

# Accommodations

## *A pleasant stay in one of Italy's hotels*

Italy welcomes visitors with a varied range of hotels to fit all needs and budgets – each place is characterized by unmistakable Italian hospitality and warmth.

There are thousands of hotels in Italy, more than 40,000 to be exact, without counting Bed & Breakfasts (an officially recognized guest room in a private home) and *Agriturismos* (farmhouse accommodations). It's also possible to stay in convents or other religious institutions, castles, villas, youth hostels and even in *trulli* (a traditional Apulian stone dwelling with a conical roof).

When looking for a place to stay remember that rates include taxes and service fees; the IVA (added-value tax, currently 10%) should be added to the total amount.

### Hotels - the star system

First thing you notice when you walk into an Italian hotel, right next to the front door, is a sign with some stars on it. These little stars are an indication of the quality of the hotel you are going to stay at. Most of the ratings, ranging from one-star to five-star, are provided by the government and are a quantitative measure used to determine the price range (and sometimes the tax obligation) of a hotel. The "star system" can be a bit confusing as different European countries, and even Italian cities, have different procedures for designating how many stars a hotel deserves. A three-star hotel in Milan can be more expensive than a five-star hotel in Assisi, for example.

Generally speaking, a four-star hotel will indeed cost more than a one-star in the same city. The four-star hotel will have more services and amenities. The one-star will usually be very basic. In other words, they consist of a bed, and the bathroom might have to be shared.

Basic rooms in a two-star hotel offer private baths and most of the time include television, a phone and occasionally even a mini bar. Each mini bar must be accompanied by a price list. Prices tend to be high if compared to those of regular bars and grocery stores.

Hotel rates are usually lower during the off-season months – March to November in resort centers and big cities; April to May and September to November at ski resorts.

The ITPC has selected hotels that perfectly fit American standards. For more information [www.italyhotels.it](http://www.italyhotels.it)

### Extra Services

Phone calls, fax and internet service, laundry, and other services, such as money exchange, are available for extra fees. For self-service laundry, a much cheaper option, the site [www.ondablu.com](http://www.ondablu.com) lists laundromats, region by region, that are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., including on festival days.

Not all hotels offer air conditioning, check before reserving a room.

### Electrical Appliances



If you are carrying any electrical appliances, like a hair dryer or a laptop, you should have a transformer because the voltage is different (220). Check the local voltage with the hotel. In addition, plugs have two round-pronged plugs, making an adapter plug necessary.

### Discounts

Always check the hotel website for last minute deals and special offers. Some hotels in Rome offer lower weekend rates, while in Venice discounts are given for weekday stays.



Top: First thing you notice when you walk into an Italian hotel is a sign with some stars on it.  
Bottom: There are thousands of hotels in Italy, more than 40,000 to be exact.  
*Photo courtesy of Is Morus Relais.*