



Traveleads
professional travel management

Treasures of Italy

The inspiration behind the brochure ...

Italy is a country of immense diversity, great charm and exquisite style. Its historical heritage spans several thousand years and culturally it's one of the richest nations in Europe. The Italians themselves are an incredibly warm and welcoming people with an inherent love of all the best things in life, from fast cars and stylish clothes to delicious food and fine wines. Every trip to Italy is a gastronomic journey of discovery against a backdrop of breathtaking and ever-changing scenery.

All too often though when you open a brochure on Italy you are given too much choice. A country that offers such a wealth of experiences also offers an overwhelming selection of hotels and if you're looking for something memorable for a weekend break, a romantic escape or even a family wedding where do you start?

The aim of this brochure, conceived from an immense passion for Italy, is to narrow down these choices and entice you to some of the country's most beautiful and, in some cases, lesser known hotels. These are Italy's treasures and all of them come with stunning locations, charming rooms and attentive service, not to mention a certain something that sets them apart from the crowd. They were chosen by our special Italy Consultant who has worked for a noted guidebook and travelled the length and breadth of the country looking for outstanding places to stay.

This brochure has been designed for that 'special' trip to Italy. We will tailor-made everything to suit your own personal requirements and, as always, keep a keen eye on value for money. And thanks to our close working relationship with local suppliers you can depend upon the same kind of practical advice and assistance when you're actually in Italy. Our service includes anything from making museum reservations to restaurant recommendations, and if you're thinking of getting married there we will navigate the pitfalls of Italian bureaucracy to ensure the perfect day.

We do hope you enjoy reading this rather unique e-brochure and look forward to designing your own holiday to this magnificent country.



TREASURES OF ITALY



VENICE

THE CIPRIANI
BAUER IL PALAZZO
BAUER CASA NOVA
CA' SAGREDO
THE LONDRA PALACE
NOVECENTO

FLORENCE

IL SALVIATINO
J.K. PLACE
VILLA SAN MICHELE
FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
HOTEL LUNGARNO

TUSCANY

CASTEL MONASTERO
RELAIS LA SUVERA
VILLA MANGIACANE
L'ANDANA
LOCANDA DELL'AMOROSA

ROME

HOTEL EDEN
REGINA HOTEL BAGLIONI
VILLA SPALLETTI TRIVELLI
HOTEL DE RUSSIE
PORTRAIT SUITES

AMALFI COAST

SANTA CATERINA
CASA ANGELINA
HOTEL CARUSO
PALAZZO SASSO
LE SIRENUSE

CAPRI

CAPRI PALACE HOTEL & SPA
VILLA MARINA CAPRI
GRAND HOTEL QUISISANA

RECOMMENDED

BULGARI HOTEL - MILAN
LA LOCANDA DELLA DONNE
MONACHE - MARATEA

HAND-SELECTED VILLAS

WEDDINGS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

VENICE SIMPLON
ORIENT-EXPRESS

TREASURES OF VENICE

Venice or 'La Serenissima', as she was known for thousands of years, is truly one of the most seductive and beguiling places anywhere in the world. Built on more than 117 low-lying islands, this unique city is a water wonderland divided by over 100 canals and spanned by more than 400 bridges. And whilst life on her stunning waterways is still evolving today, the ancient monuments, museums, churches, art galleries and spires will all entice you to explore her glorious past. Wonder at the audacity of Casanova, delve into the secrets of the Council of Ten or marvel at the talent of incredible painters like Canaletto and Paolo Veneziano. Whatever you decide to do, just like it did with Goethe, Mann and Browning before you, Venice can't fail to capture your imagination and seduce you with her beauty ...



BAUER IL PALAZZO

This authentic 18th century Palazzo overlooking the Grand Canal is just a few minutes' walk from St Mark's Square. It ranks amongst Venice's most luxurious retreats, its Gothic-Byzantine façade combining with its canal-side bar and restaurant to create the perfect backdrop for a romantic weekend. All of the 34 suites and 38 guest rooms (the latter recently refurbished) are a reflection of traditional Venetian style complete with gilt mirrors, rich fabrics, carved stucco ceilings and Murano glass chandeliers, many of them also boasting their own private balconies overlooking the canal. The fitness and wellness centre enable you to dip back into the 21st century when you're in the mood.

THE CIPRIANI

No brochure on Italy would be complete without The Cipriani, one of the most famous hotels in the world, not just in Venice. Its tranquil location on Giudecca Island is stunningly beautiful, yet it lies only 5-minutes away from St. Mark's Square by private launch and has the breathtaking views to prove it. It's part of the exclusive Orient-Express Hotel group, and as you would expect, the service is seamless and the 95 guest rooms and suites are superb. The gardens are also outstanding and include a tennis court, a wellness centre and an enormous heated sea-water swimming pool. Don't leave without experiencing a waterside lunch in Cips, a glamorous dinner in Fortuny's or a Bellini in the new Gabbiano Bar.



