

Hotel Bristol Palace

ITALY



Genoa is Italy at its finest. An endearing mix of architecture, cuisine and art, the city's been shaped by a rich and complex history. Straddling the northwest coast, its rugged profile scattered with watercolour villages clinging to the rocks, it's hard to resist the charm of the Ligurian capital. Located at the edge of the UNESCO-protected Old City is the Hotel Bristol Palace, set among the tangle of shady *caruggi* (laneways) that spill out to the 16th-century Via Garibaldi and the Palazzi dei Rolli.

Ever since its doors first opened in 1905, the Hotel Bristol Palace has drawn an impressive crowd, with some of its more well-known guests over the years ranging from Emperor Hirohito to Alfred Hitchcock. So taken was Hitchcock by Bristol Palace, in fact, that the hotel's centrepiece — a marble and wrought-iron spiral staircase that appears to be suspended in space — was said to be, in part, the inspiration for his 1958 psychological thriller, *Vertigo*.

Nowadays, the Art Nouveau building has been completely refreshed for the 21st century; its 133 rooms and suites retain their historic elegance

while remaining stylishly modern, and are fitted with all the latest mod-cons. The refined Restaurant Giotto serves up aromatic plates of traditional Ligurian cuisine — think risotto with radicchio and raschera (Italian cheese), ravioli of scallop over shellfish bisque, and Castelmagno and pumpkin soufflé with truffle. Come summer, there's the chance to wine and dine on the restaurant's private terrace, soaking up the dusky glamour of an Italian sunset.

One of the Bristol's most attractive assets is surely its location: the vanilla-hued hotel stands proudly on the Via XX Settembre, one of Genoa's most prestigious streets, just seconds from the mighty fountain of the Piazza de Ferrari. Beyond, the city streets and squares are lined with some of the best restaurants, museums and churches in this part of Italy. Travellers can discover the city's aquarium, the Venetian-Gothic-style Palazzo Ducale and its museums and, a little further away, Cinque Terre's colour-splashed string of centuries-old villages clinging to the coastline of the Italian Riviera.

NEED TO KNOW

KEY FACILITIES

- 133 rooms and suites
- Giotto Restaurant
- Outdoor terrace during the summer
- Cocktail bar
- Valet parking
- 24-hour reception
- Concierge service

GET IN TOUCH

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Don't miss // The marble staircase with its wrought-iron banister, which is said to have inspired Alfred Hitchcock's film *Vertigo*