

Antonio Sersale, owner of Le Sirenuse in Positano around the age of 10, eating *spaghetti alle vongole*.

"Everything you see I owe to spaghetti."



Welcoming DUCO's guests in Italy this summer comes with extraordinary emotions, as we all witness a significant transformation in the world of travels and have the unique chance to play a leading role for the new era that lies ahead.

Physically apart but together in spirit, we have all bravely faced the winds of the most challenging times, instilling confidence to the entire tourism sector through soulful, hard, creative work.

We are like the ancient pine trees of Rome, which life does not break "Come i pini di Roma la vita non li spezza".

This year we feel honored to present the exceptional quality of this country's hospitality to the world's most prestigious travel advisors.

The model of a boutique event, focused on a single destination, allows for a profound encounter with Italy's enchanting essence.

DUCO Italy's 2021 theme, *Appetito*, pays homage to the most ancestral of gatherings, the celebration around the table, which becomes ever more meaningful this year.

Appetito allows you to experience the true beauty of sitting around a table with your family and friends to share a meal prepared by *la nonna*.

Appetito is an invitation to discover the taste of Italy.

The act of saying, "Buon Appetito", is an invitation to appreciate friendship. Preparing a meal is an act of love that creates heartfelt and everlasting connections. An art Italians dominate like no other.

I feel each year my *Appetito* for Italy gets more and more insatiable, and I wish yours does as well.

Buon Appetito!

Carolina Pener

Founder of DUCO

Corriere DUCO — TRAVEL ADVISORS

ANAFFAIR OF THE HEART

When it comes to Italy, it's obvious that the way to our travel advisors' hearts is through their stomachs



CAPTURING THE MOMENT

In The Know

Experience

Lia Batkin, New York City - NY really live in every sense of the way and that really inspires me, every time I go, to live in the moment more than I do when I am at home. I really love everything about Italy: fashion and design, food and culture. I find Italy to be the only place in the world that I get excited to go back to over and over again, whether it be somewhere I have been or somewhere new. Even in the places I have been before, I am able to discover something new

or have a new memorable experience.

love Italians and their overall zest for life. They

Many years ago, my husband and I were in Capri on vacation and we met an Italian couple from Rome who was living on the Island for the summer. They invited us to the husband's birthday party two nights later at a restaurant. Of course, we knew no one. But we had one of the best nights of our lives with the absolute best food we have ever had as the husband's 95-year-old grandmother cooked the meal with the chef of the

restaurant. We met the most incredible people

64 love Italians and their overall zest for life.

and danced until the sun came up. It was a night we will never forget, and we are still friends with many of the people we met to this day.



ROMAN HOLIDAY, FOOD STYLE

Alexandra Erdman, New York City - NY Local Foreigner etting off the plane in Rome elicits
a Pavlovian response from me –
and finding a bowl of cacio e pepe
is typically the first thing I do. It is so simple that
it requires that each ingredient is of the highest
quality. There are a few places that come close in

A maritozzo in one hand and gripping the Vespa for dear life with the other! Heaven.

New York City, but where else are you going to find the world's best Parmigiano, pecorino, and pasta than Italy?

I wish I cooked more. When I do make Italian food, I copy one of my best friends' father. He makes the simplest, most delicious pasta that is tossed with anchovies in chili oil. The anchovies basically melt in the pan and coat the pasta in a salty, spicy mixture that I could eat for days on end.

When they come to Italy, most of my clients are

looking for something beyond the traditional cooking class or wine tasting experience. We've found that bringing people out of the kitchen and including the opportunity to learn about something else – be it history, agriculture, or dogs! – is what makes an experience unforgettable. Personally, my favorite experience is a food-focused Vespa tour around Rome. You try a variety of delicacies at different locations, all the while learning about the history of the city. A *maritozzo* in one hand and gripping the Vespa for dear life with the other! Heaven.

Corriere DUCO TRAVEL ADVISORS



LOCAL GEMS, **BRILLIANT** CONNECTIONS

Martha Gaughen, Atlanta - GA

Brownell Travel

ighlights for my clients on a trip to Italy owned restaurants or agriturismos. Two of my favorite hidden gems are Agriturismo Podere

in Italy (who doesn't?), but the thing I really can't get enough of is Mamma Agata's Iemon cake!!

Burde in Florence.

My own most memorable dining experience in are wine-paired meals in small, family- Italy was on the isle of Capri. I adore the Caesar Augustus Hotel. I could sit at the pool and on the terrace, looking out at the view of the Bay of Naples, 24/7. And I adore the family that owns and runs the hotel as well. I'll never forget a simple Italian dinner love a good pasta dish when I'm eaten there: local products and wine, perfectly prepared and served while enjoying the wonderful view, the breeze, and the lively conversation with Paolo Signorini and friends.

I love a good pasta dish when I'm in Italy (who Campriano in Greve-in-Chianti and Trattoria Da doesn't?), but the thing I really can't get enough of is Mamma Agata's lemon cake!!



BEEF CHEEKS, **IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER**

> Chris Tabbitt. Toronto - ON

favorites. A part of the appetite for me is the amazing!" A special dinner for many reasons. right table and the right setting.

experiences was in Florence at the Four Seasons. I was with my family in the garden at II Palagio. My **Travel Impresarios** kids were 11 and 13 at the time. There was a huge conference in town, so we were the only ones at the restaurant. The Four Seasons has a teen menu called, "You're not a kid anymore!" but my kids did not want any part of it. They wanted the Big Menu. So, the four of us got the tasting menu: multiple course, amazing service, incredible tastes. At the end, the waiter asked my 11-year-old what his

ong leisurely meals with loved ones are our favorite was, and he replied, "The beef cheeks were

Our clients want home cooking with nonna, not Probably one of my most memorable Italian dining necessarily Michelin stars. They also want to do

> Part of the appetite, for me, is the right table and the right setting.

cooking classes but not really cook. Pamela Sheldon Johns at Poggio Etrusco near Montepulciano offers our clients "A Day with Tuscan Food" that does just that and it is often the highlight of their trips.



A (DELICIOUS) **SENSE OF** COMMUNITY **AND FAMILY**

Bobby Huebner, New York City - NY

The Accomplished

■alking the streets of Florence, we were pulled into a small shop where we were handed two perfect sandwiches of salty cured prosciutto, the soft cream of a lightly melting cheese in the warmth of the fresh bread, all drenched in truffle. No sandwich will ever taste so delicious as that one.

I am very fortunate to have married an Italian man who cooks with his grandmother's recipes. We have dazzled our guests with homemade pasta and tomato sauces, made from fruit grown from tomato seeds passed down over the years! The flavors are imagining those that we will have in the future. The so familiar that they transport both our guests and us back to specific times and memories in a way that is unmatched.

A trademark of many a dinner with my Italian family and friends is the thorough enjoyment of the foods and discussion of meals past all the while

The sense of community and history that is shared through food leaves me with an appetito insaziabile for all things Italy.

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FULL STOMACHS, FULL HEARTS

Betsey Brown, St. Louis - MO

Betsey Brown Travel (Affiliate Smartflyer)

book Italian dishes. My mother is an amazing cook and has passed down everything she knows. Because of her, I love cooking for my amazing food. friends when they come over. Everything from

travels make the experience - their generosity, and warm welcome to Itay, is always comforting.

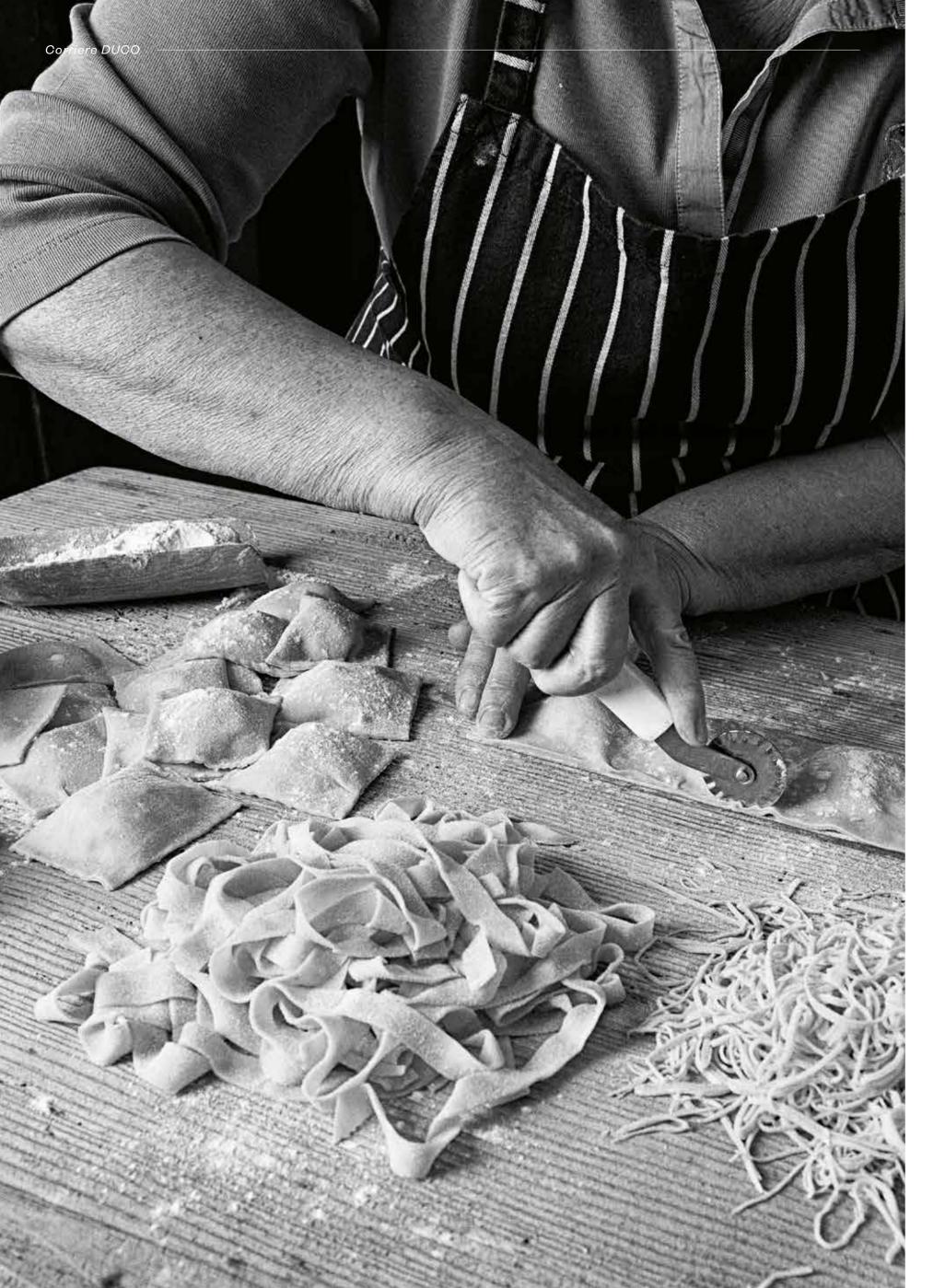
chicken parmesan and veal piccata to my great always find in my freezer!

My mother and I explored Italy together two is always comforting.

ince my family is Sicilian, I grew up learning to years ago and I can still remember the simple fresh pasta with lemon from Da Paolino on Capri like it was yesterday: the lemon trees, the breeze, and the

Cooking classes and unique food experiences are always a top request of our clients. The Mamma Agata cooking school in Ravello completely blew The people you meet during your us away! I did not know what to expect but the day was filled with amazing food, great new friends and recipes that we are constantly replicating. I frequently send my clients there and they are never disappointed.

Of course, the people you meet along the way grandmother's Italian meat sauce - which you can during your travels make the experience that much better - their generosity, and warm welcome to Italy,



Eat, Pray & Love

Our travel advisors know that no matter what's on your plate, true culinary authenticity comes from simple, fresh ingredients and dishes homemade with love. We asked them to share with us what really whets their appetite in Italy. Here are some of their insights that left us with *l'acquolina in bocca*.

Let's dig into your gastronomic insights:

YOU'VE JUST LANDED BACK IN ITALY. WHAT IS THE FIRST GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCE YOU SEEK OUT TO SATISFY YOUR ITALIAN APPETITE?

A 1997 Brunello paired with an aged pecorino and prosciutto crudo 46%

Homemade pasta al dente 35%

Anything drizzled with olive oil 9%

A cappuccino and cornetto (possibly filled with Nutella!) 5%

Gelato! 4%

WHAT MAKES A DISH QUINTESSENTIALLY ITALIAN?

It has no more than 5 ingredients, all fresh and seasonal 61%

The perfect regional wine pairing 16%

Real Parmigiano Reggiano (not Parmesan in a green can) 15%

Quantity that does not skimp on quality 4%

Garlic (and a little more garlic) 4%

WHAT DISHES REFLECT THE TRUE FLAVORS OF ITALY?

Spaghetti alle vongole with a crisp glass of Vermentino 31%

Anything with truffles 21%

The tri-colore: red, white, green. Or better: tomatoes, mozzarella, basil 20%

Risotto con funghi porcini 13%

Pizza Margherita 7.5%

Sun-warmed figs eaten straight off the tree 7.5%

WHERE DO YOU GO FOR A TRULY AUTHENTIC ITALIAN GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCE?

Any trattoria with nonna in the kitchen 31%

Pasta alla carbonara in Roma with a side of artichoke alla Romana 21%

Tuscany for pici al cinghiale and bistecca alla Fiorentina 20%

Orecchiette con cime di rapa in Puglia 13%

Lasagne alla Bolognese in...Bologna 7.5%

Ossobuco with risotto alla Milanese in Lombardy 7.5%

COOKTHE MOUNTAINS

Fostering land and culture, Rosa Alpina Hotel & SPA preserves a culinary and hospitality heritage for future generations in Trentino-Alto Aldige's magnificent Dolomite mountains

DUCO spoke with Hugo Pizzinini, the third generation of his family to run the hotel, a year-round destination nestled in the Alta Badia region among some of the most stunning mountains in Italy. Pizzinini, whose family built the first ski lift in San Cassiano, has seen the rich and famous come through his small town. And while the family built a luxurious retreat worthy of their cosmopolitan clients, they remain dedicated to the small-town mountain traditions and treating guests like members of the family.

How does Rosa Alpina reflect the flavor of the Alta Badia?

My family has owned the hotel since 1939, and most of the interiors are made from the wood of our trees. Some pieces of artwork come from nearby churches. Our goal is to let our guests experience the Dolomites in their essence. We provide the best hikes, the best guides, the best tips on the region.

Luxury is a marketing tool. It's not something we set out to do—it's been evolving on its own. We are sharing our home and what makes us comfortable. I grew up here, right inside this hotel. And now, my kids are growing up here.

What connects the history of your hotel to the gastronomic traditions of the region?

My ancestors had lived a harsh existence trying to get food from this land. Given our mountain location, which limited our access to ingredients, our traditional dishes were simple but also very rich and heavy. We still follow the principles of this cuisine, but we are able to make it much lighter and sophisticated. Using new cooking techniques combined with centuries-old traditions, we created a new concept we call "Cook the Mountains."

