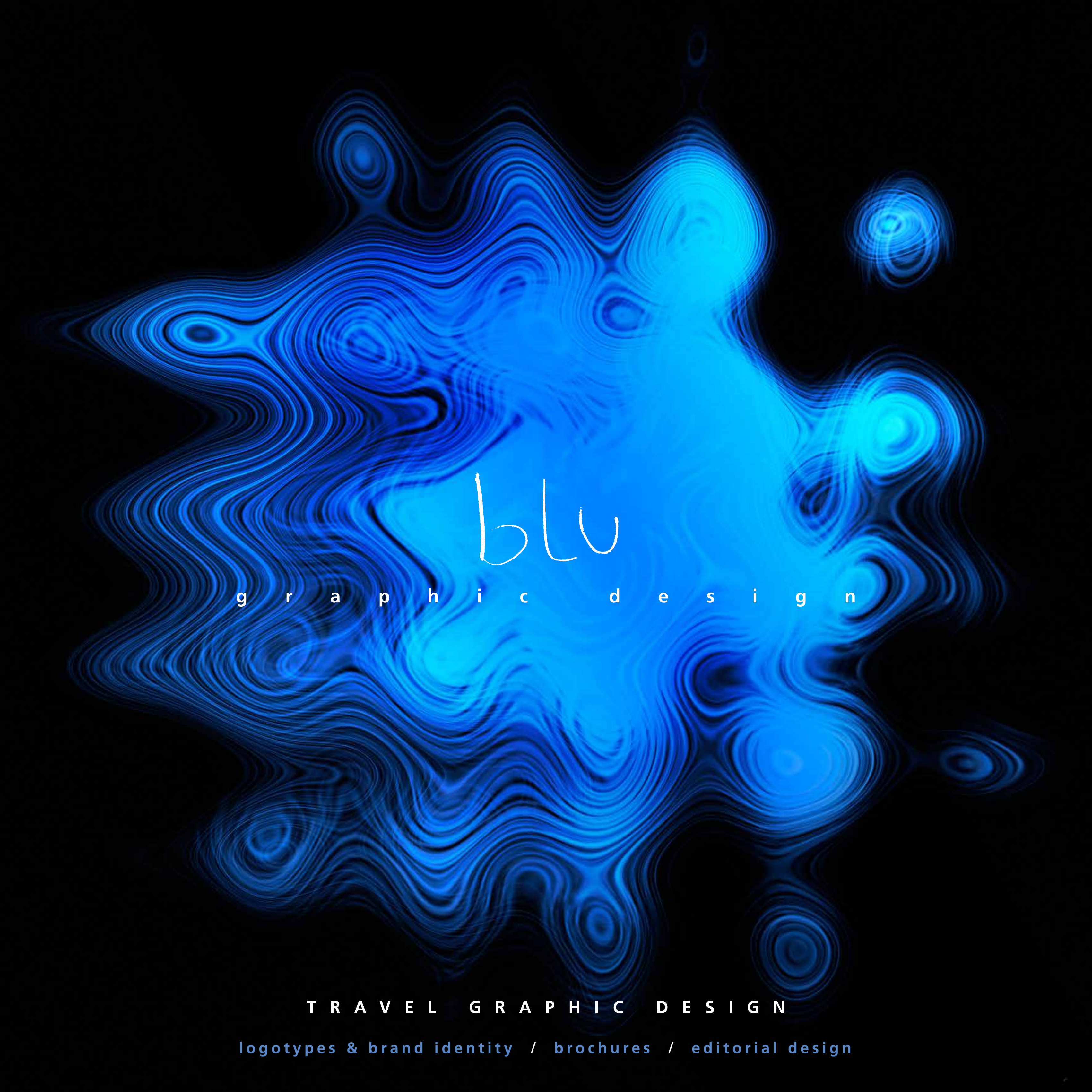


The background of the entire image is a black field filled with a complex, organic, and symmetrical pattern of bright blue and cyan wavy lines. These lines create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a topographical map or a microscopic view of a liquid crystal. The pattern is most intense in the center and fades slightly towards the edges.

blu

g r a p h i c d e s i g n

T R A V E L G R A P H I C D E S I G N

logotypes & brand identity / brochures / editorial design

A B O U T U S

Graphic designers, artists and dreamers.
Monica —SPD-Scuola Politecnica di Design in Milan, graphic designer and art director since 1983— and **Giorgio** —Brera Academy in Milan, graphic designer since 1980.
A magical encounter, in 1990, saw the birth of our story as a couple and, in 1993, our graphic design studio, **Blu**.
Alessandro —Car Design at Issam in Modena, Brand Design Course at NABA in Milan— has joined our creative team in 2023.

Being acute listeners and observers, we clearly identify our clients’ needs, taking an active, strategic role with our ideas, suggestions and our long-established expertise.
We can contribute to the development of a project with custom-tailored brochures, logotypes & brand identity, packaging, catalogues and editorial design.
We are always on the lookout for new, inspiring and challenging ideas, where we can show our mettle.

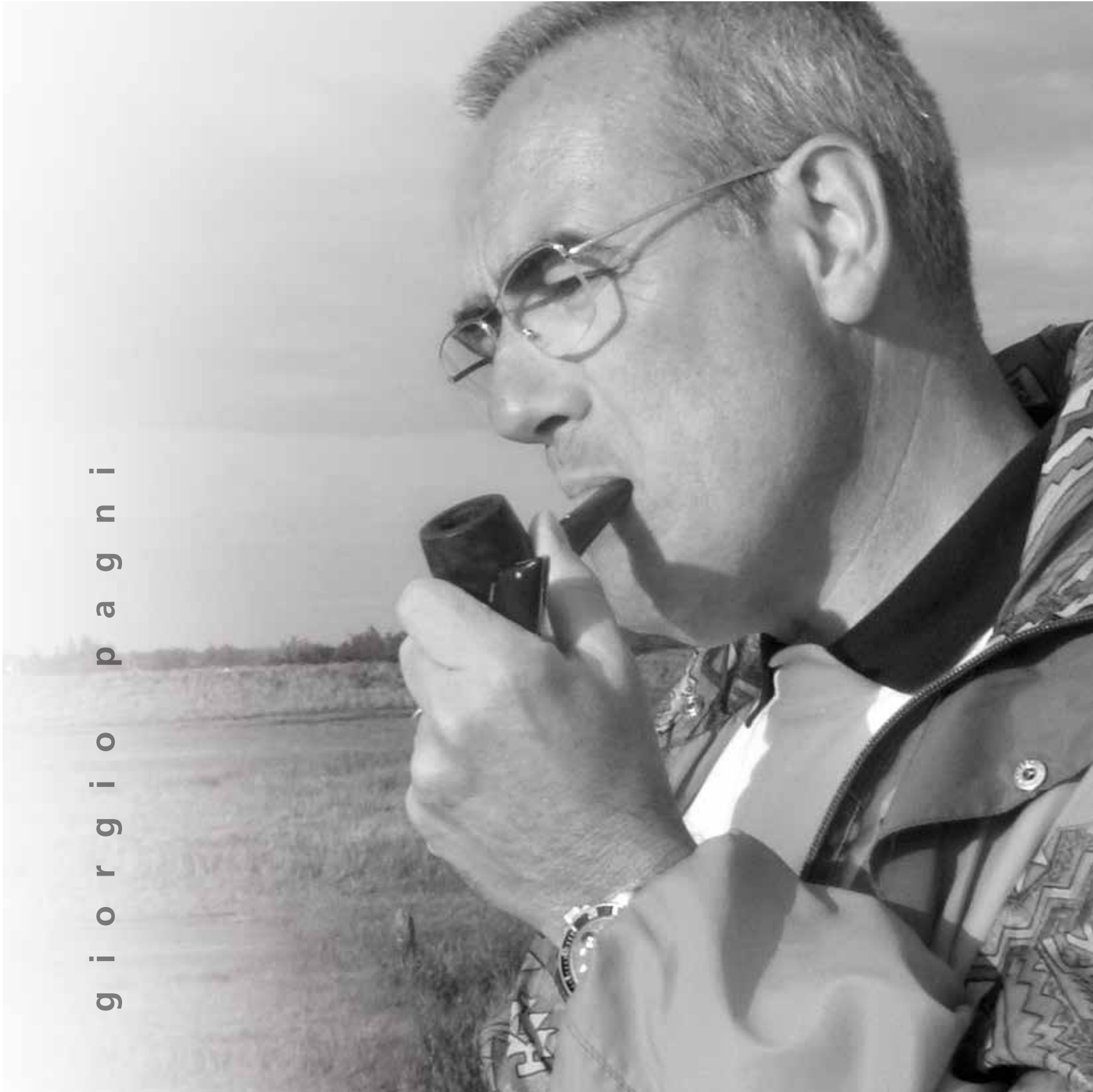
m o n i c a c i t r o

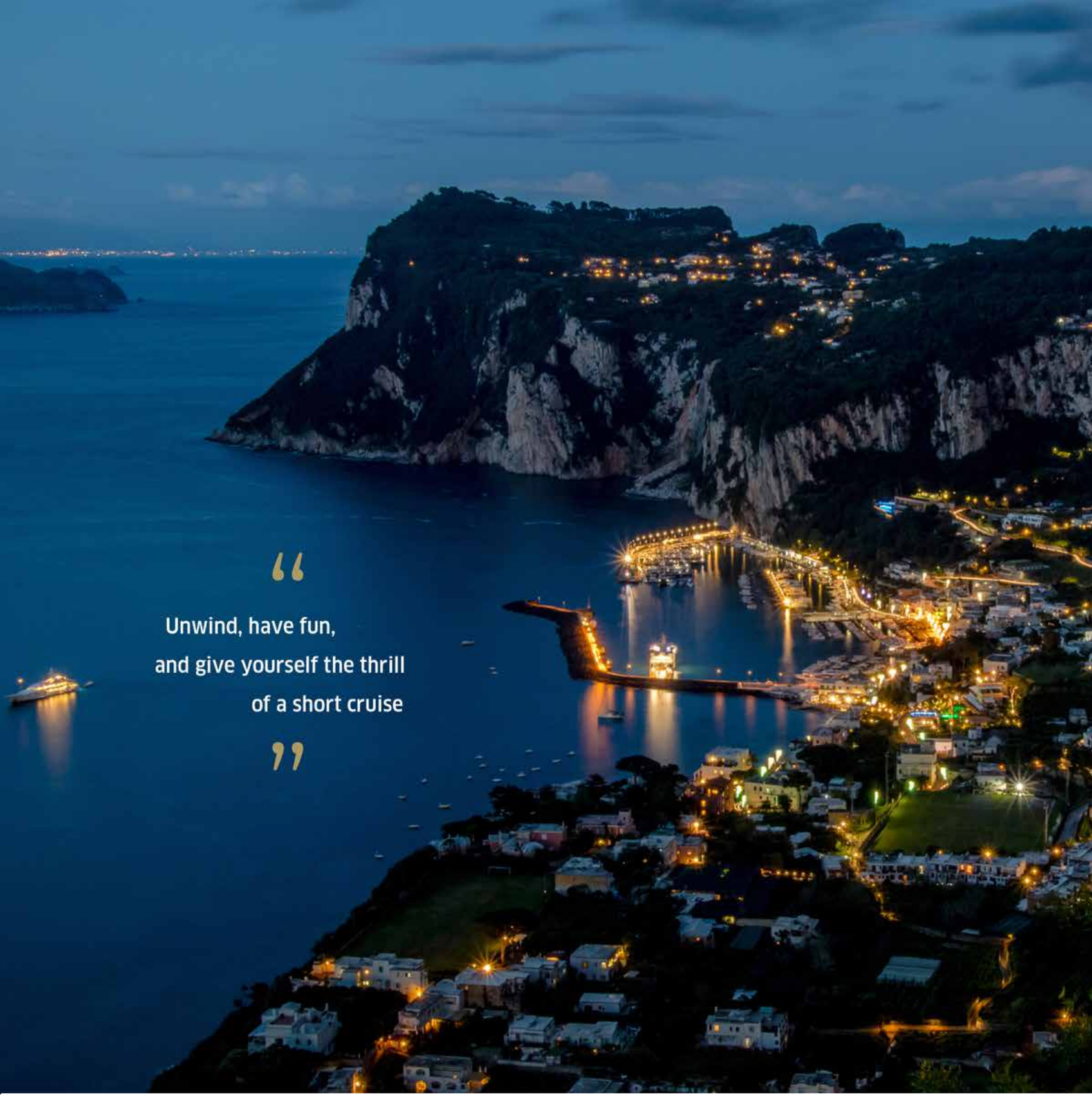


a l e s s a n d r o p a g n i



g i o r g i o p a g n i





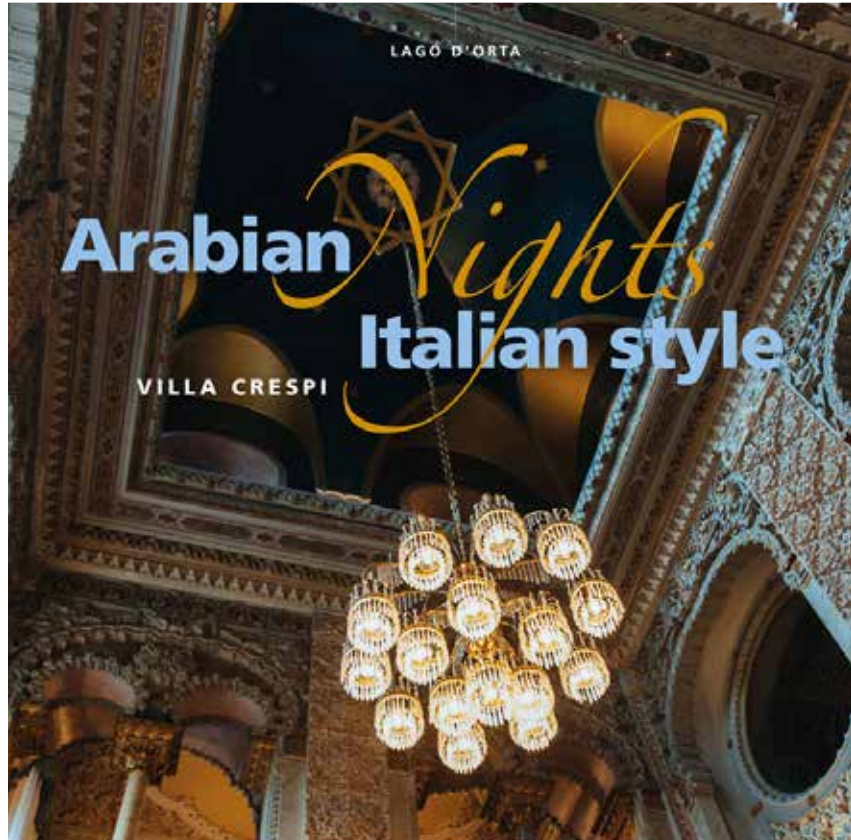
“
Unwind, have fun,
and give yourself the thrill
of a short cruise
”

TRAVEL
/
GRAPHIC
DESIGN



OPERE D'ARTE E gusto

In un contesto in cui arte e l'eccellenza accompagnano ogni sfumatura dell'accoglienza, il **Ristorante Anisato** - 1 stella Michelin - unisce il gusto e i sapori della tradizione gastronomica regionale alla raffinata creatività dello Chef Matteo Bianchi. L'accurato scelta di verdure rare e dimenticate, coltivate secondo metodi biologici nell'orto privato dell'albergo, arricchisce l'offerta del menu. All'esterno, il **Giardino d'Inverno** accoglie gli ospiti nella sua veranda dall'atmosfera intima, elegante e dal fascino retrò.



