

lonely planet
MAGAZINE

May 2009

Bank Holiday Special!
10 spring trips you can afford

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ROME
WE REVEAL ITS BEST-KEPT SECRETS

Hong Kong
'One of the world's most spiritually refreshing places'
FERGAL KEANE

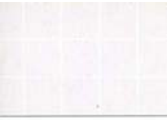
THE TALL TALES AND LOST TREASURES OF **DAMASCUS**

+ It's party time!
Brazil's capital of carnival (and it's not Rio)

ALSO INSIDE: Mariella Frostrup, cuttlefish balls and 20,000 men dressed as Gandhi...

6 PULL OUT AND KEEP fantastic free pocket guide
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3 WAYS TO SEE MORE OF ROME...

SLEEP

SEE

EAT

Luxury

For an indulgent sleep in the shadow of the Spanish Steps, you can't beat **IL PALAZZETTO**. Its four luxurious rooms (three with views of the Steps) combine classic decor with discreet mod cons. There's a terrace bar and a superb restaurant to boot (from £230; ilpalazzettoroma.com).



The **VATICAN MUSEUMS** require at least one full day to visit, taking in the Sistine Chapel, various museums and galleries, a garden and a library. The museums are in the world's tiniest state, the Vatican City, complete with its own currency, newspaper, guards and railway station (£13; vatican.va).

The Hassler Hotel's rooftop restaurant, **IMÀGO**, has seamless views of the Roman skyline to go with its Michelin star. Request a corner table for the best panorama, take your pick from the modern Italian dishes on the menu (try the braised venison with Amarone wine and pomegranate), sit back and enjoy (from £38; imagorestaurant.com).