

# Italy

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## “Da Vinci Code” Puts Corolla Hotel Group & Hotel Brunelleschi In the World View

By: Jesse Nash

One of the best-selling novels of all time, Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, has intrigued and thrilled millions of readers around the world. And one of the oldest structures in Europe, the Corolla Hotel Group's Brunelleschi Hotel, situated in the heart of Florence, Italy, has intrigued and thrilled thousands of visitors from all parts of the globe. As part of *The Da Vinci Code* mythology, both are gloriously united in Dan Brown's book and, now, Hollywood movie.

A mind-bending code hidden in the works of Leonardo da Vinci. A desperate race through the cathedrals and castles of Europe. An astonishing truth concealed for centuries... unveiled at last. Alas, the story of author Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, from best-selling book to Hollywood film, starring multiple Academy Award-winner, Tom Hanks, directed by Academy Award-winning director, Ron Howard, brings the magnificent Hotel Brunelleschi to the center spotlight. As the lead character finds solace in "the luxurious Hotel Brunelleschi," as author Brown refers to it, the honorable notation has added to its luster and garnered it even more international fame:

Sophie reached out and placed her soft hand on the side of his face. Then, leaning forward, she kissed him tenderly on the cheek.

“When can I see you again?”

Langdon reeled momentarily, lost in her eyes. “When?” He paused, curious if she had any idea how much he had been wondering the same thing.

“Well, actually, next month I'm lecturing at a conference in Florence. I'll be there a week without much to do.”

“Is that an invitation?”

“We'd be living in luxury. They're giving me a room at the Brunelleschi.”

Sophie smiled playfully. “You presume a lot, Mr. Langdon.”

As much a tourist destination [walking tours regularly stop in front of the hotel to marvel at its architectural wonder] as it is a popular hotel, situated in a tiny, quiet square within the very heart of Renaissance Florence, the Hotel Brunelleschi is the result of an extraordinary fusion. One of the great virtues is the hotel offers the opportunity to experience of staying in the oldest building in Florence.

The restoration in 1998 of the priceless structures of the Byzantine Tower of Pagliazza, built in the 6th Century, and the Medieval Church of S. Michele in Palchetto, built in the 12th Century, has transformed these architectural treasures into a splendid luxury hotel. The reconstruction, although providing the hotel with the most modern comforts, has left the unique historical characteristics unchanged. Today's visitor will find a perfect marriage of ancient beauty and modern luxury. A private museum located in the Roman baths displays the archaeological finds discovered during the restoration.



Florence Italy - The Arno River. Art by: Dan Duga

Hotel Brunelleschi is a four star property that is just steps away from one of the most famous shopping areas, the city airport, high class restaurants and the most important museums of the city of Florence. The Brunelleschi has 96 beautifully decorated rooms, some of which overlooking the Duomo of Florence and two executive suites with jacuzzis. All rooms are equipped with direct telephone, television with satellite connection, air conditioning, mini bar, hair dryer, computer/FAX hook ups and security safe. Room service can be used and pets are permitted to stay in guest rooms. Non-smoking and family rooms are available.

The hotels conference rooms seat up to 5 to 110 delegates and is available to all guests whether they are looking to host a business meeting or a private event.

The hotel's S. Elisabetta restaurant is dedicated to exclusive dining, banquets and ceremonies serving traditional Tuscan specialties that capture the true flavor and warmth of this charming region.

Due to the nature of the hotel building a private museum containing historical exhibits found during the reconstruction, is at the guest's disposal. An agreement with nearby garage includes a parking service for all guests and the hotel's American style bar offers guests the opportunity to relax with a drink of their choice in a comfortable environment. Additional facilities and services include a roof terrace where views of the city are quite breath taking, a baby sitting service if guests wish to have time off from the kids, a concierge service, laundry facility, a shuttle bus service to the airport and a car rental facility. With such amazing decor and a fabulous location at such an affordable price a stay at the Brunelleschi Hotel will be a life long memory. (Chargeable car park nearby.)

Hotel Brunelleschi  
Piazza S. Elisabetta, 3  
50122 Firenze  
Italy  
Tel. 011-39-055-27370  
Fax 011-39-055-219653  
email: [info@hotelbrunelleschi.it](mailto:info@hotelbrunelleschi.it)  
[www.hotelbrunelleschi.it](http://www.hotelbrunelleschi.it)

## Corolla Hotel Group: Choose Your Dream

As the Italian landscape has so much to offer, so does the Corolla Hotel Group for your visit to the Tuscany region. The exclusive Corolla Hotels are situated in the best known and attractive parts of Tuscany: Florence and its hillsides, Montecatini Terme, Maremma, and the famous beaches near Grosseto. Here are some of the Corolla Hotel highlights:

### Hotel Demidoff

A wonderful spot, immersed in nature, the hotel overlooks a Tuscan dreamscape. Fresh air will fill your lungs as the songs of hundreds of birds in the nearby woods and enclosing park embraces you. Only 20 minutes from the center of Florence, the four star Hotel Demidoff has 99 rooms and all the modern conveniences you'd come to expect from a modern hotel. There is the Il Pievano Arlotto restaurant on the property serving delicious Tuscan cuisine and local wines. The hotel also has its own parking area, free of charge to hotel guests. A free shuttle service also can bring you to Florence Centrale and back once an hour till 6:00 p.m.

