



TIME TO CELEBRATE Warner Leisure Hotels

JUST FOR GROWN-UPS

ENJOY SOME OF LIFE'S LITTLE LUXURIES ON YOUR WARNER BREAK AND CELEBRATE THOSE SPECIAL MOMENTS WITH US

SENSATIONAL SOUNDS WITH KAREN CARPENTER TRIBUTE

Lakeside Coastal Village, Hampshire
5 April 2013 | 3 nights | Half Board

- Stylish accommodation in a Standard Plus chalet
- Fantastic tribute to Karen Carpenter
- Piano sing-a-long with Neil Ogley
- Dancing to our fabulous band 'Central Park'
- Dazzling Teamshow
- 'Do you Warner Dance?' - Fun dance workshops
- Warner Pop Choir - Sociable singing workshop
- Fun interactive multimedia quizzes
- Range of daytime activities including archery & rifle shooting
- 32 acres of gardens and grounds
- Lake views and enchanting wildlife



3 NIGHT
HALF BOARD
WEEKEND BREAK
WAS £272 - Now only
£159
per person

ROCK ON WITH PETE JACKSON & THE ZODIACS

Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight
19 April 2013 | 3 nights | Half Board

- Hilarious comedy from Robbie K
- Dancing to our fabulous band 'The Moodswings'
- Fantastic entertainment with Dave Graham
- Superb rock 'n' roll act Pete Jackson & The Zodiacs
- Lively entertainment from duo 'The Mix'
- 'Do you Warner Dance?' - Fun dance workshops
- Warner Pop Choir - Fun singing workshop
- Fun, interactive multimedia quizzes
- Stunning sea views over the Solent
- 23 acres of grounds including an award-winning walled garden
- Set back from a gorgeous beach



3 NIGHT
HALF BOARD
WEEKEND BREAK
WAS £309 - Now only
£179
per person

SUMMER WEEKEND STARRING 60s BAND MARMALADE

Norton Grange Coastal Village, Isle of Wight
21 June 2013 | 3 nights | Half Board

- Delicious buffet breakfasts & 3-course evening meals
- Fantastic entertainment from 60s band Marmalade
- Dancing to our fabulous band Impromptu
- Dazzling Teamshow
- Midday entertainment from duo Nik & Sunny
- 'Do you Warner Dance?' - Fun dance workshops
- Warner Pop Choir - Sociable singing workshop
- Range of daytime activities including tennis and fun croquet
- Beautiful coastal walks and just yards away from the beach
- Gorgeous 9 hole pitch & putt course
- Plus much more



3 NIGHT
HALF BOARD
WEEKEND BREAK
WAS £284 - Now only
£142
per person

WHY NOT MAKE YOUR BREAK EXTRA SPECIAL AND ADD A TABLE TOPPER PACKAGE?

Add some sparkle to your meal with a table top package. Includes a celebration balloon, confetti, party poppers and a disposable camera. Prices from £12.95

*Offer prices are from per person per break based on 2 people sharing Standard accommodation unless otherwise stated. All offers are subject to availability, new bookings only and can be withdrawn without prior notice. All holidays booked within 10 weeks of the chosen holiday start date will have to be paid in full at time of booking. Full terms and conditions relating to these breaks are available in our current Warner Leisure Hotels brochure. Please be advised some acts and activities are subject to alteration and can be cancelled without prior notice. All persons in your booking must be over 21 years old. Bourne Holidays Limited (trading as Warner Leisure Hotels) is a company registered in England and Wales with company number 01854900 whose registered office is 1 Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4YL.

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Book by
22 March 2013

www.warnerbreaks.com/holidays

By **FRANCESCA COOKNEY**

There's something about the Eternal City that captures the imagination. Whether it's the rich history, beautiful buildings, religion, fashion, culture, food... or simply the weather, it seems to bring out the romantic side in even the chilliest Northern European. And Easter is when the climate is at its best for strolling round the sights. But when you step out of your hotel into the heart of this ancient city (not to mention the traffic), the prospect of fitting it all in can seem quite daunting, particularly on a short break. It's hard to know where to start. But Rome is not a vast city and - unlike its unpredictable politics - its public transport is simple and easy to navigate. Plus most of the major attractions are clustered in and around the historic centre. It might not have been built in a day but, with a bit of planning and a comfortable pair of shoes, it only takes a few to make the most of this beguiling city...

CULTURE CULTURE

Rome is often referred to as an open-air museum and it's easy to see why. Barely a corner is turned without stumbling upon an ancient ruin or relic.

For a gentle introduction, set out in the early evening and take a metro to **Piazza Barberini** to see the impressive **Bernini fountains**. From there, stop by the **Trevi Fountain** before meandering through cobbled streets to the **Pantheon**. The sight of this 2,000-year-old building lit up against the darkening sky never fails to take my breath away. All are free.

In the heart of ancient Rome the (free) **Circus Maximus chariot racing track**, **Colosseum** and **Roman Forum** ruins are also within easy walking distance of one another. Buy combined entry for the latter for €15.50 (£13).

GUILTY PLEASURE

Milan is the Italian city generally associated with shopping, but when it comes to style Rome holds its own. Many of the country's major fashion labels - Bulgari, Fendi, Valentino - started out right here, on or close to **Via dei Condotti**.