LAGO D'ORTA
Arabian Nights
VILLA CRESPI
Italian style



"Impressive charm and fascination in all seasons"

MOUNTAINS



Far from tourist hotspots and urban living, the mountains provide unrivalled peace and serenity as well as adventure. Whether it is a romantic getaway, an exciting weekend or a family holiday, that special place is hiding somewhere in an idyllic mountain setting, awaiting discovery.
The Italian Alps, where four languages are spoken and diverse cultures meet, are home to some of the world's most spectacular scenery. Le Corbusier saw Mont Blanc, Mont Rosa, The Cervino and the Grossglockner as "the most beautiful natural architecture in the world". In all seasons they offer excitement, ingenious charms and utter fascination: white fairy-tale scenery in winter and a unique variety of activities and natural beauty in summer.



ALLURE AND RELAX



Preparing for a trip: can you think of anything more exciting? The magic of uncovering new places and unusual destinations is the essence of an infinite allure. Every place has a soul, revealed in a harmony of colour combinations and memorable graphics, expressing sensations, emotions and awe. We blend exciting texts with images that are engraved in your hearts: aesthetics blend with shapes and graphics that are accurate, stylish and melodic. Each page is a window that opens onto the world. Every journey unveils an idea, a project and an intuition: with our graphics we bring your thoughts to life.

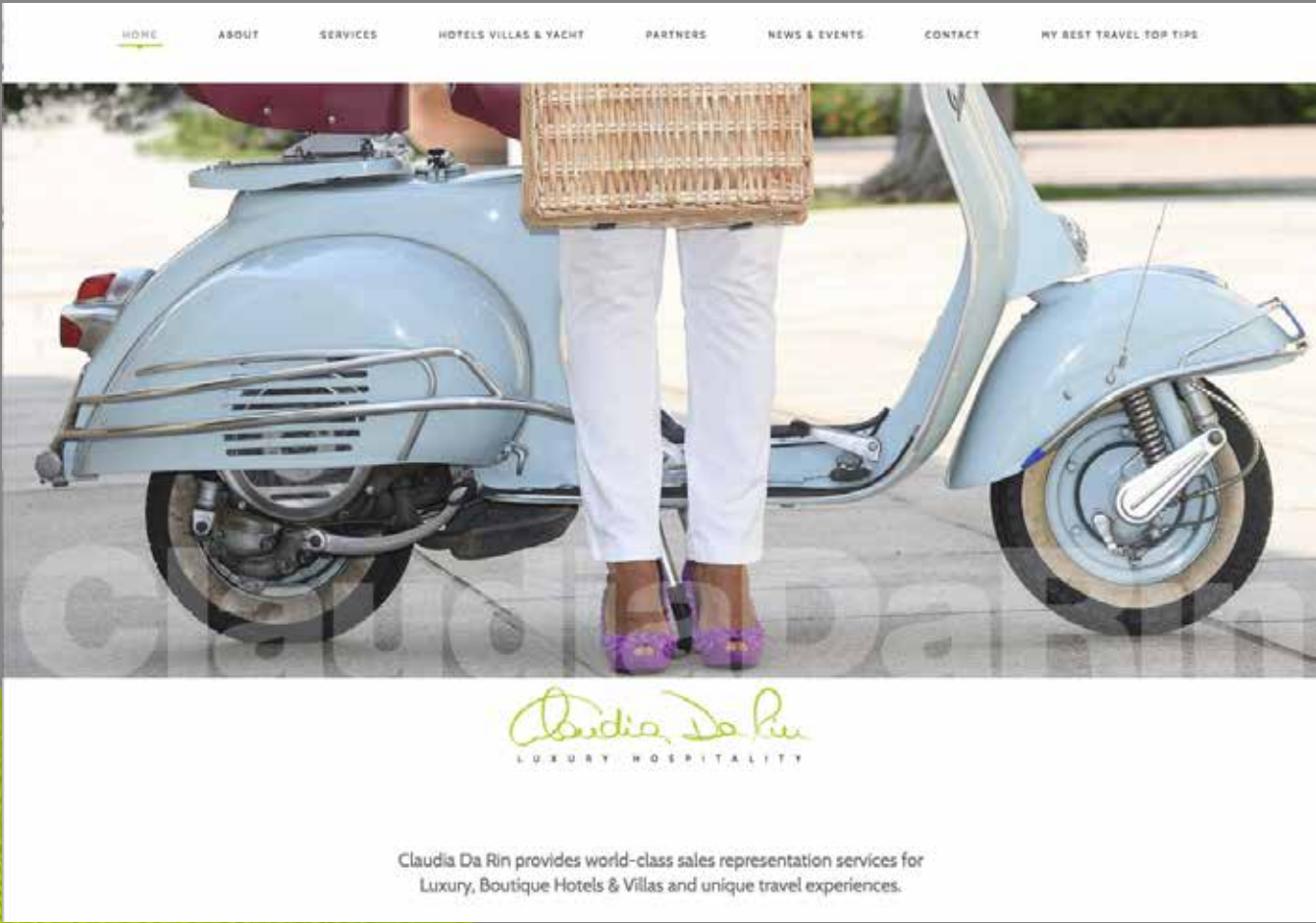
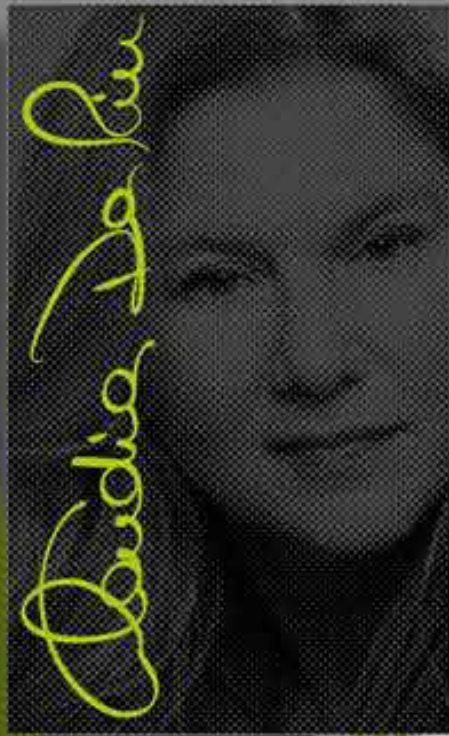
This selection of brochures, tailor-made logos, brand identity and editorial design conveys our creative spirit.



Unforgettable
Journeys

ClaudiaDaRin

International Sales Representative



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T +39 02 70308556
marketing@claudiadarin.it
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P.IVA IT03848500967

ClaudiaDaRin



To be *unforgettable* is our primary ambition

It is the culture expressed through our relationships, and the benchmark for our work. To be unforgettable is our mindset when engaging with Hotels and Buyers. Hotels can be sure of our innovative, inclusive and down-to-earth approach; we are a highly effective extension to your team. We combine our world-class expertise and know how to support Hotels with both full-time, retained representation and one-off, short-term contracts with the opportunity to strengthen your sales through specified tasks. We are also used to working with Hotels affiliated with Leading Hotels of the World, Small Luxury Hotels, Preferred and Relais & Châteaux.

The tourism industry has become extremely competitive, putting pressure on the hospitality sector as well. As an independent hotel owner, having outstanding marketing content is the necessary requirement to gain an edge over competitors and stay on top in the market.



5 good reasons to choose Claudia

1. Trust You Can Rely On

Consistency and reliability are at the core of every collaboration. Commitments are honored with precision, creating a solid foundation of trust over time.

2. Radical Transparency

An open and honest approach guides every interaction. Hotels are always kept fully informed — from market insights to opportunities and challenges — ensuring clarity and shared direction.

3. Proven Expertise

Over 30 years in luxury hospitality, including leadership roles as Director of Sales and General Manager. Since founding the company in 2002, the focus has been on high-level sales & marketing consultancy and representation. A deep, hands-on understanding of international markets makes a tangible difference.

4. Authenticity & Integrity

Sincerity, authenticity, and coherence define the way of working. Each hotel is represented with a genuine voice, preserving its identity while elevating its presence in the right markets.

5. A Balanced & Respectful Approach

True success comes from harmony between all players involved. The needs of both hotels and travel advisors are equally valued, fostering long-term relationships built on mutual respect, shared energy, and aligned goals.

CLAUDIA DA RIN / brochure



Supporting Hoteliers in

growth and positioning

- More than 25 years experience in luxury, leisure and mice
- Increase the brand awareness and visibility in USA, Canada, Europe, Australia, Latin America, APAC
- More Leads thanks to strong relationship with Travel Advisors
- More exposure through personal connections and one-on-one presentations
- More Conversions
- Lower Costs Per Customer Acquisition
- We attend the most important Luxury Trade Shows and Events
- We organize sales calls to introduce the Hotel to luxury Buyers
- Fam Trip organization
- Daily activities to promote the Hotels to buyers
- Specialized in start up and re-branding
- Sales & marketing



CLAUDIA DA RIN / brochure / collection

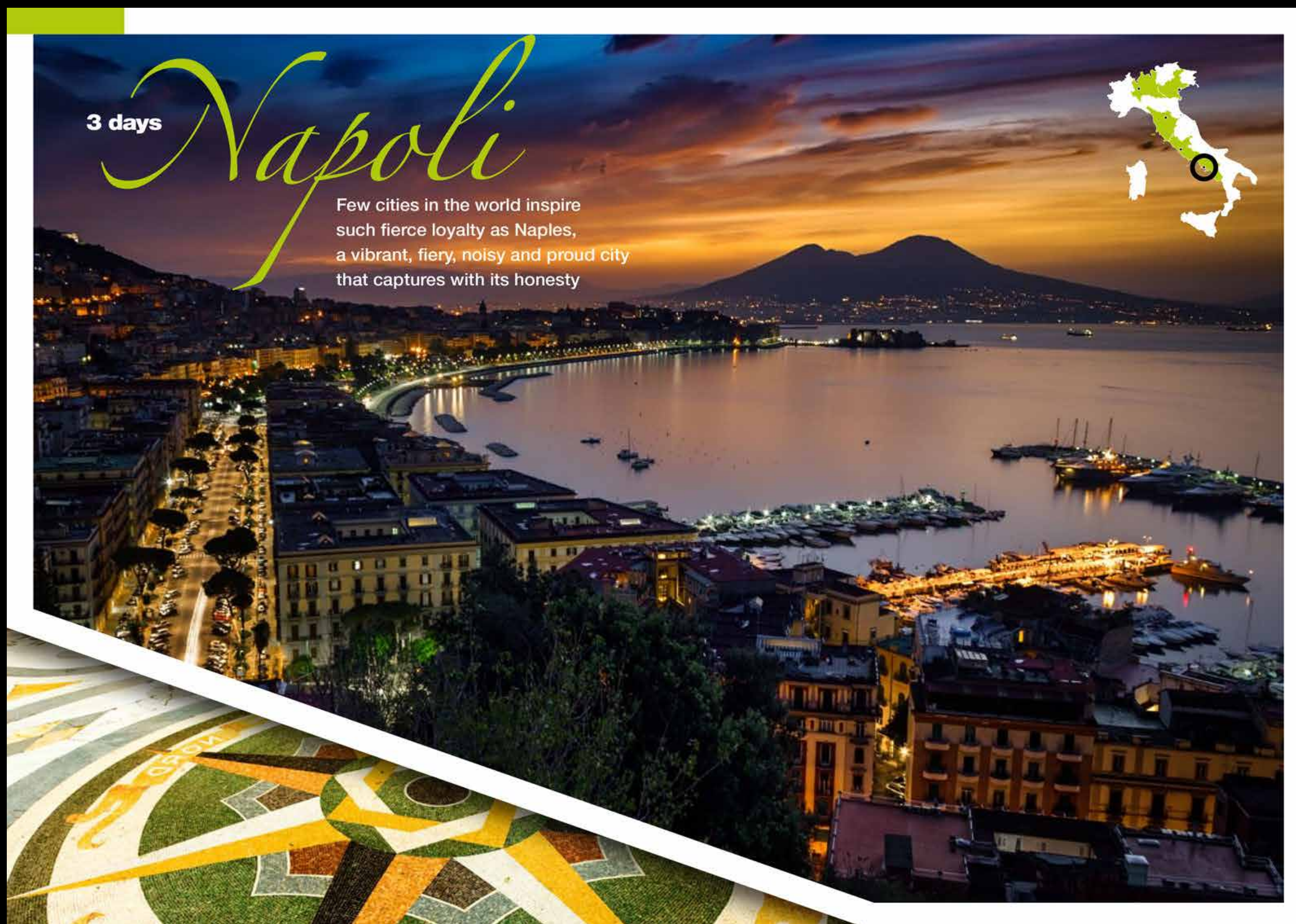


Think *Belle Époque* and you are in for a treat: Lake Maggiore will spoil you with its immense, pristine blue waters and towering mountains standing proud over its luxuriant vegetation.

