

HELVETIA & BRISTOL FIRENZE – STARHOTELS COLLEZIONE
A historic townhouse in the heart of Florence with timeless charm



Famous since the latter half of the 19th century thanks to its exquisite elegance and charming atmosphere, the **Helvetia & Bristol Firenze – Starhotels Collezione** has served as location for the get-together of literati like Gabriele D’Annunzio, Luigi Pirandello, Eugenio Montale and Eleonora Duse, who chose the Hotel as their long-term residence. This historic and magnificent location has over time attracted the international elite. Royal personalities and Nobel prize winners like physicist Enrico Fermi, Bertrand Russell, Igor Stravinsky and Giorgio De Chirico, who during the 18th-19th century visited Italy as part of a European “Grand Tour”. A Florentine historic landmark, it has maintained its role as one of the most prestigious hotels in town and is to this date the preferred destination for the most demanding international guests.

This 19th century palazzo perfectly encapsulates the essence of the cradle of Renaissance, which has been nominated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Originally built in the early 1800s, the Helvetia & Bristol was first opened on June 28th, 1885 by Giacomo Mosca as the very first hotel in Florence, immediately becoming a meeting place for the most distinguished cultural figures of the day, many of whom were regulars at its Winter Garden.

On July 1st, 2016 it became part of Starhotels Collezione. Over time, the building was restored and modernized, though always aiming to conserve its original 19th-century character. The décor is the fruit of a search for objects, furniture and antique furnishings that pair well with the building’s marbles, 17th-century paintings and original parlours.

The hotel shows off the architectural splendour and magnificent original Deco design, which still reflects the atmosphere of an aristocratic Florentine residence of the 1800s.

Thanks to its great location, with the timeless beauty of Brunelleschi's dome in the distance, between Piazza della Repubblica and Via de' Tornabuoni, it is the ideal starting point for visiting the city on foot, discovering its artistic and architectural treasures and immersing in its society events and nightlife. Hotel guests can easily visit the Uffizi, the Accademia or the Medici Chapels. Just across from the main entrance sits Palazzo Strozzi, a masterpiece of Florentine Renaissance architecture. From here, guests can stroll down via de' Tornabuoni, the most exclusive shopping street in Florence. It is also easy to explore the Oltrarno, crossing over one of the city's extraordinary bridges in search of historic palaces, or to dedicate a bit of time to tasting Tuscany's sumptuous culinary heritage.

Additionally, Helvetia & Bristol offers a “**Les Clefs d'Or**” Concierge Desk service to all its guests, open 24/7, 365 days a year. The hotel's ultimate goal is to offer the highest level of hospitality, and to satisfy each request with efficiency, discretion and the utmost courteousness. The hotel also provides a butler service, 24/7 room service, babysitting, valet parking, limousine service and bike rentals.

HELVETIA & BRISTOL TODAY

History meets contemporary flair and excellent service in the heart of Florence

The hotel Helvetia & Bristol is situated in the heart of Florence's historical center, a stone's throw from Palazzo Strozzi, in a 19th century townhouse. The warm atmosphere reminds guests of a private luxurious residence with the added bonus of top notch services. It is unquestionably the symbol of the best Florentine hospitality. The architecturally sober hotel, inspired by Renaissance construction principles, unfolds over a total of five floors, with generous windows enclosed in marble, along with a mezzanine, framed by the arches of the floor below.

The facade overlooking Via degli Strozzi is adorned by a terrace with a metallic railing dating from 1890: above the window opening onto the balcony there is a shield with an unidentified arm - the crest of the Mosca family, who used to own the Palazzo - paired with a title block with the date 1894. Visitors will also notice the angular light fixture in the shape of a griffin, created by the Biondi brothers' foundry in 1925, as stated in the inscription.



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Inside, portraits of the 17th century Italian aristocracy keep watch over the hotel's main lobby, which opens onto the Winter Garden in Liberty style. The lobby's 17th century paintings are part of a 5-piece group depicting the 5 senses of man, and come from the collection of antique dealer Massimo Bartolozzi.



A large staircase, leading up to a corridor reminiscing that of the Vasari, connecting Palazzo Pitti and Palazzo Vecchio, leads up to the floors reserved exclusively for guests – each dotted with antique furniture and details.

Rooms & Suites

Each of the 38 rooms and 29 suites of Helvetia & Bristol is carefully furnished and well curated. Standout elements are the tasteful color combinations that distinguish each room and the original antique furniture, art pieces and paintings. Guests' stays are made even more pleasant by the incredible views over the old city.

Each room has a distinctive personality though a common thread can be found in their classic decor, made of elegantly inlaid tables and Chinese porcelain lamps, precious silk upholstery and 17th century paintings.