A crucial point is no waste: buying only what is necessary and using or preserving it through methods such as fermentation, smoking, and curing. We have one-on-one relationships with farmers and other suppliers. Orders need to be made sometimes a year in advance. On the menu at St. Hubertus, there is nothing out of season. There is no salad in winter, so we don't serve salad.

What led you to open St. Hubertus? Talk to us about the restaurant's success.

About 25 years ago, when Chef Norbert Niederkofler joined the Rosa Alpina, we decided to reserve a few tables of the then pizzeria to cook something different and more "gourmet style." He cooked.

I waited tables. I still do. Not long after that, we got our first Michelin star. The restaurant took over the pizzeria, and now we have ten tables that we can do something really special with.

But you can't eat Michelin every night. So, we have the grill, where you can have pizza and pasta, traditional Italian food. And our kitchens are open to our guests, and our staff is available to them.

Can you tell us about any memories you have of family meals of your childhood?

I can still taste the pasta and risotto with wild mushrooms we foraged and cooked ourselves—and still do—at our *baita* (mountain cabin) where we spent every August. We were 'parked' on the mountain with a nanny and all my cousins because my parents were busy running the hotel.

The cabin didn't and doesn't have electricity or running water, and we did all the cooking on a wood fire. We could bring (those amenities) there, but I don't want to. It's a special treat for our guests to stay there overnight now.

What is next for Rosa Alpina?

Gastronomically speaking, we want to keep the three-star restaurant while creating new dishes with a food lab for all types of restaurants—not only in the Michelin star league but also simpler versions.

We travel a lot, and we have a lot of hoteliers stay here. This gives us an opportunity to get new ideas. Last year we embarked on a rebranding effort with Aman Resorts. The owner vacations here at Rosa Alpina. And next summer, we will remodel. We always try to get better, but at our core, we remain the same.

We are a small family-run hotel in the middle of the mountains. My children are mountain children – skiing, climbing, hiking – they are out all day and never get sick. We live a very good life. This is a perfect little village.

The restaurant takes its name from the patron saint of hunters.

"Great St. Hubert, bless all who gather here in this natural setting, whose aim is to follow in your footsteps to be skilled and ethical hunters. Grant us confidence, perseverance, patience, and the accuracy to increase our proficiency in the fields, forests, swamps and marshes."

San Cassiano – Alta Badia In Trentino-Alto Adige www.rosalpina.it

COOK THE MOUNTAINS

Rosa Alpina Hotel & SPA

Corriere DUCO

La Cucina Piccola Fa La Casa Grande

DUCO's hotels with fewer than 20 rooms offer their guests grand experiences.

Pettolecchia La Piccola

rooms Fendi Private Suites

rooms Palazzo Scanderbeg Locanda Don Serafino Relais & Châteaux Casa Fantini Lake Time

Ca Maria Adele Castello di Guarene La Fiermontina Urban Resort Villa della Pergola Relais & Châteaux

Hotel Palazzo Manfredi Masseria Montenapoleone Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli Palazzo Gattini Sikelia Luxury Retreat

The Place Firenze

Corte della Maestà II Palazzetto

rooms Il Bottaccio

rooms Palazzo Vecchietti Lupaia La Bandita Townhouse

Margutta 19

Chalet del Sogno Mountain Experience Hotel D.O.M Hotel Hotel Vilòn Palazzo Venart

Pettolecchia La Residenza

rooms Castello di Vicarello Palazzo del Duca Fontelunga Hotel & Villas

rooms Corte San Pietro La Peschiera **Quarry Resort**

Sextantio Le Grotte della Civita Villa Pliniana

rooms Passalacqua

Palazzo Bozzi Corso by La Fiermontina

rooms Portrait Roma Borgo Pignano Castello Banfi - Il Borgo Villa Crespi Villa Spalletti Trivelli Palazzo Viceconte

Masseria Fontana di Vite

Sikelia Luxury Retreat

Giulia Pazienza

ust 35 miles off the coast of Tunisia, the island of Pantelleria is still largely off the radar of many tourists. But the lucky few that are lured by the contrasting colors of the blue sea and the white roofs of the dammusi can find an exotic home away from home at Sikelia Luxury Retreat. The 20-room all-suite concept hotel refects the wild beauty

You may arrive as a client but you will leave Sikelia as a friend.

of the island in its unique design blending metal, glass, and the highest quality fabrics. Each detail has been attended by owner Giulia Pazienza, who makes personal connections with her guests, often over a meal. "Food is conviviality, and conviviality is part of my idea of hospitality," Pazienza explains. "My guests meet me personally, I love sharing a big table with them at lunch or dinner. You may arrive as a client but you will leave as a friend."



La Peschiera

Giacomo Fusillo

t might be the color of the Adriatic's crystalline waters to one side, the expansive pools on the other, and the bright sky above (not to mention the name of the hotel's restaurant and the local salt served there), but there is nothing about La Peschiera that will make you blue. An old Bourbon fishing reserve along the coast in the heel of Italy's boot, each of the resort's 13 rooms has a private patio on the sea. "The Adriatic water laps under our guests' feet," says owner Giacomo Fusillo. Regional influence and the closeness of the sea is also felt the kitchen. "We believe in the Apulian culinary tradition with fresh, local ingredients and excellent seafood brought directly by local fishermen."

Casa Fantini Lake Time

Daniela Fantini

ugging the western shore of Piedmont's Lake Orta and boasting captivating views onto the enchanting ■ island of San Giulio, Casa Fantini Lake Time perfectly melds family traditions with contemporary spaces. "It is more than a hotel; it's a state of mind," says owner Daniela Fantini, who opened the 11-room boutique property in 2017 after remodeling an old hotel and a newer, adjacent building. "We would like to offer our guests not only a place to sleep but a place to really feel alive. A place where you can experience the Lake Time spirit, inspired by the mystic aura and silence of the lake."





BLACK EARTH

From the volcano to the table - Sicily's Mt. Etna looms large over everything produced in the rich soil at Monaci delle Terre Nere, Relais & Châteaux, where the influence of *mamma* is never far away.

After a career abroad, Guido Alessandro Coffa wasn't looking to get into the hospitality industry in his native Sicily. But then he discovered this former convent, an oasis spread across a stunning 24 hectares between Mount Etna and the sea. Now the eco-bio resort and its kilometer-zero restaurant Locanda Nerello – where traditional recipes feature products from the organic gardens – are at the forefront of preserving the biodiversity of the Mediterranean's largest island, a crossroads of culture and cuisine. Coffa talks to DUCO about his philosophy of authentic expression of the land and commitment to the Slow Food movement.

What inspired you to create a luxury getaway at the foot of an active volcano?

I used to work in the automotive industry. I stumbled onto this place and fell in love. The idea was not to make a hotel but to live here.

If you look at the pictures of our property, they don't even capture (the immensity) of it. You can't imagine it unless you are here. It's a question of perspective. We are this huge amphitheater that goes from Etna to the sea. We are not far from the motorway, but we are completely out of the way.

Mt. Etna is undergoing a moment of Renaissance. It was almost abandoned, but people are taking back the land. Monaci delle Terre Nere was born out of love and passion, not out of a business plan.

How does your property reflect the flavor of Sicily and Mount Etna?

Here we are in a place that has extended seasons. In the 1600s, this place was colonized by monks that were known for their viticulture. We have this vegetable garden where we are doing all this experimenting. We are growing local ancient and native varieties. We have an orchard with 60 different types of fruit, from *azzeruolo* (azarole or hawthorn) to the queen of cherries, the DOP certified Mastrantonio.

This place is a farm, and I see myself as a farmer. I am a farmer. I learned a lot by cultivating this land. It is important to have a knowledge of the earth, the wild vegetables. It was a skill that my mother and my grandmother had, and you could see in the kitchen.

Tell us more about your personal connection to this land and its gastronomic traditions.

It's a story linked with Mt. Etna and the tradition of my family. I grew up on Mt. Etna. At that time, it was wilder. My mother let me and my two brothers out in the morning to just explore everything. Then at 6 p.m., she would call us in and put all of us together in the bathtub. A thick layer of mud, this black earth, would come up. That just stays with you. Etna is in my blood. It's a special place; it has an energy. You can feel that energy when you are here.

As far as food, even the simple flavors of scrambled eggs with *cannatedda* – a wild green found in our fields – make memorable meals. My grandmother and my mother, who is unfortunately no longer with us, they used to be great cooks. There is a saying that there are many three-starred Michelin chefs in the homes in Sicily. Of her three sons, I was the one that was more near to her, more passionate about food and wine.

What's the favorite dish your mother used to cook for you?

Oh, I think it would be this dessert called *biancomangiare* – made with milk and pine nuts. It's such a classic. I couldn't stop eating it.

Gastronomically speaking, what is next for Monaci delle Terre Nere?

We have a presidio (the Slow Food Presidiums are a project designed to protect traditional products or processing methods at risk of extinction). We keep this local cabbage (*Aci trunzu Kohlrabi*); we are one of just three farms in the world that has it.

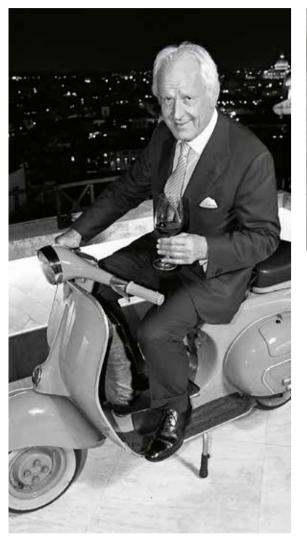
We're going to continue what we have started. And we've recently purchased more land, and we're planting more vineyards.

Monaci delle Terre Nere

21 rooms Locanda Nerello, eco-bio restaurant Mt. Etna is the world's oldest active volcano - it first erupted in 1500 BC - and the largest in Europe.

Zafferana Etnea Province of Catania, Sicily www.monacidelleterrenere.i

Show Me Rome Through Your Eyes





Massimo Colli Hotel d'Inghilterra Roma

SO, MR. COLLI, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST EDUCATION IN THE KITCHEN?

I was always so fascinated by my mother preparing meals for our family. Later, I developed an interest in the hotel industry. My career started in the food and beverage department working in many iconic international hotels with amazing restaurants where I learned live cooking techniques in front of the guests. I still entertain friends by cooking for them.



Luca Virgilio Hotel Eden

DO YOU COOK, MR. VIRGILIO? WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CREATION IN THE KITCHEN?

I like to cook socially, but not as an everyday affair. When I do cook, my specialty is *straccetti* of beef with porcini mushrooms

WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU WANT TO EAT WHEN YOU GO HOME TO MAMMA? (OR PAPA'?)

Spaghetti aglio, olio, e peperoncino con pane grattugiato.



Edoardo Giuntoli Sofitel Roma Villa Borghese

WHAT INGREDIENTS ARE YOU NEVER WITHOUT IN YOUR KITCHEN?

A very good olive oil (preferably from Tuscany), fresh tomatoes, anchovies, and a good piece of aged Parmesan cheese.

FLAVOR ISN'T JUST ABOUT FOOD—WHAT ELSE BRINGS OUT THE FLAVOR OF ITALY?

The atmosphere, the music, the 'perfume,' and last but not least the people.



Culinary clues to the Eternal City from the city's most respected

hoteliers who also spill a few gastronomical secrets of their own

Giuseppe Marchese Palazzo Montemartini

WHAT DISH BEST REPRESENTS THE CUISINE OF ROME?

Roman cuisine is full of history, and the delicious *suppli* is a part of this story. Now a symbol of Roman street food, the name comes from the French word "surprise." When Rome was occupied by Napoleon and his army, they were surprised by the mozzarella cheese hidden inside a ball of rice, covered in breadcrumbs, and fried. Today you can get *suppli* in pizzerias and gourmet restaurants - incredible variations celebrate traditional Roman pasta dishes, such as *suppli cacio e pepe or suppli alla carbonara*.



Francesco Roccato
Hotel de la Ville

TELL US ABOUT THE FOOD OF YOUR CHILDHOOD, MR

I was raised in Turin, so in my heart, I have the traditional Piedmont dishes: agnolotti del Plin, risotto, braised beef in Barolo wine, roast peppers from Carmagnola with bagna cauda. Food in our family has always been very important, especially during the holidays. Great food kept us all together (accompanied by fantastic wine, of course). Cooking together with grandma at Christmas time was one of my best childhood memories.

Roberto Wirth

Hassler Rome and Il Palazzetto

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE DISH, MR. WIRTH?

My favourite dish is *gnocchi alla Romana*—a type of gnocchi made with semolina flour and baked in the oven with parmigiano, cream and butter—but, nowadays it's very hard to find.

HELP US PLAN A FULL DAY OF DINING OUT IN ROME: IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE THE BEST PLACES TO HAVE BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND DINNER?

A few places I like very much for breakfast (aside from the Hassler, of course) are Coromandel—it is small and cozy and serves very good eggs—and La Buvette, which is close by and has great service.

For lunch in Rome I like Hostaria da Pietro and Da Francesco. They are both centrally located with a friendly service. I also appreciate Babette because of the original menu.

And finally, for dinner, you can't beat the great food and unique views over Rome and the Spanish Steps from the Imago at the Hassler. I also like Pierluigi where you can have great fish dishes and eat al fresco

WHAT ABOUT STREET FOOD—WHERE IN ROME DO YOU GO FOR SOMETHING AUTHENTIC?

I like Forno Roscioli, near Campo dei Fiori, that has freshly baked takeaway or even a few tables to sit. Or there is always Trapizzino, Rome's popular pizza pocket.



Matteo Fornasier

D.O.M Hotel

MR. FORNASIER, IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT BRINGS OUT THE FLAVORS OF ITALY?

No country in the world can boast a variety of flavors like Italy. The taste of food is nothing more than the combination of the earth, the crystalline sea, the uniqueness of flora and fauna.

TELL US ABOUT AN UNFORGETTABLE MEAL YOU'VE HAD?

The best meal I've had was the homemade pasta that my grandmother prepared for me, in Sardinia, when I was a child. Italian cuisine and its success derive precisely from the ancient recipes of the Italian grandmothers, from historical tradition.



Alberto Fendi

Margutta 19

MR. FENDI, WHERE ARE ROME'S TRUE FLAVORS

My neighborhood, Trident, is in the city center and yet has a character all its own... Local café-bars, small neighborhood restaurants, and the best artisans and independent boutiques.

WHAT INGREDIENT IS NEEDED TO RECREATE THE FLAVOR OF THE CITY?

The artichoke: In Rome, they are deep-fried, in the Roman-Jewish tradition, or stuffed *alla Romana*. Another vital ingredient is romance. Rome is one of the world's most romantic cities!



Martin Elsner Hotel de Russie

MR. ELSNER, TELL US ABOUT THE ROLE FOOD PLAYED IN YOUR CHILDHOOD?

Food has always played a central role in bringing our family together, from going grocery shopping in the markets in Germany, where I am from, to watching my father cook. It was something he was passionate about and that he passed on to me

WHEN YOU GO BACK TO GERMANY, WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU WANT TO EAT?

