

THE MOST  
TRUSTED NAME  
IN TRAVEL

Frommer's

# ITALY



2015

Crispi. Though heavily bombed by the Allies during 1943, the neighborhood houses some spectacular palazzi and churches, such as the Oratorio del Rosario di Santa Cita and the Oratorio di San Lorenzo (p. 530).

**NEW CITY** As you head north from Via Maqueda, the streets grow broader but also more nondescript. The monumental Teatro Massimo, at Piazza Verdi, roughly marks the division between the Old City and the New City. While Via Maqueda cuts through the medieval district, it becomes Via Ruggero Sétimo as it heads north through the modern town. This street explodes into the massive double squares at Piazza Politeama, site of the Teatro Politeama Garibaldi. North of the square is Palermo's swankiest street, Viale della Libertà, running up toward Giardino Inglese. This is the area where the Art Nouveau movement triumphed in the city, as is still visible in the kiosks at Piazza Castelnovo and in Piazza Verdi, but many of these priceless edifices were torn down by unscrupulous builders to make way for the ugly cement behemoths that do not blend with the elegance of the neighborhood.

### Where to Stay

Palermo has some excellent hotels, and rates are much lower than they are in Rome or Florence. For convenience and atmosphere, don't stay too far beyond the neighborhoods in the old center (see above).

**Butera 28 ★★★** The 17th-century Lanza Tomasi Palace, facing the seafront, is the home of Duke Giacchino Lanza Tomasi, the adoptive son of Prince Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, author of one of the greatest works of modern Italian literature, "The Leopard." The gracious duke and his charming wife, Nicoletta, have converted 12 apartments of their *palazzo* to short-stay apartments, filling them with family pieces and all the modern conveniences, including full kitchens and every traveler's dream come true, washing machines. Apartments have one or two bedrooms; some have sea views and terraces, some are multilevel, and all have beautiful hardwood or tile floors and other detailing. The duchess also offers cooking classes, and she and the duke are on hand to provide a wealth of advice to help you get the most out of their beloved Palermo.

Via Butera 28. [www.butera28.it](http://www.butera28.it) ☎ 39-333316-5432. 12 units. From 70€ double. **Amenities:** Kitchens, Wi-Fi (free). Bus: 103, 104, 105, 118, or 225.

**Centrale Palace ★★** A wonderful location just steps off the Quattro Canti put this much-redone yet still grand *palazzo* within easy reach of most sights. Public rooms, including a vast frescoed salon where breakfast is served, evoke the 1890s Belle Époque age when the 17th-century *palazzo* was first converted to a hotel. The good-sized guest rooms above are comfortably functional, with some luxe touches like rich fabrics and mosaic-tiled bathrooms; double-pane windows in the front rooms keep the street noise at bay. A rooftop sun terrace is retreat from the city below, with views that extend across the rooftops to Monte Pellegrino. There's an airy dining room up here, and you may want to linger well into a warm summer night.

Via Vittorio Emanuele 327 (at Via Maqueda). [www.centralepalacehotel.it](http://www.centralepalacehotel.it) ☎ 091-336666. 104 units. 188€–271€ double. Rates include buffet breakfast. Parking 18€. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants, bar; exercise room; sauna; room service; babysitting; Wi-Fi (free). Bus: 103, 104, or 105.

**Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa ★★** A conglomeration of three historic buildings seems to take in a bit of every part of Palermo's past—the banking floor and