



Hotel Check: Hotel Duomo Rimini, Italy

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Check: Hotel Duomo Rimini, Italy



HOW MANY ROOMS? 43 rooms and suites

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS Get ready to be surprised. What you think is a quiet, beachfront resort town in Emilia-Romagna is actually an undiscovered gem for tourists. It is popular with Europeans seeking sunshine, but Americans will find its local charm, tasty cuisine, and gateway to San Remo to be primary draws for a visit.

PRICE Internet rates for a traditional room on the random dates we checked start at \$59

CONTACT Hotel Royal Carlton, Via G. Bruno 28, Rimini, Italy, 47921, tel 39-0541-24215, <http://www.duomohotel.com/>

VERDICT There's no missing the façade of this striking architecture in the heart of Rimini's compact, downtown core. Its undulating balconies of the streetfront rooms add a bit of pizzazz to this Design Hotel.



BACKGROUND Rimini, a waterfront city in Emilia-Romagna, has many beautiful beachfront hotels, but for business travelers looking for more convenience and tourists wanting a bit of sexy in their downtown hotel, the Hotel Duomo delivers with aplomb. It is located just seconds from the main square where there is plenty of dining and shopping including high-quality lace for which the region is known. Rimini is the home of Italian film director Federico Fellini, and those interested in his movies should pay a visit to the recently restored art deco Cinema Fulgor near the hotel.

WHERE IS IT? This hotel could not be more centrally located, which could be why Design Hotels gave this independent its nod of approval. The walk to the central square (and some of the best gelato in town) is minutes away, and the same distance takes you to the main cathedral and one of the city's restored theaters.

WHAT'S IT LIKE? From the moment you walk through the tall, automatic entrance doors, you discover a front desk wrapped in a shell akin to a spaceship. Staffers speak both Italian and English, and the minimalist lobby features a few chairs with complimentary bottled water and cookies for the taking. Passageways lead to meeting areas, and the open-air offices give the lobby a surprisingly clever look.

ROOM FACILITIES Guest rooms continue the same super-modern theme with parquet floors.

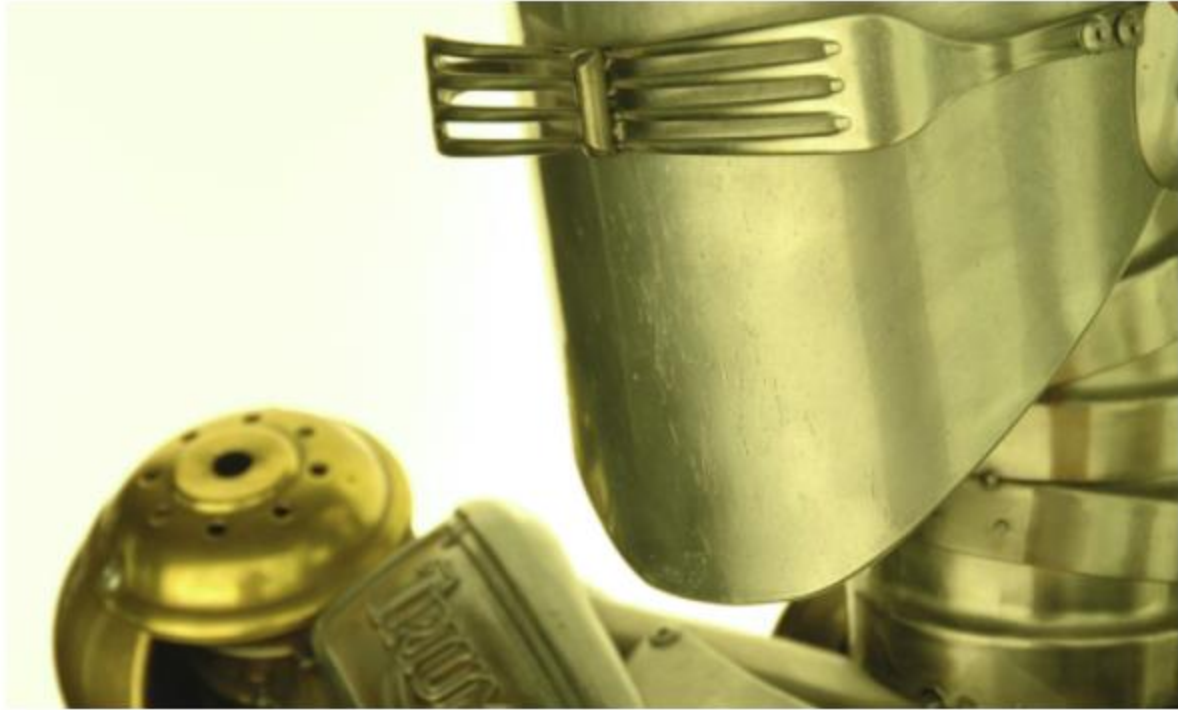


Long hallways lead past these giant pods (containing the bathroom up one step). King beds are positioned on the other side facing windows and built-in desks with power outlets and limited space. Flat-screen cable TVs are mounted on the walls, and cabinet space holds storage areas including safes. Coffeemakers are missing, but the honor bars in the hallways provide soft drinks and bottled water for the taking (provided you give your room number on the card to pay later).



Bathrooms are on a wooden-slat floor with deep soaking tubs in most rooms, sinks with C. O. Bigelow toiletries, bidets, and rainfall showers in the middle of the space. Most rooms have Juliet balconies overlooking the old town center.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS The main restaurant serves a fine breakfast buffet each morning, which is included in the rates. While there is no lunch or dinner service, the cool bar area sets up a fine aperitivo station serving a buffet of snacks for guests and tipplers to enjoy.



Expect locals to pop in for the modernist vibe and guests to explore the expansive aperitivo buffet. Known as the Nomi Club, it hosts occasional live music and talented DJs to match the wide choice of cocktails, local beer, and wine.

LEISURE FACILITIES There is a small whirlpool for guests to use. Don't expect a full health club, however. What makes up for it is a stroll around the neighborhood, which can be a fine workout over its original cobblestone streets.

BUSINESS AND MEETING FACILITIES Modest meeting space is available for groups looking for a trendy, non-traditional space to gather. Free wireless Internet access and the latest audiovisual equipment is on offer.



(Pictures by Hotel Duomo Rimini, Italy)

By Ramsey Qubein

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