

THE CHARLES HOTEL

A ROCCO FORTE HOTEL

| BY TRACY ELLEN BEARD

Munich, Germany, offers a plethora of hotels, but [The Charles Hotel](#), a Rocco Forte Hotel, is exceptional. Rocco Forte Hotels are owned and managed by the Forte family. Sir Rocco Forte, his three children, and his sister Olga Polizzi, a British Interior Designer, own and operate 15 Rocco Forte Hotels. My husband, Steve, and I recently stayed at The Charles Hotel, dined in some of Munich's finest restaurants, and explored this upscale city.

Accommodations at The Charles Hotel

Olga Polizzi is responsible for the room and suite designs at all Rocco Forte Hotels. The Charles Hotel's classic rooms are the largest hotel rooms in Munich. Contemporary works of art by Hubertus von Hohenlohn decorate the walls. The spacious limestone bathrooms feature specially designed Nymphenburg porcelain objects and Forte Organic body care items produced by Irene Forte, the founder of Irene Forte Skincare. All rooms feature standard upscale amenities and views of Munich's old town and the museum district.

The Deluxe Park View rooms offer everything the classic rooms possess, with the addition of French balconies, a garden theme, and heated bathroom floors. The Deluxe Panoramic View rooms continue to impress with the addition of a botanically-influenced seating area with views of the Old Botanical Garden.

All the rooms at The Charles Hotel are gorgeous, and the suites are simply opulent. The Classic Suites feature floor-to-ceiling windows, and the Lord Forte suites combine the elegance found in all The Charles Hotel rooms with the addition of a private terrace, oversized bedrooms, and even more spacious bathrooms. All Lord Forte suites are located on the corners of the hotel's top floor.

History of The Charles Hotel

During my visit to Munich, I spent one morning touring The Charles Hotel with the Regional Director of Mar-

keting in Germany, Sabrina Nitzsche. She shared that this particular hotel was a bit different than other Rocco Forte Hotels in that it was built and planned as a hotel. The Rocco Forte Hotel in Berlin had previously been a bank and was remodeled into a hotel. The Charles Hotel opened in 2009. Updates were needed as time passed, and renovations to the junior suites took place during my visit. The standard rooms were also getting a facelift.

The Charles Spa

Irene Forte oversees the spas in every Rocco Forte Hotel. Her products, Irene Forte Skincare products, are featured throughout the spas and hotels. A visit to The Charles Spa can be invigorating and relaxing. Guests can opt to hire a personal trainer or engage in a private yoga class. The fitness center is equipped with the latest cardio and muscle-building equipment and is open to guests 24 hours a day, and the pool is for aerobic exercise or a gentle lap swim.

What to See While Staying at The Charles Hotel

Munich is a large city filled with history and opportunity. I spent one morning with Anton Figl from [Simply Munich](#). He took us on a 2-hour tour. He explained how Munich has a large young singles population that works for high-end companies. It is an expensive place to live, so the number of young families is small. There are several beer gardens, high-end shopping districts, and historic sites like the Glockenspiel, The Residenz (the former royal palace of the Wittelsbach monarchs of Bavaria), and Marienplatz (the geographical and cultural heart of Munich since 1158) to visit. Marienplatz is the city square and home to the Old and New Town Halls.

Other places to visit include the Ohel Jakob, the Jewish synagogue, which was built between 2004 and 2006. The building is understated and part of the new Jewish Center consisting of the synagogue, Jewish Museum Munich, and a community center.



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My favorite part of our tour was the Viktualienmarkt, the street market. There were fantastic cheese shops, butcher shops, and kiosks filled with olives and specialty items.

Another favorite stop that I was not expecting was Eataly, Munich. I first learned about Eataly, huge compounds located throughout Europe and the U.S. that are filled with Italian groceries, wines, meat shops, Italian specialty products, and restaurants, when I interviewed Celebrity Chef Lidia Bastianich. She is one of the founders of Eataly.

Visit Munich

We loved The Charles Hotel and will stay there again on our next visit to Munich. There are many things to do in the city. Visit the BMW Welt building and revel in the incredible architecture and unique cars, walk the beautiful city parks, or dine at the fantastic 2-star Michelin restaurant, EssZimmer, where Bobby Bräuer delights dinner guests with haute cuisine. ❖