If you're planning some serious shopping - or window shopping - start at **Piazza di Spagna** before making your way down to **Via del Corso**. Once you've had your fill of gawping at the gorgeous displays (and the prices), go to the

For designer shopping go to Via dei Condotti



Rinascente department store



The Pantheon at sunset

store for some more affordable retail therapy. Then satisfy your sweet tooth at **Gelateria della Palma**, just behind the Piazza della Rotonda, which offers more than 100 flavours of ice cream.

DON'T MISS

The hours of 5pm to 7pm are a godsend for eating out. Look out for signs advertising aperitivo - a particularly Italian custom where bars offer free nibbles when you buy a drink. These can range from bowls of nuts and olives to huge buffets of

pasta salad, couscous and cold meats, so shop around.

INSIDER'S TIP

The busy Piazza Navona and Campo de' Fiori in the historic city centre are perfect for a drink and some people-watching. But for your evening meal make the short trip over the river into **Trastevere**. Stroll

through the narrow cobbled streets before selecting one of the excellent - and more reasonably priced - restaurants.

STRETCH YOUR LEGS

Take a break from the crowds with a shady stroll through the vast landscaped gardens of the **Villa Borghese**. Get off the metro at Piazza del Popolo then walk up through the park. The Villa itself is an art gallery where you can see Italian greats such as Titian, Caravaggio and Bernini. If you're up for some serious walking, the Appian Way

offers 10 miles of greenery lined with Roman tombs and the remains of seven aqueducts. Bike hire is also available.

WHAT TO EAT

Simplicity and fresh ingredients are the key to great Italian cooking. With that in mind it's hard to imagine one could tire of the culinary Holy Trinity that is fresh basil, mozzarella and tomato.

If you're in the mood for something more substantial, it's got to be pizza. There is a (semi) affectionate rivalry between Rome and Naples as to who does it better but I'm definitely with the Romans on this one. Roman-style pizza comes with a thin crispy crust and a choice of *rossa* (with tomato sauce) or *bianca* (with cheese).

For some of the best in town seek out **Bir & Fud** in Trastevere, where you can enjoy it with a local craft beer.

Or if you're looking for a no-nonsense approach try the long-standing **Pizza Remo** in Testaccio, which offers a delicious array of fresh toppings

in the relaxed surroundings of the basic interior. If you're on the move, look out for the many small shops that sell *pizza al taglio* - by the slice - from large rectangular metal trays.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

April 21 is the date the father of Rome, the mythical Romulus, supposedly founded the city in 753BC. Expect live music, parades, fireworks and historical re-enactments to celebrate the city's birthday.

The city erupts with **Primo Maggio** (Labour Day) celebrations on May 1, a national bank holiday. Every piazza is filled with live music, dancing and lots of open-air drinking.

WHERE TO STAY

Four-star **Esh Hotel** is only five minutes from the Vatican. A three-night B&B break costs £434pp including Gatwick flights departing March 30 with EasyJet Holidays www.easyjet.com/holidays, 0843 104 1000.

MY TOP TIPS

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If you use a wheelchair be aware that many buildings' easy-access entrances are a long way from the main one. **LEARN PHRASES** 'Excuse me' or 'please move out of the way' will help you navigate crowds.

STAY NEAR TERMINI It's not the prettiest of areas, but it's where the Metro lines A and B intersect, the buses stop and airport trains arrive. **MORE INFO** www.sagetraveling.com/rome-accessible-travel



CITY BREAK >>> ROME

Don't miss the beautiful Trevi Fountain

TRAVEL FILE

WHEN TO GO

April and May are the perfect months to visit Rome, when sunshine is guaranteed but temperatures are cooler for sightseeing. Avoid August when many of the city's shops and restaurants close for summer holidays. Hold on for September and October instead.

GOOD TO KNOW

SPQR refers to the Latin phrase *Senatus Populusque Romanus* (The Senate and People of Rome). It dates back to the ancient Republic but it has also become an emblem of the modern city. Look out of it engraved on walls, monuments, fountains and manhole covers.

GETTING AROUND

A three-day travel card which covers all bus, Metro and tram journeys costs €11 (about £9).

GETTING THERE

EasyJet flies from several major UK airports. www.easyjet.com
City break inspiration at mirror.co.uk/travel

of us were keen to explore the city. A good way to get orientated is to use hop-on, hop-off buses. Fortunately we found plenty that were wheelchair

the city has to offer... and in as comfortable a way as possible.



Claire took her mum Angela, who uses a wheelchair, and son Eamonn to St Peter's Square (below)



we decided to go independently and chose a two-bedroom flat just a few streets away from the Vatican www.only-apartments.com. We booked EasyJet flights and were provided with someone to push the chair for no extra charge www.easyjet.com. This made a big difference when we took a shuttle from the plane to baggage reclaim at Fiumicino airport.

For our journey home, plane seats were reserved for all of us and a buggy was there to take my mum and her bags through customs all the way to the street, where we were waiting with a taxi.

Little did we know that we would be witnessing Benedict XVI's last Palm Sunday Mass. It's the service before Easter when the congregation carries palms to

remember Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. The weather was warm and streets around the Vatican were full of tourists and pilgrims being offered large palm leaves.

We were nowhere near the front but large screens relayed images of the frail Pope being ferried to the altar in his Popemobile.

You can have an audience with the Pope (once the new pontiff is elected) every Wednesday. Just check you don't visit during a religious holiday when the cathedral might not be open to the public. Mum was elated but - after a little too much spirituality - the rest