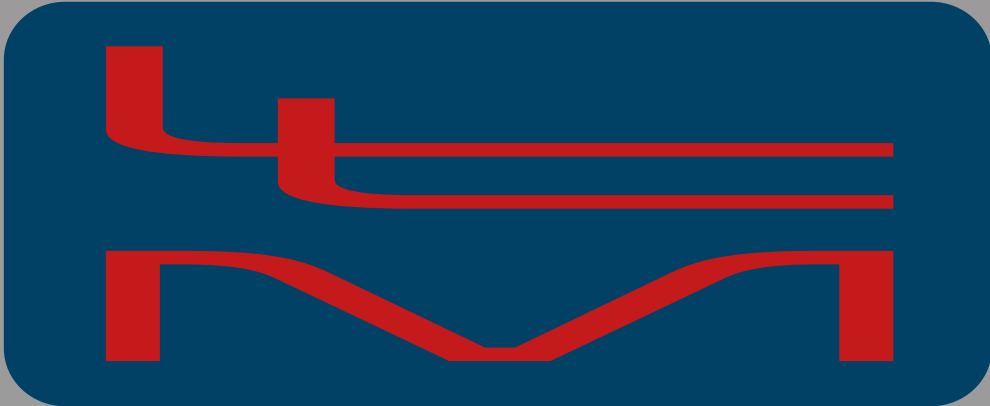
<< BACK TO INDEX



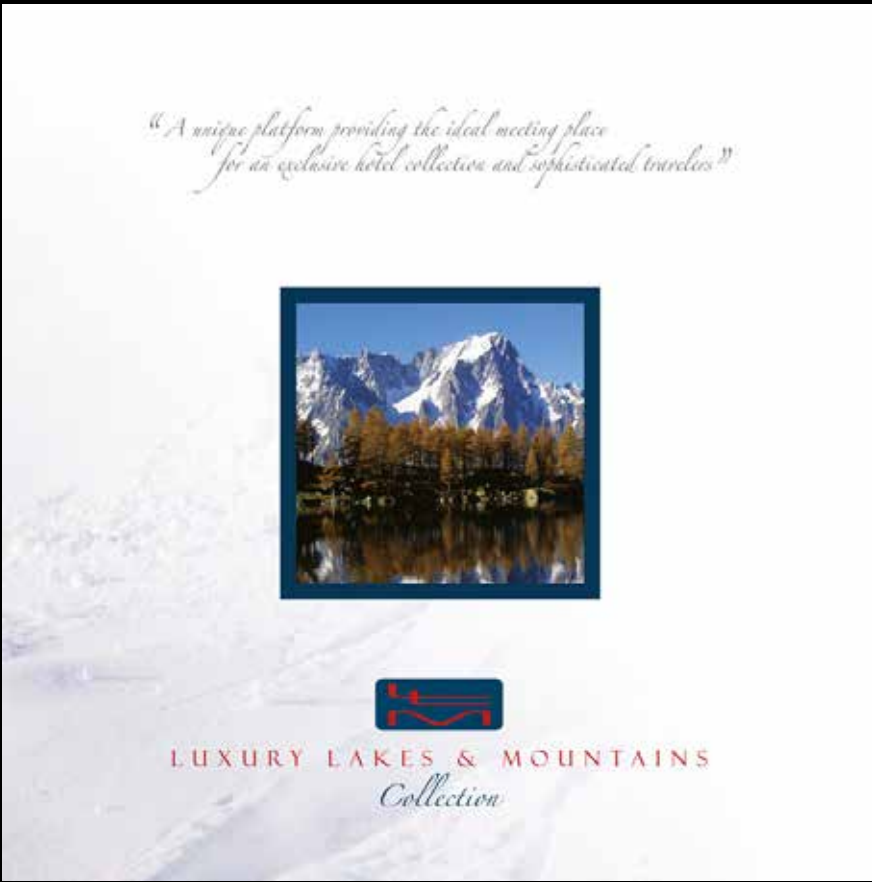
CLAUDIA DA RIN / brochure / experiences / classic Italy, grand tour



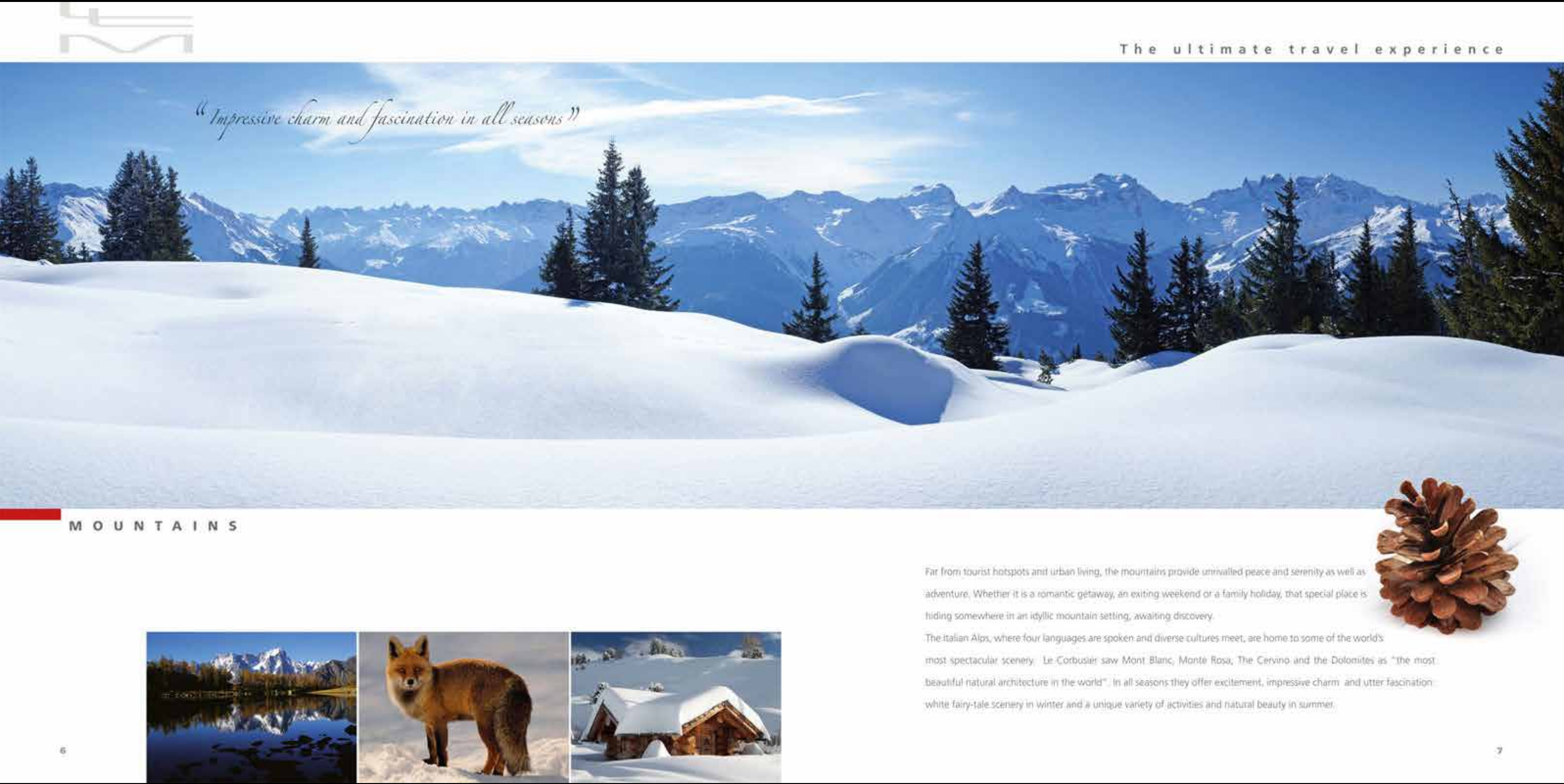
LLM LUXURY LAKES & MOUNTAINS / logotype & brand identity



Luxury Lakes and Mountains
Prima Strada, 25 / 20090 Segrate (Milano) Italy / T +39 02 70308556 / M +39 335 7079079 / M +39 333 8959077
info@llmcollection.com / claudia@llmcollection.com / www.luxurylakesandmountains.com
Claudia Da Rin / Prima Strada, 25 / 20090 Segrate (Milano) Italy / C.F. DRNCLD64C63A266M / P.IVA IT03848500967