Reibekuchen, potato cakes, typical from the North Rhine-Westphalia. The taste and smell always make me feel at home.



Valerio Taddei Palazzo Dama

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT 5 FOODS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, MR. TADDEI, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

From Europe: carbonara pasta, known for the richness of smoked bacon perfectly blended with velvety egg sauce and a sprinkle of pepper, and a Fiorentina steak. Hearty and nutritious piping-hot ramen from Asia. Couscous with spicy vegetables and juicy meat from Africa. And, America's signature food, a tasty hamburger.

FOOD ASIDE, WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS IN THE FLAVORS OF ITALY?

Its thousands of years of culture, majestic architecture, and luscious wine.



Matteo Moretti Palazzo Manfredi

WHERE CAN WE DISCOVER THE BEST OF ROME'S FOOD MARKETS?

The best market is Mercato Testaccio!

MR. MORETTI, WHAT DISH BEST REPRESENTS THE CUISINE OF ROME? AND WHERE SHOULD WE GO TO

The dish that best represents the cuisine of Rome is *cacio* e *pepe*, literally cheese and pepper. And the best restaurant to taste it is Felice a Testaccio in the Testaccio neighborhood, an authentic working-class neighborhood of Rome just south of the Coliseum, across the Tevere river.



Giuseppe De Martino St. Regis Rome and The Westin Excelsior Rome

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND THINK ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE FOOD-RELATED MEMORY, MR. DE MARTINO. WHAT DO YOU SMELL?

Being from the south of Italy—Sorrento to be exact—the strongest memories I have are linked to the smell of the sea, sunny days, and the *Genovese*, a typical and traditional Neapolitan recipe. People say that to be Neapolitan, you must know how to make the *Genovese*, also know as "The Absolute Queen" due to the very long cooking preparation and the richness of the ingredients that eliminates the need for a second course. The typical and most vivid scene in my memories is that of the *Genovese* being prepared: windows wide open and the whole street being filled with the smell of onion and meat cooking over a low heat for at least four hours. *Bon appetito!*

IF YOU LEFT ITALY, WHAT FOOD ITEM WOULD YOU MISS MOST?

Without a doubt, *la mozzarella*! Such an incredible, soft white Italian cheese that the whole world envies us for and tries (unsuccessfully) to imitate. It is a rich food that matches perfectly with different types of vegetables and pasta. That is why we proudly serve it to our guests through a very special ritual: cutting it and preparing it to be served right in front of our guests on an elegant signature trolley.



Giacomo Guzzardi Palazzo Scanderbeg

WHAT SPECIAL DINING EXPERIENCE IN ROME COMES TO MIND FOR YOU, MR. GUZZARDI?

One of the best meals I've had was with friends and colleagues at the Taverna Trilussa Trastevere. We started with bombolotti (mezze maniche) alla carbonara, followed by animelle d'abbacchio al vino bianco e rosmarino (sweetbreads from a young, milk-fed spring lamb) and involtini di melanzane con pomodorini secchi di Cori (eggplant rolls with sundried tomatoes).



Ezio SacriniGrand Hotel de la Minerve

WHERE IN ROME DO YOU GO FOR STREET FOOD? HAUTE CUISINE? A SPECIAL OCCASION?

As for street food, there are many markets like Mercato Testaccio for fresh fruit and vegetables. Another good choice is Trapizzino - very popular and with a wide variety of tasty and unusual *tramezzini*.

For haute cuisine, I'd go to Mirabelle, the restaurant of the Splendid Royal hotel, looking onto Villa Borghese. And the amazing Roof Garden Restaurant of Grand Hotel de la Minerve, with a stunning 360° view of the Eternal City, is the perfect choice for special occasions.



Andrea Spalletti Villa Spalletti Trivelli

MR. SPALLETTI, BRING US BACK TO YOUR CHILDHOOD: WHAT WERE THE MOST COMFORTING FLAVORS FROM YOUR NONNA'S KITCHEN?

As a child, I was a *magnone*, literally 'someone who enjoys eating A LOT!' Whenever my sister and I went to my *nonna*'s house for lunch, I would go straight to the kitchen to check what was *bollendo in pentola* ('cooking in the pot'). My absolute favorite aroma was the diced onions slowly frying in the pan with extra virgin olive oil to prepare the sauce. It was the clear and undeniable sign that lunch would be served shortly.



Michela Mola Singer Palace

IN YOUR OPINION, MS. MOLA, WHAT MAKES A DISH OUINTESSENTIALLY ITALIAN?

Usually, many Italian dishes are served with a few drops of fresh extra virgin olive oil. This is a local "secret" and tradition that blends and exalts the flavors of each dish we serve our guests.

FLAVOR ISN'T JUST ABOUT FOOD—WHAT ELSE BRINGS OUT THE FLAVOR OF ITALY?

The irreplaceable scents that go from jasmine to rosemary, colourful skies and landscapes: joyful and full of life! Culture, art, history that you can enjoy if you take a stroll in each city centre or village in Italy.



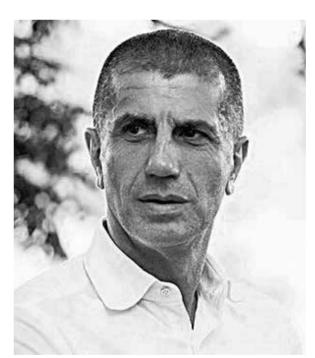
Daniele Saladini Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa

MR. SALADINI, WHAT INGREDIENTS ARE YOU NEVER WITHOUT IN YOUR KITCHEN?

We are in love with local products that reflect the authentic taste of traditional Italian cuisine. In our kitchen, we are never without ingredients such as pitted oil, quality salts, seasonal vegetables, quality flours as well as fish from our seas.

IF WE DROP BY AT 7 P.M., WHAT QUICK MEAL CAN YOU WHIP US UP IN YOUR KITCHEN?

Finger food, and I would involve my friends in the preparation. Tiny bites that embrace different flavors for all tastes: freshness, acidity, and crunchiness.



Marco Marroni

The First Roma Arte, Dolce, and Aqua

BRING US BACK TO YOUR CHILDHOOD: WHAT ARE THE MOST COMFORTING FLAVORS FROM YOUR NONNA'S

Both my mother and grandmother were born and raised in Umbria, just north of Rome. It's an area with a strong farming tradition, still preserved today. In our family, we've always followed that tradition, which I learned to appreciate. My memories are tied to fragrant legume soups, tasty fresh fruits, and sweet *polenta* pies with raisins and pine nuts. And time has proven it's the key to a healthy diet.



Gianluca Vallerotonda

Portrait Roma

MR. VALLEROTONDA, WHAT ITALIAN WINE PAIRS WITH ANY MEAL?

Every dish has its own identity and personality. Having the best production of wines in Italy, every region can offer the best. The classic pairing - seafood/white wine, meat/red wine - is still valid but for any meal a good rosé may be the best option.

HOW ABOUT DESSERTS: DO YOU HAVE A SWEET TOOTH? WHAT'S THE BEST ITALIAN SWEET?

I have a really big sweet tooth! In my opinion the *tiramisù* is the best known and one of the most appreciated in Italy.



Massimo Mainella Baglioni Hotel Regina

YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT 5 FOODS FOR THE REST OF

On top of my list, I would say pasta. Even small portions, but it is something that cannot miss from my daily diet. Second, a nice pizza margherita. Third, a seasonal vegetable from the local market; fourth, an artisanal ice cream; and last, but not least, fruit: an apple from Trentino.

FLAVOR ISN'T JUST ABOUT FOOD - WHAT ELSE BRINGS OUT THE FLAVOR OF ITALY?

The natural empathy that distinguishes Italians: Using hand gestures when we talk—this is our trademark somehow—to give emphasis to our feelings.



Maria Strati

J.K. Place Roma

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT FIVE FOODS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Sea urchin, Greek souvlaki, poached eggs on wholegrain bread with avocado, roasted chicken in the oven with baked potatoes, and fish—grilled or raw.

TELL US, MS. STRATI, WHERE IN ROME DO YOU GO FOR THE TRUE FLAVORS OF THE CITY?

At the street food markets: at Campo dei Fiori, Trastevere, Testaccio, wherever I can find a good warm white pizza con la mortadella and Roman suppli or a trattoria with an authentic cacio e pepe recipe.



Daniele Carta

Hotel Splendide Royal

DO YOU COOK, MR. CARTA? WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CREATION IN THE KITCHEN?

I really like cooking, especially during festivities. I normally prefer simple dishes but with excellent quality ingredients. Sea bass *all'acqua pazza* (mad water) is one of my favorites.

WHAT INGREDIENTS ARE YOU NEVER WITHOUT IN YOUR KITCHEN?

In my kitchen, I am never without cherry tomatoes. You can do so many things with them and like a simple salad with red onion, or pasta with cherry tomatoes and Parmesan cheese and many others.



Creating Delicious Journeys

Bellevue Hotel & Spa

Bellevue Syrene 1820

Borgo dei Conti Resort

Caesar Augustus

Capofaro Locanda & Malvasia

Castel Fragsburg

Castello Banfi

Castello di Guarene

Château Monfort

Da Vittorio

Don Alfonso 1890

Gallia Palace Beach Golf & Spa Resort

Gardena Grödnerhof Hotel & Spa

Hermitage Hotel & Spa

Hotel Borgo San Felice

Hotel II San Corrado di Noto

Hotel Londra Palace

Hotel Plaza e de Russie

Hotel Raphaël

Hotel Villa Franceschi

Il Borro

Il Bottaccio

Il San Pietro di Positano

L'Albereta

La Meridiana Resort & Golf

La Sommità Relais

Locanda Don Serafino

Monaci delle Terre Nere

Palazzo Seneca

Petra Segreta Resort & Spa

Relais II Falconiere & Spa

Relais Santa Croce

Terme Manzi Hotel & Spa

Terra - The Magic Place

Villa Abbazia

Villa Cordevigo Wine Relais

Villa Crespi

Villa della Pergola

Villa Fiordaliso





Soulful Appetite

DUCO partners with Massimo Bottura's Food For Soul for our first Give Back project.

Travel opens our minds to the world's diversity.

Hospitality changes how we relate to the world.

Those concepts are never more important than when talking about our planet's precious resources and the most vulnerable in our society.

And they make DUCO and the non-profit Food For Soul perfect partners.

Renowned chef Massimo Bottura and Lara Gilmore sought a different approach to combating food waste and food insecurity when they launched Food For Soul in 2016. They viewed these problems as two sides of the same coin. Issues that could be addressed through culture as much as through charity.

Each year 1.5 billion tonnes of food is lost or wasted. Meanwhile, 815 million people – 11 percent

Culture brings knowledge.

Knowledge leads to consciousness.

And when we become conscious we are one short step away from becoming socially responsible. Culture is the key. - Massimo Bottura.

of the global population – are undernourished. A meal not only feeds the body, it feeds the soul. It's a gesture of inclusion.

Food For Soul's idea is simple. Take surplus ingredients donated by restaurants and markets, use creative, sustainable cooking techniques to prepare creative meals, and serve those meals to people in need in beautifully renovated, unused spaces.

The project embraces three core principles: Quality of Ideas, Power of Beauty, Value of Hospitality. In a world that builds walls, they are trying to tear them down.

This fit perfectly with DUCO founder Carolina Perez' ethos. In Food For Soul she saw the perfect opportunity for DUCO's first Give Back project.

FOOD FOR SOUL'S IMPACT (SO FAR)



+850,000 Guests



+785,000 Dishes Cooked



+100,000 Volunteers



+500 tonnes Recovered Food

DONATE:

WWW.DUCOTRAVELSUMMIT.COM/GIVEBACK

High Cuisine and Pizza at Grand Hotels

Italy's finest hotels also happen to be some of the greatest destinations for foodies, featuring Michelin-starred restaurants, emerging chefs, and traditional cuisine.

Michelin stars are a delicious recent addition to five-star hotels in Italy. In contrast to other European countries, Italians (until a few years ago and with obvious exceptions) had considered hotel restaurants a holiday obligation: convenient, but nothing to write home about. Now it is the extreme opposite, with some of the best restaurants hosted in the nicest and most elegant hotels all over the country.

In recent years, quality dining has become a priority for travelers in general, and in particular, for gourmet travelers. Consequently, hotels and relais have focused more and more on high-quality food in order to attract new and more attentive clients.

Italy has always been famous around the world for its delectable cuisine and authentic traditions. Based on this merited reputation, travelers believed that it was enough to find a table with a red-and-white-checked tablecloth and they'd have the best spaghetti ever! Today's food-trotters, with their refined palates, expect much more than a pizza and the tune of a mandolin to satiate their appetites.

When the Michelin Guide to Italy was first published in 1956, there were no assigned stars at all, just good restaurants to stop at. It wasn't until 1959 that 81 locales were awarded a star rating, and just one of them was located in a guest house (in Emilia Romagna). Today, Italy has the third-highest number of Michelinstarred restaurants, after France and Japan — 371 in 2020. Of them, 323 have one star, 37 have two, and 11 boast three stars, among them St. Hubertus at the Rosa Alpina Hotel & SPA in the beautiful Dolomite mountains. And this year, St. Hubertus' Norbert Niederkofler was among the 13 chefs in Italy to receive Michelin's new Green Star award for sustainable cooking.

In fact, in the latest Michelin Guide, 106 of the starred restaurants are located in villas, castles, *masserie*, and relais from Piedmont to Sicily. And some 42 are a part of DUCO.

Italian master chef Antonino Cannavacciuolo brought two stars to Villa Crespi by performing his high culinary arts in the restaurant that bears his name, as did Antonio Guida at the Mandarin Oriental in Milan. Looking east, Palazzo Venart in Venice received a second star in 2020 as an ovation for young Donato Ascani's colorful dishes and perfect service, while the expressive Ristorante Amistà at Byblos Art Hotel is a new addition in 2021. In central Italy, Tuscany's hotels have some of the best fine-dining stops: at the Hotel Lungarno next to the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, at COMO Castello del Nero and Castello Banfi - Il Borgo among the vineyards, in the countryside at the Relais & Châteaux II Falconiere & SPA, and on the coast at Principe Forte dei Marmi and Hotel Byron.

Heading south, the Amalfi Coast is a paradise for gastronomes. Epicures can select from Michelin-starred menus at Palazzo Avino, Le Sirenuse, Il San Pietro, Monastero Santa Rosa, and new to the ranks, Nove at Villa della Pergola Relais & Châteaux, where citrus, herbs, and edible flowers are sourced from the villa's gardens. The Capri Palace Jumeirah, on the homonymous island in the Gulf of Naples, boasts L'Olivo with two stars. In 2020, Punta Tragara received a star for the elegant Le Monzù, though the hotel had already been honored with its first star for the trattoria Mammà, famous with locals for the perfect pizza steps from the celebrated Piazzetta.

