



ICONIC HOTEL



Capri, island of the Gods

Two ways of experiencing Capri,
in a charming boutique hotel or a
prestigious luxury establishment.
The choice is yours!

by Antonella Euli



As soon as you settle down on board the hydrofoil powering across the bay, leaving Naples behind you, you can breathe the atmosphere of Capri, a heady mix of luxury, celebrity and the Dolce Vita. It's now more than fifty years since the Piazzetta became a meeting point for the international jet set and prince Francesco Caravita di Sirignano, Pupetto to his friends, played host, but nothing has changed. The attraction remains, and if the stones could speak they would tell incredible stories of great loves, the follies of the stars and immense glamour. Capri forever! The first stop is the Villa Marina Capri Hotel&Spa, which offers a visiting card in the form of a shuttle service from Marina Grande on board nothing



THIS EARLY 20TH CENTURY PRIVATE VILLA IS NOW AN ADORABLE HOTEL THAT RETAINS THE ATMOSPHERE OF A SPACIOUS HOLIDAY HOME



less than one of their Ape Calessino motorised three-wheelers, an icon of Dolce Vita style. Once you've arrived it's easy to understand why the word "comeback" just doesn't cut it - what used to be an early 20th-century private villa is now an adorable hotel that retains the atmosphere of a spacious holiday home. The welcome reflects the islanders' warmth and elegance, with host Enrico Costa an embodiment of courtesy. His professionalism and hospitality soon make guests feel "home at last". And when he invites you to spend an afternoon discovering the treasures of Capri on board the hotel's traditional gozzo craft, you'll realise what "tailor-made services" really means. The restoration of the villa took six years to complete and the result is clear - design and culture, present and past, surrounded by a Mediterranean garden hosting twenty-suites named after 20th-century figures who visited and loved Capri, a list that

includes Marinetti, Neruda, Axel Munthe, Charles Caryl Coleman and Gracie Fields. They are all different, with some facing the villa's large gardens and others with a private pool and scenic terrace overlooking the sea, furnished with the period pieces and artworks that also grace the social spaces. Meals are taken at Ziqù, where the dishes prepared by chef Manuele Cattaruzza pay homage to the typical island cuisine and Mediterranean flavours. Diners are seated at eight tables in the garden facing the sea, emphasising the domestic atmosphere and the appeal of the dishes served there. The Stai spa, a focus of well-being, is a more like a comfortable lounge where guests can pamper themselves with emotional showers, sauna and Turkish bath, a small indoor swimming pool and a selection of exclusive treatments. Once there, you'll never leave! www.villamarinacapri.com



Make a U-turn in the Calessino and a different kind of experience awaits, not far from the Piazzetta. The Capri Tiberio Palace is reached along the via delle Botteghe, and the hotel will have an intense emotional impact on anyone who passes its threshold. It's as if you are in the home of a cultured, refined traveller who has filled suitcases and trunks with the finest the world has to offer. The new owners have transformed the hotel and now it has international appeal with enchanting furnishings and objects. The hand of architect Giampiero Panepinto can be seen throughout, starting with the Jacky Bar, a cross between the Cotton Club and the magical 1950s Cuba, an atmosphere that can also be experienced in other interiors, including the rooms and suites. There are around fifty of these, all different, where multi-ethnic and natural colours and graphic motifs decorate the home of contemporary globetrotter, surrounded by modern and period souvenirs of his most recent voyage but now eager to set off once again. Francesca Tozzi, the hotel's general manager, proudly shows us round the new Bellevue Suite, 250 square metres of

design and unique pieces, with a terrace overlooking the sea with gym and swimming pool, a magical experience for a select few. There is no lack of luxury, but it exudes an atmosphere of understatement that will enchant cosmopolitan guests who like the good things in life. They will definitely feel at home here, in the indoor and outdoor pool on the terrace solarium with panoramic view, the Tiberio spa, 600 square metres of Zen atmosphere for deluxe well-being, and in the Terrazza Tiberio restaurant with view over Capri. The menus are marked by a strong local influence, emphasising freshness and seasonality.

The restaurant also serves Kosher-Glatt dishes (meat only) certified by the Orthodox Union, combining the dietary rules of the Jewish religion with local ingredients and recipes. The Kosher menu is served in an area the restaurant reserves for lunch, dinner and Shabbat. The wine list also has a twofold character, offering the finest Italian labels and Kosher wines from Italy and Israel. All in all, more than full marks.

www.capritiberioplace.it



