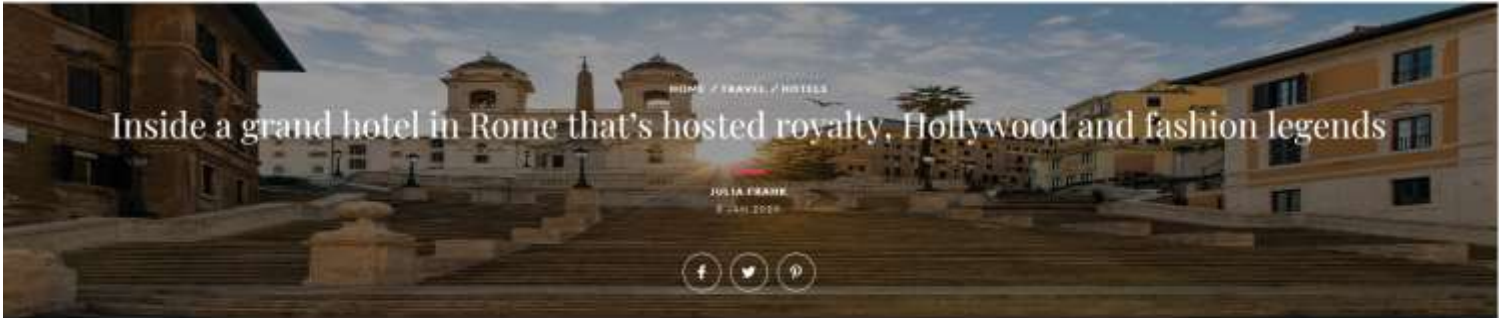


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Hassler hotel attracts A-list guests but it's the location that will take your breath away.

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After the 24-hour-plus journey from Australia, walking into the courtyard of Hassler hotel, with its ivy-covered stone walls and bubbling fountain, is a welcome antidote to moisture-sapping airplane cabins and disorientating jetlag of long-haul flying. Hassler, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, opened in 1893 and retains its old-world grandeur, thanks to being privately owned and operated. Owner, President and General Manager Roberto E. Wirth is a fifth-generation Swiss hotelier, whose family—the Burcher-Wirth hotel dynasty—became co-owners of the hotel in 1921 (later becoming sole owners).

The hotel, which sits atop the Eternal City's Spanish Steps has played host to royalty, celebrities, politicians, artists, musicians, thought-leaders and discerning travellers. Over the years, its famous guests have included the Kennedys, the Beckhams, Prince Charles and Princess Diana, Prince Rainier of Monaco and Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Steve Jobs, Nicole Kidman, Karl Lagerfeld, Anna Wintour, and Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes (who stayed there ahead of their wedding at Odescalchi Castle in Bracciano, an hour outside Rome, in 2006).



*The view from Imàgo restaurant in Rome, Italy*

In fact, it was Princess Diana who went to the hotel's Hassler Bar for its signature 'Veruschka' Bellini, a mix of champagne and pomegranate juice. There is also Hassler Bistrot, an all-day dining option on the ground floor with seating in the Palm Court courtyard during summer and the elegant Salone Eva drawing room in the winter. On the hotel's sixth floor is Imàgo, a Michelin-starred rooftop restaurant, which was the city's first-ever panoramic dining destination when it opened in the 1940s. Today, its menu is overseen by executive chef and native Roman Andrea Antonini.



*A suite at the Hassler hotel in Rome, Italy*

Of the hotel's 87 rooms, 21 are suites, decorated with Venetian lamps, Murano glass chandeliers, 19th-century mirrors, French crystal, Limoges porcelain, tapestries, trompe l'oeil paintings, mosaics, frescoes, all in a colour scheme of grey, beige, white, ochre and Pompeian red (the colours of Rome). My room had views overlooking the Spanish Steps down to Piazza di Spagna, with a walk-in wardrobe, marble bathroom with bath and separate shower. If you book the Penthouse Suite, you'll have three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a bar, living and dining room, full-sized kitchen and terrace spread over 330 square metres. The interiors are decorated with Hermès fabrics in grey, burgundy and orange and custom-made fine bone china tableware made specifically for the suite. There is also a private direct elevator and an on-call butler.



*A bathtub with a view at the Hassler hotel in Rome, Italy*

What's more, the hotel's Amorvero Spa has a sauna, steam room, gym with cardio machines and weights (a personal trainer can be booked upon request), and treatment rooms for massages. To top it all off, famed hairdresser Rossano Ferretti's Rome salon is inside the hotel, while master perfumer Lorenzo Dante Ferro, a famous Italian "nose", created an exclusive fragrance for the hotel, Amorvero Perfume, with notes of jasmine, tuberose and damask rose alongside bergamot, lemon, mandarin, sandalwood, amber and vanilla.



A balcony at the Hassler hotel in Rome, Italy



Hotel Hassler in Rome, Italy, overlooks the Spanish Steps

Visit: [hotelhasslerroma.com](http://hotelhasslerroma.com)