Pizza is, in fact, a new trend in exclusive Italian hotel restaurants. Again, nobody in the bel paese would have thought to serve pizza in a luxury resort before a few years ago. Surely,

Villa Cora, surrounded by lush Florentine gardens, was one of the first to propose poolside "pizza & champagne" on summer evenings. Now guests at L'Albereta can enjoy Franco Pepe's delicious crunchy pizza, considered by experts the best of Italy: *Una margherita* + the house Bellavista bubbly set among the Franciacorta hills = a winning formula. Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como makes it even easier with *quattro stagione* served straight from the oven of a food truck parked on its marvelous terrace for alfresco dining while admiring a romantic sunset on the lake.

Some hotels even have their own pastry shops, such as The First Roma Dolce in the historical center of Rome, where anybody can grab a take-away maritozzo freshly filled with whipped cream or sit and order an Italian-style afternoon herbal tea and butter cookies. A stop at Rocco Forte's Hotel de la Ville is even more Italianesque. Come in the ground-floor public entrance and down a €1.50 espresso while standing at the bar—just like in any other coffee shop in Rome—or sit down for a quick business lunch of ham-and-cheese tramezzini. For more privacy, check out the reserved lounges or excellent room service—guests can enjoy pasta alla Norma by Fulvio Pierangelini, who has chosen to make only traditional dishes

Luxury hotels have indeed become a guaranteed place to taste some of the finest Italian food, whether it be a creative menu by starred chefs, a traditional dish of homemade *orecchiette* at II Melograno in Puglia, or a healthy, organic salad with avocado and some other superfood. Guests certainly aren't left wondering where the "buon" in buon appetito came from.

Before being honored with a guide of its own, Italy's first appeared in the 1907 handbook covering the Alps and Northern Italy, and in the 1911 "The Countries of the Sun" (Les Pays de Soleil), which combined travel trips for Italy, Corsica, and North Africa into one volume.

"In fact, in the latest Michelin Guide, 106 of the starred restaurants are located in villas, castles, masserie, and relais from Piedmont to Sicily. And some 42 are a part of DUCO."



Palazzo Venart, Venice



SMALL LUXURY HOTELS OF THE WORLD

Independently minded

2021 DUCO's Small Luxury Hotels of the World Exhibitors

Byblos Art Hotel Villa Amistà

Canne Bianche Lifestyle Hotel

Casa Angelina

Ca'Sagredo Hotel

Hotel Castello di Reschio

Fendi Private Suites

Galleria Vik Milano

Hotel Byron

Hotel d'Inghilterra

Hotel Lungarno

Magna Pars L'Hotel à Parfum

Hotel Splendide Royal

Hotel Villa Franca

Hotel Vilòn

II Melograno

La Peschiera

Lefay Resort & SPA Dolomiti

Lefay Resort & SPA Lago di Garda

Margutta 19

Palazzo Manfredi

Palazzo Vecchietti

Punta Tragara

Sikelia

Villa Spalletti Trivelli



Dating back 3,000 years to the time of the Etruscans, Tuscany gastronomy has been, from the start, uncomplicated and hearty. But even in its simplicity, the fertile land has offered up quite a bounty.

Legumes and grains used in soups; sheep, goats, pigs, and cattle raised for their milk and meat; and wild game, especially the iconic wild boar, all provided a superb banquet for the ancient Tuscans and remain hallmarks of the cuisine.

During the Renaissance, noble courts went to great lengths to serve sophisticated foods at their grand galas. It is said that in an effort to impress Caterina de Medici, Bernardo Buontalenti - an architect, sculptor, painter, military engineer, and set designer of 16th century Florence - concocted what is now perhaps the most beloved dessert in all the world: gelato. His creamy eponymous creation is a favorite flavor in gelaterias still today.

Of course, there was no greater ambassador for the Florentine Renaissance than Caterina and that included cooking. When she married Henry of Orleans in 1533, later becoming Queen of France, Caterina brought her chefs and traditions - including ingredients such as lettuce, truffles, artichokes, and that famous frozen dessert - to her adopted land (much like she did with Renaissance noble court dancing, ballet de cour, that evolved into modern-day classical ballet).

But ultimately the character of Tuscan cuisine has been defined by its ancient origins and centuries of country living. It is known as cucina povera, or "poor cooking," still today. That frugality that may have come about as an economic necessity, nowadays is a choice based on fresh, high-quality ingredients that elevate the natural flavors of the region. And many of the ingredients, unique to the region, have been awarded DOP and IGP designations, signs of quality and link to a geographic area.

One essential touch for any Tuscan dish is the region's piquant extra-virgin olive oil, its sole traditional spice, prized the world over for its robust fragrance.

While traditional dishes vary slightly from town to town in this region that stretches from the Tyrhennian Sea to the Appenine mountains with a large swath of fertile lands in the center, here are some you won't want to miss on a swing through the region:

Lampredotto - The Florentines' favorite street food: line up for lunch at one of the food carts around town for a filling panino made from the cow's fourth stomach that has been stewed in a thin tomato sauce, topped with salsa verde.

Fettunta and crostini Toscani - No antipasto is complete with these simple slices of bread. Fettunta showcases the region's extra-virgin olive oil doused on toasted bread that has been rubbed in garlic. Crostini Toscani is Italian chicken liver pâté served on crunchy slices of bread.

The bread dishes: panzanella, ribollita, pappa al pomodoro –

These dishes perfectly blend the frugal nature of Tuscans - no scrap of food goes unused - with the brilliance of their much discussed saltless bread. Stale bread is combined with fresh ingredients to create a bread salad (panzanella) or soups (ribollita and papa al pomodoro) according to the season.

Pici with porcini mushrooms - Tuscans take to the hills in autumn in search of the precious porcini – the most avid hunters keep their locations a secret so others don't happen upon their harvest. It's worth it for a scrumptious pasta to top the Sienese pici pasta, thick spaghetti found in Etruscan artwork.

Tortelli Mugellani - From the northern edges of Tuscany, these potato-filled ravioli are surprisingly delicate; served with mamma's favorite sugo or simply butter and sage.

Cacciucco Livornese - A spicy fish stew found all along the long Tuscan coast, it captures the flavor of the sea.

Bistecca alla Fiorentina - A lusciously juicy T-bone steak, rigorously tre dita, or three fingers, thick. And don't even think about asking for your meat well-done - restauranteurs insist the only way to serve and eat your streak is al sangue.

Castagnaccio - With a base of just chestnut flour and water, this dessert could be quite underwhelming but Tuscans get creative with flourishes of rosemary, pine nuts, and raisins.

Panforte and ricciarelli in Siena - Dense and spicy, panforte is the sophicated version of a fruit cake, while ricciarelli almond cookies are a delicate take on this sweet dessert.

Cantuccini di Prato and vin santo - What simpler and better way to end a meal than with the crunchy biscuits dipped in a sweet glass of holy wine.



Corriere DUCO STRONGER TOGETHER

Stronger Together

Sometimes Hospitality is as Simple as Human Connection and a Smile

Affable and optimistic, Danilo Guerrini knew from the time he was a young boy that the world of hospitality was his home. His dream to be a hotel manager has taken him around the world and back home to Italy. He is currently the general manager of Borgo San Felice in Castelnuovo Berardegna near Siena. Guerrini was only a few months into his three-year stint as the Italian Delegate for Relais & Châteaux when Covid-19 deeply impacted the travel world. He spoke with DUCO about the energy of travel and the spirit of Relais & Châteaux and what they mean for hospitality in 2021 and beyond.

First of all, Mr. Guerrini, where are you from?

I am a proud Tuscan man, born "under the Tuscan sun" in Cortona, and I grew up near the Abetone pass. At the age of 14, I moved away from home as my dream was the hotel industry...so I went to Montecatini to attend a hospitality school.

That's a big decision to make at such a young age.

I saw a movie from 1967 called *Hotel*, and I fell in love with the life of the protagonist: a hotel manager of the fictitious St. Gregory Hotel in New Orleans. So, at the age of 12, when someone asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" my answer was "I want to be a GM."

Another film that impressed me was *Pretty Woman* in the 90s. Although everyone remembers Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, I remember the GM of the Beverly Wilshire. Just another confirmation that this was my destiny.

Cinema and tourism both embrace beauty. Do you see a connection?

Oh, yes, with tourism and wine as well!

What does travel mean to you?

To me, travel means freedom, to be connected to people, experiences, and richness.

Your mind is active when you travel; you get in touch with other people and cultures—[for example] being in New York, the feeling of admiring a piece of art surrounded by many other people.

Ah, yes, it's hard to talk about travel right now without acknowledging the challenges of the past year.

The pandemic was a shock for all of us, but Relais & Châteaux reacted immediately. We shared our energy to overcome the shock.

The best idea ever was weekly Zoom

meetings with teams worldwide: We had never had the chance to be so connected. In a negative situation, you need to find positivity. And we agreed we had to be stronger together to arrive at the end of the tunnel.

The association has been able to cultivate a positive attitude and share good ideas and best practices to inspire and support all members.

What are you looking forward to in 2021? How have you adapted for the future?

We are all connected. We should respect our own health and care more for the health of other people as well. Our properties have a competitive advantage: we are in the mountains, in the countryside, by the seaside, in big wide spaces where people can feel safe and enjoy Mother Nature. At Borgo San Felice, for example, we are in the countryside and we are wine producers. Our guests enjoy wine harvesting, being in nature.

We will remember this as the season of rediscovered human relations.

Tell us about Relais & Châteaux—it's not just an organization, it's a philosophy.

The story of Relais & Châteaux began in 1941 when two former music hall entertainers, Marcel and Nelly Tilloy, purchased "La Cardinale," an estate in the Rhône Valley in France. The Tilloys then began recruiting other hoteliers and restaurant owners who shared the same quality, passion, and excellence to create Relais & Châteaux. Today, more than 580 members are part of this worldwide network.

As a family of chefs, hoteliers, and restaurateurs, they have made a conscious choice to be true to the mission bestowed upon them: to preserve and share true culinary techniques and eschew shortcuts that diminish excellence. It is with this vision for a fairer, healthier, and happier world that the Relais & Châteaux family will serve as a catalyst and

inspiration, making this world better through cuisine, hospitality, and relentless pursuit for "l'art de vivre."

What experience as a traveler has stayed with you?

Nine years ago, I went to Mauritius island. After a long flight, I was met by a smiling guy who said, "Welcome, Mr. Guerrini"—he knew my name!—and offered me a towel with a nice scent. In that moment, I felt relaxed and as if I had arrived in paradise.

The lesson for me, that I always share with my staff members, is that the way you welcome people is so important.

Smiling is enough. And now, wearing masks, I ask my staff to smile with the eyes.

What else do you want Corriere readers to know?

Mother Nature is super important. We must respect the environment, and all members are focusing on activities to protect the environment. The future of the next generation depends on our activities now, and Relais & Châteaux wants to act and be part of these decisions.

How does that manifest at Borgo San Felice?

We have a lot of activities we are immensely proud of.

Since 2012 we have a project called Orto Felice. This organic vegetable garden involves the hotel guests and staff with an inclusive project, which has a "social" function, engaging local elderly residents and young people with special needs. This is part of a larger project called "L'orto e l'aia nel Borgo" to teach young people to grow local seasonal vegetables. But the biggest thing they teach us is to smile. To remind us that we don't have problems; we have critical situations, and we can find solutions.



Relais & Châteaux

Founded in 1954 in France

More than 580 member hotels and restaurants worldwide

39 hotels and 11 restaurants in Italy

www.relaischateaux.com

Relais & Châteaux commitments

To preserve the diversity of cuisines and hospitality in this world so that future generations can know and share in their richness

Share our passion for all that is good and beautiful in this world

To work together to create a more humane world

Borgo San Felice

Castelnuovo Berardenga (Siena), Tuscany
www.borgosanfelice.it

8th Century village with 33 guest rooms and 20 suites 1-star Michelin restaurant, Poggio Rosso Relais & Châteaux since 1992 

SULL'ALI DORATE

Fly, my thoughts, on wings of gold; go settle upon the slopes and the hills, where, soft and mild, the sweet airs of my native land smell fragrant!

- "Va, pensiero" from Verdi's Nabucco

Born out of a desire to reconnect to her roots, Carolina Perez's dream of DUCO became a reality with the first **DUCO** – the only high-end travel event to focus entirely on a single destination: Italy.

The idea first came to her at the Arena of Verona on a summer night of 2016, watching Verdi's Nabucco.

With **DUCO Italy** came the publication of **DUCO Corriere**, a broadsheet featuring the most beautiful hotels in Italy and enticing tales of the *bel paese*.

In 2019 DUCO's roots took a stronger hold when the event swept hospitality off its feet with the theme, **Dance Me to Italy**. This was also the year of the first **DUCO Lemon Awards**, designed to celebrate Italy's creativity & charm with videos starred and produced by Italy's most charismatic hoteliers – showcasing La Bella Italia through their eyes and multiple talents.

Deep roots allow for expanded growth and many exciting new features were created. **DUCO Give Back** is a collaboration with Chef Massimo Bottura's **Food for Soul** – project focused on fighting food waste through social inclusion. And the winners of the first **Patrizio Cipollini Award** – the best Italian hotelier as voted by travel advisors – are waiting to be announced. The annual prize honors the legacy of the late Patrizio Cipollini and represents the excellence of Italian hospitality, as inspired by Patrizio's elegance and passion.

The challenging winds of 2020 allowed for innovation, with new creative ways to stay connected.

An exciting series of webinars debuted in April: **DUCO Parla!** brought hospitality friends together in 18 encounters, crisscrossing the peninsula and uncovering the best of Italy, while connecting over 180 Italian hoteliers to share the love for their land.

DUCO Galleria inaugurated 2021 with an online showcase that puts insights into DUCO's hotels, secrets of every region, delightful dishes, and other creative content at your fingertips.

At last, **DUCO Virtuale** – online meetings program – has opened for the promising spring of 2021, warming up DUCO's network for the much-anticipated event.

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And now, after long last, bentornati e benvenuti a DUCO Appetito 2021!



corriere
DUCO



DUCO.

THE LEMON AWARDS.

DUCO Give Back

DUCO Parla!













