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Ca' Pisani, Venice, a seductive mix of minimalist Art Deco in a restored 16th-century palazzo

Ca' Pisani Hotel, Venice

La Serenissima has finally got itself a genuine, up-to-the-minute design hotel. Opened just before this year's carnival season and set in a beautifully restored 16th-century palazzo, the 29-room Ca' Pisani is a seductive mix of minimalist Art Deco inspired by the cool graphics of the 1920s Futurist artists, and eclectic 1930s and 1940s furniture. Each room has a bed from a different period, offset by funky metallic-silver desks and comfy leather armchairs. Just off the sleek lobby is the bar and restaurant, La Rivista, which is already attracting fashionable Venetians. Like the hotel, La Rivista offers something a little different: the Wine & Cheese Bar, with over 20 Italian cheeses and an extensive wine list.

When to go This will be the hot address for visitors to Venice's Biennale of Contemporary Art (until November 2001) and the annual film festival (29 August–8 September)

Which room to book For romance, ask for room 30, right at the top, with wooden beams and fabulous views over the rooftops

Ca' Pisani Hotel Dorsoduro 979A, 30123 Venice, Italy (00 39 041 277 1478; fax: 277 1061; e-mail: info@capisanihotel.it; website: www.capisanihotel.it). Doubles from L360,000 (about £120); room 30 from L420,000 (about £140)