

MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

issue 71, volume 08
MARCH 2014

SEVENTH
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

Speciale
Italia

All aboard the ITALIAN SPECIAL high-speed, well-styled...and even world-leading

From Bologna to Bolzano, Turin to Treviso – Monocle’s editors meet
the Italians doing it better – a **MONOCLE NATIONAL AUDIT**

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AN ITALIAN
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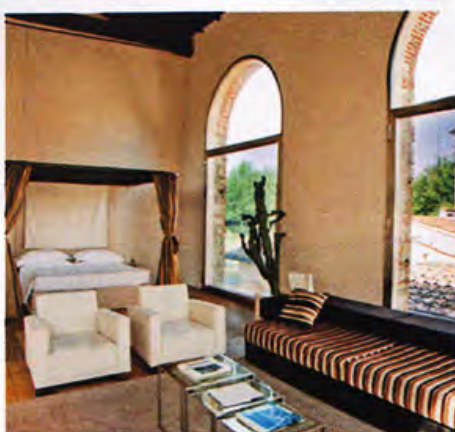
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USD \$12 JPY ¥2,200 (+tax)
EUR 12(GER) AUD \$13.00
EUR 10(FR) SGD \$19.90 (+gst)
DKK 122 CDN \$12.00 (incl)

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Riva Lofts Florence

Architect Claudio Nardi transformed a 19th-century factory into 10 contemporary lofts, blending traditional Tuscan brick and stone with pure lines, steel and glass to create a place to stay only 2.5km from famous bridge Ponte Vecchio. Guests can ride the hotel's bicycles through the lush, historic Parco delle Cascine before relaxing in one of the hammocks at Riva. "We are frequent travellers and aesthetic-addicted, curious minds," says Nardi's daughter and Riva Lofts general manager Alice Nardi. "So we took the chance to create an original location with all the comforts anybody would need while travelling – but with beauty, cleanliness and quiet." — *MSS*
rivalofts.com



D.O.M Rome

Situated in one of the charming backstreets of Rome's historic Regola quarter, D.O.M is a new hotel with a history to match its surroundings. The five-star venue was originally a 17th-century *palazzo*, built in part using marble blocks taken from the nearby church of Santa Lucia del Gonfalone. Opened late last year, the hotel's top-floor is given over to an exclusive suite with views of St Peter's Basilica. — *MAL*
domhotelroma.com



Aman Canal Grande Hotel Venice

Situated on the Grand Canal of Venice, the Palazzo Papadopoli was built in the 16th century by the Coccina family of Bergamo. Contemporary furniture now offsets frescoed walls in this 24-suite hotel. In a city surrounded by water, the Aman boasts a rare oasis of green space – with its garden terrace facing the Canal and a second private garden providing a footpath to the Campo San Polo. The rooftop is the place to grab a Negroni and watch dramatic sunsets but those seeking a moment of solitude and wellbeing can opt to visit the hotel's sanctuary-like spa. — *MDB*
amanresorts.com/amancanal-grandevenice



*FOOTNOTE:

When Italian architect Claudio Nardi isn't building hotels or handling private commissions, he's working on big public projects across the world from his office in Florence. These include the New Town Hall in Krakow, the Port Authority at Marina di Carrara, and the Vertex Tower in Amman.



Fonte De' Medici Montefiridolfi

Italy's Chianti Classico country is rife with rustic medieval villages reinvented as sprawling inns, enhanced with everything from trattorias to tennis courts. Fonte De' Medici, ensconced in the storied Tignanello and Solaia vineyards in the town of Montefiridolfi, 30 minutes outside Florence, has the added virtue of being owned by venerable vintners: the Antinori family – in business since 1385. Guests are offered tastings, vineyard tours, cooking classes (specialising in delicacies such as roast pigeon and olive oil sorbet) and visits to Badia a Passignano, an abbey-cum-vineyard, where a 23-year-old Galileo began his ruminations on the nature of gravity in 1584. — *L.D*
fontedemedici.it/en