

St. Stephen's School Rome

Rome, Italy



At the foot of Rome's Aventine Hill, Italy's first IB Diploma programme pairs classical liberal arts with American college prep.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	53/100
Academic outcomes	54/100
University placement	52/100
Prestige & heritage	55/100
Alumni network	54/100
Facilities	58/100
Transparency	43/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St. Stephen’s School Rome occupies a narrow but distinctive niche: a small international boarding school for older teenagers, set at the foot of the Aventine Hill, with Rome itself folded into daily life. Founded in **1964**, it has history without old-institution pomposity. The offer is clear: the IB Diploma alongside an American curriculum, taught in English, for students aged **14–19**. That combination matters. It gives internationally mobile families a route into US and global university admissions, while the location gives the school a cultural asset few rivals can match. A campus near the Circus Maximus, Forum and Colosseum is not a branding flourish; in the right hands, it turns the city into a working classroom. The appeal rests in that *rare sense of place*, *intellectual seriousness* and *urban independence*.

What puts St. Stephen's on a shortlist is not scale, spectacle or sporting excess. It is the proposition itself: liberal-arts instincts in one of Europe's most historically saturated cities, with boarding attached. For the right student, that is **deeply compelling**. For the wrong one, it is a poor fit. Families looking for a sprawling campus, a high-gloss super-school atmosphere or a vast menu of activities will find stronger options elsewhere. Rome is the school's advantage and its limit. This is a school for adolescents who want culture close at hand, not sealed off behind gates; for students who can handle freedom, movement and the distractions of a capital city without losing focus. The boarding element widens the catchment and adds intensity, but the school's age range — ***14-19*** — keeps the atmosphere older, more self-directed and more adult than an all-through international school.

The student who will thrive here is academically minded, verbally confident and curious about ideas beyond the textbook. A teenager drawn to literature, history, philosophy, politics or the arts will get more from St. Stephen's than one whose identity rests on elite athletics or a giant-school social scene. It suits pupils who want **a cultivated education** with an American inflection and the discipline of the IB at the top end. It also suits internationally minded boarders who value **a cosmopolitan peer group** and can live comfortably in a school that asks for independence early. In market terms, St. Stephen's is not the universal choice; it is **a specialist option with real character**. For families who want Rome, boarding, English-medium teaching and a serious pre-university course in one place, it earns its place on the list.

STRENGTHS

- Boarding available for ages 14-19.
- English-medium teaching suits mobile international families.
- IB Diploma offered alongside American curriculum.
- Central Rome location near major ancient landmarks.

TRADE - OFFS

- No provision below age 14.
- Boarding only; unsuitable for day-only families.
- Non-religious ethos may not suit faith-based families.

ADMISSIONS

St. Stephen's School Rome is a boarding school for ages 14-19, so the natural admissions entry points are into the secondary years leading to the IB Diploma and the school's American curriculum. Publicly available information here confirms the age range, boarding status and English-language teaching, but not a detailed annual admissions calendar. Families should therefore expect rolling or school-set timelines rather than a single standard national deadline, and should check directly for current availability by year group.

The school does not publish, in the material provided here, a full breakdown of assessment format, interview stages or any distinctive selection mechanism. Equally, there is no verified public detail in these sources on bursaries or need-based financial aid, so it would be unwise to assume either broad availability or the absence of support without asking the admissions office. What is clear is that this is a small international boarding setting in central Rome, which usually means admissions are likely to be handled individually rather than through a mass-entry process.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_44a318bbbb.