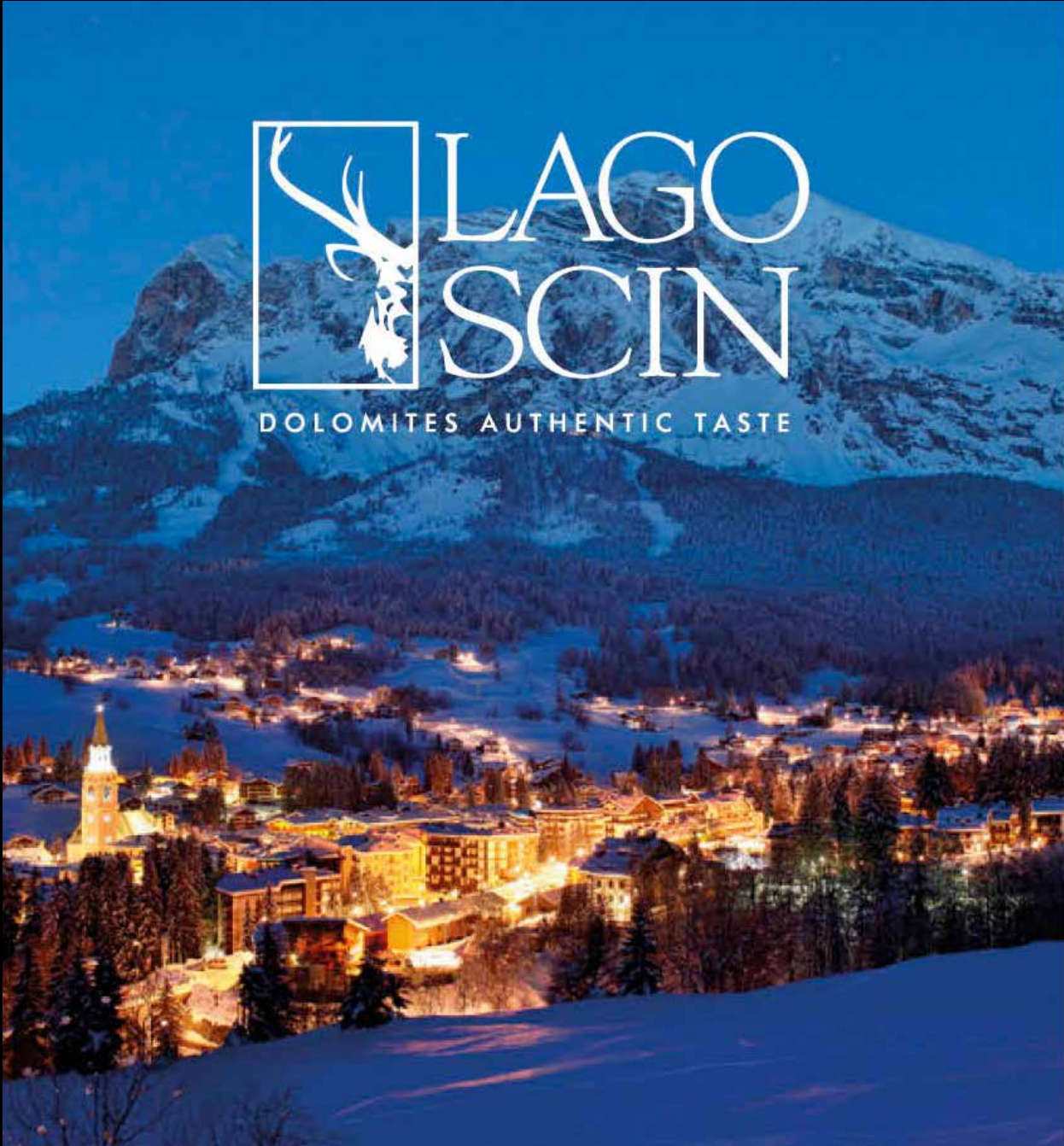
LLM LUXURY LAKES & MOUNTAINS / brochure



LAGO SCIN RESTAURANT / DOLOMITI / logotype & brand identity



LAGO SCIN RESTAURANT / DOLOMITI / logotype & brand identity



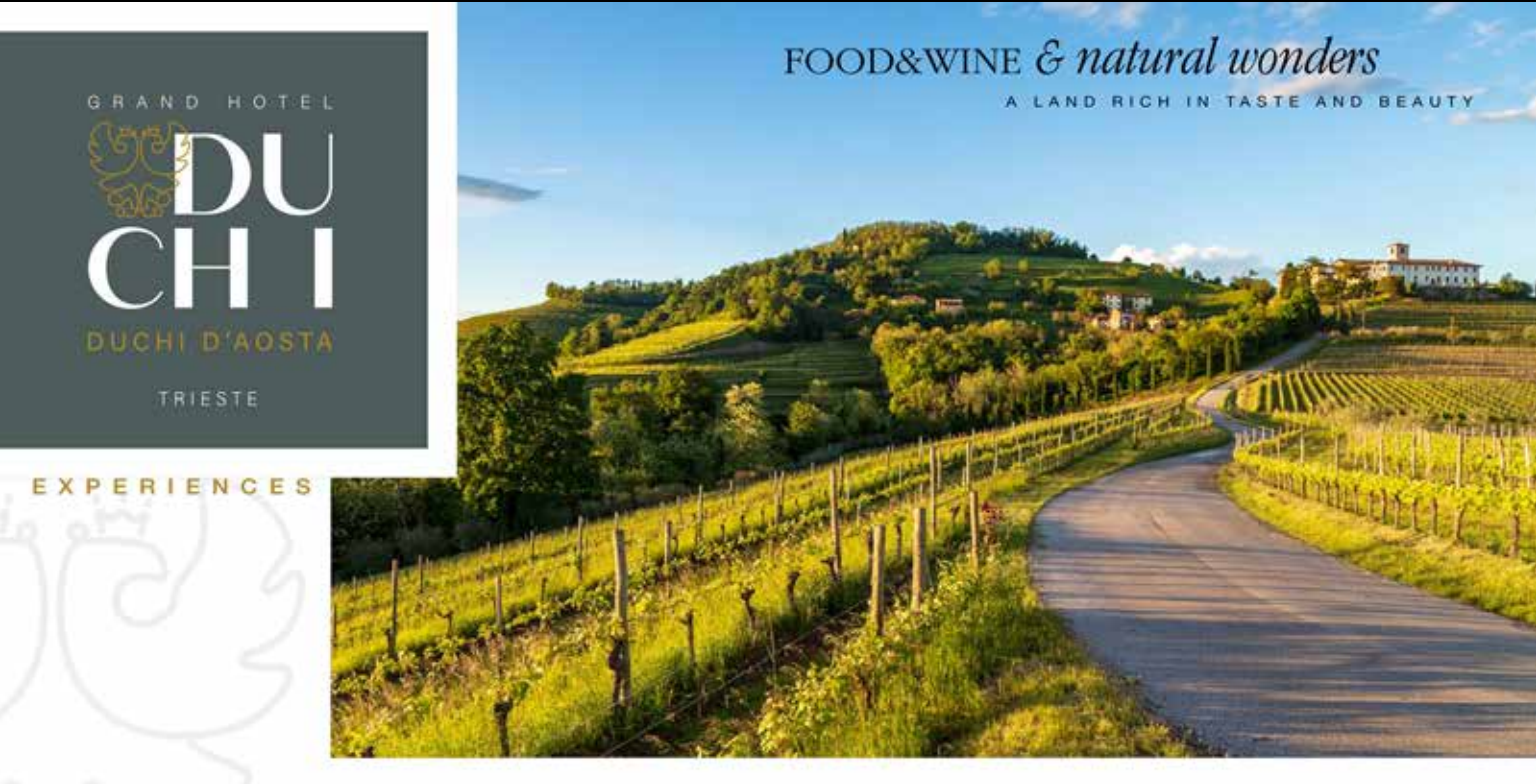


GRAND HOTEL DUCHI D'AOSTA / TRIESTE / brochure



ELEGANZA E TRADIZIONE

Nella centralissima Piazza Unità d'Italia, uno dei luoghi più belli d'Europa, il Grand Hotel Duchi d'Aosta, insieme agli altri splendidi edifici, fa da cornice alla piazza che si affaccia proprio sul mare, godendo di una posizione strategica e suggestiva dove fascino e stile promettono grandi emozioni.



GRAND HOTEL DUCHI D'AOSTA / TRIESTE / brochure / experiences





BYBLOS ART HOTEL VILLA AMISTÀ / VERONA / brochure

art JOURNEY



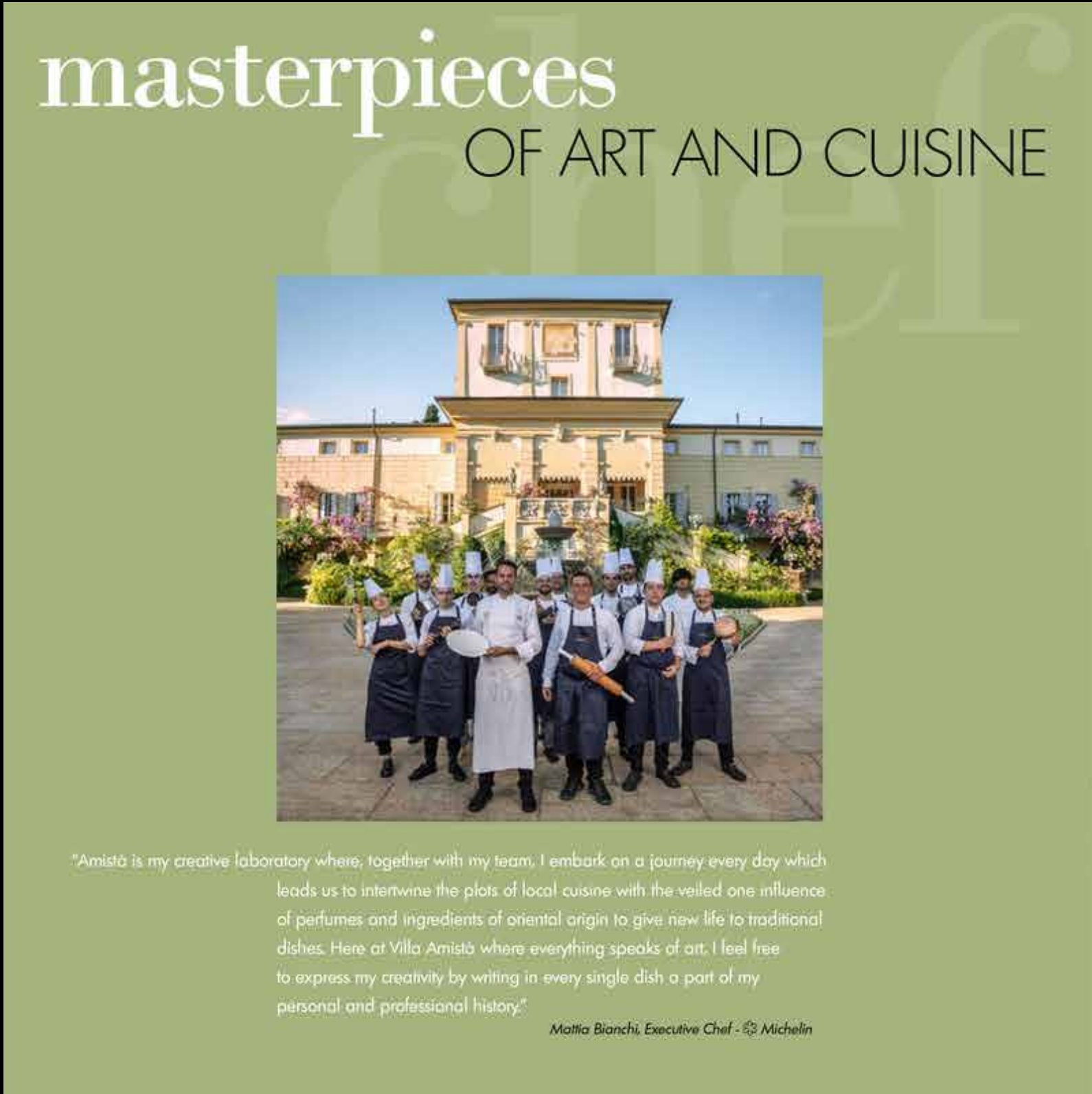
Art, design, fashion and hospitality blend in the charming setting of a splendid 15th Century patrician villa: the result is Byblos Art Hotel Villa Amistà, a real museum, with over 100 works by artists who are writing the history of international contemporary art.

This exclusive 5-star hotel is located in the heart of Valpolicella, a few kilometers from the center of Verona and in a strategic position to visit Venice, Milan, Lake Garda and the whole of Northern Italy.





BYBLOS ART HOTEL VILLA AMISTÀ / VERONA / brochure banqueting





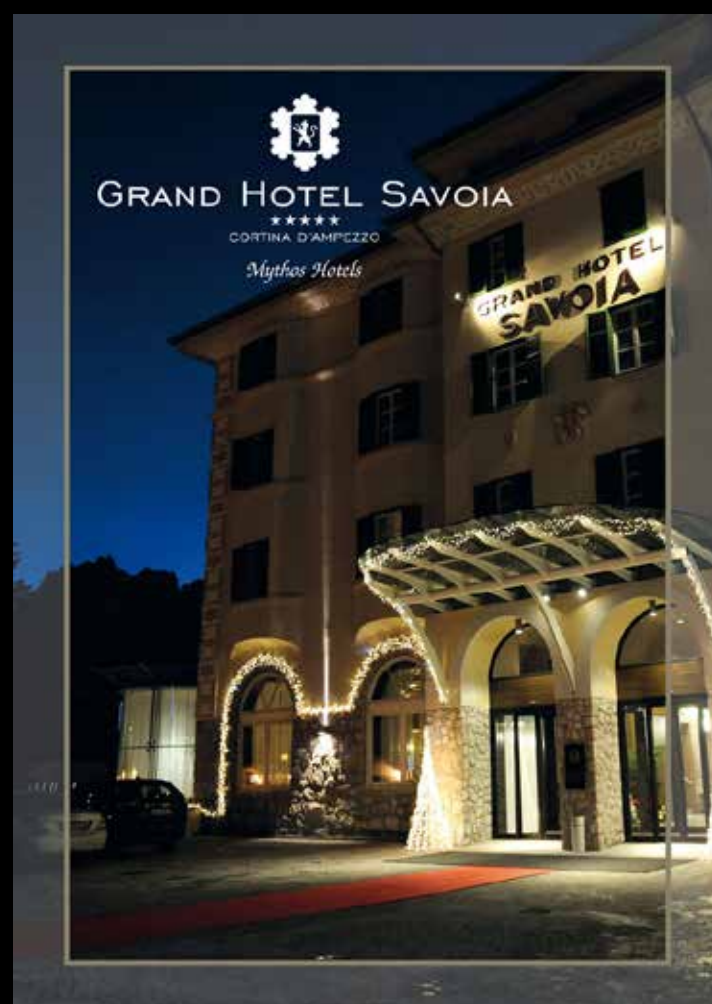
BYBLOS ART HOTEL VILLA AMISTÀ / VERONA / brochure wedding

THE WEDDING OF YOUR **dreams**



There is no better place to celebrate the wedding of your dreams than the romantic city of Verona, where Shakespeare set the famous love story of Romeo and Juliet. The picturesque views of the beautiful park of Villa Amistà will be the backdrop to the most poetic moments of your ceremony and the elegant and refined interiors will welcome your guests to celebrate together one of the most important days of your life.





wellness & relax

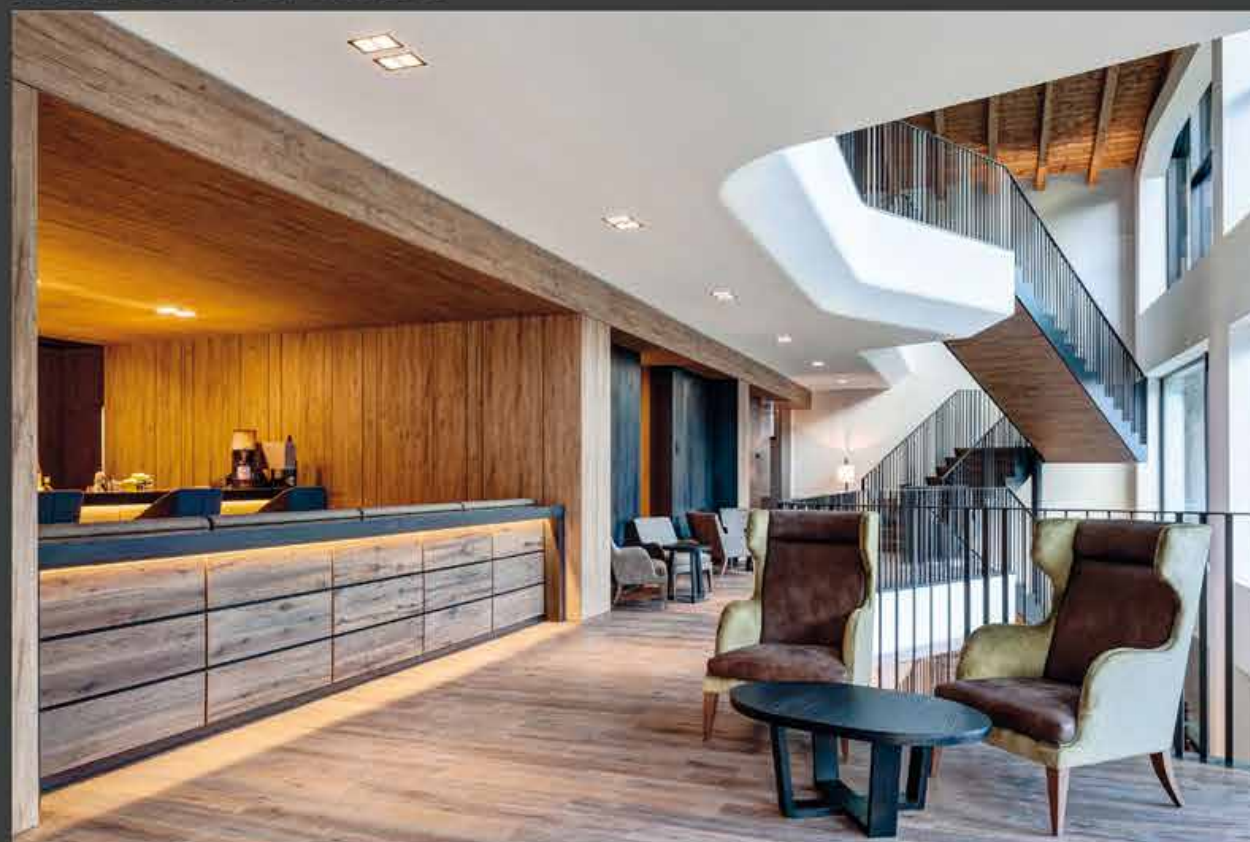
L'ambiente rilassante e rassicurante del Centro Benessere Elysium, arricchito dalla splendida zona del solarium, garantisce agli ospiti un'attenzione particolare alla privacy e all'atmosfera che invita al relax e al benessere.