Hotel Demidoff  
via della Lupaia, 1556  
50036 Pratolino  
Italy  
Tel. 011-39-055-505641  
Fax 011-39-055-409780  
[email: info@hoteldemidoff.com](mailto:info@hoteldemidoff.com)

### Grand Hotel Vittoria

This Art Nouveau style hotel is what defines the architectural character of Montecatini Terme, one of the most important health spa regions of Italy. Frolic and de-stress at the Grand Hotel Vittoria, with its four suites, three single rooms and 74 double rooms, where such socialites and Hollywood royalty such as Grace Kelly, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Elizabeth Taylor, Frank Sinatra and Marilyn Monroe used as their spa playground. The hotel's Beauty Farm will add to your never-to-be-forgotten memories of your stay there.

Grand Hotel Vittoria  
viale della Liberta 2/a  
51016 Montecatini Terme  
Tel. 011-39-0572-79271

### Palazzo Ruspoli

Here is a hotel property that mixes the elegance of the Old World with the modern conveniences of the New World. High ceilings, large rooms [a rarity in Europe], and elegant hallways present to you an atmosphere of a refined, turn of the century, aristocratic palace, far from the resemblance of a hotel. Palazzo Ruspoli brings you right into the heart of Renaissance Florence. When you awake each day, you'll have the big international designer names a few steps from your breakfast room.

Palazzo Ruspoli  
via Martelli 5  
50129 Firenze

### Hotel Fenice Palace 'Al Duomo'

Florence starts right here, right outside your room. The heart of this historic city beats right underneath your window. Situated next to the Medici Chapels which overlook the bustling San Lorenzo market, just a few steps from the Cathedral and Giotto's Bell Tower, you are among the greatest craftsmen's shops and close by the treasures of the acclaimed Ufizi Gallery, the Ponte Vecchio and the Piazza della Signoria. There are 11 single rooms and 61 double rooms. Buffet style breakfast and espresso bar are available each morning.

Hotel Fenice Palace 'Al Duomo'  
via Martelli, 10  
50129 Firenze  
Italy  
Tel. 011-39-055-289942  
Fax 011-39-055-210087  
[email: info@hotelfenicpalace.it](mailto:info@hotelfenicpalace.it)  
[www.hotelfenicpalace.it](http://www.hotelfenicpalace.it)

## Borgo Antico - Fattoria di Casalbosco

Escape the hustle and bustle of your every day life and cradle yourself in the silence and harmonious panorama of the countryside of Tuscany at Fattoria di Casalbosco. The estate of Casalbosco, the Antico Borgo, and the main Villa is surrounded by a farm and wine estate that is eye candy for the senses. Your very own private apartment awaits you [there are 20 of them] as well as a bottle of the property's very own wine. A swimming pool will enchant you during warmer months as well as a future restaurant, spa and complete restoration of a second property will soon become a new fixture to this fantastic estate.

Borgo Antico - Fattoria di Casalbosco  
via Montalese, 117  
loc. Santomato 50100  
Pistoia, Italy  
Tel. 011-39-0573-479599  
Fax 011-39-0573-479947  
[email: fattoriacasalbosco@tiscali.it](mailto:fattoriacasalbosco@tiscali.it)  
[website: www.web.tiscali.it/fattoriacasalbosco](http://www.web.tiscali.it/fattoriacasalbosco)

## For Your Eating Pleasure -- A Must Visit: Trattoria Da Marino

One of the greatest gastronomic experiences you will have in Florence is to eat -- outside -- the city. The famous Da Marino Restaurant, open since 1920, is a true family experience with mouth-watering dishes such as Gnudi di Ricotta di Bufalo al Buzzo e Salvia [handmade pasta filled with homemade ricotta cheese]. Other great dishes: Crostini Classico [liver and other delicacies] and their fresh pasta, handmade daily. Da Marino is truly a gem and the closest thing to a gastronomic experience as one can find in Italy. [Closed on Tuesdays.]

Da Marino  
Enoteca  
VIA Prov. Lucchese, 102  
51030 Serravalle  
Tel. 011-39-0573-51042  
Cell 011-39-347-4402439

