



Aleph

The devilishly dark red lobby, bar and restaurant of this hotel, designed by Adam D Tihany, are supposed to be inspired by a hellish motif that contrasts with the bright bedrooms, which evoke 'heaven'. Perhaps these are not the wisest of themes for a hotel, but other playful statements, such as the hologram bookcases in the library, the giant dice suspended over a backgammon-board

floor in the central courtyard (above) and the film stills that line the lifts, make the Aleph a favourite with the fashion set. The Junior Suite is a 1970s playboy's dream in zebano wood, but we recommend booking one of the Deluxe Rooms; those on the fourth floor have balconies and good views. *Via di San Basilio 15, T 06 422 901, www.aleph.boscolohotels.com*



Il Palazzetto

If you're in the mood for a little *Roman Holiday*-style romance, check in to one of the three rooms at Il Palazzetto that look on to the Spanish Steps – they are all sold at the same rate but vary in décor and layout; our favourite is Room 2. Tripping lightly down the magnificent spiral staircase (above) en route to the boutiques of Via dei Condotti will inspire an Audrey Hepburn moment, dampened only by the

sight of the McDonald's adjacent to the tiny reception. Enjoy an *aperitivo* at Il Palazzetto restaurant's illuminated retro bar, before sampling chef Vincenzo di Tuoro's innovative cooking and a bottle from the 400-strong wine list. *Vicolo del Bottino 8, T 06 699 341 000, www.ilpalazzettoroma.com*