Privacy is the watchword in the stylish, tranquil surroundings of the Wellness Center Elysium which are enhanced yet further by the wonderful solarium. The focus is very much on relaxation and wellbeing.

***** Grand Hotel Courmayeur Montblanc

MYTHOS HOTELS / brochures

a warm welcome



Il Grand Hotel Courmayeur Mont Blanc, inaugurato nel 2014, è il rifugio di tendenza della Val d'Aosta che si propone come un vero invito al viaggio e all'avventura in un'atmosfera trendy ed elegante. I nostri Ospiti hanno la garanzia di un servizio attento e professionale ed il vantaggio di tutti i moderni comfort sia in camera che in tutto l'Hotel.

Grand Hotel Courmayeur Mont Blanc, opened in 2014, is the trendy contemporary retreat in Val d'Aosta that offers you a real invitation to travel and experience adventure in a chic and stylish atmosphere. Our guests have the assurance of friendly and highly professional staff combined with the advantage of all the latest comfort in rooms and throughout the hotel.



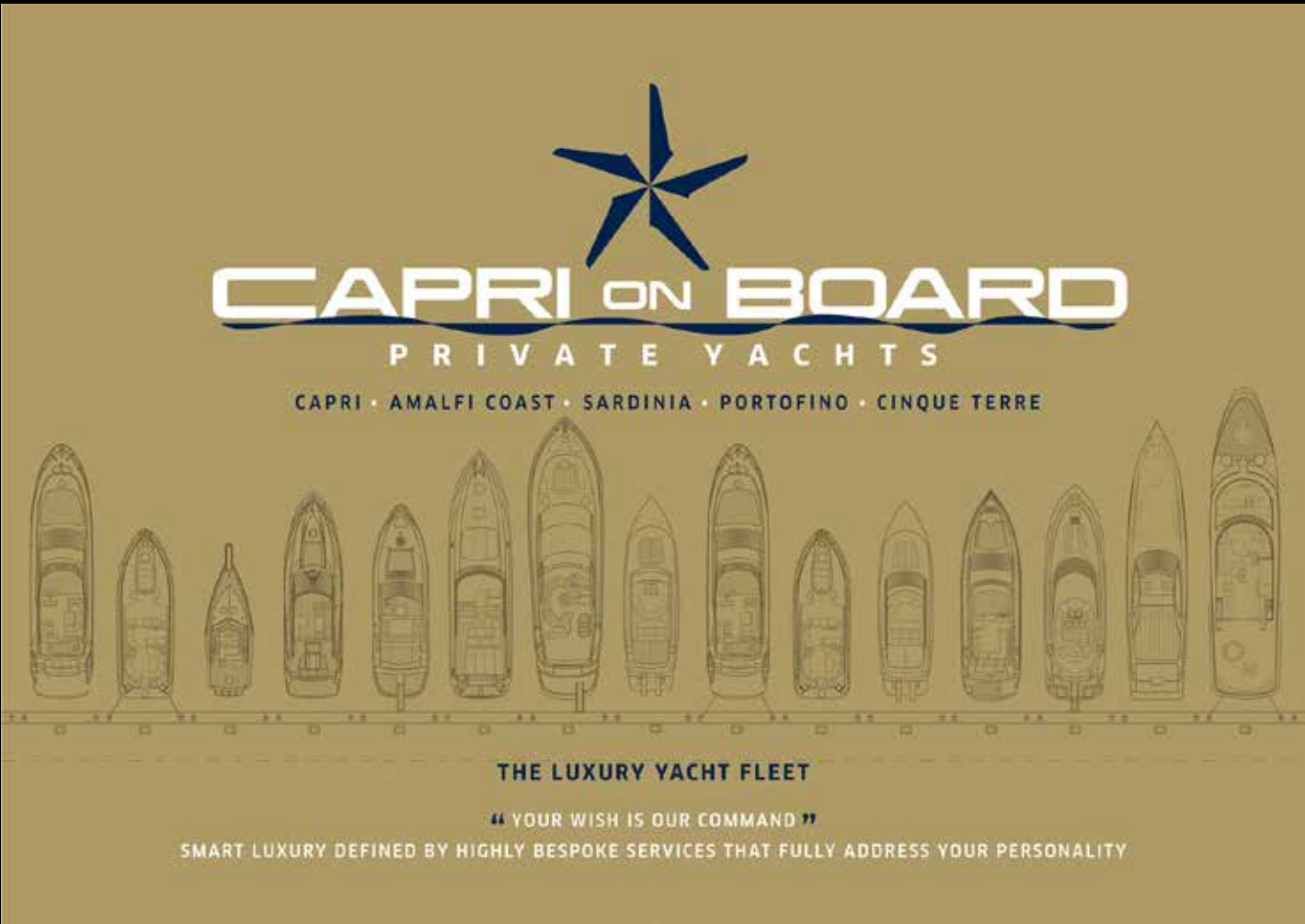
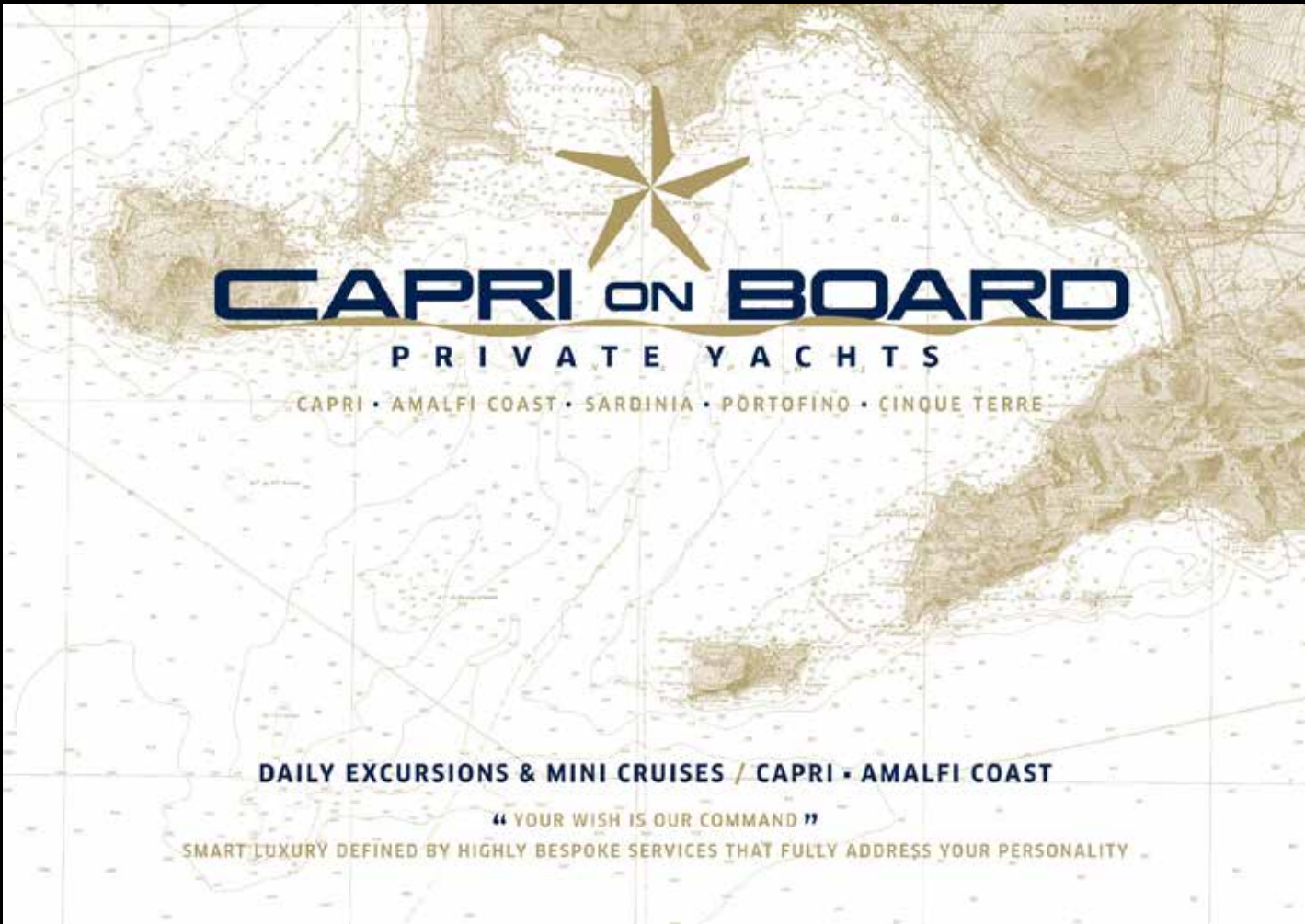
***** Grand Hotel Courmayeur Montblanc

CAPRI ON BOARD YACHT MANAGEMENT COMPANY

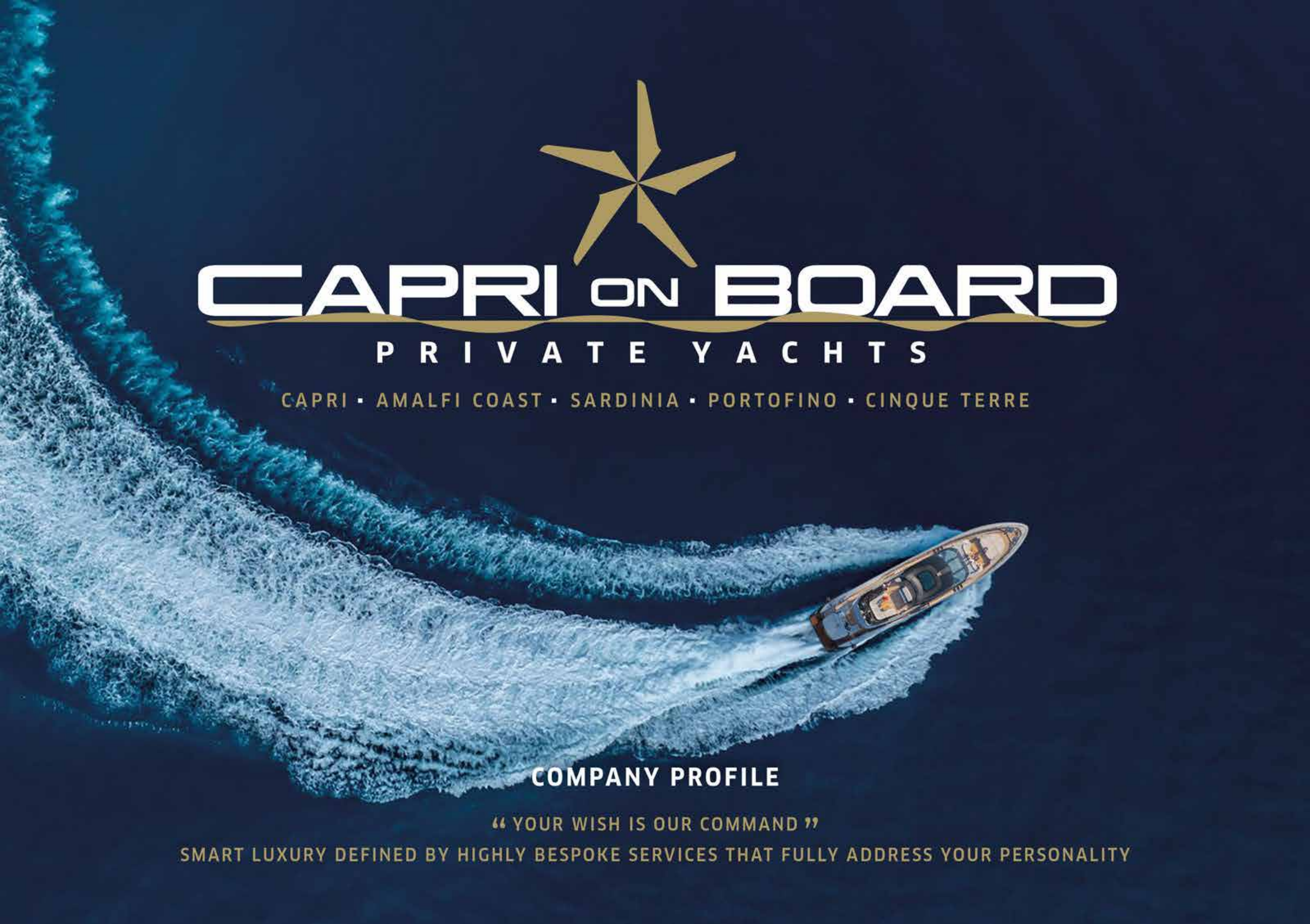
/ logotype & brand identity



CAPRI LIFE STYLE SRL
MAIN OFFICE ■ VIA CRISTOFORO COLOMBO, 73 ■ 80073 CAPRI (NA)) ■ ITALY
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OFFICE +39 081 0093129 ■ MOBILE +39 328 9423700 ■ FAX +39 081 0097993 ■ INFO@CAPRIONBOARD.COM
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CAPRI ON BOARD YACHT MANAGEMENT COMPANY / brochures





SU GOLOGONE EXPERIENCE HOTEL / SARDEGNA / brochure





SU GOLOGONE EXPERIENCE HOTEL / SARDEGNA / brochure / experiences



Villa Ortensia

Comfortable sea view villa of approx. 200 sqm - all terraces included - set on three levels. It offers two ensuite double rooms and one twin bedroom with an independent entrance. All rooms have a private bathroom. The large and elegant living room offers a stunning sea view from the reception area.