OVER 100 YEARS OF PASSION FOR ITALY



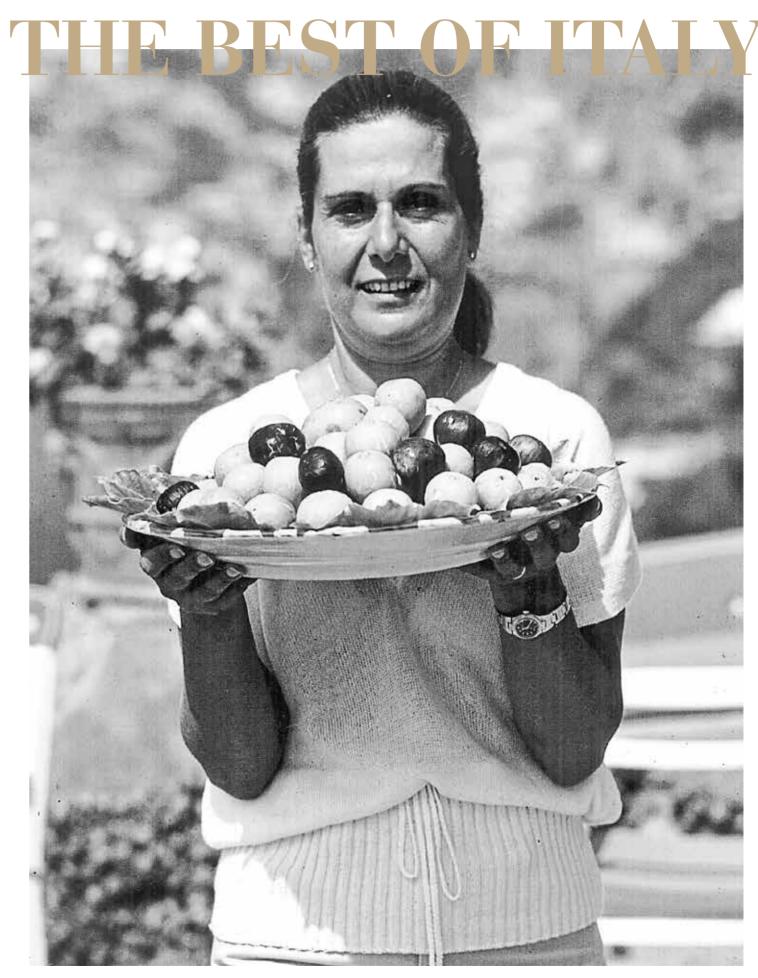
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"One of the very nicest things about life is the way we must regularly stop whatever it is we are doing and devote our attention to eating."

LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

DUCO



Virginia Attanasio, Vito Cinque's mother, carrying a ceramic platter piled with fresh figs for the family lunch in the garden of II San Pietro di Positano, circa 1970s.



Aosta Valley **Piedmont** Liguria

Orta San Giulio

04 Villa Crespi

Lake Maggiore

Lake Orta

05 Villa e Palazzo Aminta

06 Casa Fantini Lake Time

Hotel, Beauty & SPA

01 Villa della Pergola Relais & Châteaux

Courmayeur

02 Le Massif

Guarene

03 Castello di Guarene

Portofino

07 Belmond Hotel Splendido

08 Belmond Splendido Mare

Sanremo

09 Royal Hotel Sanremo

10 The Mall Sanremo

Santa Margherita Ligure

11 Grand Hotel Miramare

Santo Stefano Belbo

12 Relais San Maurizio

13 Principi di Piemonte | **UNA Esperienze**

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Lombardy

Lake Como

- 01 Grand Hotel Tremezzo
- 02 Villa d'Este
- 03 Mandarin Oriental, Lago di Como
- 04 Il Sereno Hotel
- 05 Villa Pliniana
- 06 Passalacqua

Erbusco

07 L'Albereta

Lake Garda

- 08 Lefay Resort & SPA Lago di Garda
- 09 Grand Hotel a Villa Feltrinelli



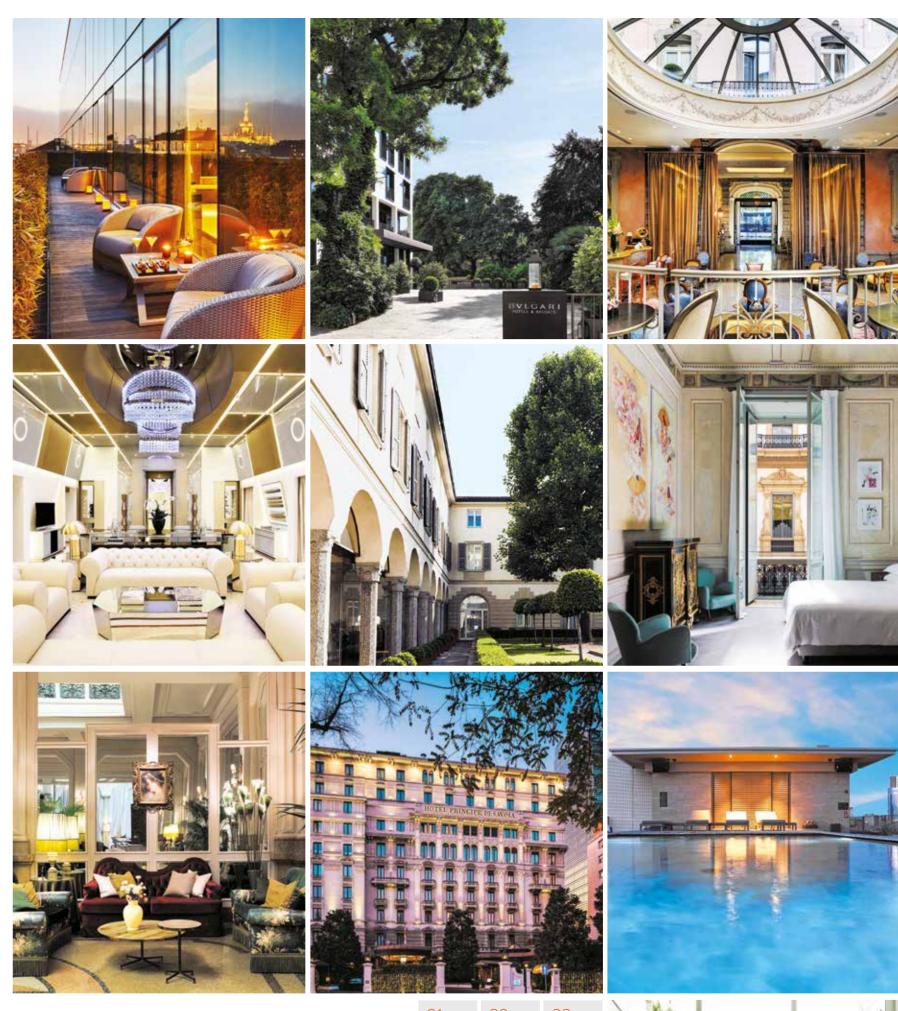
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City of Milan

- 01 Armani Hotel Milano
- 02 Bulgari Hotel Milano
- 03 Château Monfort
- 04 Excelsior Hotel Gallia, a Luxury Collection Hotel
- 05 Four Seasons Hotel Milano
- 06 Galleria Vik Milano
- 07 Grand Hotel et de Milan
- O8 Hotel Principe di SavoiaO9 Hotel VIU Milan
- 10 Magna Pars, L'Hotel à Parfum



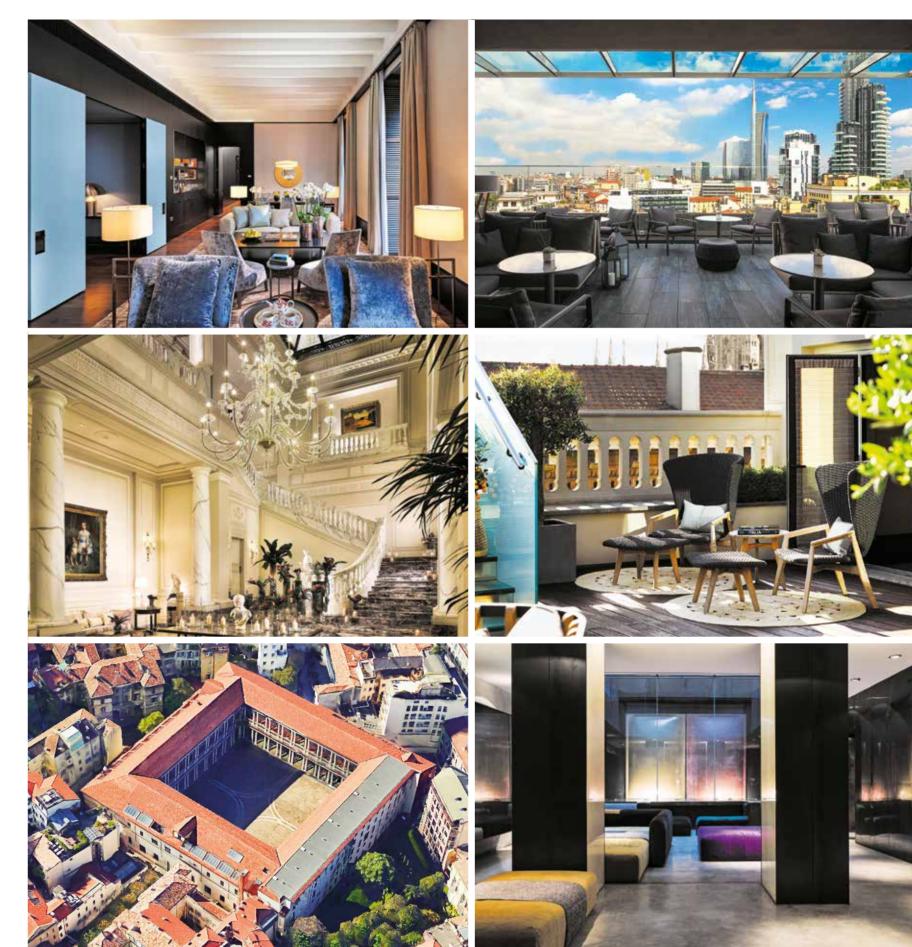
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City of Milan

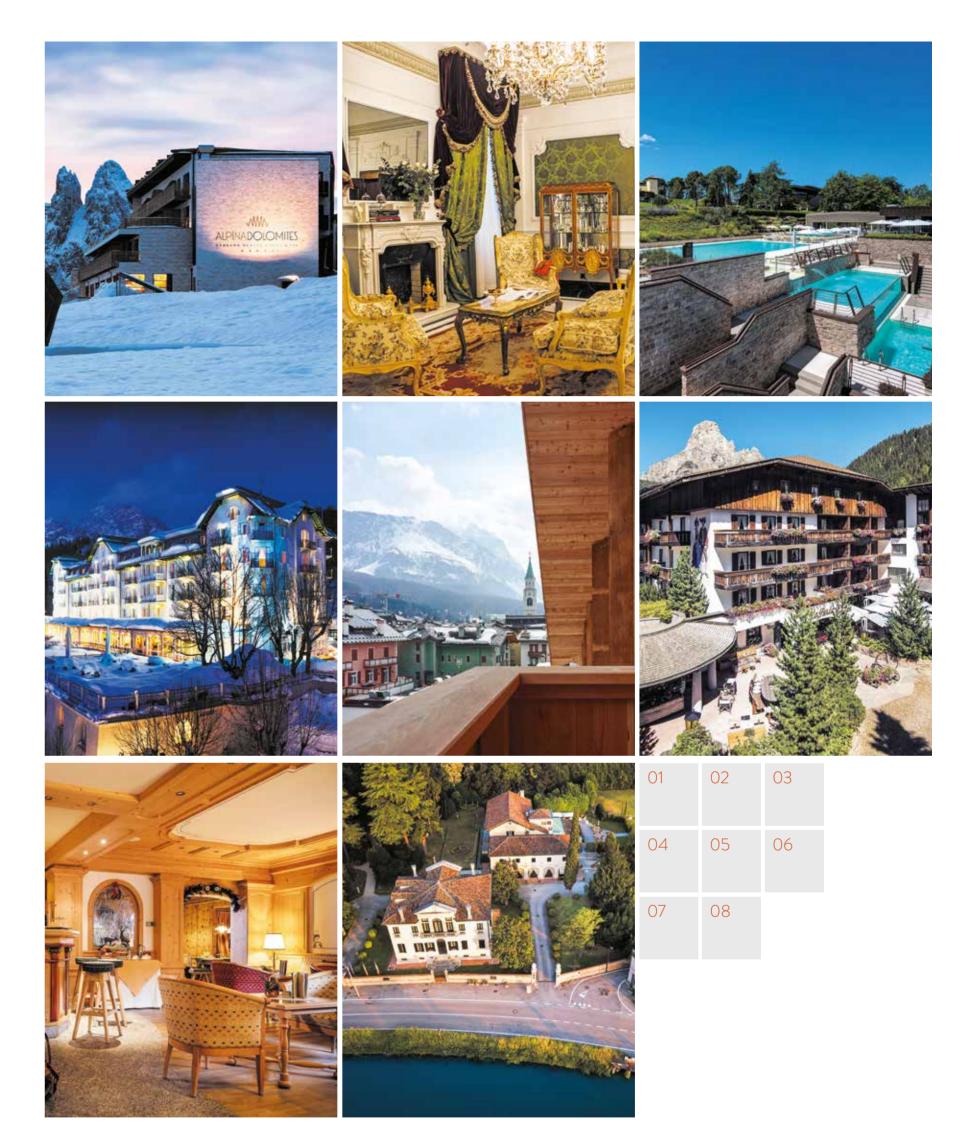
- 11 Mandarin Oriental, Milan
- 12 ME Milan II Duca
- 13 Palazzo Parigi Hotel & Grand Spa
- 14 Park Hyatt Milano
- 15 Portrait Milano
- 16 STRAF Hotel & Bar



11	12
13	14



Trentino-Alto Adige Veneto Emilia-Romagna



Alpe di Siusi, Dolomites

01 Alpina Dolomites

Bologna

02 Grand Hotel Majestic già Baglioni

Castel San Pietro Terme

03 Palazzo di Varignana

Cortina d'Ampezzo, Dolomites

O4 Cristallo, a Luxury Collection Resort& Spa

05 De Len

Corvara, Dolomites

06 Hotel La Perla

Madonna di Campiglio, Dolomites

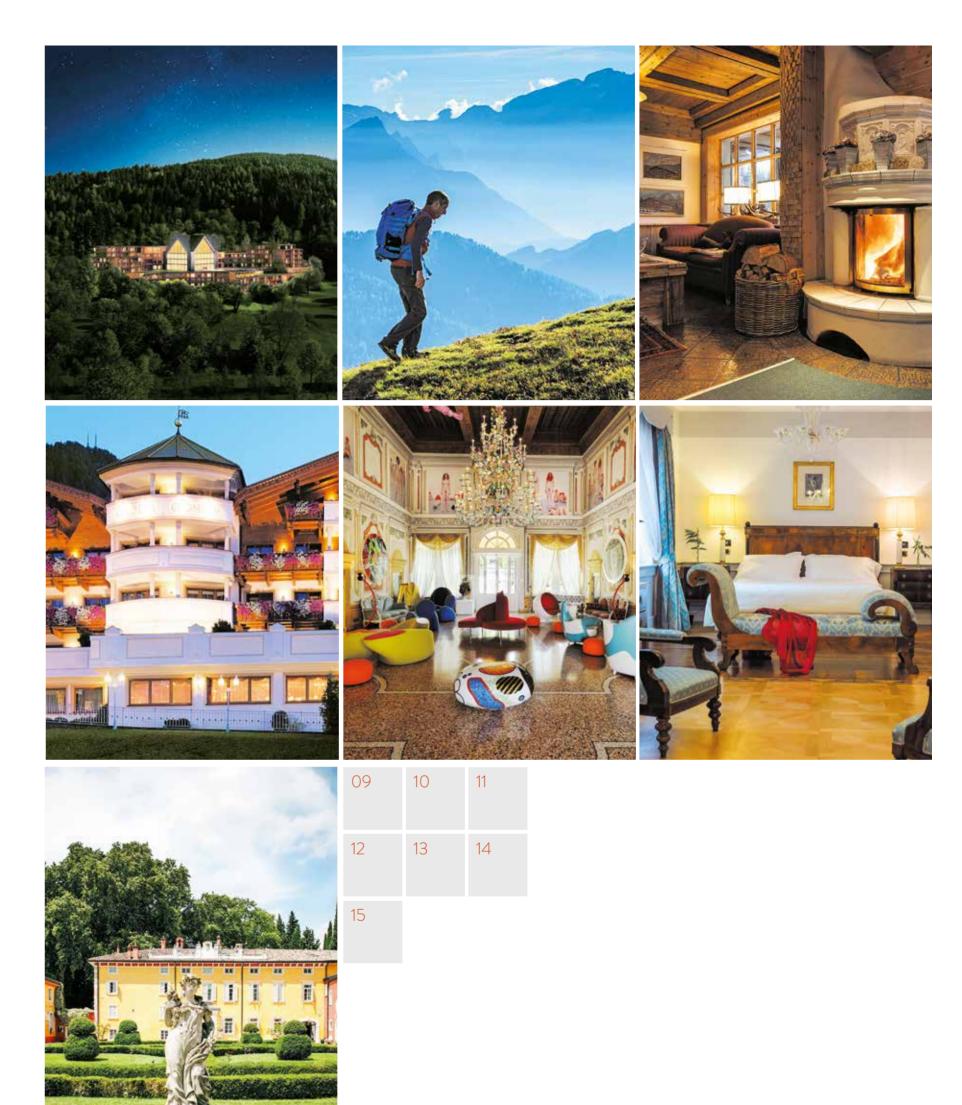
07 Chalet del Sogno Mountain Experience Hotel

