

Lakeside Swiss Paradise: Hotel Splendide Royal Lugano

[Stephanie Orma](#)



Image Courtesy Hotel Splendide Royal

The hotel's neoclassic facade

Take Italy's romantic old world architecture and crazy charming vibe; mix in Switzerland's enchanting emerald hills and wealthy, modern flair and you get the sublime lakeside town of Lake Lugano, Switzerland. Nestled between Lake Como and Lake Maggiore, this ultimate cultural mash-up is just a stone's throw from the Italian border and combines the best of both

worlds—including [Hotel Splendide Royal Lugano](#), a circa-1887 neoclassic villa turned 93-room lavish lakefront haven. From breathtaking alpine and water vistas to its impressive history, delicious wine and stellar service (hello, Maserati airport arrival!)—here’s why this landmark luxury oasis is a must-visit.



Image Courtesy Hotel Splendide Royal

The stunning lake views from the hotel

Water, water—everywhere! Thanks to an enviable address smack on Lake Lugano’s shores, the hotel’s locale is *the* ideal spot to savor glistening water vistas backdropped by majestic green cliffs. Straight out the lobby’s front doors, you can stroll for miles along the tree-canopied waterfront promenade dotted with inviting benches fronting the spectacular scene. Or wander the historic center with its upscale cafes, designer boutiques, and hip lounges housed in magnificent Swiss meets Italian abodes; then meander the pristine Parco Ciani, a lush waterfront park with Asian-inspired bridges, tropical flora—and beautiful panoramas. Or rent a private boat and explore the quaint neighboring Italian towns studding the hillsides. When you need a respite, lakeside lunch at the hotel’s [La Veranda](#) terrace is a must, where creative Mediterranean cuisine is served with splendorous sights.



Image Courtesy Hotel Splendide Royal

The Belle Epoque Bar

If these marble walls could talk...! From Ella Fitzgerald to European royalty, the world's most noteworthy guests have slept at this 19th century lakeside charmer. And you can feel its storied history permeating every immaculately preserved marble column, Murano chandelier, dark-wood antique, and regal furnishing. For the ultimate royal experience, score the jaw-dropping presidential suite with original fresco ceilings, his and her bathrooms, crazy elegant living room and massive balcony fronting heart-stopping Lake Lugano views. Though it's the hotel's Belle Epoque Bar where the past most comes alive with the buzz of yesteryear dignitaries like Neville Chamberlain echoing off the gleaming Terrazzo floors. Grab an evening aperitif, enjoy the live classical pianist, watch the lights twinkling off the lake—and be transported back to another time.



Image Courtesy Hotel Splendide Royal

The wine cellar

If you love wine, ready your glass – More like a temple for vino lovers, the hotel's wine cellar belongs on every oenophile's bucket list. Dazzling wrought-iron doors open to over 450 bottles of the best local and global vintages stacked open-tier around the gorgeous space. With soaring Belle Epoque tiled ceilings and painted wall maps depicting local Ticino wine history, flanking a wood-slab farm table, you couldn't design a more befitting spot for an intimate tasting dinner. Here, arguably Switzerland's best sommelier uncorks a mouthwatering food-to-bottle pairing—complete with the coolest stories of the labels' history. Though, trust, you can never go wrong with a great glass of Ticino Merlot.



Image Courtesy Hotel Splendide Royal

Rendering of Hotel Splendide Royal's new spa and swimming pool

Even more serenity coming soon – Everything about this palace oozes serenity: low-lighting, soft music, serene lake views, 5 star-worthy attentive staff that makes you feel nothing is too much trouble. And come mid-2019, you'll be able to bliss out even more with a stunning new state-of-the-art spa and 65-foot swimming pool. With an investment of 10 million Swiss Francs—the largest ever since the hotel's turn-of-the-century opening —you know it's going to be incredible.

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