prada.



# A New Romance

Florence's masterpieces are forever (we hope). But there is now something new mixing up with the old in that Renaissance jewel on the Arno—edgy architecture, avant-garde art shows, airily updated hotels. Opposites do indeed attract.

Style Director **Mark Connolly** matches the mood

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
**Frédéric Lagrange**




"This is a kind of grave radiance—a harmony of high tints—which I scarce know how to describe"

—Henry James, *Italian Hours*

**POP ART** A fashionable crowd comes to J.K. Place hotel for its quiet, cozy ambience. And the new opera house (opposite) has a stark facade that belies its cocoon-like interiors. Her shirt and pants by Ports, shoes by Christian Louboutin, bag by Victor Hugo, bracelets by De Beers, Roberto Coin, Shashi, Jook & Nona, Rebecca Norman, and Tateossian (right wrist), necklace and pendant by Elizabeth Locke, necklace by Adeler, watch by Longines, ring by House of Lavande.

**Opposite:** Her dress by Carolina Herrera, shoes by Converse, hat by Dorfman Pacific. His jacket by Bottega Veneta, pants by James Jeans, shoes by Converse, hat by Eugenia Kim. Hair and makeup by Fabiana Clavario at Face to Face Agency.



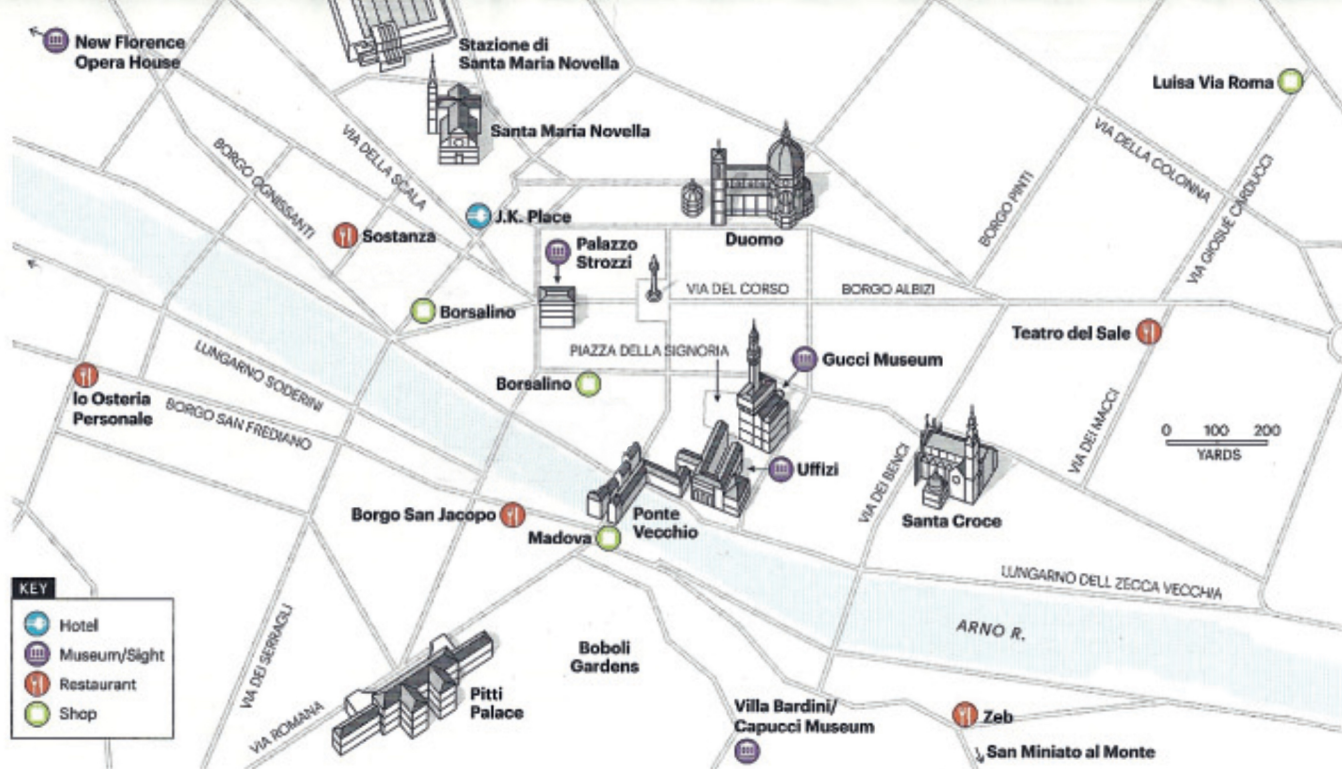


**FLAIR ON THE STAIR**

Florentines cycle to the Basilica di San Miniato al Monte, an eleventh-century cathedral with terraced stairs that lead up the area's highest hill. Her jumpsuit by Fendi, shoes by Jimmy Choo, clutch by Kate Spade, sunglasses by Karen Walker, necklace and ring by House of Lavande, watch by Cartier. For information and stores, see "Where to Buy It," page 198.

"Open my heart and you will see  
Graved inside of it, 'Italy'"

—Robert Browning



## PLACES & PRICES

### Fresh Florence

Italy's most romantic city is being infused with the energy of emerging architects, artists, and chefs, adding the verve of audacious new ideas—the tilted-box-shaped opera house and buzzy new museums add to the reliable loveliness that has made Florence a treasured destination for centuries. The best time to go is fall, when the summer crowds have abated and it's harvest time for olives, grapes, and white truffles.

*The country code for Italy is 39. Prices quoted are for November 2012.*

#### LODGING

**Hotel** **Il Gallo Nero** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Vecchio** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Strozzi** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Medici** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Rucellai** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Serragli** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Soderini** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Tornabuoni** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Vecchio** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Strozzi** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Medici** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Rucellai** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Serragli** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Soderini** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant. **Hotel Palazzo Tornabuoni** (055-264-1111) is a 15th-century palazzo with a courtyard, 100 rooms, and a restaurant.

The more intimate 20-room **J.K. Place** has become the fashionable favorite. Behind its unassuming facade are cozy, elegant rooms with wood floors, framed illustrations, and Louis XV fireplaces. It occupies a particularly beautiful pedestrian piazza, Santa Maria Novella (055-264-5181; doubles from \$414).

The more intimate 20-room **J.K. Place** has become the fashionable favorite. Behind its unassuming facade are cozy, elegant rooms with wood floors, framed illustrations, and Louis XV fireplaces. It occupies a particularly beautiful pedestrian piazza, Santa Maria Novella (055-264-5181; doubles from \$414).