Mira Vanios

08 Relais & Châteaux Villa Franceschi



Trentino-Alto Adige Veneto Emilia-Romagna



Pinzolo, Dolomites

09 Lefay Resort & SPA Dolomiti

San Cassiano, Dolomites

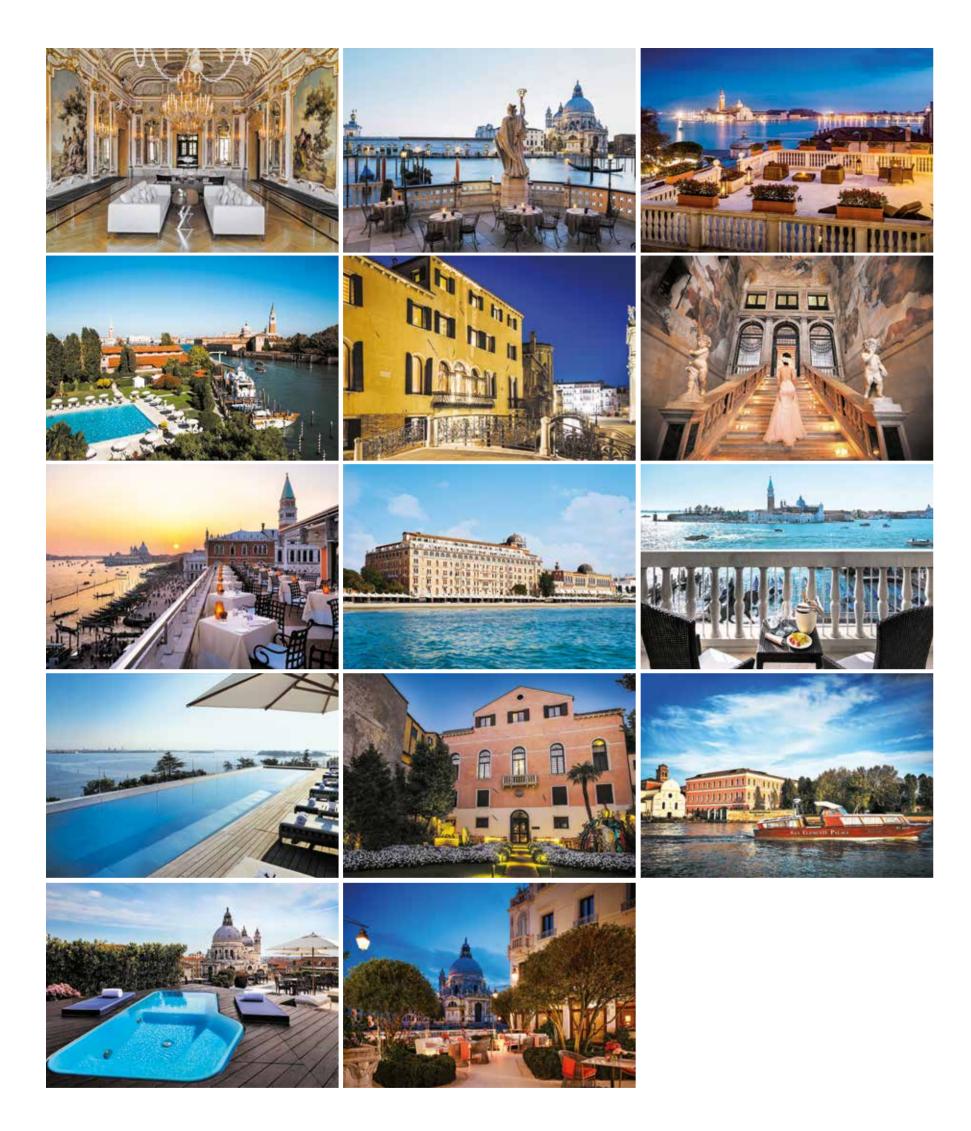
- 10 Rosa Alpina Hotel & SPA
- 11 Ciasa Salares

Val Gardena, Dolomites

12 Gardena Grödnerhof Hotel & Spa

Verona

- 13 Byblos Art Hotel Villa Amistà
- 14 Due Torri Hotel
- 15 Relais & Châteaux Villa Cordevigo Wine Relais



City of Venice

- 01 Aman Venice
- 02 Bauer Palazzo
- 03 Baglioni Hotel Luna
- 04 Belmond Hotel Cipriani
- 05 Ca Maria Adele
- 06 Ca'Sagredo Hotel
- 07 Hotel Danieli, a Luxury Collection Hotel
- 08 Hotel Excelsior Venice Lido Resort
- 09 Hotel Londra Palace
- 10 JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa
- 11 Palazzo Venart
- 12 San Clemente Palace Kempinski
- 13 The Gritti Palace
- 14 The St. Regis Venice





01 Borgo Pignano

Castelnuovo Berardenga

- 02 Castel Monastero
- 03 Relais & Châteaux Hotel Borgo San Felice

Barberino Tavarnelle

04 COMO Castello del Nero

Casole d'Elsa

05 Belmond Castello di Casole

- 06 Castello Banfi Il Borgo
- 07 Castello di Velona

Foiano della Chiana

08 Fontelunga Hotel & Villas

San Casciano dei Bagni

09 Fonteverde

Saturnia

10 Terme di Saturnia Natural Spa

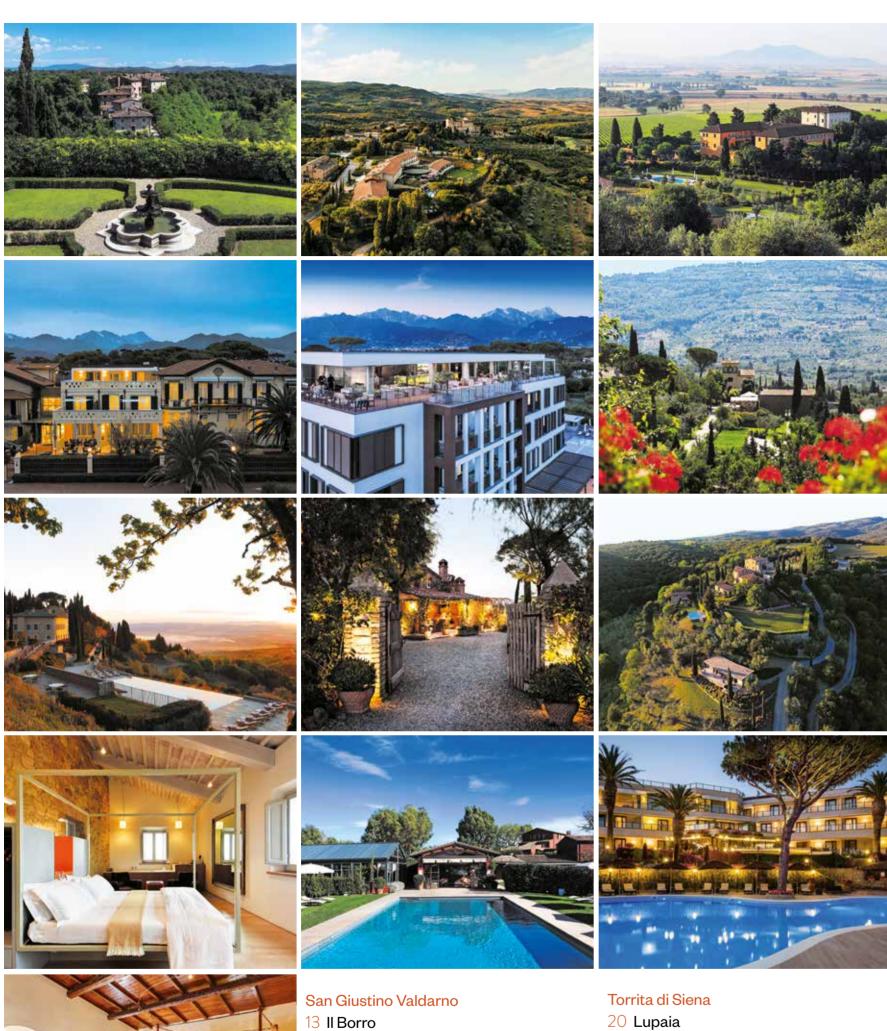
& Golf Resort

11 Grand Hotel Continental Siena -Starhotels Collezione

Chiusdino

12 Borgo Santo Pietro







Montaione

4 Toscana Resort Castelfalfi

Castiglione della Pescaia

5 L'Andana

Forte dei Marmi

- 6 Hotel Byron
- Principe Forte dei Marmi

18 Relais & Châteaux II Falconiere & SPA

Montalcino

19 Rosewood Castiglion del Bosco

20 Lupaia

Poggi del Sasso

21 Castello di Vicarello

Pienza

22 La Bandita Townhouse

Capalbio

23 Locanda Rossa

Punta Ala

24 Baglioni Resort Cala del Porto

Montignoso, Versilia

25 Il Bottaccio





City of Florence















01 Baglioni Relais Santa Croce	01	02
02 Belmond Villa San Michele	· ·	-
03 Continentale		
04 Four Seasons Hotel Firenze	04	05
05 Gallery Hotel Art		
06 Helvetia & Bristol Firenze - Starhotels Collezione	07	
07 Hotel Lungarno		



















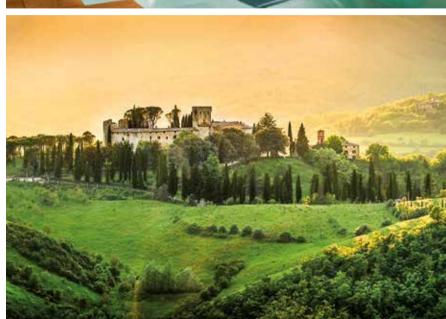


- 08 Hotel Savoy
- 09 Palazzo Vecchietti
- 10 Portrait Firenze
- 11 The Place Firenze
- 12 The St. Regis Florence
- 13 The Westin Excelsior, Florence
- 14 Villa Cora
- 15 Villa La Massa
- 16 Sina Villa Medici
- 17 The Mall Firenze

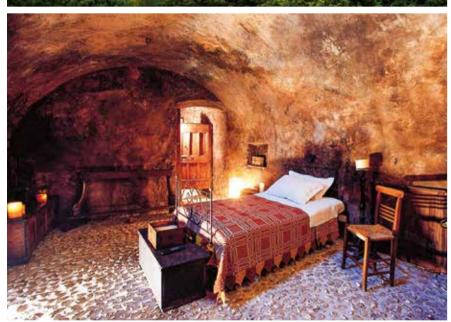
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Umbria Abruzzo Lazio

