

With a hidden entrance on a side street near the Piazza Borghese, JK Place is the smart traveller's urban hideaway. Formerly the city's school of architecture, the hotel has a beautiful glass-roofed lobby lined with classical statues, and there's an array of glossy art books in the library. Classrooms have been transformed into 30 elegant bedrooms and suites, whose polished-wood panelling and moody hues were inspired by Tom Ford's A Single Man. Downstairs, there's a superb bar for an aperitivo, with Massimo Listri photographs adding to the sophisticated ambience. From £310 a room a night (www.jkroma.com).



This one-time bank headquarters dates back to the 1870s, and its superb location facing the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II makes it the ideal base from which to explore the sights of Milan. The bedrooms, decorated in a muted palette accented by chic furniture, set the scene for a relaxing stay, while the new Spa by Sisley provides Turkish baths, holistic treatments and a luxurious chill-out area. At the top of the hotel, the Duomo Suite has a panoramic terrace and Jacuzzi, giving guests a taste of the high life.

From about £625 a room a night (www.milan.park.hyatt.com).



Brown's Hotel

Brown's is the place where Agatha Christie stayed and Alexander Graham Bell made the first-ever telephone call. After a day exploring Mayfair, retreat to your room at the hotel to unwind in a bubble bath surrounded by twinkling Bisazza mosaics and Carrara marble. Dine at Hix Mayfair, where the best of British food meets the best of British art (Tracey Emin and Bridget Riley works adorn the walls), then retire to the atmospheric Donovan Bar for a nightcap.

From £405 a room a night (www.roccofortehotels.com).



Ni COPENHAGE

Nimb Copenhagen, denmark

Originally built as a fantasy Arabian castle to exhibit arts and crafts in the Tivoli Gardens, Nimb features recently upgraded interiors that are a perfect example of Nordic design. The 17 uniquely decorated rooms and suites have ebony-wood four-poster beds, crisp white linen and Bang & Olufsen technology, and many have exceptionally pretty views overlooking the world-famous pleasure gardens, to which guests have complimentary access. A testament to its popularity, the Nimb was declared the Small Luxury Hotels of the World's Hotel of the Year. From about £335 a room a night (www.nimb.dk). The Harper's Bazaar Experience: a private guided tour of the Tivoli Gardens and a classic Danish lunch in Fru Nimb for two. Ring Small Luxury Hotels of the World (0800 048 2314) and quote 'Harper's Bazaar' to book.*

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