BAUER CASA NOVA

An intimate hideaway with just nine apartment suites and ten rooms, Bauer Casa Nova is secreted away in a 16th century mansion only steps from St. Mark's Square. It has the mood of a private Venetian residence, an impression further endorsed by its beamed ceilings, marble bathrooms, carefully-chosen antiques and traditional patterned walls. And let's not forget the kitchenettes cosily ensconced in the suites. Yet as the Casa Nova is also located right next door to the Bauer Hotel, guests can take full advantage of all its five-star facilities: 24-hour concierge service, fitness centre, private docking and the celebrated De Pisis Restaurant. If you're looking for something different, this is it. ... Also within the Bauer Group we highly recommend the Bauer Hotel & Bauer Palladio Hotel & Spa on Giudecca Island.



CA' SAGREDO

Another example of Venice's living history, The Ca' Sagredo lies in a 15th century palace on the Grand Canal between Ca D'Oro and the Rialto bridge. It opened as a hotel in 2007 after a painstaking restoration which uncovered a host of architectural treasures - no less than five centuries of history were lovingly brought back to life. The frescoes, public areas and marble staircases are all quite breathtaking, as are the 42 guest rooms which are a combination of traditional Venetian décor with a contemporary twist. The elegant restaurant not only takes full advantage of its romantic canal-side location, but also its proximity to the Rialto market selling fresh produce and seafood.

NOVECENTO

If you want to stay at the Novecento make sure you book months in advance - this tiny boutique townhouse has just nine rooms and everyone who stays here wants to come back. The hotel's interior was inspired by the famous fin de siècle painter and fashionista Mariano Fortuny, and the moment you step across its threshold, you are enveloped in its charm and warmth. All the individually styled bedrooms are rich and seductive, Fortuny's inimitable style matched with Oriental furnishings - a strange mélange, but hauntingly effective. Sister hotel to the Flora, both properties are tiny but perfectly-formed gems hidden down sleepy calles ...



THE LONDRA PALACE

There's still something charmingly intimate about the neo-classical Londra Palace, even though its 53 restyled guest rooms and junior suites now rank amongst the finest in Venice. The hotel's setting couldn't be more perfect either - right on the waterfront, literally a few steps from St Mark's Square overlooking the lagoon and San Giorgio. All of the public areas were also refreshed in 2009, yet none of the hotel's 19th century grandeur has been lost. The sublime 'Do Leoni' restaurant is just one more reason why this place is a firm favourite of ours.



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TREASURES OF FLORENCE

Today Florence is a thriving metropolis with fashionable eateries, Gucci-clad citizens and, of course, its very own non-stop rush hour. Yet this regional capital of Tuscany is also Italy's 'Renaissance City' and so will be forever linked with 15th century artists such as Michelangelo, Botticelli and Leonardo da Vinci. Its skyline is thankfully still a masterpiece courtesy of showpieces like the Renaissance Basilica, Giotto's Campanile and the Gothic Duomo; all of these architectural treasures enhanced by the fast-flowing Arno River and romantic Ponte Vecchio. But if you really want to immerse yourself in Florence's art and culture don't leave without wandering through the Uffizi Gallery; a visit to the Accademia also recommended if you fancy marvelling at Michelangelo's Statue of David. And why not use this fascinating city as a base from which to explore the entire Chianti region, the towns of Sienna and Pisa all within easy driving distance?



VILLA SAN MICHELE

VILLA SAN MICHELE

This 15th century monastery was transformed into one of the world's most romantic getaways by Orient-Express Hotels in the 1980s. Of course, the company had a particularly good start – the hotel's façade is attributed to Michelangelo, whilst its setting high in the hills of Fiesole yields stunning vistas over Florence and the Arno Valley. Nowadays it offers 46 guest quarters, some of them secluded suites in the gardens and a few of them the cosy hideaways of former monks, yet others are 'named' suites with anything from private gardens to pool-like bathtubs. The Tuscan cuisine of the 16th century Loggia restaurant and umbrella cocktails of the hilltop swimming pool are perfectly enhanced by the spellbinding views.



VILLA SAN MICHELE

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

Stay here and make all your Medici fantasies come true. This former convent and Renaissance palazzo might now be part of the world's finest hotel company, but its meticulous 7-year restoration mean that the 15th century frescoes and hand-painted ceilings still take centre stage. The 116-room hotel lies in a quiet street in the historic centre of Florence and, as it boasts the city's finest spa, as well as its largest private garden (11 acres), it certainly lives up to its billing as a 'city sanctuary'. Dining choices range from the elegant to the alfresco, leisure amenities include a large gym, outdoor pool and whirlpool, whilst the one-off guest rooms and suites are a sublime blend of Renaissance artistry and high-tech comfort.