Perugia

- 01 Sina Brufani
- 02 Tenuta di Murlo
- 03 Hotel Castello di Reschio

Norcia

04 Palazzo Seneca

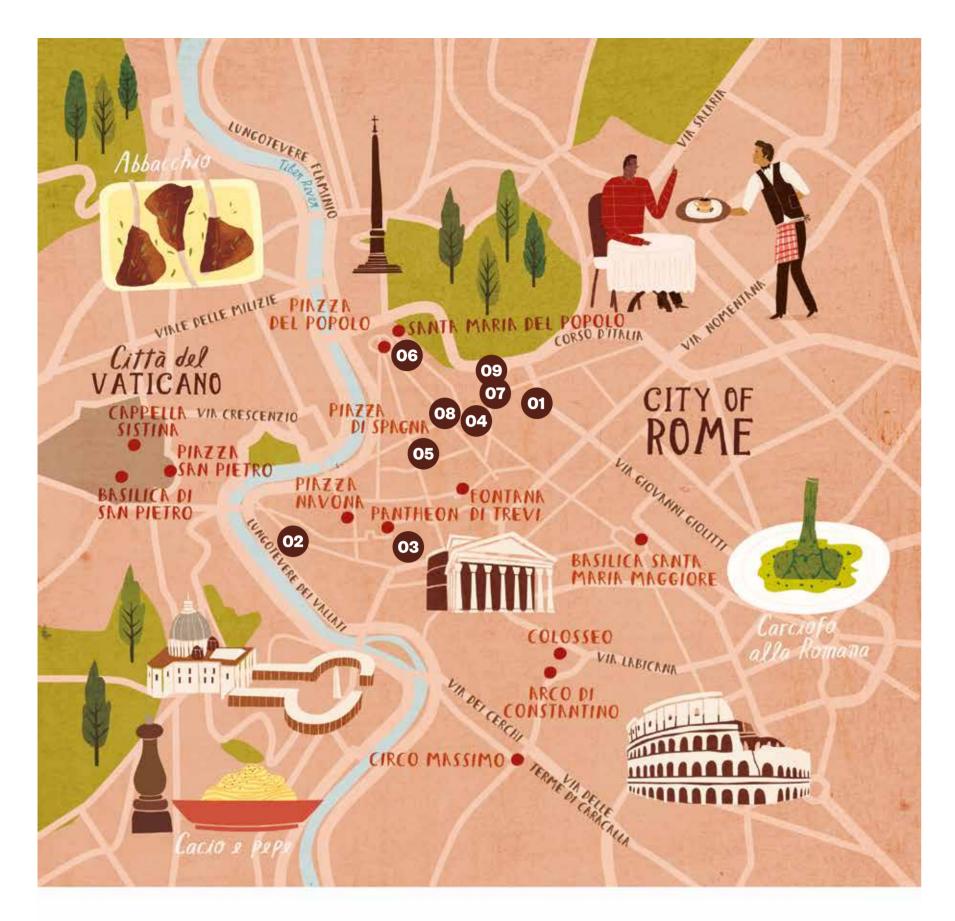
L'Aquila

05 Sextantio Santo Stefano di Sessanio

Civita di Bagnoregio

06 Corte della Maestà

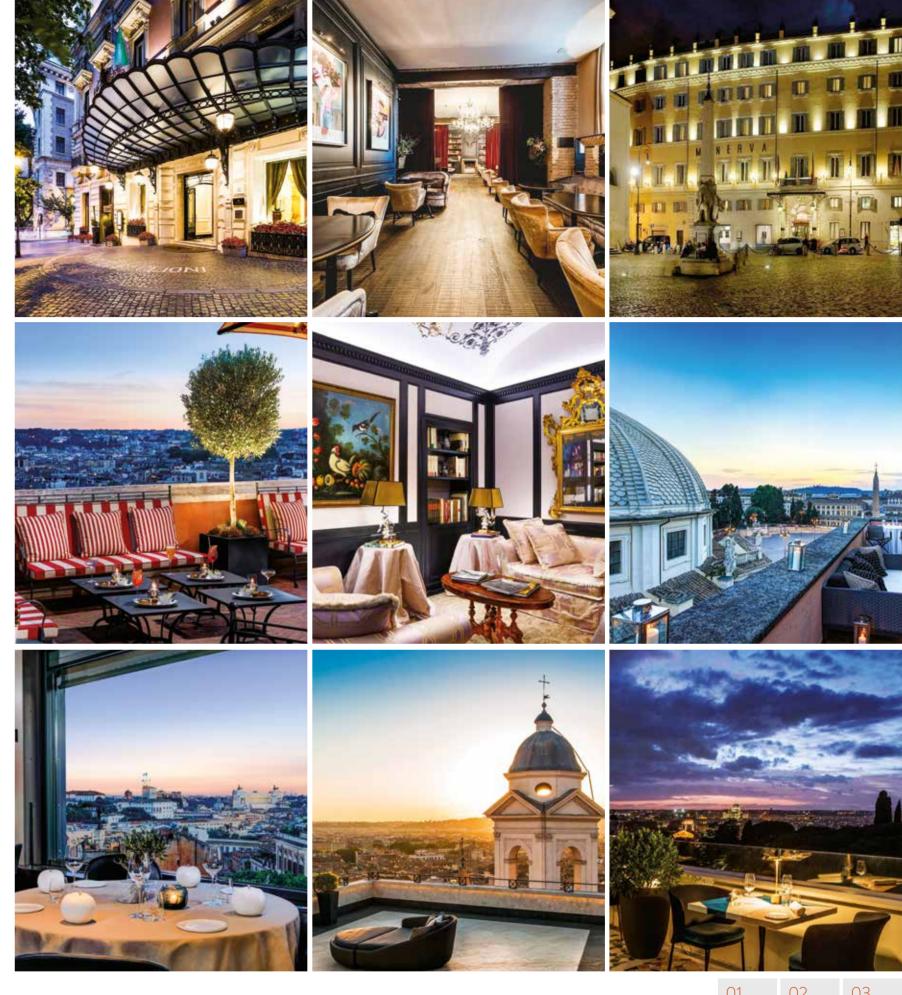




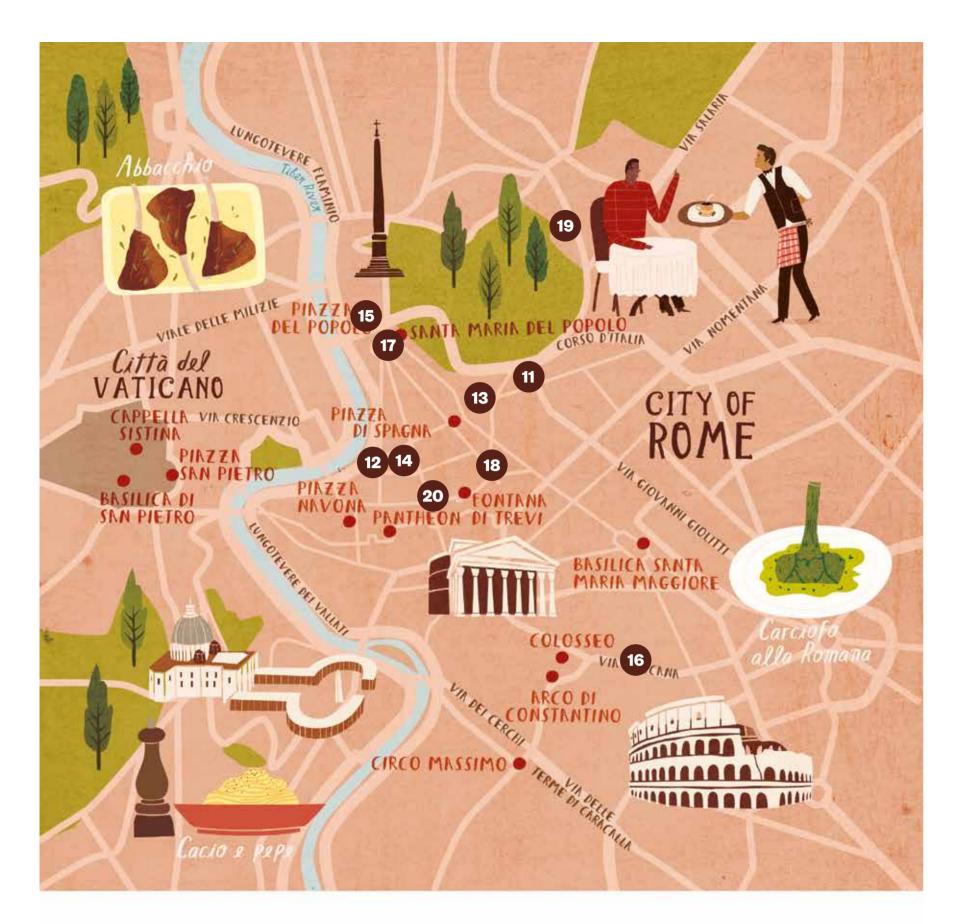


City of Rome

- 01 Baglioni Hotel Regina
- 02 D.O.M Hotel
- 03 Grand Hotel de la Minerve
- 04 Hotel de la Ville
- 05 Hotel d'Inghilterra Roma Starhotels Collezione
- 06 Hotel de Russie
- 07 Hotel Eden
- 08 Hassler Roma
- 09 Sofitel Roma Villa Borghese



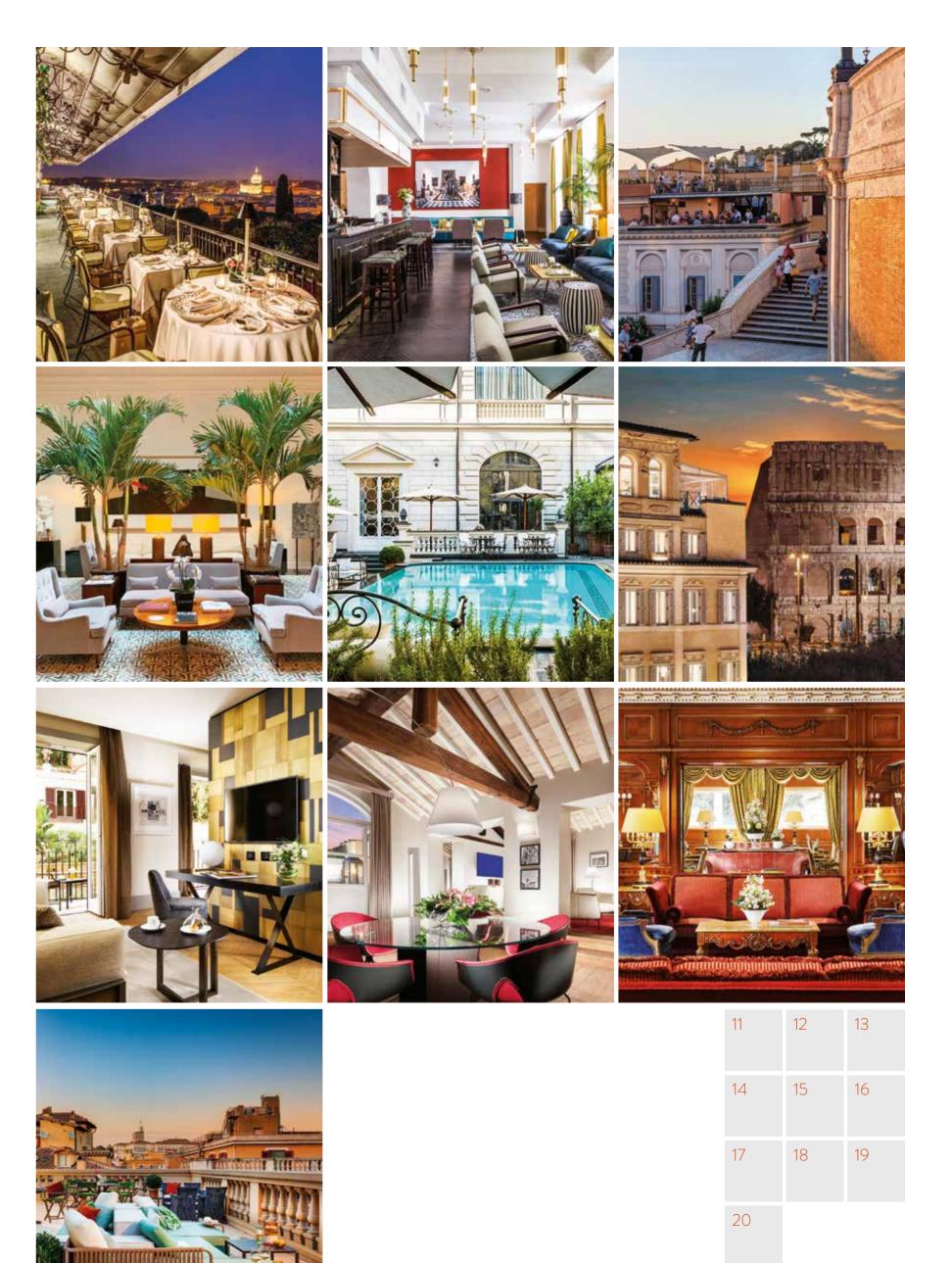
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City of Rome

- 11 Hotel Splendide Royal
- 12 Hotel Vilòn
- 13 II Palazzetto
- 14 J.K. Place Roma
- 15 Palazzo Dama
- 16 Palazzo Manfredi
- 17 Margutta 19
- 18 Palazzo Scanderbeg
- 19 Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa
- 20 Singer Palace Hotel





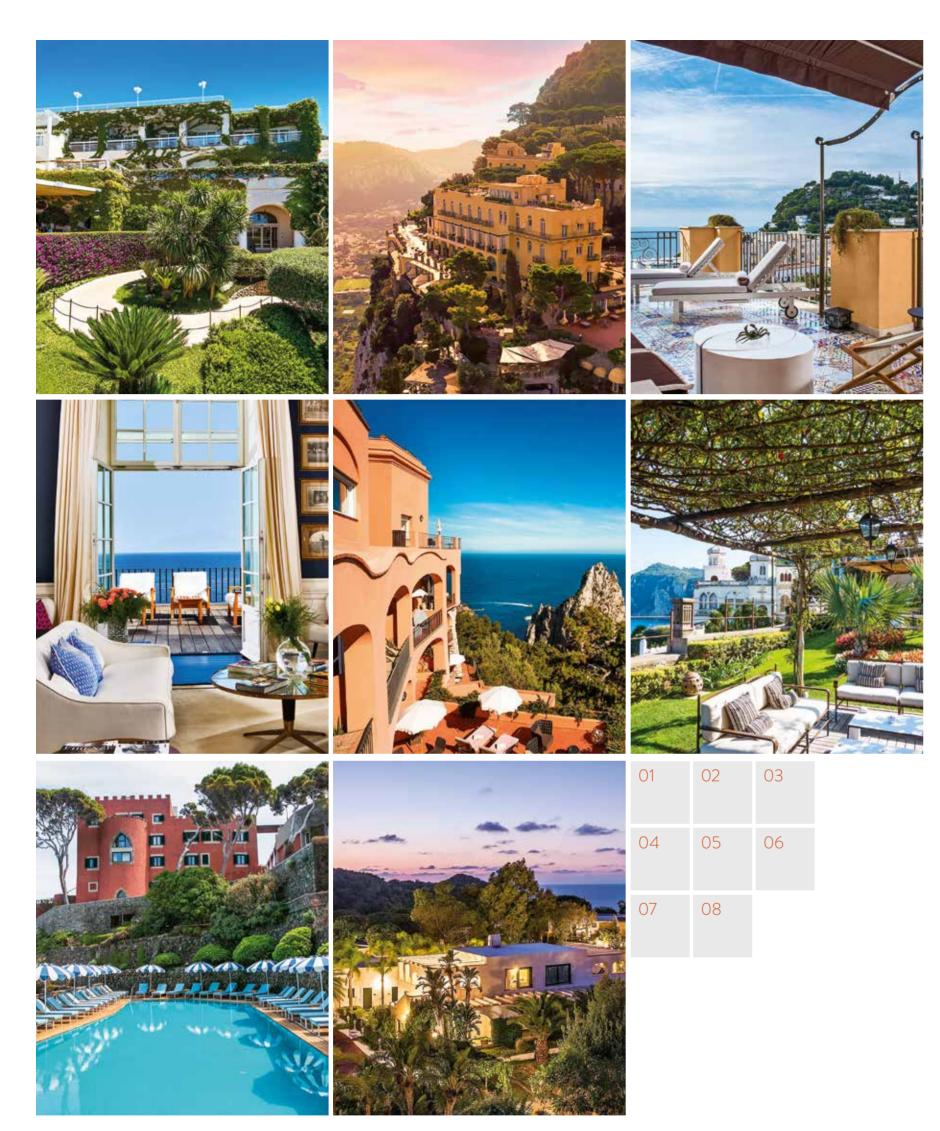


City of Rome

- 21 Portrait Roma
- 22 The First Roma Arte
- 23 The First Roma Dolce
- 24 The First Roma Aqua
- 25 The St. Regis Rome
- 26 The Westin Excelsior, Rome
- 27 Villa Spalletti Trivelli
- 28 Palazzo Montemartini, Rome A Radisson Collection
- 29 Fendi Private Suites



21	22	23
24	25	26
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Anacapri, Capri

