



Travel ideas for now. This week: it's all about a long weekend in Montréal. Plus we explore Washington D.C.'s fresh scene, Venetian cool in the build-up to Biennale, design in Doha and dozens of other destinations we want to visit ASAP



## 2. ROME, ITALY

### An authentic taste of Italy

After the crush of [Easter](#) and before the height of [summer](#), this is the perfect time to be in [Rome](#). The city is gearing up for the crowds of [June](#) and [July](#), with two new openings that appeal to different sides of the traveller coin. Rocco Forte, whose Hotel de Russie is one of the most well-known in town, brings the petite, stylish Hotel de la Ville to the top of the Spanish Steps in early May, with 104 sophisticated rooms inside an 18th-century palace and is exactly where to stay for easy access to some of the city's most-visited sites, such as Villa Borghese and Piazza di Spagna.

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Over in Regola, a funky new brand, Chapter, from the former head of the super-hip HotelAmericano in [New York](#) will introduce the graffiti-chic aesthetic to the Eternal City that has taken off elsewhere with an unpolished brass bar and cool dim rooms.



Though maybe the most interesting project to open in some time comes from Massimo and Maurizio Michangeli, who grew up in the hotel biz and used their acumen to launch The Grand House (*pictured, above*), a rental and hotel hybrid which allows guests to stay in the fabulous pied-à-terres of Italian socialites, all over town. Plus it matches travellers with experts for on-the-ground experiences such as tours through the gritty Testaccio food market with chef Cristina Bowerman. It's a sign that this historically stubborn-to-change city is warming to tastes of the younger, influential traveller (and, well, Roman).

In San Giovanni, a true local's neighbourhood outside the centro, talented young, tatt'ed up chef Sarah Cicolini does crazy things with offal at Santo Palato, making it the coolest restaurant in town. Though it may come in second when the owners of Mazzo return next year to reopen their spot, which single-handedly turned the hardscrabble Centocelle neighbourhood into a dining destination. Conveniently, it's only a couple of metro stops from San Giovanni, so if you want to make the most of a [long weekend](#) in Rome and pack in two dinners, it's easy enough to pull off without having to hail Rome's notoriously menacing taxi cabs. *By Erin Florio*

CREDIT: GIULIA VENANZI