

# ELLE

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MARCH 2004  
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**357  
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**THE BOUDOIR  
SECRETS  
OF AN A-LIST  
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**SUPERMODELS'  
BARGAIN  
BEAUTY BUYS**

*Sexy*

**8** **WHERE?** Shutters on the Beach, Santa Monica, California, USA. **WHAT'S IT LIKE?** Relaxed, luxurious seaside chic right by the sands.

**WHICH ROOM?** Our yummy suite had partial views over the sea and Santa Monica Pier. Insist on a sea view. **WHAT MADE IT SO SPECIAL?** The unpretentious luxury – like the home you wish you had. Our huge suite with its huge bed, two TVs, two bathrooms and comfy living room with open fireplace. Waking up, pulling back the shutters and gazing at the sea, sand and sunshine. The top-notch room service. The excellent restaurant,



**BELLE OF THE BEACH** romance and chic at the Shutters (this photo) **LIGHT YOUR FIRE!** rooey, home-grown luxury (above left)



One Pico – a good spot for proposals... **PERFECT MOMENTS** Holding hands at breakfast while watching the palm trees sway. Sauntering along the beach afterwards. Wandering round the nearby Abbott Kinney Boulevard: a funky, gentrified area full of cool shops and restaurants. Chilling out in the slouchy couches by the flickering fires in the lobby. *Shutters on the Beach, One Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California, USA. Doubles from £246 per night exc breakfast.* **GETTING THERE** Elegant Resorts offers four nights from £1,335 per person, based on two people sharing, inc BA flights from Heathrow and private car transfers; enq (01244) 897222; www.elegantresorts.co.uk. American Airlines offers flights to Los Angeles once a day from £325 inc tax; enq (0845) 778 9789; www.americanairlines.com.

**RACHAEL PHILIPPS**

**9** **WHERE?** No 12, Cirencester, England. **WHAT'S IT LIKE?** A Grade II, Georgian Cotswold townhouse. The five stylish rooms mix traditional and modern: think Farrow & Ball paints, antique brass or mahogany sleigh beds and purple velvet chairs.

**WHICH ROOM?** We stayed in the romantic Mullings Room with its extra-long sleigh bed piled high with fluffy pillows and snuggly blankets, plus bathroom with a bath big enough for two.

**WHAT MADE IT SO SPECIAL?** Nelson Brown toiletries and soft towelling robes. Personal attention from owner Sarah Beckenridge, who had our car valet-parked, served tasty organic breakfasts in the deep red dining room and booked dinner for us in the nearby Smith's Bistro (fresh fish on a wood-fired stove).

**PERFECT MOMENTS** The candlelit bath for two – wow! And the price – a bargain at £70 bdp for two. No 12, 12 Park Street, Cirencester.

Glos, GL7 2BY, England; enq (01295) 840232; www.no12cirencester.co.uk (No 12 is featured in *Alastair Sawley's Special Places to Stay: British Historic Inns and Other Places* (£13.99) – an excellent guide to cheap and chic places.) *Jessie's Bistro, The Stationer, Blackjack Street, Cirencester; enq (01295) 841497.*

**NICKI DUPIN**



**MAKING THE GRADE** The divine No 12 mixes old with new, luxury with comfort



**LA VITA GRANDE** sitting room, palazzo style (this photo) **BELLA BOUDOIR** the princess-and-the-pea bed (below)

**10** **WHERE?** La Residenza Napoleone III, Rome, Italy. **WHAT'S IT LIKE?** Your home-from-home apartment in Rome – if you normally live in a romantic 16th-century palazzo with a silk-canopied bed, gilded antique mirrors, marble bathroom, oil paintings of frolicking nymphs, your own personal butler – and your corner shop is Dolce & Gabbana and your local caff was once frequented by Byron.

**WHICH ROOM?** This is not an hotel, but a pass-me-the-smelling-salts sumptuous apartment in the Palazzo Ruspoli. The 73ft x 77ft bedroom and two huge reception rooms, plus bathroom, powder room, wardrobe room and kitchenette are all yours.

**WHAT MADE IT SO SPECIAL?** The pure sensual pleasure of such exquisite, sexy surroundings: the princess-and-the-pea bed; the antique lace in a girly Napoleonic dressing-table drawer; the elegant Chianti Classico from the Ruspoli family's own estate. The personal homely touches: breakfasting off the family silver; the principessa owner kindly booking us restaurant tables. Watching *Roman Holiday* on video in bed. Being located on, in effect, Bond Street.

**PERFECT MOMENTS** Designer-window shopping by moonlight while nibbling on fresh roasted chestnuts from a stall outside Gucci. Strolling through winding streets to the beautiful ancient Pantheon. Discovering the deli-end-cafe-rieh via della Croce (just behind Prada) and slipping into its darkly romantic wine bar, L'Antica Enoteca. Gazing on Rafael's ravishing lover and muse *La Fornarina*, who doesn't quite hide her naked breasts from view, at the Palazzo Barberini.

Taking a taxi over the Tiber to hip Trastevere for washing-on-the-line photo ops, pizza, bars and *raguzzi* on Vespas. Falling back in time at the house of Livia on the tranquil Palatine Hill. She may have poisoned her husband, Augustus Caesar, but she had a lovely eye for interiors. *La Residenza Napoleone III, Largo Goldoni, 56-00186 Rome. Around £830 per night inc breakfast; enq (00 39 347) 733 7096 www.prestigiousrome.com.*

**GETTING THERE**

Easyjet flies from Stansted to Rome from £41 return inc taxes; enq (0871 7) 500100.

**MARION JONES**



LA RESIDENZA NAPOLEONE III PHOTOGRAPHY DOMENICO FARUCCI