

I want to wake up with you in... the Residenza Napoleone III suite, Rome

When it comes to bed and breakfasts, the Residenza Napoleone III is at the very top of the scale. Situated in the Palazzo Ruspoli on Via Condotti, Rome's most exclusive shopping street, it's named after the emperor Napoleon III, who lived here in 1830. An arcade of Doric columns with busts of Roman emperors and a sweeping marble staircase lead you up to the entrance of these magnificent rooms, which are all dripping with antique furnishings, luxurious drapery and 16th century tapestries. Hidden behind large oil paintings in the bedroom are doors that lead to a marble bathroom and small kitchen and the welcome pack includes fresh fruit and chianti from the landlady's family vineyard in Tuscany. Guests have their own soft-footed personal butler who lays out breakfast in the dining room and will turn down the canopied bed, light the log fire, put on a classical CD from the substantial music library and leave fragrant candles burning, making it the perfect escape from the modern world. You could almost start to believe that you've both been transported back in time – at least until you hit all those fabulous Italian shops the following day. ■

A ticket to paradise

The Residenza Napoleone III suite costs from £529 per night, including breakfast. Contact Chic Retreats on 020-7978 7164 (www.chicretreats.com)