FOUR SEASONS



FOUR SEASONS

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J.K. PLACE

Tucked away in a lively piazza just minutes from the Duomo, J.K. Place is a city centre hotel for those who don't really do city centres or hotels. This ultra-chic bolthole is more like a tranquil private residence, the entrance way discreet, the reception desk non-existent and the hospitality just like you'd get back home. Architectural Digest has paid due homage to its eclectic interiors, the modern photography and pieces drawn from the 1960s and 70s working perfectly against the neo-classical backdrop. The 20 rooms range from a romantic den with a four-poster to a penthouse with a panoramic terrace; the new J.K. Lounge the kind of stylish venue where you dine in Dolce & Gabbana.



JK PLACE

HOTEL LUNGARNO

This elegant yet unpretentious affair is romantically sited right on the south bank of the Arno River; just to the west of the Ponte Vecchio. Stay in one of its terraced guest rooms overlooking the water and you can almost conjure up 'Room with a View'; another quintessential Florentine experience awaiting you in the riverside restaurant with its traditional Italian cuisine. Art, antiques and charming staffers endow the Hotel Lungarno with a classic, friendly ambience, but if you fancy something a little more cutting-edge opt for one of its sister hotels: The Continental evokes all the glamour of the 50s, the Gallery Hotel Art is an innovative urban getaway, whilst the Lungarno Suites offer modern apartment living with all its inherent freedom.



HOTEL LUNGARNO



IL SALVIATINO



IL SALVIATINO

IL SALVIATINO

Peeking out from the cypress trees that flank the Fiesole hillside, Il Salviatino is an 'urban resort' with a bit of a past. This aristocratic palazzo dates back to the 15th century and still has the hand-painted frescoes and centuries-old mosaics as evidence. These vintage gems are now carefully matched with exquisite antiques, whilst the 45 rooms are all individual works of art, yet the comfortable lounges, cordial ambience and friendly 'service ambassadors' contribute more than enough warmth. So you can feel free to surrender to the Thai treatments of Europe's first Devarana Spa and then linger a while in La Terrazza restaurant – Saverio Sbaragli's authentic Tuscan cuisine comes with quite splendid views of the Duomo.

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TREASURES OF TUSCANY

Tuscany is one of Italy's most showstopping regions - and that's true whether you make your entrance via the international airports in Florence or Pisa. Its fabled rolling hills are studded with vineyards, olive groves and sleepy villages, whilst its famously romantic cities are overflowing with Renaissance and medieval treasures. Florence is a dream come true for all the culture buffs, of course, but don't miss the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the medieval piazza of Siena or the walled town of Lucca either. Yet Tuscany is not all about photo opportunities in front of world-famous sites, of course. Tuscans are also known for their appreciation of good food and fine wines, and there's plenty of family-owned trattorias where you can happily lose a few hours sampling a freshly-made stew and a bottle of Chianti.

RELAIS LA SUVERA

Relais La Suvera is not simply a five-star hotel, but a real cultural experience. This medieval country residence in the Siena hills once belonged to the great Renaissance Pope Julius II and its opulent style has been carefully maintained by current owners, the Marquis Ricci and his wife Princess Eleonora Massimo. They've transformed it into an extraordinary 'Small Luxury Hotel of the World', introducing works of art connected to their celebrated friends and selling the estate's organic wines and olive oils to their guests. Other enticements include a family museum, a heated pool, a Tuscan restaurant and a spa with gym, hammam and hydro-massage bath. The 17 rooms and 19 suites are all quite unique and divided between the farmhouse, stables and papal villa.



VILLA MANGIACANE

Another brush with history and culture, this 15th century palazzo was originally built for the Macchiavelli family and still bears the hallmark of Michelangelo. It's nestled amidst 600-acres of vineyards 7-miles outside Florence and stays here are an enjoyable mix of sightseeing and relaxation; the emphasis is very much on food and wine, with the odd truffle hunt thrown in. Design-wise it's an eclectic medley of classic and ethnic, the antiques and frescoes now mingling with modern art and African statues. Stay in one of the original suites in the main building or have the whole estate to yourselves - it's just perfect for private functions. The spa and three pools are complemented by a terrace restaurant serving Italian cuisine with an international twist.



