

Cognoscenti magazine

Because life is short

Hotel d'Inghilterra Rome, Italy

For more than 150 years now, **Hotel d'Inghilterra** has been a favored Roman lodging destination for such prominent visitors as Henry James, Ernest Hemingway and Mark Twain. Today its bar, considered "a corner of England in the heart of Rome," is still a favorite watering hole of Rome's fashion and entertainment industry insiders.

Situated in a building which dates (in part) back to the sixteenth century, this is a charm hotel and not a palace; the hallways are rather narrow and some of the guest rooms are definitely on the smallish side. But the advantages of staying here are clear: location, location, location—and excellent personal attention from the hotel staff. Set in the Golden Triangle on a quiet side street half a block away from eminently posh Via Condotti and only a couple of hundred meters from the famed Spanish Steps, Hotel d'Inghilterra's location is as good as it gets. The service team here also deserves special note: We watched one guest services manager expertly soothe a ruffled customer, quickly recognizing their problem and allowing them to vent their feelings before finding a mutually felicitous solution.

Upstairs are 98 air-conditioned guest rooms, all with satellite TV, mini-bar and mini-safe. Divided by double doors, the suite occupied by **Cognoscenti**

Magazine editors was decorated in carmine-colored wall-to-wall carpet, with matching sofa that could have done with some re-upholstery. Darkly stained wooden furniture and a solid writing desk completed the furnishings. The bathroom was also nice, with a combination bath/shower and veined black, yellow and

white marble. What we liked best, however, was the intimate view over the pedestrian-only shopping street below. (Some rooms on the fourth and fifth floors offer private-view balconies as well.)

With the windows closed, our room was very quiet but for the occasional, civilized murmur of shoppers' voices.

On the ground floor there are a number of nice sitting rooms, and breakfast is served daily in the frescoed **Roman Garden** downstairs.

The hotel's **Café Romano** overlooks trendy Via Borgogna. It offers a rather new dining concept, at least for Rome: continuous dining service from 10 a.m. until after theatre hours every night. Here, intrepid diners can take a whirlwind tour of global cuisines ranging from Japanese to Indian and far beyond—all without leaving the comfort of their chairs. Chef Rodolfo Chieronni keeps the menu excitingly



A luxurious suite at the hotel

eclectic with offerings like Lebanese *mezzeh*, Thai green chicken curry and California-style Cioppino.

During our visit, many of the chef's dishes hit their marks. We enjoyed a plate of good cold veal brightened with mixed salad and truffle oil. *Insalata asiatica di pesce* featured grilled tuna with rocket leaves, cucumber and tomato in vinaigrette. Chicken *tikka*, served with cucumber and red pepper and a side dish of basmati rice, was authentically Indian in flavor. On the seafood side, king prawns were delicately fried, Greek-style, in Kataifi butter.

The wine card featured a limited but interesting selection of New as well as Old World wines, including selections from Chile, California, and Australia. A little volatile right out of the bottle, a well-built *Allegri* Amarone 1998 opened after a few minutes to reveal excellent ripe fruit. A fine dessert assortment of apple strudel, New York cheesecake, and rich chocolate mousse showed this chef knows how to keep sophisticated diners happy to the end of their meals.



Ideal shopping location

This article was written by contributing editors to *Cognoscenti Magazine*.

© 2004 *Cognoscenti Magazine*

Hotel d'Inghilterra

Via Bocca di Leone, 14

00187 Rome

Italy

Tel: 39 (0)6 699-811

Web: www.hoteldinghilterraroma.it

Email: reservation.hir@royaldemeure.com