Lunaria beach restaurant

The new Lunaria Beach Restaurant opened in August 2019, just adjacent to the private beach. Planning an event, a birthday or a private party with friends? Lunaria Beach is the perfect place to organise almost any event you can think of: from a simple evening to mark a special moment to exceptional experiences in Costa Smeralda, unconventional weddings and parties.

L'EA BIANCA LUXURY RESORT / SARDEGNA / brochure



- 31 rooms and suites
- 5 private villas
- Private 2-hectare park
- Private garden
- Private beach
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Lunaria Hotel Restaurant
- Lunaria Beach Restaurant & Lounge
- Bar
- The Roof Panoramic Terrace
- Boutique
- Fitness & SPA Recrea
- Parking area
- Meeting room up to 80 people
- Unique Experiences



L'EA BIANCA LUXURY RESORT / SARDEGNA / brochure / experiences



PATH DMC / PUGLIA / logotype & brand identity

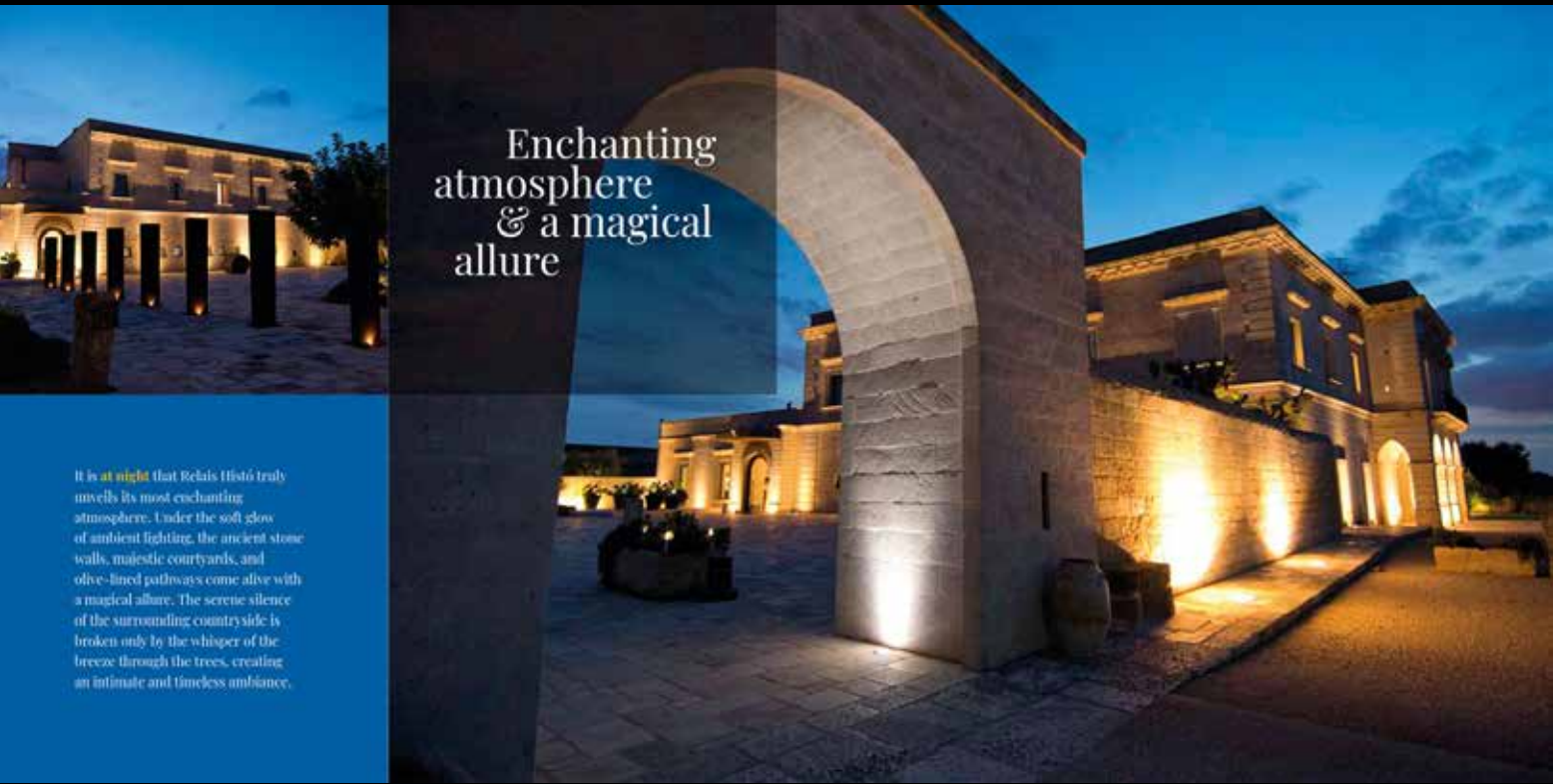


Path srl
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Angela@experience-path.com • Andrea@experience-path.com
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PATH DMC / PUGLIA / brochure



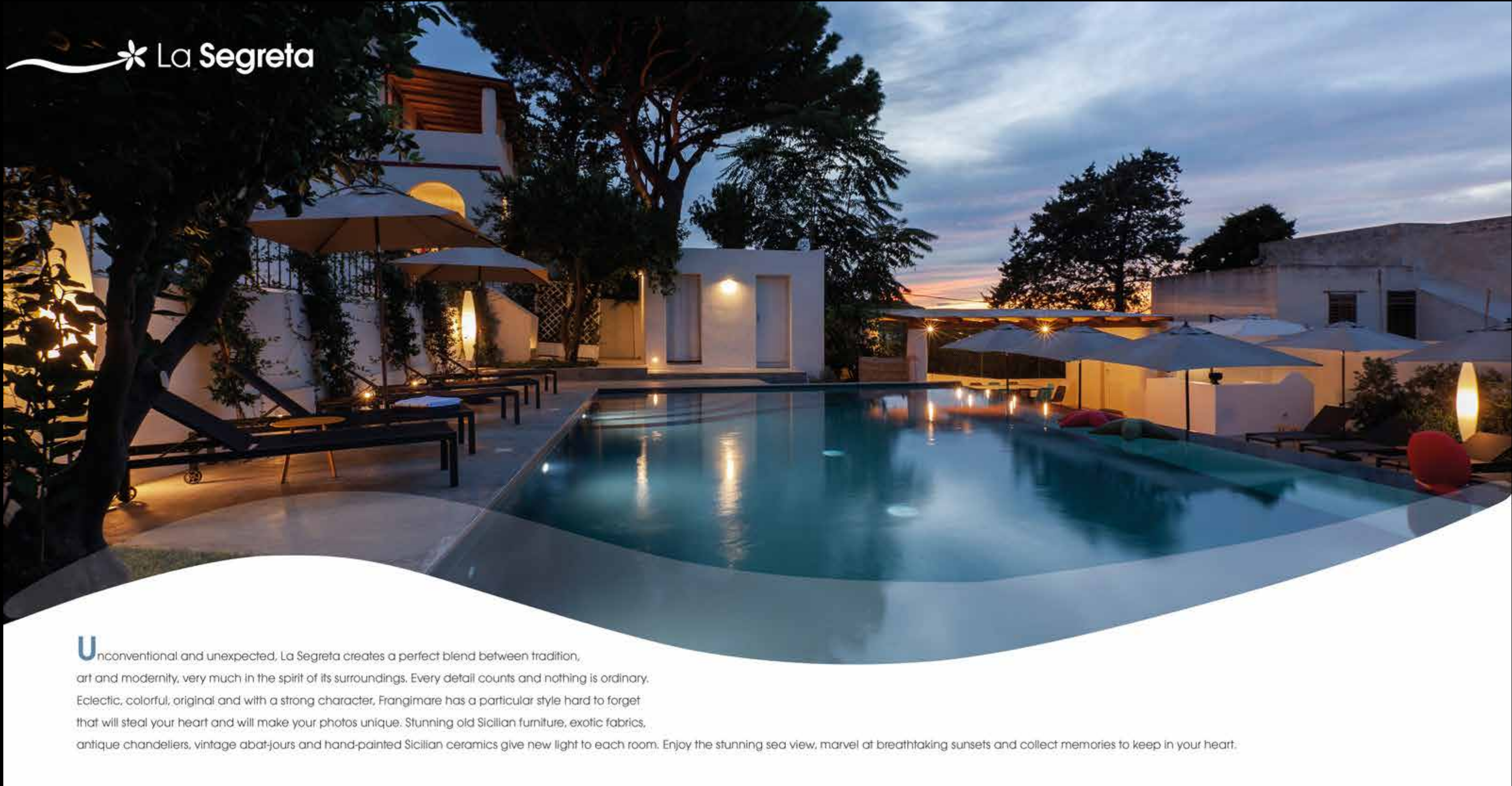


RELAIS HISTÓ HOTEL & SPA / PUGLIA / brochure





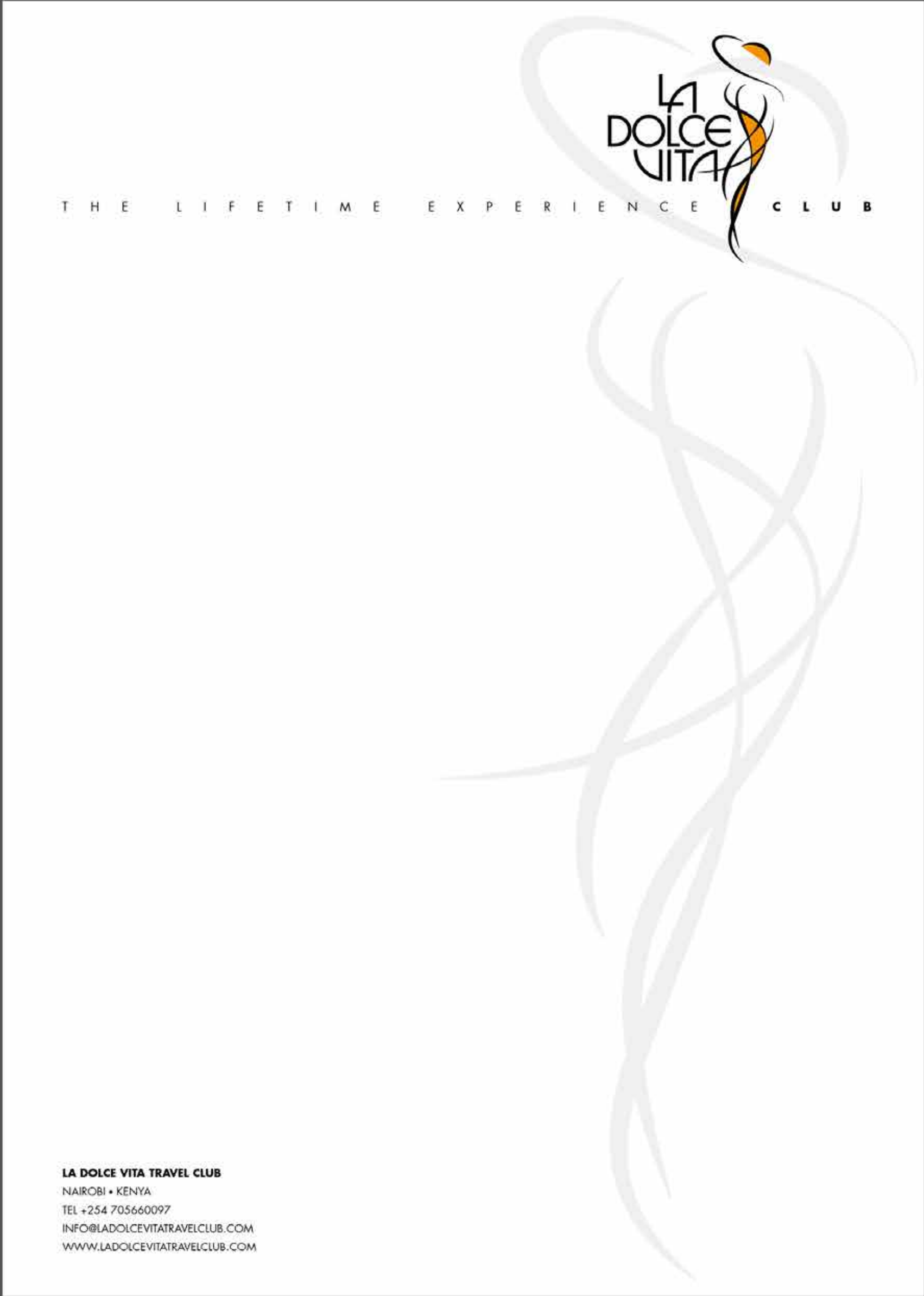
FRANGIMARE VILLAS / ISOLE EOLIE / brochure





LA DOLCE VITA TRAVEL CLUB / KENYA

/ logotype & brand identity





LA DOLCE VITA TRAVEL CLUB / KENYA / brochures / experiences in Italy



VILLA BALBANIELLO



LA DOLCE VITA TRAVEL CLUB

DAY 4, DAY 5, DAY 6 / LAKE COMO

Transfer from Milan to Lake Como. Check in at **Mandarin Oriental**.

LAKE COMO TOUR ON RIVA MOTORBOAT
Riva is world renowned for its precision, beauty, and elegance, and like many Italian-made treasures, it is in a class of its own. Discover and enjoy the most amazing spots of Lake Como with an expert skipper, who will grant you an unforgettable event.