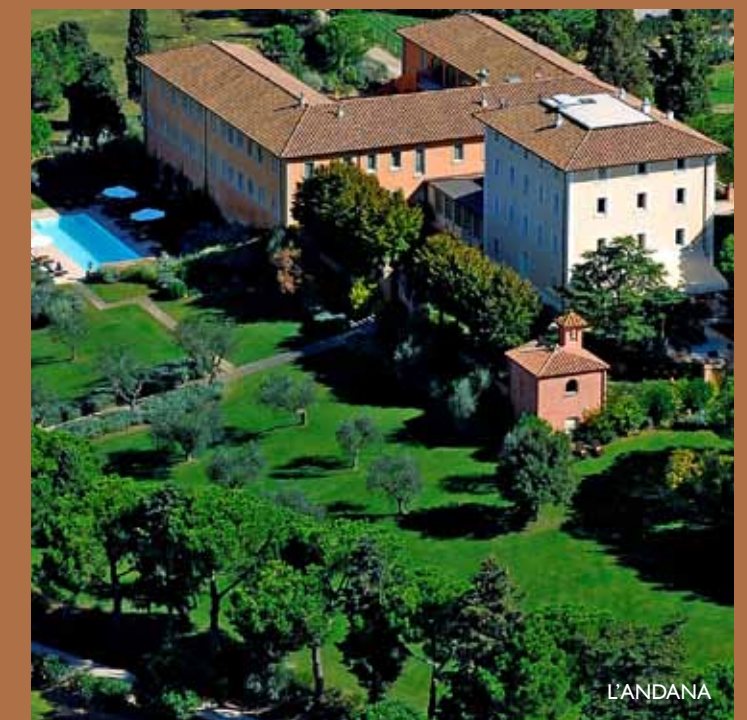
CASTEL MONASTERO

Languishing in the tranquil Chianti hills overlooking the Ombrone Valley, this 400-acre medieval 'village' has a history dating right back to the 11th century. But nowadays the ancient stone buildings have all been painstakingly restored and this five-star rural retreat boasts modern must-haves like a luxury spa and a Gordon Ramsay restaurant. Most of the 75 rooms and suites are unique, yet all are defined by their Tuscan country style and tranquil views over the surrounding vineyards. When you're not exploring the countryside, you can be exploring the restaurants - Mr Ramsay's gourmet cuisine has a modern twist, whilst more authentic dishes are on offer in the wine cellar.



L'ANDANA

You'll find L'Andana in splendid isolation between Chianti and Siena, yet also within easy driving distance of the Mediterranean beaches of the Maremma region. It once served as Duke Leopold's 16th century hunting lodge, but in the 21st century is so conducive to chilling-out that the only thing you'll be looking for is the ESPA spa. There's also an outdoor swimming pool, pocket-sized golf course, bicycles and cookery classes; the latter particularly apt if you've been inspired by the Tuscan country cuisine of Michelin-starred chef Alain Ducasse. All of the 41 guest rooms and suites evoke rustic chic, complete with Italian fabrics and antiques, as well as oversized bathrooms perfect for rekindling romance.



LOCANDA DELL'AMOROSA

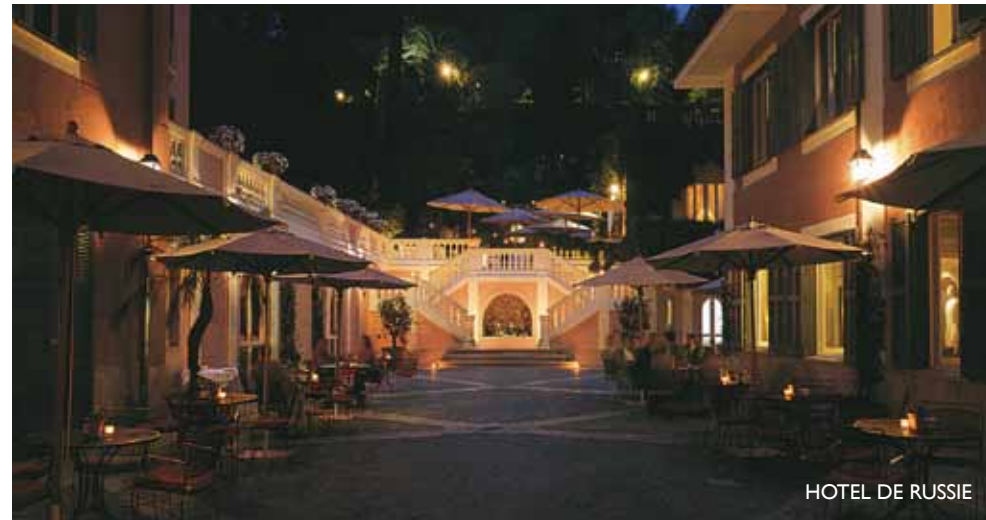
Once a tiny stone hamlet with its origins in the 14th century, Locanda Dell'Amorosa is now a suitably authentic base from which to immerse yourselves in all the epicurean delights of the Tuscan countryside. Olives, truffles, cured meats, Pienza cheeses and, of course, a full range of Chiantis are all served in the vaulted wine bar and charming country-style eatery; a brisk walk through the extensive estate or a few laps of the swimming pool probably the best way to offset all those extra calories. Guest rooms evoke elegant country living, the antiques, period paintings and traditional furnishings enhanced by views that range from the interior courtyard to the stunning Tuscan countryside.

