



Treasures from Florence

Ever since young Brits descended on Florence during their Grand Tours, Tuscany's capital city and genteel British traditions have gone together like butter and jam. Today, a handful of the city's best hotels honor that legacy through afternoon tea rituals that rival London's, with a distinctly Tuscan twist: artisanal ceramics from the region.

At **The St. Regis Florence**, year-round afternoon tea runs daily in the 99-room hotel's flagship Café Ginori (pictured above), named for the porcelain manufacturer founded in the eighteenth century in nearby Doccia. Against a backdrop of bookshelves lined with Ginori 1735 trays and teacups, guests drink from the company's hand-painted cups – which are also available for purchase at the Ginori 1735 boutique downtown. Above the city in the serene Le Cure district, Auberge's **Collegio alla Querce** recently partnered with Aquazzura Casa for its own teatime, offered in the cooler months inside the 83-room hotel's Conservatorio. Florence-inspired tea blends pair with dishes such as salmon sandwiches and savory, chickpea-filled cannoli, served on bespoke ceramics that, if the mood strikes, can be custom-ordered. – *Mary Gray*