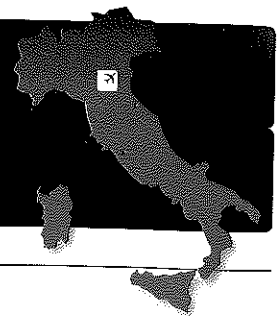


ITALY Population 61,016,804 Currency Euro GDP† €21,100 Dialling code +39

# BOLOGNA



Airport code BLQ Flight frequency Twice daily Average temp (Sep) 20°C

Things are cooling down to a more manageable temperature in Bologna, and there's still plenty going on in September. If you're in town early in the month, catch the Arctic Monkeys and Kasabian at the I-Day Festival (3-4 September, [independente.com/iday](http://independente.com/iday)), while later in the month try the Artelibro art-book festival (23-25 September, [artelibro.it](http://artelibro.it)). **Matt Barker** is our city guide

## VIA UGO BASSI

This busy shopping street cuts through the medieval maze of Bologna's centro.

**EAT** **Ristorante al Pappagallo** (3C Piazza della Mercanzia, tel. 051 232807) is Toscanini's old stomping ground and still serves a mean cut of veal *alla bolognese* - plus white chocolate cake with liquorice sauce for dessert. **Da Nello al Montegrappa** (2 Via Monte Grappa, tel. 051 236331) is a much-loved trattoria with classic menu to match the old-school staff. Pride of the kitchen is the meaty pasta dish *tortellini Montegrappa*.

**CULTURE** **Museo Civico Medievale** (4 Via Manzoni) is an excellent museum in a 15th-century palazzo, which will tell you all you need to know about this endlessly fascinating city's scraps and scrapes in the Middle Ages.

**SHOP** **Mercato dell'Erbe** (25 Via Ugo Bassi, closed Thursdays and Saturday afternoons) is an indoor market selling a huge variety of local foodstuff; stock up on oil and balsamic vinegar, or gorge on cheese. Department store **Upim** (6 Via Ugo Bassi) is always worth a look for bargain cashmere and other knitwear.

**TIP** The **San Luca Express** is a new tourist train that takes you on a tour of the city and out to the Basilica of



Luxuriate in the sumptuous surroundings of an 18th-century palazzo at Grand Hotel Majestic

## INFO

Guglielmo Marconi airport is 6km from the city centre.

**Bus** A shuttle bus runs from the airport to the central train station every 15 minutes. It takes about 20 minutes and costs €5.

**Taxi** The journey to the city centre takes 20-30 minutes and will set you back about €18.

**Tourist office** The main office is in Piazza Maggiore (tel. 051 239660, [bolognatourismo.info](http://bolognatourismo.info)).

San Luca (and back). For details, including prices and the timetable, visit [comune.bologna.it](http://comune.bologna.it).

## VIA DELL'INDIPENDENZA

This main artery leads from the station to the heart of the centro.

**SLEEP** **Grand Hotel Majestic 'già Baglioni'** (8 Via Indipendenza, tel. 051 225445, [grandhotelmajestic.duetorrihotels.com](http://grandhotelmajestic.duetorrihotels.com), rooms from €212) is a historic, five-star bolthole that's recently had a facelift. Ask for one of the deluxe rooms on the renovated fourth floor to enjoy oodles of space.

**EAT** **Diana** (24 Via dell'Indipendenza, tel. 051 231302) is a hushed, formal dining room, where you can pick from the selection of boiled meats on the service trolley (better than it sounds) or go for the classic *tagliatelle alla bolognese*.

**Caminetto d'Oro** (4-6 Via de' Falegnami, tel. 051 263494) is more modern, with natty designer touches; menu highlights include the baked guinea fowl with balsamic vinegar sauce and vegetables.

**LATER** **S-wine Bar** (24 Via Augusto Righi) is a great little place, all nicely cluttered woody interiors, with

knowledgeable, chatty staff and a serious wine selection. **Osteria dell'Orsa** (1F Via Mentana), over towards the university district, is a great spot for a drink while rubbing shoulders with lively Bolognese natives.

## CAVOUR

On the edge of the centro, this is a well-heeled quarter with a slightly bookish air.

**EAT** **Da Cesari** (8 Via de' Carbonesi, tel. 051 237710) is one of the city's best eateries. Around since the 1950s, it still draws an appreciative crowd of locals. The pasta is the stuff of legend, but leave some room for the rabbit with *agrodolce* sauce and olives.

**CULTURE** **Galleria d'Arte Maggiore** (Via Massimo d'Azeglio) is a large exhibition space dedicated to modern and contemporary art, with a wide roster of artists and regularly changing exhibitions. **Basilica of San Domenico** (13 Piazza San Domenico) was built in the 13th century and is home to the incredible tomb of St Dominic, featuring the handiwork of Michelangelo.

**SHOP** **Galleria Cavour** provides a suitably glitzy home to various top-end designer labels: **Gucci** is at number 9, **Bulgari** at number 8, **Emporio Armani** at 7 and **Prada** at 1. Just round the corner, **Il Marchese Coccapani** (34/36 Via D'Azeglio) is an equally chichi, though more traditional, women's fashion house.

**LATER** **Godot Wine Bar** (12 Via Cartoleria) has over 1,000 bottles, with a decent global spread and some excellent nibbles to soak it all up. **Circolo Pickwick** (77A Via San Felice) is a popular cocktail bar with a jazzy soundtrack.

## CHRISTOPHE'S BOLOGNA TIP

"I adore Bologna: the food, the secret gardens, the palaces!"

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