TREASURES OF ROME

Whether you're a history enthusiast or are simply looking for la dolce vita, Rome is the city for you. It's an in-your-face mix of the ancient past and the stylish present, its fashion-conscious citizens getting on with their ordinary lives against the extraordinary backdrop of the Colosseum, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Square. This city is a living museum for those of you who don't really like museums, and after you've climbed the Spanish Steps, gasped at Michelangelo's frescoes and tossed a coin into the Trevi Fountain, there are plenty of relaxing alternatives. So why not enjoy a pizza in a pavement café and watch the priests on their way to the Vatican? Give your credit cards an outing and make a beeline for the Fendi, Gucci and Prada stores along the Via Condotti? And, of course, you simply have to stay up very late and mingle with the glitterati ...

HOTEL DE RUSSIE

This people-watchers' paradise lies between the Spanish Steps and Piazza del Popolo within easy walking distance of the Via Condotti. It was 'made over' by Rocco Forte and Olga Polizzi a few years ago and now has some stylish modern design touches to go with its neo-classical façade and terraced gardens. The 122 bedrooms are classic yet chic, all of them appointed in restful shades, with some suites boasting long terraces and romantic city views. General leisure amenities include an excellent gym and wellness zone, both of them well worth your attention after you decided to go for that chocolate fondant in Le Jardin de Russie and that third martini in the see-and-be-seen Stravinskij Bar (yes, he once stayed here!).



Why not twin this hotel with the HOTEL SAVOY in Florence?

Another Rocco Forte/Olga Polizzi spellbinder, the Hotel Savoy is a fashion-conscious yet family-friendly boutique hotel with a delightfully central location just around the corner from the Duomo. Its 88 guest rooms and 14 suites have all been styled in a soothing blend of muted earth tones; the artwork appropriately inspired by the city's obsession with shoes and hats. The terraced L'Incontro Restaurant reflects that other enduring Florentine love affair with Tuscan cuisine, and whilst there's also a new fitness centre on-site, you'll be so busy hitting Hermes, Gucci and the Uffizi that a work-out will hardly be necessary.



REGINA HOTEL BAGLIONI

The Regina Hotel Baglioni is housed in a graceful Liberty-style building dating back to 1904, its recent nip-and-tuck meaning that some of Rome's more famous hotels have been left in the shade. All the modern amenities have now been introduced, yet the vintage ambience (an almost theatrical mix of the classic and the art deco) is still warmly embraced. Antique furnishings, silk tapestries and Murano glass lamps distinguish the 95 guest rooms and 8 suites, some of them boasting their own private balconies overlooking the Via Veneto. The Trevi Fountain and Via Condotti are both a 15-minute walk away, although as there's a seductive bar, a stylish restaurant and a stress-busting spa on the premises you probably won't want to wander too far.



HOTEL EDEN

Almost as famous as its illustrious guests, the Hotel Eden has been wowing visitors to Rome for 120 years now. And that's true from the moment the top-hatted doorman ushers them into the white marble lobby to the moment the smiling maitre d' leads them to their table on the rooftop restaurant – the haute cuisine comes with quite breathtaking views towards St. Peter's Cathedral. Many of the city's other highlights such as the Spanish Steps, Via Veneto and Via Condotti are also just a short walk away, the subdued colours, refined furnishings and turn-of-the-century prints of the 121 guest rooms creating classic havens perfect for getting one's breath back.



PORTRAIT SUITES

This super-stylish pied-à-terre lies on the Via Condotti, delightfully close to many of the world's most fashionable designer boutiques. Indeed the Portrait Suites are located directly above Ferragamo's men's store and black-and-white photos, as well as sketches with either a shoe or Hollywood theme pay homage to this iconic 'shoemaker to the stars'. Of course, the 14 studios and suites are equally style-conscious, each one chic, contemporary and luxurious with marble bathrooms, well-equipped kitchenettes and all the other little things a fashionista needs. You can enjoy continental breakfast in your room, champagne cocktails on the rooftop terrace and pasta dinners in the nearby trattorias.

VILLA SPALLETTI TRIVELLI

This historic 20th century residence is all about privacy and discretion, the mood definitely more 'country estate' than 'urban retreat'. Central in its location just a 5-minute walk from the Trevi Fountain, you'll be protected from the masses by the kind of walled Italian garden that comes with gazebos, fountains and manicured lawns. Tapestries, oil paintings and period furnishings define the public spaces, everything sourced from the private collection of the Spalletti Trivelli family. Even the 12 guest rooms and suites are individually appointed as in a private house. Yet all this Roman grandeur comes with plenty of Italian warmth, the elegant afternoon teas and over-generous buffet breakfasts showing this is a family who knows what hospitality *really* means.



