



Hotel Gladiatori Italy

With plenty of Latin charm but none of the unrestrained kitsch of so many Italian hotels, the Gladiatori is a smart, independent hotel in the centre of Rome. So central is it, in fact, you can see the Colosseum from many of its bedrooms and from the roof garden. It stands on the site of a 16th-century hunting lodge.

The hotel opened four years ago and features such contemporary necessities as free Wi-Fi and satellite TV, as well as views across the city's monuments.

Hotel Gladiatori, Via Labicana, Rome (00 39 06 7759 1380; www.hotelgladiatori.it).

Double rooms start at €250 (£179), including breakfast.



FIVE BEST HOTELS WITH A VIEW OF HISTORY

Commune by the Great Wall China

One of the world's most individual hotels, Commune by the Great Wall is a collection of sleek, contemporary buildings designed by 12 different architects (including Kengo Kuma, Kay Ngee Tan and Gary Chang). It is set in the Shuiguan mountains just over an hour's drive from Beijing. The property was exhibited at the 2002 Venice Biennale before opening as a hotel. It is made up of three components, with rooms scattered through the original buildings as well as 31 new villas. Many have direct views of the Great Wall.