From the Double Deluxe, perfectly encapsulating the hotel's innate style, to the Panoramic Suites with their panoramic views over the city rooftops, each room is well equipped to ensure guests enjoy the perfect stay in the heart of Florence.



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At guests' disposal, the **Handy Smartphone** service which offers them the possibility to have a free and unlimited Internet connection and international calls, as well as useful information on means of transport, events not to be missed during their stay, and to be always in contact with the hotel.



Panoramic Suite

Located on the 5th floor, the Panoramic Suites at the Helvetia & Bristol are the hotel's largest rooms, with 56 square meters laid out over two floors, a main marble bathroom with a Jacuzzi and a second smaller one. With their period furniture, precious objects and fine paintings, the Suites echo the style of the Florentine 19th century elite, combining classic elegance and contemporary comfort, with a wonderful view of the Duomo, Giotto's belltower and Palazzo Strozzi.



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Executive Suite

Although the Executive Suites have a family feel they are decorated with beautiful furniture, offering guests fantastic views and the comfort of a private residence. Measuring 50 square meters, these suites include a living room and bedroom. Many Executive Suites face Piazza Strozzi and can be connected to Junior Suites for families with 2 or more children.



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Suite

Our 45-50 square meter Suites, some of which are laid out over two levels with a sitting room and a loft bedroom, all come with a marble bathroom and Jacuzzi. A pleasant color scheme, antique furniture and artistic fixtures come together to convey a sense of serene elegance. Some of the Suites enjoy a view of the streets of Florence's historic center, while others look onto the inner courtyard.



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Executive Junior Suite

The beauty of Florentine art and culture comes to life in the Executive Junior Suites at Helvetia & Bristol. These rooms are decorated with antique furniture, Murano glass chandeliers and period paintings. In a total of 40 square meters, these suites have a large living room area and a marble bathroom with Jacuzzi.



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Junior Suite

The Junior Suites, some with a view of Piazza Strozzi, others facing the quiet indoor courtyard, feature a cozy sitting room with elegant clean-lined sofas, a double bed or two separate beds, early 20th century mirrors, Liberty sconces and a marble bathroom with a Jacuzzi. 34 - 45 square meters where timeless charm and modern comfort meet.



Double Deluxe

In the 28 square meter Double Deluxe rooms, the period furniture and the wall paintings allow guests to dive right into authentic Florentine culture. The refined furnishings and carpeting match the colors and motifs of the curtains, a nod to the timeless grace of aristocratic residences. Some rooms enjoy a view of the city, while others look out over the inner courtyard and can all be connected to a Classic Double room.

Hostaria Bibendum Restaurant

History, art and delicious food: the three cornerstones of Florentine charm are well represented at Helvetia & Bristol.

Many are familiar with the staples of **Tuscan cuisine** - prized Chianina steaks, bean and farro soups, pungent cheese, seasonal vegetables or rustic cakes – but few know that the majority of traditional dishes have maintained their original recipes through the centuries and thus require a bounty of hearty, **genuine ingredients**, mostly hailing from local farmhouses or foraged on the hills, to fully express their flavor. All are better enjoyed if served with a touch of fragrant Tuscan **extravirgin olive oil**, some of the region's typical **unsalted bread**, and of course a bottle of exquisite **Tuscan wine**.



The hotel's restaurant, **Hostaria Bibendum**, is a go-to on the city map for fine Tuscan gastronomy, attended both by locals and by hotel guests.

The restaurant's entrance is on via dei Pescioni on the hotel's ground floor. Guests can choose to have dinner in the main indoor room, the Winter Garden, or in the outdoor patio overlooking Piazza Strozzi.


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A refined decor, exquisite furnishings and discreet and professional service welcome an international clientele. Taking cues from the elegance of Helvetia & Bristol, the restaurant is imbued with contemporary flair, seamlessly combining Liberty-style elements and slightly exotic details. Inside the main dining room engraved chandeliers cast a romantic light, the overall atmosphere a fusion of Art Nouveau and Florentine aesthetics, while the charming outdoor patio provides the perfect setting for open-door lunches and dinners.



At Hostaria Bibendum traditional Tuscan cuisine serves as the starting point for an unforgettable culinary journey, built on a discerning selection of exquisite seasonal ingredients, a passion for local producers and a mastery of uncomplicated cooking, enlivened by a creative, contemporary touch.

Whether it's for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Hostaria Bibendum is sure to charm its guests. In the morning, it's time for a coffee served at the bar with a selection of fine Florentine pastries, cookies and cakes made by local artisanal laboratories, or for a savory breakfast, with omelette, local charcuterie and the traditional Tuscan "schacciata" (flatbread).

