

Bed-and-breakfast, Italian style

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BOLOGNA (TNS) – Even our cab driver, slowing down at the curb, isn't sure of the address here in the center of historic Bologna. He frowns impatiently, anxious to be picking up another fare, but sees only the busy intersection, a row of nondescript office buildings and a plain brown door. He squints, then takes off his sunglasses. "There, you see?" he says finally, pointing at a

number on the door. "Is that it?" "Where?" we say, unwilling to be dumped on the sidewalk with our luggage until we're sure this unlikely looking corner is our destination, the Bijoux di Penelope bed-and-breakfast.

Five minutes later we step out of a tiny elevator into a dimly lit hallway where the owner, Penelope Venturi, is waiting, brown hair falling over her shoul-

ders. Welcoming us, she opens the inner door into a sunlit apartment with four bed and a kitchen stocked with food.

One of the bed white and red "rubino," (ruby) room, with a balcony looking over Bologna's red-tiled rooftops, will be our home for the next few days. It's bright, it's private and it's secluded. But this B& B, Italian style, is not your father's ho-



GUESTS STAYING at the 'ruby' B&B can walk to Bologna's h

tel.

Back in the day, travelers who could afford tours of