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"Once you get lost in Rome, you'll always be lost there," says Bazos (here, in her NYC living room beneath an Ingo Maurer fixture). She spent six years in the city.



Spiritual Home: Rome
Get to know the Eternal City in seconds with a Rome addict's hit list



Hotel De Russie, hotelderussie.it

Borri Books

Borri Books, borribooks.com

ERIN BAZOS, art director at the hip, global Hanger Design Group, lives in NoLita, NYC, but when she walks her Rome-born boxer, Vincenzo, she sashays to the Roman groove in her heart; when she gets dressed, her Audrey Hepburn-meets-Yohji outfits come from Luna & L'altra in Rome; when she cooks, she dreams of Roman tomatoes; and when friends visit Rome, they ask her where to go. Here's what she tells them.

STAY: At Hotel De Russie, for the interior garden alone, or the more affordable Hotel Teatro Pace (hotelteatropace.com)
GROOM: At the Starck-styled Aldo Coppola
SHOP: For clothes at Luna & L'altra, Rome's Collette, owned and passionately curated by Biba Canella; for books at Borri Books in the Roma Termini (Bazos created its logo); for avant-garde furniture at Secondome, 2me (secondome.eu); for unusual jewels at Alternatives
EAT: At Chiostro del Bramante, for cafeteria chow in a Renaissance church; Roscioli, for the best-of-the-best meat, cheese, olive oil, and wine (anticoformoroscioli.com); for pizza, ZaZa, where the dough rises for 60 hours (pizzazaza.com); and for organic groceries, Albero del Pane, Via Di S. Maria Del Pianto, 19



Chiostro del Bramante, chiostrodelbramante.it

Fornasetti rug, fornasetti.com (above); Alternatives, alternatives.it (below)



ALTERNATIVES

Luna & L'altra at Piazza Pasquino, 76

Aldo Coppola, aldocoppola.it (above); 2008 Honda Metropolitan scooter (below)



WHERE I HIDE "Underwater. I dive down and just sit there until I can't breathe any longer. You can't hear cars or human voices, and it's so beautiful. When you're at workouts, with a coach screaming and yelling down your neck, you just go underwater and you can't hear the coach anymore."—Amanda Beard, Beijing hopeful, seven-time Olympic medalist, and spokesperson for Oceana's campaign to protect sharks



Bedroom at Miauw Suites

APARTMENT COMPLEX

The painful collision of hotel room inflation and dollar deflation has jacked up summer jaunts to Europe, so smart travelers are turning to short-term apartment rentals. A slew of new agencies provide stylish spaces that let you connect intimately with a city and are often larger and less expensive than hotels. Our favorites: Amsterdam: Miauw Suites. Six apartments in two historic townhouses overlooking the sparkling Keizersgracht with a perfect mix of old and new (antique Persian rugs over lacquered white floors); miauw.com. Barcelona: DestinationBCN. Modern, airy digs in Barcelona's coolest neighborhoods (destination-bcn.com). Madrid: Jet-setters like NYC model and socialite Amanda Hearst turn to Let's Room for crisp eyelet sheets and tons of light



Rooftop view from Miauw Suites

(letsroom.com). Paris: Tote your Pierre Herme macarons back to one of the hidden gems from haveninparis.com or parispiedaterre.com. Berlin: T & C Apartments. Roomy one- to three-bedrooms in the art-rich Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg nabes (tc-apartments-berlin.de).

—GISELLA WILLIAMS

Bazos portrait: photographed by Elizabeth Morache for RUSK Products at workgroup-ita.com, makeup by Lena Koro for Nars Cosmetics at artmixbeauty.com; remaining images: courtesy of the publisher.