- 01 Capri Palace Jumeirah
- 02 Hotel Caesar Augustus Relais & Châteaux

Capri

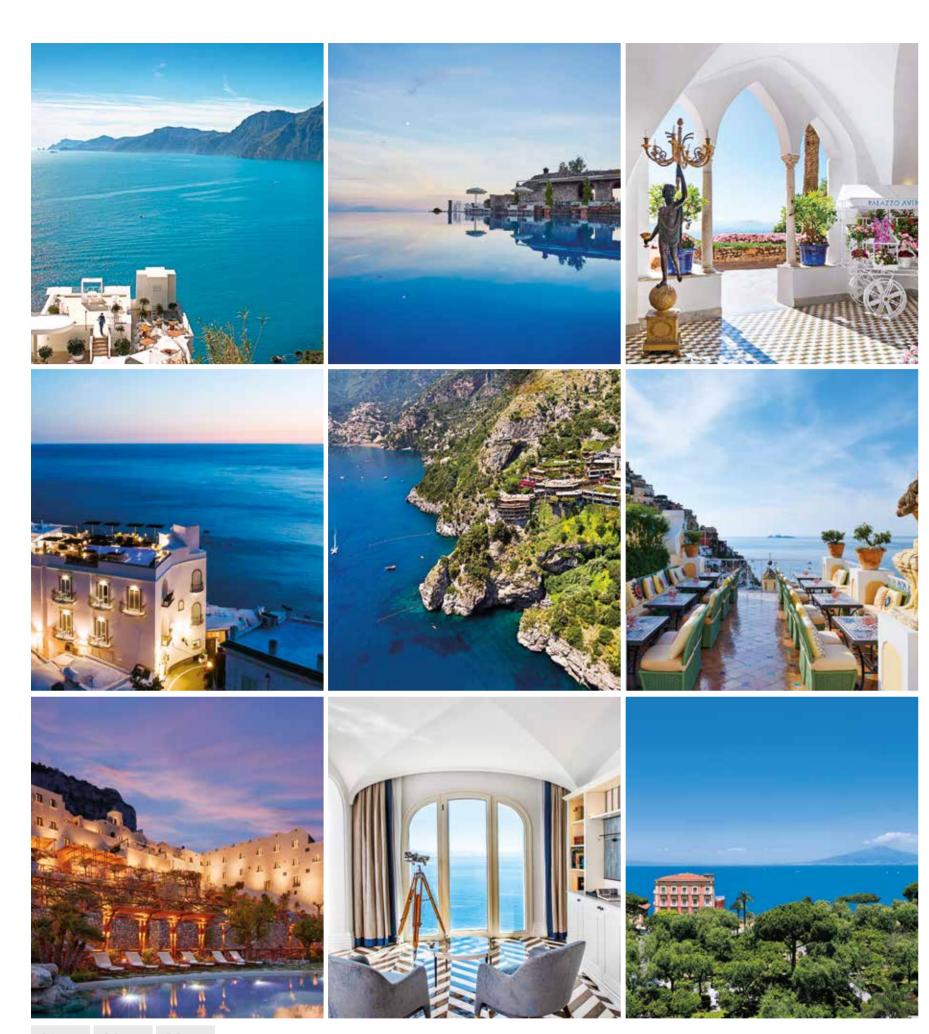
- 03 Capri Tiberio Palace
- 04 J.K. Place Capri
- 05 Punta Tragara
- 06 Villa Marina Capri Hotel & Spa

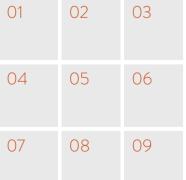
Forio d'Ischia, Ischia

- 07 Mezzatorre Hotel & Thermal Spa Pellicano Hotels
- 08 Botania Relais & Spa



Campania Anacapri Capri Ischia





Praiano

01 Casa Angelina

Ravello

02 Belmond Hotel Caruso

07 Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel & Spa

09 Grand Hotel Excelsior Vittoria

Amalfi

08 Borgo Santandrea

03 Palazzo Avino

Positano

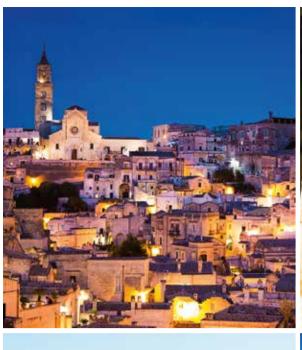
04 Hotel Villa Franca

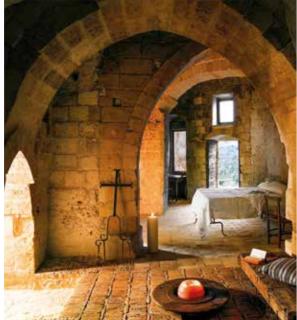
05 II San Pietro di Positano

06 Le Sirenuse

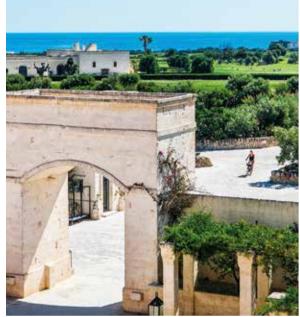


Campania Amalfi Coast



















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Matera

01 Matera Collection

02 Sextantio Le Grotte della Civita

Maratea

03 Santavenere

Savelletri

04 Borgo Egnazia

05 Masseria San Domenico

Torre Canne di Fasano

06 Canne Bianche_Lifestyle Hotel

Monopoli

07 Il Melograno

08 La Peschiera

Serrano

09 Furnirussi Tenuta



Puglia Basilicata















10	11
12	13
14	15

Lecce

10 La Fiermontina Urban Resort11 Palazzo Bozzi Corso by La

Fiermontina

Pezze di Greco di Fasano

12 Masseria Montenapoleone

Savelletri

- 13 Masseria Torre Coccaro
- 14 Masseria Torre Maizza

Fasano

15 Pettolecchia Collection



Puglia Basilicata



Sicily

Taormina

01 Belmond Grand Hotel Timeo

02 Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea

03 San Domenico Palace, Taormina, a Four Seasons Hotel

Palermo

04 Villa Igiea

Etna

05 Monaci delle Terre Nere, Relais & Châteaux

Pantelleria

06 Sikelia Luxury Retreat

Isola di Vulcano, Aeolian Islands

07 Therasia Resort Sea & Spa

Sciacca

08 Verdura Resort

Salina, Aeolian Islands

09 Capofaro Locanda & Malvasia

Ragusa

10 Locanda Don Serafino Relais & Châteaux

















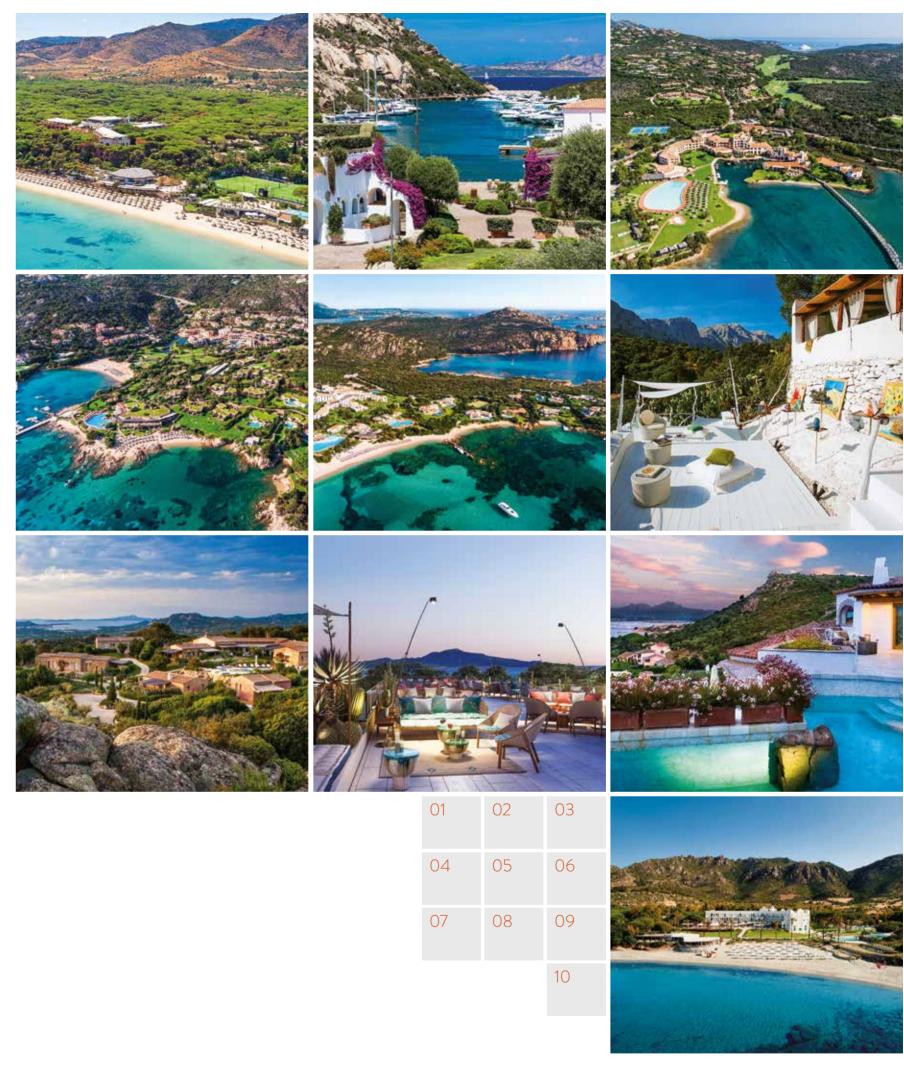






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Santa Margherita di Pula

01 Forte Village Resort

Arzachena

02 Grand Hotel Poltu Quatu

Porto Cervo

- 03 Hotel Cala di Volpe, a Luxury Collection Hotel
- 04 Hotel Pitrizza, a Luxury Collection Hotel
- 05 Hotel Romazzino, a Luxury Collection Hotel

Olien

06 Su Gologone Experience Hotel

Olhia

07 Petra Segreta Resort & Spa

Lu Fraili di Sotto

08 Baglioni Resort Sardinia

Cannigione

09 Villa del Golfo Lifestyle Resort

Villasimius

10 Falkensteiner Resort Capo Boi

DMCs, Reps, Special Experiences & Associations







Guided by the expertise of the Amorico family, Access Italy designs exclusive memorable experiences and unveils off-the-beaten-path dedicated to creating sensational itineraries in Italy. sites. Access Italy offers inspiring perspectives Arno is able to open the doors of those museums. to curious travelers thanks to its priceless human landmarks, and main sites not accessible to the connections and insider stories

Authentic Explorations specializes in custommade, upscale travel programs that explore Italy's cultural and artistic heritage, natural beauty, and unparalleled food and wine. The company is on Travel & Leisure's A-List and is a Conde Nast Traveler Travel Specialist.



BESPOQE TRAVEL is a boutique DMC based in Italy, handling luxury tailor-made journeys for highend clientele. We specialized in offering customdesigned itineraries, taking your clients only to the places they want to go, at a time and pace that best suits them, with the finest style and comfort.



Claudia Da Rin has 20 years' experience representing independent lifestyle hotels that go beyond luxury with a personally tailored, creative approach. Her team of experts opens the right doors worldwide, improving business, sales, and marketing.



Dolomite Mountains creates the ultimate experiences in Northern Italy. Active, leisure, or gourmet, we craft unique custom adventures for the most demanding clientele who looks for stylish, low-impact programs with outstanding quality.



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An award-winning DMC for Italy, IC Bellagio offers bespoke travel experiences for the discerning traveler. Whether it's an after-hours tour of the Sistine Chapel or front-row seats to Siena's Palio races at the home of a local countess. IC Bellagio prides itself on providing the unpredictable.



I.D.I. Travel is your key to discover exclusive destinations throughout Italy. We open doors at noble palaces, historical villas and closed to the public monuments. With a keen eye for the smallest details, we'll truly let you live a dream



An elite destination management company that offers authentic and unique experiences throughout Italy to the highest luxury standards. Founded in 2007 by three Italian art historians, the company excels at providing insider accesses with great attention to details.



Indigenus Experiences is committed to providing travelers from all over the world a full range of both tiny and great tailor-made pleasures of Puglian life. an array of "Nowhere Else" experiences they can enjoy as if they were natives, or in fact, "indigenous." Customs, places, and activities from everyday Puglian life are made uncommon and unrepeatable.

82



Italian Journeys is an upscale DMC specializing in bespoke travel to Italy. With a wealth of experience in luxury travel, their innovative and passionate team coming from varied Italian regions provide an exciting range of services: from unique experiences encompassing the best of Italian culture, lifestyle, culinary discovery to a portfolio of the most exclusive hotels, villas, and apartments.



Gianluca Ziveri, founder of Italian Style Villas, specialises in exclusive properties that have each been visited personally. ISV has a direct relationship with all of the property owners and manages superior concierge services throughout Italy.



An experiential DMC for corporate and private events, incentives, meetings, and weddings in Italy, with offices throughout the country, operating Product & Program across all 20 regions.



Founded by Roman siblings Marilena and Salvatore Barberi, Italy with Class embodies the culmination of 30 years of industry experience. Their esteemed B2B brings their guests the best of Italy - from authentic culinary experiences and exclusive behind-the-scenes tours to alluring accommodation the length and breadth of the Bel Paese.



Italy's Best is a boutique DMC that caters to discerning travelers who want to experience more. As a multi-generational family business, we understand that vacation time is valuable. We carefully research. design, and manage each custom vacation, building upon our wealth of knowledge as seasoned professionals. Our goal is to create polished itineraries for top travel agencies that unveil unique memories for families, couples, or small groups.



N2S Italia designs upscale experiences and events from "North to South" with an innovative and hands-on approach. For the two young founders, Tommaso from Milan and Letizia from Puglia, the definition of luxury includes authenticity and truth. and they are committed to promoting real people and inaccessible places.



Exclusive Vacation Photographer Company, available throughout Italy, creates the best memories of your clients' holidays, making amazing photoshoots. Giving value to these special moments is Pix Around's main goal. Professionalism. punctuality, and quality at your disposal.



PRIMERENT is the leader in luxury car rental in Italy and Europe for short and medium periods of time. It has offices in Rome. Milan, and Florence and operates throughout the Italian territory. With a fleet of 250+ luxury cars, PRIMERENT is the European point of reference in the luxury car rental sector.



Privilege Italia is a family-owned DMC specializing in Concierge Services that deliver the most exclusive Italian experiences to visitors who are looking for a unique tailor-made journey in the "Bel Paese" making it special with their personal touch!



Queen of Clubs is a Lifestyle Luxury Concierge company launched in 2009 with the mission to bring the latest in technology and innovation to achieve perfection in every area of the travel business, reshaping the way to book luxury providing the finest travel solutions for the most demanding clientele.



Relais & Chateaux, established in 1954, is an association of 580 unique hotels and restaurants throughout the world. The Italian collection is composed of 50 Members: each one is unique, but they share a deep bond with local heritage and by a common vocation for excellence and hospitality.



Small Luxury Hotels of the World is the most desirable community of independently minded travellers and independently spirited hotels in the world. We're creating a future where people experience the world with intention, experience its intensity, and protect its integrity.



The Mall Luxury Outlets is a renowned Italian company specialized in offering exclusive luxury shopping experiences, thanks also to a selection of the top international fashion brands. The lush, green hills of the Tuscan countryside provide a picturesque setting for The Mall Firenze, while the flowered Ligurian hills are the backdrop for The Mall Sanremo.

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HOTELS HOSTING BUYERS

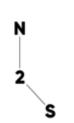






























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