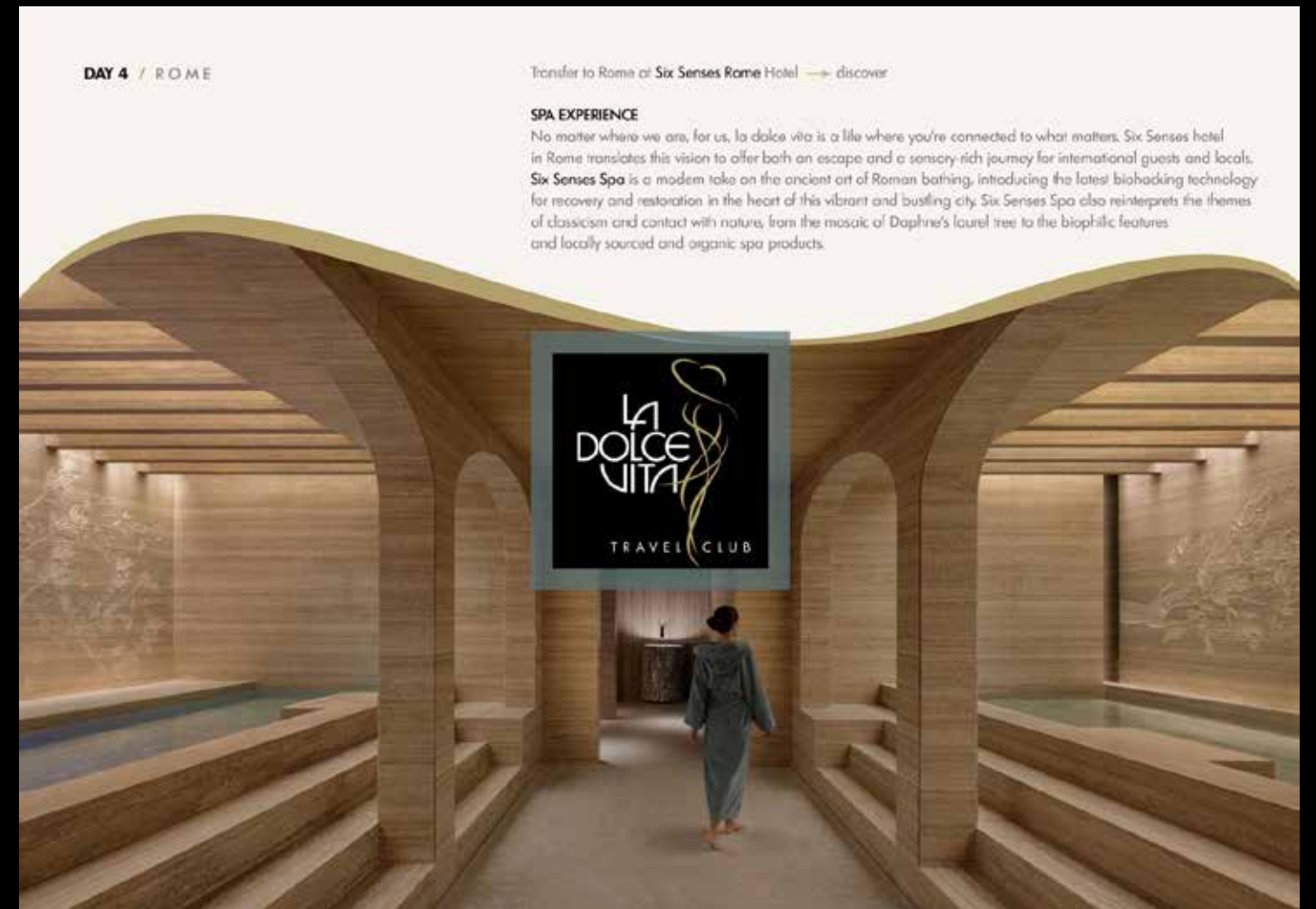
DISCOVERING VILLA BALBANIELLO
Villa del Balbianello is located on a wooded promontory on Como lake. This elegant, romantic 18th century mansion and its magnificent garden have hosted writers, scholars and travellers. The privilege to be the only guests inside the Villa with a special visit of the garden and inside the house. You will feel like a Hollywood movie director and you will relive the emotion of the several movies made at Villa del Balbianello. The most famous: Star Wars Episode II and 007 Casino Royale.



DAY 4 / ROME

Transfer to Rome at **Six Senses Rome Hotel** — discover

SPA EXPERIENCE
No matter where we are, for us, la dolce vita is a life where you're connected to what matters. Six Senses hotel in Rome translates this vision to offer both an escape and a sensory-rich journey for international guests and locals. **Six Senses Spa** is a modern take on the ancient art of Roman bathing, introducing the latest biotek technology for recovery and restoration in the heart of this vibrant and bustling city. Six Senses Spa also reinterprets the themes of classicism and contact with nature, from the mosaic of Daphne's laurel tree to the biophilic features and locally sourced and organic spa products.



LA DOLCE VITA TRAVEL CLUB

LA DOLCE VITA TRAVEL CLUB / KENYA / brochures / itinerary in Italy

CASTIGLION DEL BOSCO GOLF CLUB (SIENA)

LA BAGNAIA ROYAL GOLF (SIENA)



LA DOLCE VITA TRAVEL CLUB

The **10 day-9 night tour** will start with you landing in Rome and being whisked off in chauffeur driven vehicle to your luxury accommodation in **Florence**. Here you will visit the most amazing sights of the Tuscan capital, including world famous **Uffizi Galleries**, harboring everything from precious ancient Roman treasures to Michelangelo's greatest works. You will play in **Tuscany's finest and most picturesque golf courses**, while non-players will have private guides at their disposal for sight touring, top fashion house shopping and entertainment.

Accommodation at **Villa Medici Florence**
or at **Helvetia&Bristol Hotel Florence**



Private Cycling Tour

Ready to create your dream cycling getaway?
Contact us to start planning today!

A Fully Customizable Luxury Experience

Discover the ultimate in personalized cycling travel with our private, tailor-made cycling tours, designed entirely around your preferences. Whether you're looking for a relaxed scenic ride through vineyards and coastal roads or a challenging adventure over breathtaking mountain passes, we create the perfect itinerary just for you. With a minimum stay of just 2 nights, you have the flexibility to choose the duration, pace, and style of your cycling journey.

Your Cycling, Your Way

- Tailor-made cycling tours for a minimum of 2 days from 2 to 14 people
- Choose your preferred routes - scenic coastal roads, rolling countryside, or challenging climbs
- Set your own pace - from leisurely rides to high-performance training sessions
- Select your ideal dates - travel when it suits you, no fixed schedule
- Stay in one or more hotels - whatever fits your travel style

Whether you're a solo traveler, couple, family, or private group, we ensure every detail is flawlessly planned, from top-quality bikes and expert guides to personalized support vehicles and concierge services. This is more than just a cycling tour - it's a bespoke luxury experience, where every moment is designed around you.



Tuscany "Strade Bianche"

A cycling holiday in Tuscany is the perfect way to explore one of Italy's most stunning regions. With breathtaking landscapes, rich history, and exceptional food and wine, Tuscany offers an unforgettable experience on two wheels. Cycle through rolling hills, picturesque vineyards, and iconic cypress-lined roads, each route showcasing Tuscany's natural beauty. Explore historic towns like Siena and San Gimignano, uncover hidden villages, and immerse yourself in the region's timeless charm. You can also savour every moment off the bike with freshly prepared Italian dishes, local cheeses, and world-renowned wines like Chianti and Brunello di Montalcin.

Whether you're an experienced cyclist or prefer a more relaxed pace, our Tuscany cycling tours are designed to suit all skill levels and interests.

• GRAVEL TOUR • SPRING/FALL TOUR

• REGULAR ITINERARY - for recreational cyclist level
Cycling time: 3/4 Hours per day
Ride distance: 40/50 KM per day
Climbing ascent: 800/1000 mt per day

• EXTENDED ITINERARY - for enthusiast or avid cyclist level
Cycling time: 4/5 Hours per day
Ride distance: 60/70 KM per day
Climbing ascent: 1100/1400 mt per day

for more info see www.hirides.com

HIRIDES CYLING EXPERIENCES IN ITALY / brochure







KIBOKO RIVER CAMP / KENYA / brochure



Unforgettable Journeys

1



LUXURY LAKES & MOUNTAINS
Lifestyle

LLM MOUNTAINS

DOLOMITI

The Dolomites are a UNESCO World Heritage site, a fact that is often overlooked. The Dolomites are a mountain range in the northern part of Italy, known for their unique rock formations and stunning views. The Dolomites are a mountain range in the northern part of Italy, known for their unique rock formations and stunning views. The Dolomites are a mountain range in the northern part of Italy, known for their unique rock formations and stunning views.

*"Are they stones or clouds?
Are they real or is this a dream?"*

— JAMES BOND

Christmas markets

Experience the festive spirit of the Dolomites with its numerous Christmas markets. The Dolomites are a mountain range in the northern part of Italy, known for their unique rock formations and stunning views. The Dolomites are a mountain range in the northern part of Italy, known for their unique rock formations and stunning views.

LLM / MAGAZINE / editorial design

LLM MOUNTAINS

DOLOMITI / CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

Cortina d'Ampezzo

"The Queen of the Dolomites"

The "Queen of the Dolomites" is an upmarket ski resort set in a gorgeous background, surrounded by a stunning circle of mountains. Dubbed the Italian *supermodel* of ski resorts, Cortina d'Ampezzo lives up to its fame as undeniably beautiful. It acquired fame with the 1956 Winter Olympics and, since then, it transformed from a small resort to a city in the mountains; encouraging a kind of Hollywood existence, you will find the well-heeled take residence here. Many films were also shot in the area, including *The Pink Panther* and *For your Eyes Only* in the James Bond series, as well as *Cliffhanger* and *Ladyhawke*. Of the many people visiting Cortina each year, attracted by its magnificent position or to rub shoulders with the jet set, very few would expect to walk along fashionable Corso Italia and find a museum with masterpieces of early 20th century art. The **Mario Rimoldi Museum** displays a vast

LLM¹² Lifestyle

LLM¹³ Lifestyle

one of the largest lake, striped bass are already available in an abundance of 75 lake. Captains - I can't say it's even known to me, but do have local lake captains, expect more heavily stocked waters. I can't say it's even known to me, but do have local lake captains, expect more heavily stocked waters. I can't say it's even known to me, but do have local lake captains, expect more heavily stocked waters.

[illegible]

novels and *Thoreau's*, where the climate is, at its simplest, the loss of its most beautiful and the imagination at its most lost. *Thoreau's*, *Journal* and *Walden*, has borrowed as one of his greatest poems, a little which goes a long way to describe the appeal of this charming town in the late. Time seems to have passed off here, the spirit of the living present, and people escape a morning stroll or sitting in the small shops, from the trading empires which can be heard along the narrow streets on the lake, especially in Rock Island.

"A treasure whom the earth keeps to herself"

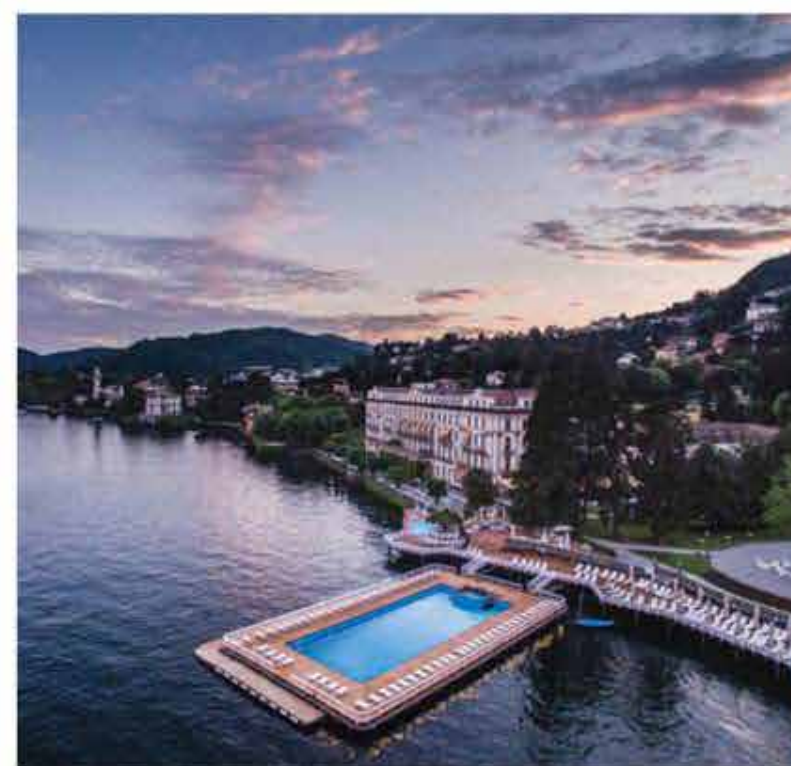
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Timeless
Elegance
VILLA D'ESTE

Built in the 16th century as a summer residence for a wealthy cardinal, this luxury hotel in a 25-acre garden overlooking Lake Como is simply sublime. Think classic elegance, ultimate comfort and glamour. Graciously appointed rooms, filled with statues, antiques and Murano chandeliers convey an aura of a bygone era. With so many dining options, eating here is a "moveable feast". You will also find a Beauty Centre and a Sporting Club, as well as several banquet rooms. A protected heritage since 1913, Villa d'Este is more than a hotel, it is a destination in itself.

112 *ELM Lifestyle*

VILLA D'ESTE



Every room has its own personality, based on period furniture, fine paintings adorning the walls, Como silk covered sofas and chairs. Featuring grand architectural details at every turn and old-world charm in abundance, it is no surprise that the hotel is still the favourite playground of celebrities.

Xfactor

A floating swimming pool on the lake becomes reality in this most stunning destination, where allure and charm abound.

