

🏠 > Travel > Destin... > Europe > Italy > Tuscany > Florence > Hotels



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# Hotel Regency

Florence, Tuscany, Italy

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**8/10**

Telegraph expert rating

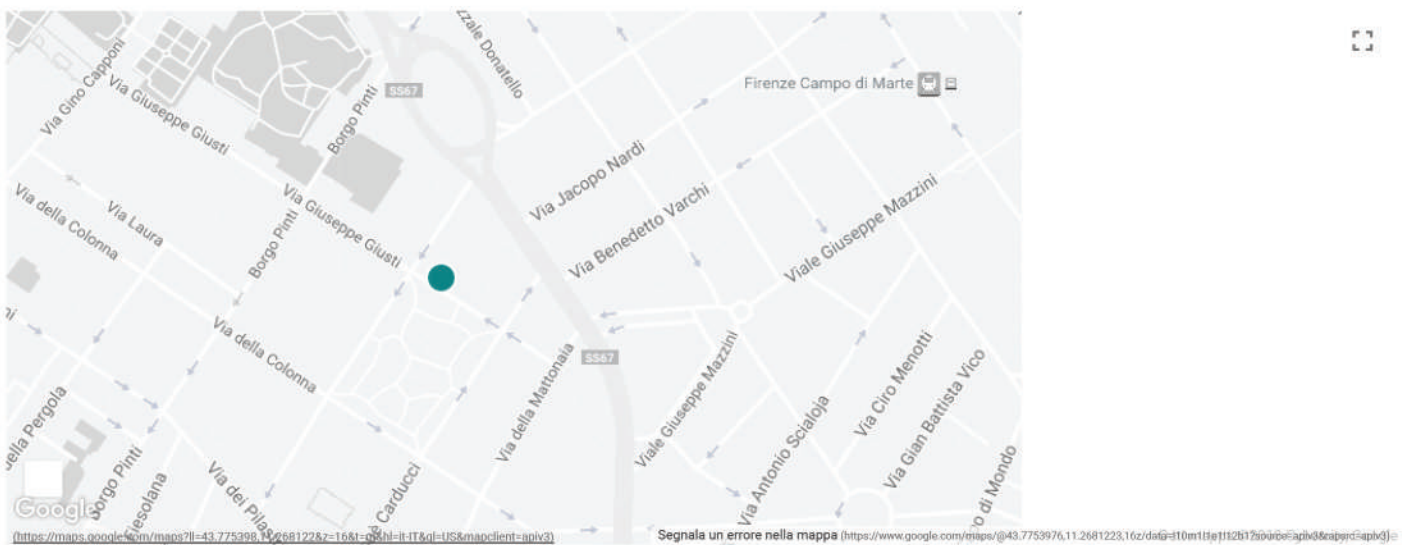
" This immaculate little five-star hotel offers an intimate atmosphere, charming service and reasonable rates, and enjoys a central yet quiet location in north-eastern Florence. "

By **Nicky Swallow**,  
DESTINATION EXPERT

## Location

8/10

The best of both worlds. The position – on a wide, leafy square just north-east of Santa Croce – is ideal if you want a bit of peace and quiet yet it is a short stroll from the lively Sant’Ambrogio market area with its plethora of cafés, bars and restaurants. The church of Santa Croce is a little further; the Duomo and the more central sights are a brisk ten-minute march away. The square is shaded by numerous trees, patchy grass, swings and even a carousel, and is popular with pram-wheeling mums, teenagers playing football and local residents walking their dogs.



## Style & character

8/10

The Regency occupies one of the impressive 19th-century mansions that overlook Piazza d’Azeglio; the atmosphere is that of a rather grand private home. Inside, the classic Florentine look (antiques, rugs, old master paintings, original parquet floors, rich fabrics) is livened up by Deco detailing, which gives a touch of retro glam. There are now plenty of five-star hotels in Florence, but in the old days this was one of the most exclusive of the lot; Madonna, Duran Duran and Bruce Springsteen have all bedded down here.





1 of 40



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## Service & facilities

7/10

Public spaces are limited to the restaurant and two small sitting rooms plus a lovely shady garden at the back of the building which comes into its own in warmer weather. Personalised service is a big selling point here and staff are charming and solicitous. A dedicated concierge is on hand to dish out Florentine tips.

- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Wi-Fi

## Rooms

8/10

The 32 bedroom rooms (seven of which are in an annexe) are individually styled; some are quite traditional (deep reds, carpeting, antiques) while others have been given a more modern look with a neutral colour palette and hardwood floors. The best room is a suite at the top of the house with a big terrace looking over the piazza. Beds, made up with crisp white linens, are supremely comfortable. There's a touch of Deco glam in the bathrooms too which are done out in Carrara marble with retro chrome fittings; expect robes and slippers, heated towel rails, proper hair dryers and citrus-scented bath goodies.

8/10

## Food & drink

At the elegant Relais du Jardin, which spills over into the garden in warm weather, chef Rino Pennucci's menus feature Florentine classics like bistecca alla Fiorentina alongside the odd more exotic choice – scallop risotto and tuna fillet in a sesame crust, for example. The breakfast buffet includes scrambled eggs and bacon, smoked salmon, cooked veg and truly delicious fresh croissants.

## Value for money

8/10

Double rooms from €200 (£177) in low season; and from €370 (£327) in high. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

## Access for guests with disabilities?

No special facilities.

## Family-friendly?

Yes; there are several interconnecting rooms and welcome packs are provided for young guests. No special menus but the chef will whip up a pasta al pomodoro on request. Cots are provided free of charge for three-year-olds and under; extra beds for 11 and unders cost €39 (£35) and for 12-18-year olds €78 (£69). Children will love the playground in the square.

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[regency-hotel.com](http://www.regency-hotel.com/en/index.html) (<http://www.regency-hotel.com/en/index.html>)