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TREASURES OF THE AMALFI COAST

The Amalfi Coast will make you giddy - and that's not just because its famously winding coastal road involves impossibly steep mountain sides and even longer drops. No, it's because the place is both astoundingly beautiful and impossibly glamorous; artists, writers and movie stars all flocking here to find anything from sunshine to inspiration. But this UNESCO World Heritage Site to the south of Naples is no jet-set affair, its mood slow-paced rather than sophisticated and its way-of-life still firmly rooted in the past. Fishermen still haul in their catch at pastel-coloured towns like Positano, for example; the medieval cathedral continues to take pride of place in Amalfi, whilst Ravello still needs nothing more than its celebrated gardens and picture-perfect Mediterranean views to keep its visitors enthralled. You can expect some steep climbs here, but remember there's always a glass of limoncello waiting for you at the end!

HOTEL CARUSO

This former 11th century palace is set 350-metres above sea level on the highest point in Ravello. Nowadays it's a 48-room getaway looked after like a favourite child by Orient-Express Hotels. The frescoes, vaulted ceilings, terraced gardens and even the tiny baroque-style chapel are all evidence of its fascinating origins; the fitness facilities, wellness centre and infinity-edge pool (complete with iPods and Evian vaporisers) displaying its awareness of modern trends. A contemporary twist has also been given to the Caruso's cuisine, the traditional Neopolitan and southern Italian dishes served in a couple of restaurants either indoors or on panoramic terraces. Sea views, balconies and specially crafted Neopolitan furnishings await in the 48 guest rooms and suites.



LE SIRENUSE

To dine on the terrace of Le Sirenuse's La Sponda restaurant is a memory that will remain for life - inspired Neopolitan cuisine and intriguing fellow guests combine with 400 candles to create an almost theatrical ambience. Otherwise this 18th century palazzo owned by Marchese Sersale since 1951 is very much the kind of place you can make yourselves at home. Antique-filled lounges lead to cosy sitting areas which in turn lead to panoramic terraces; as much as possible overlooking the 'vertical town' of Positano beneath and the Mediterranean beyond. Whitewashed walls and hand-made tiles distinguish the 63 guest rooms, most of them boasting terraces and sea views. The Aveda spa, swimming pool and switched-on service finish it all off perfectly.



CASA ANGELINA

Hugging a cliff in Praiano, Casa Angelina is where the Amalfi Coast goes all minimalist. This five-star boutique hotel is whiter than white both inside and out, just the occasional splash of colour provided by whimsical Murano glass sculptures. Yet who needs more when the Mediterranean is spread out before you like a turquoise blanket? Terraces, floor-to-ceiling windows and even a glass-fronted lift to the beach ensure you never forget where you are. The 43 rooms and suites are equally serene, some with terraces, four on the beach and many with sea views - you'll probably never turn on the plasma TV. There's also a wellness centre and indoor and outdoor pools; culinary options including the scene-stealing Mediterranean cuisine of *Un Piano nel Cielo*.



PALAZZO SASSO

Since it opened in 1997 in the quaint hilltop village of Ravello, Palazzo Sasso has won almost every award going. Not only is this 12th century Italian villa overflowing with refinement and romance, but its attentive staff can't do enough for you, its fine dining restaurant boasts a couple of Michelin stars and its leisure amenities include a sublime spa, a stunning swimming pool and a beautiful new beach club just 15 minute's drive away. The 32 rooms and 11 suites are defined by their antique furnishings and 21st century comforts, and if you go for one with the kind of panoramic Mediterranean views that take your breath away, you'll understand exactly why Palazzo Sasso gets such rave reviews.

SANTA CATERINA

This 19th century whitewashed villa clinging to a panoramic cliff near Amalfi has been transformed into a much-loved seaside getaway by three generations of the Gambardella family. The traditional décor is testimony to their taste; the lengthy repeat guest list an affirmation of their hospitality. Most of the 66 classically-styled guest rooms boast seaview balconies; infinity pools on offer in some of the 'named' suites. An elevator whisks you down to the Beach Club with its private beach, fabulous rock-ledge seawater pool and seafood restaurant; the culinary focus moving back up the cliff to the excellent Mediterranean-style eatery after dark. If you need any further attention, there's a wellness centre offering relaxing things like holistic and lemon massages.



TREASURES OF CAPRI

This rocky island off the Amalfi Coast offers anything from Roman remains to Versace gowns and let's not forget the staggering sea views. It also now boasts a trio of exceptional hotels simply perfect for summer getaways ...