On Sundays the Helvetia & Bristol presents "*The Original American Brunch*", a new not-to-be-missed chance to relax among friends in a refined atmosphere. The hotel's interpretation of the signature American brunch features a full egg a la carte menu, homemade breads and pastries, a fine selection of Tuscan cured meats and cheeses, a selection of traditional Tuscan dishes and a special corner for children.

At lunch guests can enjoy a menu of lighter dishes, inspired by the local tradition and by regional products, together with a selection of international classics and gourmet sandwiches.

The menu ranges from pure Tuscan specialties to more contemporary Italian dishes, such as: *smoked wild boar tartare, apple sauce with cinnamon and a cabbage salad with cumin and chips of dried rosemary bread; pork tortelli in a sauce of milk, peas, bacon and liquorice; seabass with almonds, cauliflower and Tahitian vanilla; Duck brushed with honey in a stew of celery root, pears and Sangiovese wine; and mousse al Vin Santo, almond crumble and fiordilatte icecream.*



To accompany the dishes, fine wines are carefully and expertly selected by the house sommelier. Once again, a particular focus is placed on local producers and the finest Italian wines.

The **Hostaria Bibendum** restaurant has an independent entrance at 8r, via dei Pescioni and is open every day from 7.00am to 10.30 am for breakfast, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm for lunch and from 7:30 to 10:30 pm for dinner.

Hostaria Bibendum Bar

Hostaria Bibendum bar has been the choice of the most exclusive Florentine clientele for many years, thanks to its uniquely charming ambience. The Deco furnishings, crystal chandeliers, Baroque mirrors and Liberty-style wall lamps fuse with the warm color scheme for a refined yet informal atmosphere, where guests can enjoy a wide range of cocktails or long drinks prepared by expert bartenders.

In the afternoon different tea blends are served, with a wide range of blends accompanied by savory tarts, homemade cakes, classic Tuscan “cantucci” and artisanal chocolates, all produced by local confectioners and bakers.

At aperitivo time, why not indulge in a flute of Champagne or Prosecco, or choose from the extensive selection of cocktails, though the house favorite and most recent creation is the ***Bubble Chianti***, the Helvetia & Bristol signature cocktail, born from the idea to build a memorable sensory experience around some of the territory’s most excellent products. A mix of Chianti Colli Senesi (75% Sangiovese, 25% Canaiolo), Peter in Florence London Dry Gin, Cinzano 1757 (the first Italian Vermouth) and tonic water, garnished with julianned orange zests and a Maraschino cherry, and served with a Chianina tartare on a spoon. Even the color, a softer version of Chianti red, is perfectly attuned to the bar’s warm interiors.



EVENT SPACES AT HELVETIA & BRISTOL

Innovation and charm for events in the centre of Florence

In the heart of Florence, Helvetia & Bristol provides its guests with the perfect environment for private events, conferences and seminars. Each event is meticulously managed and coordinated with flawless professionalism, satisfying clients’ needs.

The hotel boasts two magnificent event spaces of varying styles and sizes: the Winter Garden and the Sala Strozzi, which can be used for business meetings or private events. Each welcoming and comfortable event space is completely furnished and supplied with necessary technological equipment such as a video projector, a Bose audio system and cordless speakers. The most modern technology is readily available right in one of Florence's most elegant buildings.

Winter Garden

The Winter Garden, styled entirely in a 1920s aesthetic, has a decorative leaded glass ceiling in the Liberty style. The space has a special lighting system and maintains the charm and atmosphere of a real garden. Ideal for exclusive private events or wedding receptions, the Winter Garden is 86 square meters and can hold around 70 people in a theatre-style setup.

Sala Strozzi

With its quintessentially Florentine elegance – inspired by the Renaissance harmony of Palazzo Strozzi, which stands right in front of Helvetia & Bristol – the Sala Strozzi is a magnificent setting with classic-style interiors and strictly modern equipment. Flushed with natural light and walls covered by fine tapestries, it has a calm and silent ambience, ideal for meetings, seminars, conferences and high-level presentations. The Sala Strozzi is 45 square meters and can hold up to 45 people.

The Helvetia & Bristol “Hall of Fame”

These are some of the Italian and international figures who stayed at Helvetia & Bristol:

Don Lurio	Luigi Pirandello
Gabriele D'Annunzio	Yasser Arafat
Giorgio De Chirico	Igor Strawinsky
Ken Loach	Leslie Nielsen

Helvetia & Bristol Firenze – Starhotels Collezione is part of *The Leading Hotels of the World*

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