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Grand Hotel Majestic già Baglioni

Bologna, Italy [View on a map](#)



9/10

Telegraph expert rating

"Bologna's most prestigious hotel lives up to its 100-year reputation with sumptuous interiors furnished with antiques and precious works of art. An enviable position at the heart of the city, an excellent restaurant with frescoes by the Carracci school and a hospitable atmosphere all make for a memorable stay."

9/10

Style & character

The 18th-century palazzo which houses the hotel was originally built as a seminary by a locally-born pope-to-be (Benedict XIV), and transformed into a hotel over 100 years ago. As Emilia Romagna's only five-star deluxe hotel it attracts visiting royalty, politicians and celebrities, and interiors live up to expectations with splendid antique furniture, sculptures, paintings and prints, along with fresh flowers, rich fabrics and marble floors. There are 16th-century frescoes by the Carracci school in the restaurant and a first-floor meeting room, both former parts of the adjacent renaissance Palazzo Fava (which is now a museum).



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9/10

Service & facilities

The hotel staff seem genuinely proud of their work and hit the right balance between friendly and professional, creating a warm, hospitable atmosphere that never tips over into stiff formality. There is a small fitness area with state-of-the-art Technogym equipment, sauna and steam room, while massages and beauty treatments can be booked. The ground-floor bar area is pleasant but the first-floor terraces, with lush jasmine pergolas, are especially inviting – ideal for relaxing with a drink. There are seven meeting rooms, a computer and printer for guests' use. The 1pm check-out time is generous and full concierge services are provided.

- ✔ Bar
- ✔ Laundry
- ✔ Room service
- ✔ Wi-Fi
- ✔ Fitness centre
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Sauna

9_{/10}

Rooms

Each of the 106 rooms is different but they share a classic Italian style, with antique furniture that gleams as new, brocade wall panels and heavy drapes, Murano chandeliers and stucco details. The majority have a delicate colour scheme in pale gold and beige, green or silvery grey, though deeper colours prevail in some. Many of the marble bathrooms have tubs (with whirlpool jets in the Presidential Suites) as well as showers; toiletries are by Trussardi.

Private terraces are a bonus for fourth-floor rooms, with views over terracotta rooftops and the cathedral, while the exclusive Art Deco Suite (the only one in this style, with a black, gold and beige colour scheme) has a spacious roof terrace and views as far as the hills surrounding Bologna. Kettles are standard for the Grand Deluxe category and above, and some rooms have radios with iPhone docking stations. A bedtime story with a local theme is provided as part of the evening turndown service.

8_{/10}

Food & drink

The hotel's I Carracci restaurant maintains the elegant style with silver tableware and fresh flowers plus the impressive 16th-century ceiling frescoes. While the menu is seasonal, traditional favourites such as tortellini and tagliatelle are always available and there are more local specialities, such as lasagne, for Sunday lunch; there's also a trolley of typical boiled meats available Thursday-Sunday. The daily menu includes such dishes as braised pork cheek or scallops with pumpkin and smoked foie gras, plus a few vegetarian options. The wine list carries over 300, mostly Italian, labels and advice on pairings is spot on. Lighter meals are available from the bar all day, and there is a reduced night-time room service menu.

Breakfast, downstairs with some courtyard tables in warmer weather, is a generous buffet with a particularly good selection of cooked foods (mushrooms, rice and mixed vegetables in addition to the usual bacon and egg), local cold cuts and cheeses, fresh bakery products, yogurts, fruit, cereals and jams. Soya and rice milks, a selection of gluten-free products and soya yogurt are provided. Other items, such as omelettes, porridge or smoked salmon, are available for an extra cost.

7_{/10}

Value for money

Double rooms from €350 (£300) in low season; and from €500 (£430) in high. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

A ramp is available for the main entrance and there is a lift to all floors; some bathrooms have step-free showers and can be specially adapted with grab-bars on request.

Family-friendly?

There are interconnecting rooms, extra beds, cots and children's meals. Younger guests are given a soft toy on arrival.

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