Villa d'Este
152 rooms and suites
4 private villas
Open from March to November
Tesla Destination Charging
Via Regina, 40 - 22012 Cernobbio (CO)
www.villadeste.com





VIE DEL GUSTO / MAGAZINE / editorial design

travel Positano e le altre

— Le ceramiche artigianali, apprezzate in tutto il mondo, rappresentano uno dei cardini dell'economia locale

The hand crafted ceramics, appreciated worldwide, are an important foundation of the local economy —



Sapiente il movimento del tornio, preciso e fantasioso il tratto del pennello con cui ancora si dipingono soggetti bucolici: le barche, i pescatori, le donne che si recano alla fontana, la luna, il sole, l'asinello. C'è poi la carta fatta a mano, altro significativo stendardo artigianale del comprensorio: i processi di pulizia dei cenci, rattoppatura o asciugatura che animavano le cartiere di un tempo sono ancora ben riprodotti nel Museo della Carta di Amalfi (museodellacarta.it) che conviene visitare al pari del Museo della Ceramica di Vietri (tel. 089211835).

Una montagna di cose buone

Tuttavia da queste parti i prodotti d'artigianato tout court sono sempre più sovrastati da una montagna di tipicità golose. Sulla vetta, siede senza dubbio sua maestà il limone Igp della Costa di Amalfi, un frutto ellittico e allungato mai inferiore ai 100 grammi, d'aroma e profumo forte, che si può mangiare al naturale, buccia compresa, e magari con l'aggiunta di sale, zucchero o foglioline di menta. Da questo, una trentina di laboratori della Costa ricavano il famosissimo limoncello, liquore senza una ricetta codificata ma variabile a seconda delle tradizioni familiari e paesane. Sono a base di limone anche composte, marmellate e una serie di ghiottissime torte.

Gozzi in un porticciolo della costa.
 Sopra, una delle imbarcazioni a remi utilizzate per la pesca issata sulla spiaggia grande a Positano



Ag. Costas



Ceramiche di Vietri esposte in un negozio di souvenir a Ravello

Ceramics from Vietri on display in a souvenir shop in Ravello

From ceramics to paper

Enticing Positano boutiques and the tiny craft shops of Amalfi this delightful coastline offer the perfect excuse for shopping. First stop, the famous coloured ceramics of Vietri sul Mare. The vases, plates, jars, jugs and tiles are the cornerstone of the local economy and appreciated worldwide for their artistic appeal, crafted by a tradition refined over the centuries. Hand made paper is another process proudly upheld in the area: the techniques of cleaning the pulp, patching and drying used by the artisans throughout the centuries are on display in the Museo della Carta di Amalfi (museodellacarta.it). It's worth visiting alongside the Museo della Ceramica at Vietri. The famous liqueur limoncello is produced by thirty or more laboratories along the coastline based a traditional recipe but freely adapted by different families and local villagers. Lemons are also the basic ingredient of jellies, jams and mouth-watering cakes. Moving to the western part of the coast we find small piennolo tomatoes, (bell towers in the local dialect due to the way they are bunched together once picked).

Il salotto del Paarl Palmier Wine Estate.
Paarl Palmier Wine Estate.
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Time traveller

The imposing Manor House of the historic Boschendal estate has been transformed into a kind of home museum, with four pastel beds, embroidered bed covers, Dutch gilded leather chairs, walnut wardrobes and Ming porcelain. A showcase of the lifestyle of the Huguenot settlers and the free burghers (Dutch colonists) in the South African wine producing regions in the 17th-18th century. Further west, the southern slopes of Table Mountain, the geographic heart of Cape Town, cradle the Constantia wine producing estate, the oldest in South Africa. The unique microclimate it generated by the fresh ocean breezes from False Bay. Governor Simon van der Stel founded Great Constantia, the ancestor of all the wine companies in 1685. The original manor house is now a museum, where we were able to admire the beautiful period furniture and tasteful wine cellar, the Chateau Cellar.

10 cose da non perdere

1. Una corsa da Stellenbosch a Stellenbosch, Constantia.
2. Una visita alla storica tenuta Boschendal, a Stellenbosch, con la magnifica Manor House, in stile Cape Dutch.
3. Un weekend a spasso con il Owner's Cottage di Groot Constantia, a Franschhoek.
4. Un'esperienza di eno di Meerlust (a Stellenbosch), Groot Constantia (a Constantia), Boschendal (a Stellenbosch) e Monast (a Franschhoek).
5. Un pranzo nell'antico giardino di Breda & Wyn (a Franschhoek), dove il gusto più moderno.
6. Un weekend a Cape Town, per ammirare la Patria di Simon van der Stel, il fondatore di Cape Town, e la casa di Robert Maritz, il fondatore di Stellenbosch.
7. Un "pellegrinaggio" a Robert Maritz, il fondatore di Stellenbosch, oggi una casa museo e un museo per i bambini.
8. Il belvedere sulla Table Mountain, "conoscenza" la vista di Table Mountain in un'ora di guida in elicottero o in un'auto.
9. Una visita a Groot Constantia, per ammirare il Vigneto di Constantia, il più antico vigneto in Sudafrica.
10. La straordinaria "cascina d'oro" sulla Cape Peninsula tra il Capo di Buona Speranza, Stellenbosch e Franschhoek.

Una raffinata "tutta da casa" in stile della suite del Paarl Palmier Wine Estate, che testimonia il gusto di tutti i secoli.

10 things you must do

1. Dinner at Catharina's at Stellenbosch, Constantia.
2. Visit the historic Boschendal estate with its magnificent Cape Dutch style Manor House at Stellenbosch.
3. Travel yourselves to a super-chic weekend at the Owner's Cottage of Groot Constantia, Franschhoek.
4. Wine-tasting tour of Meerlust (Stellenbosch), Groot Constantia (Constantia), Boschendal (Stellenbosch) and Monast (Franschhoek) and Palmier Valley (Paarl).
5. Lunch at Breda & Wyn (Franschhoek) to indulge in tasty Mediterranean dishes in the shady garden.
6. Weekend stay in Cape Town, to experience the buzzing atmosphere of the Victoria & Albert Waterfront, wander around the Kaap, explore the colourful Malay quarter of Cape Town, spend a day on the Cape Flats beaches and the evening among the mountains of Long Street nightlife.
7. Go on a pilgrimage to Stellenbosch, the site of the first school in South Africa, the site of the first school in South Africa, the site of the first school in South Africa.
8. Trekking on Table Mountain, conquer the summit (climb on foot or climb it by cable car) for an emotionally charged experience.
9. Visit Groot Constantia to taste the life of Constantia, approached by both Stellenbosch and Groot Constantia.
10. Take a stunning scenic drive across Cape Peninsula to the Cape of Good Hope, where the wind never stops blowing.

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travel charme nel deserto

Qui sotto, La Gazelle d'Or Hotel a Taroudant; in alto, Les Jardins des Douars a Essaouira

Below, the Gazelle d'Or Hotel in Taroudant; above, the Jardin des Douars in Essaouira

Dopo una quarantina di chilometri di rettilineo, la strada si trasforma in un serpente su per le colline purpuree e, passata Ait Barka, diventa un arabesco inciso sui paesaggi montuosi. Arriviamo a Ouarzazate dopo quattro ore. Visitiamo la kasbah di Taourirt, per comprare i bei tappeti berberi. Da qui ci dirigiamo a Skoura e poi svoltiamo a sinistra per Tondout, addentrando nel cuore dell'Atlante. Piantiamo il primo bivacco su un pianoro vicino al villaggio di Tabia Ait Zarghar e l'indomani affrontiamo una sterrata per arrampicarci sui monti. Entriamo nel letto di un fiume e, superato il canyon dell'Oued Assif, dove "sbocciano" grappoli di case color terra, giungiamo al villaggio berbero di Imi-n-Oulaoun. Ibrahim Boukyoud ci invita ad entrare nella sua gite d'etape (ostello): ci sediamo sul tappeto per bere tè alla menta e ascoltare gli affascinanti racconti di montagna. Da vent'anni, infatti, guida i trekking sull'Atlante fino a 4000 metri.

In una tenda berbera

Quando riprendiamo il viaggio, l'auto aggredisce una mulattiera sassosa che ci porta fino ad un altipiano brullo dominato da montagne lontane. Due pastori berberi, avvolti in pesanti djellaba (la lunga tunica tradizionale con cappuccio), vagano tra i cespugli con le pecore. Proseguiamo verso Amjag e Amsker, insediamenti berberi fuori dalle rotte turistiche. All'ingresso dei villaggi le donne in abiti variopinti (a volto scoperto, com'è tradizione fra i berberi) lavano i panni o portano sulla testa fascine di legna e ci salutano calorosamente. Seguiamo il letto di un torrente ammirando la scenografia di rocce rosse, prima dell'arrivo a Ait Youl. Da qui scendiamo a sud verso la route de Gorges du Dadès, incoronata da un delirio di montagne sanguigne e grandi massi a forma di goccia, tra i quali spuntano i ciuffi di palme da datteri lambite dall'oued Dadès, che scorre nella vallata. All'alba imbocchiamo la strada per le Gorges du Dadès. Procediamo sulla pista rocciosa abbracciati da un luminoso silenzio fino a che, come un



Dalle kasbah alle ksar

L'architettura berbera è sicura, massiccia e possente. Da secoli si amalgama magnificamente nel paesaggio che la circonda, diventando quasi parte di esso: dalle montagne dell'Alto Atlante alle forre delle Gorges du Dadès, dalla verdeggiante Vallée du Drâ alla Vallée de Ziz e Tagilalet. I materiali disponibili sul posto (terra, paglia, legno, pietre, che - amalgamati insieme - creano il cosiddetto pisé) sono usati per edificare di tutto: i ksar (villaggi fortificati) le kasbah (vaste e raffinate dimore signorili), gli agadir (granai collettivi) o i tighermt (le case per più famiglie imparentate). Queste costruzioni rivelano l'esigenza di difesa, ma anche un marcato senso estetico che si traduce (all'esterno) in decorazioni geometriche, torri "merlate", alternanza cromatica tra argille di vari colori. Le kasbah custodiscono gli interni più sontuosi, in netta discontinuità col rigore ascetico delle linee architettoniche. Nel segreto delle spesse mura in pisé, infatti, le kasbah rivelano stucchi, mosaici di ispirazione ispano-moresca, finestre decorate, porte di legno di palma, soffitti con rami di oleandro intrecciati, tappeti berberi, pelli, stuoie dipinte. Negli ultimi anni il trend più significativo nell'hotellerie di lusso marocchina è stata la trasformazione di alcune kasbah e piccoli ksar in fiabeschi hotel di charme. Tra questi spiccano il Dar Ahlam, la Kasbah Tamadot, Le Jardin des Douars.

Il salotto del Dar Ahlam Kasbah Hotel di Ouarzazate, Palmerie de Skoura

The lounge in the Dar Ahlam Kasbah Hotel in Ouarzazate, Palm groves of Skoura

In a Berber tent

After about forty straight kilometres, having passed Ait Barka, the landscape becomes an arabesque carved into the mountainous view. We reach Ouarzazate after four hours. From here we head for Skoura and then turn left toward Tondout, penetrating the heart of the Atlas Mountains. We follow a riverbed and arrive in the Berber village Imi-n-Oulaoun. Ibrahim Boukyoud invites us to visit his "gite d'etape" (hostel). We continue on towards Amjag and Amsker, Berber settlements. From here we go south towards the course of the Gorges du Dadès, encircled by a confusion of red haematite mountains and enormous drop-shaped rocks. At dawn we turn into the Gorges du Dadès. We spot a solitary Berber tent and the family invites us inside. We start up a surreal conversation using gestures with the father, mother and little girl, smiling, breaking flat bread and sipping boiling perfumed tea. The path then brings us to descend into the Gorges du Todra again toward Tamtaouchte. Once again on a paved street, we travel the 162 km to Erfoud, a "port" to the sea of sand. We will cross the desert on the Algerian border, leaving the path and camping for two nights distant from everything and everyone. We spend the night in lovely Berber styled rooms in the Auberge Kasbah Derkaoua, the last inhabited outpost.



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food&wine

DolceNero

Caffè. Alle origini della bevanda che accomuna popoli e religioni. In un viaggio che attraversa cinque secoli e cinque continenti

di Chef Kumalè



Se entrando in un bar chiedessimo alla prima persona incontrata di quale Paese è originaria la pianta del caffè ci sentiremmo rispondere con buona probabilità e convinzione che proviene dal Brasile. A torto, infatti, l'America Latina è considerata la culla del magico chicco, mentre ben pochi sanno che in realtà la pianta di Coffea arabica affonda le radici fin dai tempi più remoti nel Corno d'Africa, in particolare negli altipiani etiopi della regione di Kaffa, che regalò anche il nome di battesimo alla bevanda... Ma questa è solo una delle tante sorprese del nostro viaggio alla scoperta del caffè.

il buono delle foglie

Nel suo lungo cammino spazio-temporale questo magico prodotto ha subito mille trasformazioni, adattandosi perfettamente ai gusti, agli usi e ai costumi dei popoli che l'hanno adottato come bevanda elettiva dei momenti conviviali, ma anche di importanti circostanze rituali legate alle diverse fasi del ciclo vitale degli individui (nascita, matrimonio, passaggio all'età adulta, morte). Questo patrimonio di conoscenze e tradizioni è oggi raccolto in un elegante volume nato dal progetto "Coffee Roots", voluto e sostenuto da Lavazza (vedere il riquadro a pagina 37). «Da 110 anni la nostra azienda è portavoce della cultura della bevanda. Raccogliere in un libro saperi antichissimi e mai scritti che rischiavano di svanire è stato per noi un atto dovuto e un'avventura irripetibile» spiega Giuseppe Lavazza, direttore marketing del Gruppo.

Il nostro viaggio "alle radici" del caffè ha inizio sei secoli fa. Purtroppo non esistono tracce scritte che documentano l'uso e il consumo della bevanda antecedenti al XV secolo. I primi a parlare dell'esistenza di un decotto misterioso in grado di restituire forze e vigore all'organismo spassato furono i Sufi yemeniti, mistici dell'Islam che traevano beneficio dalla caffeina per rimanere vigili ed entrare in tran-



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