J.K. PLACE CAPRI

J.K. PLACE CAPRI

Originally a 19th century private house, J.K. Place is still small and elegant enough to convey the warmth and intimacy of a cherished seaside home. This chic all-white getaway overlooks Capri's main harbour and both its flower-filled public areas and 22 guest rooms display the inspired taste of someone unafraid of mixing the antique with the contemporary. Most of the stylish rooms and suites boast sea views, and some even have their own terraces where you can breakfast on sweet pastries and strong coffee. Otherwise the traditional Mediterranean fare is served on the hotel's panoramic terrace or in its fashionable JKitchen restaurant; the fitness centre, outdoor swimming pool and east-meets-west spa all there as an alternative to the designer shopping.

GRAND HOTEL QUISSANA

Centrally located just steps from Capri's main piazza and its fashionable boutiques, this high-society escape has been welcoming visitors since 1845. Now it's a member of 'The Leading Hotels of the World' and, whilst it's definitely stately, is also decidedly serene, its manicured lawns, circular pool and exceptional spa echoing its early life as a sanitarium ('Quissana' means 'Here we heal'). All 148 rooms and suites are classically appointed; private terraces and stunning sea views readily available. And whilst regional dishes and classic fare are presented on the poolside terrace and in the Rendez-Vous restaurant, it's not until you've taken your seat in the gastronomic venue that you realise this is somewhere that takes hotel-keeping very seriously.



GRAND HOTEL QUISSANA

CAPRI PALACE HOTEL & SPA

A 'Leading Small Hotel of the World' with awards for anything from its cuisine (L'Olivo is the only Capri restaurant with two Michelin stars) to its spa (more a state-of-the-art beauty farm where you can get your cellulite zapped and heart rate monitored). Yet guests only have to drink in the restful views over the Bay of Naples and they're sure to feel right on top of the world. This is an ultra-sophisticated art-filled 'palace' with 78 rooms ranging from traditional Mediterranean-style chambers to oversized contemporary suites with pools. By day enjoy bistro lunches round the pool, sail round the bay courtesy of the hotel yacht or simply make for the beach club with its trendy Il Riccio restaurant.



CAPRI PALACE HOTEL & SPA



CAPRI PALACE HOTEL & SPA

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ALSO HIGHLY RECOMMENDED



LA LOCANDA DELLA DONNE MONACHE

LA LOCANDA DELLA DONNE MONACHE, MARATEA

This former convent is tucked away in the picturesque old village of Maratea – its 18th century origins can still be discerned in the whitewashed walls, uneven tiled floors and raw stone walls. Yet today it comes with lashings of style (all those virginal white fabrics are very 'now'), not to mention an eclectic range of contemporary oils, Murano glass and bronze sculptures. Just 27 uniquely-styled guest rooms are on offer here, ranging from the almost nun-like Classic Rooms to the more hedonistic suites with their canopy kingsize beds and heady views over the rooftops. And you can certainly kick austerity into touch in Il Sacello restaurant, the Italian cuisine drawing from the fresh seafood and flavours of Basilicata.



LA LOCANDA DELLA DONNE MONACHE

A visit to Maratea will not just introduce you to charming villages and spectacular coastal scenery, but it will also be a bit of a journey into Italy's past. Not only do majestic mountains sweep down to the Tyrrhenian Sea, but there are also medieval castles, historical centres and an incredible 44 churches dotting the landscape, one of them dating as far back as the 6th century. Why not combine these cultural activities with horse riding, sea excursions and beach or mountain walks ...

BULGARI HOTEL, MILAN

The perfect base from which to 'do' Milan, the Bulgari Hotel boasts a faultless location just minutes away from the Via Montenapoleone, the Via della Spiga, La Scala and Brera. And as you would expect from this renowned jewellery company, the hotel that bears its name is also the epitome of elegance and chic. The original building dates back to the 18th century and comes with its own 4,000 sqm. private garden which is a real rarity in Milan. Yet inside the design and furnishings are contemporary and bold; the 58 guest rooms sumptuous yet intimate, the spa (complete with mosaic-tiled pool) totally decadent, and the decidedly smart and modern restaurant attracting an equally smart and modern clientele.



BULGARI HOTEL - MILAN

All too often forgotten, Milan is actually a fascinating and very stylish city. Every aspiring fashionista knows this place is a must, the exclusive boutiques along the Via Monte Napoleone a serious disaster for the credit cards. But there's so much more for visitors to enjoy, its museums, monuments and churches including the Gothic cathedral 'Il Duomo', as well as 'Santa Maria della Grazia' where you can marvel at Da Vinci's 'Last Supper'. And don't forget that Milan is also a superb gateway to the Italian Lakes ...



BULGARI HOTEL - MILAN

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HAND SELECTED VILLAS

All our hand-selected villas come with the personal touch. From the friendly welcome at your villa to the useful information packs and 24/7 contact, we ensure you quickly feel at home ...

