



## Hotel Check: Royal Carlton Hotel Bologna, Italy

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Hotel Check: Royal Carlton Hotel Bologna, Italy

HOW MANY ROOMS? 236 rooms and suites

**PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS** This is a solid hotel for tour groups, individual tourists, and conference functions looking for centrality to Bologna's best shopping, dining, and sightseeing. The regal entranceway sets it apart from some of the city's more budget-friendly options. This is the biggest city in the newly popular Emilia-Romagna region, and as the home to one of the country's most prestigious universities, it receives a lot of visitors in search of great culinary experiences and local culture.

**PRICE** Internet rates for a traditional room on the random dates we checked start at \$132

**CONTACT** Hotel Royal Carlton, Via Montebello 8, Bologna, Italy, tel 39-051-249-361, <http://www.royalhotelcarltonbologna.com>



**VERDICT** Don't be surprised by the formality of the public areas as you will quickly see past the sparkling chandeliers and dim lighting when you meet the friendly staff at breakfast. Guest rooms have modern perks and traditional appointments, many including balconies, too.

**BACKGROUND** Bologna is one of Italy's most exciting and youthful cities. Newly found by adventurous tourists, this is the kind of place where bargains abound and the exceptional food and wine scene are on the cusp of global recognition. Don't be surprised to stumble upon well-kept secrets while trying the city's famous tagliatelle Bolognese (unlike in the U.S., Bolognese meat sauce should never be served with spaghetti, but only tagliatelle, which can absorb the sauce better).

**WHERE IS IT?** The Royal Carlton sits in the city center close to the best shopping and dining. You will discover the city's many awnings that cover sidewalks and shopping areas. This comes as a result of the fast increase in the need for student housing, and building owners found a way to increase space over the street to provide space more living space for students. This has given the city incredible architectural beauty that is both beautiful and unique in Italy. Foodies will love the new FICO Eataly World amusement park that is set to open in November on the outskirts of the city. It will feature truffle hunting demonstrations, pasta making classes, Negroni cocktail sessions, and plenty of meeting and reception space.

**WHAT'S IT LIKE?** The hotel greets guests with a splashing fountain at its entrance and a chandelier-bedecked lobby where the staff is proficient in English.



The frequent audience of international visitors and conference groups means that the international attention to detail is well thought out here. Auto fans will find this to be a great base from which to explore the car manufacturers and museums (car companies often host meetings here). The Enzo Ferrari Museum is located a short drive away in the city of Modena where guests can explore his private home before tasting some of the best, artisanal balsamic vinegar at Acetaia Giusti.

**ROOM FACILITIES** The rather attractive hallways lead to traditional guest rooms with soft carpeting, plentiful luggage and storage space, full-length mirrors, and desks with easy-access power outlets. I appreciated the deskside power outlets, but to charge devices by the bed required moving furniture around.



Comfy armchairs by the floor-to-ceiling windows provided a great spot to relax, and balconies provided fresh air and city views. The twin or king beds are firm, but surprisingly comfortable with large pillows. Flat-screen cable TVs faced the beds, and free wireless Internet was a hallmark throughout the hotel. Bathrooms were coated in marble and came with makeup mirrors, hairdryers, bidets, and large towels.

**RESTAURANTS AND BARS** Neoclassico serves all meals including a quintessentially regional menu. While it is mostly frequented by business travelers and guests, it deserves attention for its varied menu. The bar also delivers light dishes and cocktails even when area bars have closed.



This is a real foodie region preparing the best dishes like tagliatelle ragu (never to be served with spaghetti like we do in the US), truffle-laced pastas, Parma ham, and tortellini in brodo (handmade tortellini pasta in a tasty broth).

**LEISURE FACILITIES** The hotel's spa provides a variety of massage and beauty treatments using Clarins products. There's also a fitness center, and the front desk is happy to provide a map for jogging.

**BUSINESS AND MEETING FACILITIES** Meeting space is a main business driver here, and there is plenty of conference space for groups. The free wireless Internet signal works quite well throughout the building, and a business center provides a great place to check the Internet and print documents.



(Photos by Royal Carlton Hotel Bologna, Italy)

By Ramsey Qubein

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