VILLA IL FARO

San Saba, Sicily

An elegant 6-bedroom villa offering some of the best views in Sicily, as well as direct access to the beach. It lies just a few steps from the sea in the little village of San Saba on the Tyrrhenian coast, the expansive Mediterranean-style gardens centred on a multi-level swimming pool complete with furnished wraparound terrace. The house itself has been designed over two levels, three of the bedrooms set on the ground floor and three others upstairs – those on the sea-facing side boast views over the Aeolian archipelago and it doesn't get much better than relaxing with a cocktail on the terrace as the sun sets between Lipari and Volcano.



VILLA IL SICILIANA

Sicily

This 4-bedroom seaside getaway is hidden away amidst a unique 25,000sqm. park on a particularly wild strip of the Sicilian coast. There are plenty of quiet spots for relaxation though, including an 8 x 15m swimming pool and a volcanic sandy beach, the latter boasting a floating platform perfect for topping up your tan during the summer months. The rambling 2-storey main house boasts stunning sea views through large picture windows; the whitewashed walls and beamed ceilings enhanced by tasteful furnishings and a welcoming open fireplace. The villa's 'guardian' lives nearby and will be delighted to organise boat and fishing trips.

VILLA DEI SOGNI

Bellagio, Lake Como

This 4-bedroom villa is a great base from which to explore Italy's spectacularly beautiful Lake Como region. And whilst the historical centre of Bellagio (with its efficient local boat service) is only a 5-minute drive away, all you really have to do to enjoy the stunning lake and alpine vistas is to relax in the comfortable living room or wander out onto the expansive poolside terrace. Other enticements to keep you close at hand include a gym and Turkish sauna, not to mention a well-stocked wine cellar complemented by a well-equipped kitchen – you can hire the services of a private chef if you're worried you won't do justice to all those 'fun' Italian cookbooks.



VILLA AMALFITANA

Amalfi, Amalfi Coast

Enjoying a spectacular setting on the panoramic coastal road just 2kms outside Amalfi, this 8-bedroom family hideaway ticks all the right boxes. It's encircled by fragrant lemon trees, boasts tiered gardens with bougainvillea-draped pergolas and has at its hub a terraced swimming pool with uninterrupted views over the Gulf of Salerno. The main villa itself is built over four levels in typical local style complete with fireplace, iron shutters and French windows opening out onto alfresco terraces. As much as possible enjoys sea views; the six bedrooms of the main house supplemented by the two bedrooms of the charming annexe. You can walk to two restaurants, although probably won't bother as the villa chef is too good!

VILLA RAVELLO VIEW

Ravello, Amalfi Coast

This 5-bedroom escape is located just a 5-minute walk from the artists' haven of Ravello - but we don't blame you if you and your family stay put most of the time. Quite amazing coastal views await you here, as well as sweet-scented tiered gardens, plenty of alfresco patios, terraces and courtyards perfect for relaxing, and a 21-metre long swimming pool ideal for a refined house-party or two. The whitewashed 2-storey main villa houses four bedrooms upstairs and is very much a labour of love complete with antique furnishings, old paintings and floors covered in hand-painted ceramic tiles. There's another bedroom in the gardens for couples wanting to be alone.



These featured villas are just a handful of what we have available. We will also be delighted to recommend several villas in Tuscany, for example. Please don't hesitate to contact us for further information or to discuss your personal requirements ...



CALL 0113 2452022

enquiries@traveleads.net

VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS

London to Venice

Can there be a better way to arrive in Venice than aboard this luxury train? The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is quite simply a legend, an Art Deco icon where romance, adventure and style combine to create a rail journey unlike any other. The moment you step on board you'll be transported to a more elegant age of travel, the vintage mood enhanced by the spectacular scenery of the Swiss Alps and Italian Dolomites. Your private cabin will take you right back to the glamour of the 1920s and 30s, your comfortable sofa converted into cosy upper and lower berths whilst you're enjoying a delicious dinner. The talented French chefs will prepare gourmet delicacies complemented by sparkling crystal and crisp white linens, cocktails and piano music in the famous Bar Car bringing your day to a suitably glamorous end. And remember, you can never be overdressed aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express.

Depart: London Victoria 10:45am
Arrive: Venice 17:56pm the next day
Depart: Venice 10:57am
Arrive: London Victoria 17:30pm the next day

Please note all timings are provisional and subject to change.



WEDDINGS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS



We have plenty of experience arranging bespoke Italian weddings – and that's true whether you're interested in having a civil ceremony, a religious affair or simply a blessing. And whether your special day will involve just you and your partner or whether it will include a cast of hundreds. We can handle anything from the license and the photography to the caterers and the honeymoon, and will always go out of our way to ensure your special day surpasses all expectations.

Of course, we can also help if you're celebrating an anniversary or a birthday. Maybe you'd like to mark the occasion by going wine-tasting in a private vineyard in Tuscany? Having a private art lesson on the shores of Lake Como? Or perhaps the kids would like to dress up as gladiators in the Colosseum? No request is too small or too large for us to handle, so let your imagination run wild ...



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