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Dynamic Luxury Magazine

NUMERO 28

MAURIZIO CHELI. SPAZIO PER LA MENTE

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Poggio al Sole

Roberto Cipresso

ADESSO, TRA I DIVERSI SCENARI DA SOGNO CHE SI POSSONO FIGURARE, CI SOFFERMIAMO SU QUELLO CHE ABBIAMO SCELTO PER VOI. IMMAGINIAMO DI IMMERGERCI TRA LE MOLTEPLICI SFUMATURE, STIMOLI, ATMOSFERE E SUGGERZIONI DI POGGIO AL SOLE.

Un “sogno” facilmente realizzabile, per stupire di magico ed evocare una grande semplicità: scorci meravigliosi immersi in tramonti dorati, che rilassano occhi e mente, dolci pendii in successione tra loro a dare mobilità al paesaggio, sormontati da vestigia di antichi castelli, o da piccoli paesi medioevali e rinascimentali; campi di grano biondi

dal sole in alternanza alla fitta e profumata macchia mediterranea; un grande e solitario vulcano dormiente che sovrasta e definisce l'insieme; ed infine, ovviamente, gli immancabili vigneti-giardino, che fanno da perno a molta della vita di una delle più spettacolari campagne del mondo: la Val d'Orcia, nella parte meridionale del comprensorio

senese, fino a “stringere il fuoco” sui favolosi e fortunati dintorni di Montalcino; da qui, in mezzo a tesori storico-architettonici, da visitare in completa tranquillità, acque termali nelle quali immergersi, delizie gastronomiche e vini blasonati, in sintonia con la quiete perfetta di un posto magico. Il nome di Poggio al Sole, e la sua storia risalgono a molto tempo fa, quando il proprietario, Roberto Cipresso, era in cerca di un po' di terreno in più per ampliare la superficie dei vigneti di Brunello de La Fiorita, la sua azienda a Montalcino; per una serie di fortunate

circostanze, è stata ingrandita da un vicino anch'egli vignaiolo, e con esso ha avuto accesso ad una struttura in gran parte distrutta da un incendio, senza tetto, sulla quale la natura sembrava ormai aver preso il sopravvento; all'interno di ciò che restava dell'immobile originario, nella parte centrale, uno splendido albero di fico faceva bella mostra di sé, e tutto attorno, assieme ad un unico ed imponente olivo, un gran proliferare dei polloni nati sulle radici di olivi secolari, la cui porzione epigea era stata compromessa dalla gelata del 1985. Il recupero



dell'immobile è stato rigorosamente fedele al disegno originario, come visionato sul catasto leopoldino, ed ha richiesto quattro lunghi anni di lavoro; il risultato, oggi, è una struttura lineare, semplice e al contempo imponente, perfettamente integrata con il contesto naturale che la accoglie e suddivisa in diverse unità abitative autonome ed indipendenti. Sebbene gli ospiti abbiano a disposizione tutti gli elementi necessari ad un piacevolissimo soggiorno, l'atmosfera è informale e rilassata, e ciò rende estremamente facile e

piacevole la condivisione degli spazi comuni; tra di essi, due vasti ed eleganti gazebo, per degustare i piatti tipici della zona o pronti ad ospitare eventi di alta qualità, una bellissima piscina, ed un giardino anch'esso semplice, minimale, ma molto curato e ben progettato, in linea con lo stile complessivo del resort. Tutto intorno, un compendio delle meraviglie della Val d'Orcia: rigogliosi vigneti di Brunello di Montalcino; un lago; boschi bassi, fitti e profumati; caprioli, lepri e cinghiali, che non di rado si mostrano

timorosi ai visitatori; e infine, su tutto, l'imponenza del monte Amiata con, ai lati opposti, la supervisione attenta dei due suggestivi ed antichi borghi di Castelnuovo dell'Abate e di Sant'Angelo in Colle. Tra gli ospiti illustri, citiamo Felipe Massa, Rubens Barrichello, il famoso giornalista sportivo brasiliano Galvao Bueno, che ha un appartamento sempre riservato per lui, l'italiano Federico Buffa, e molti altri. Nei periodi di permanenza a Poggio al Sole, non di rado capita di incontrare Roberto, il proprietario, che

ama ricevere gli ospiti per progetti di lavoro ed amici, con i quali spesso condivide le migliori tra le bottiglie della sua collezione personale. TRA I MOMENTI IMPERDIBILI, SENZA DUBBIO IL MIRABILE TRAMONTO DIETRO ALLE COLLINE, IMMERSO NELLA PIÙ PROFONDA QUIETE E DAI COLORI INCANTEVOLI; IL NOSTRO CONSIGLIO: VIVERE UN'ESPERIENZA UNICA, AVVOLTI DA MAGICI COLORI CHE SOLO LA TERRA DI MONTALCINO RIESCE A REGALARE.

Sail page 70



Venice Hospitality Challenge, the exclusive regatta of the maxi yachts in the Giudecca Canal, will come back on 15 October this year. For the third consecutive year, this event involves eight teams in combination with the most prestigious and spectacular five stars hotels of the lagoon: Danieli, Westin Europa Regina, Gritti Palace, Centurion Palace, Belmond Cipriani,

JW Marriott delle Rose, Ca' Sagredo and Hilton Molino Stucky. Still, there are two other hotels who want to become part of the venetian Olympus. The coveted award – the Cappello del Doge (the Doge's Hat), realized by the unmistakable artistic touch of the glassmaking Seguso Vetri d'Arte – has been awaiting the new winner since last year. "In the sailing world, the Venice Hospitality

Challenge – sponsored by the Municipality of Venice – represents the Grand Prix of the city of Venice, because of its peculiar characteristic, that is to be played in a city circuit, like the Grand Prix of Monaco for Formula One", says Mirko Sguario, creator of the event and President of the Yacht Club Venezia.

The winner of the last edition, Maxi Jena, captained by Furio Benussi in combination with Hotel Ca' Sagredo, is ready to win again. For the upcoming edition, the technical briefing will be organized in the offices of the Scuola Navale Militare "Francesco Morosini" (Nautical Military School "Francesco Morosini") at Marina Sant'Elena, in the presence of legendary skippers such as Mauro Pelaschier and Furio Benussi, joined to the splendid hotels by the selection by lot. As Baricco says: "The sea. The sea enchants, the sea kills, it moves, it frightens, it also makes you laugh sometimes, it disappears every now and then, it disguises itself as a lake, or it constructs tempests, devours ships, gives away riches, it gives no answers, it is wise, it is gentle, it is powerful, it is unpredictable. But, above all, the sea calls". The extraordinary answer comes from the next Venice Hospitality Challenge, to culminate in the gala dinner of the awards at Granai, by the prestigious Cipriani.

venicehospitalitychallenge.it

Wine page 74



A dream that can easily come true. An ideal stay between sweet slopes and medieval castles, golden fields of wheat and renaissance villages, thermal waters, fine wines and exquisite delicatessen. We are talking about Poggio al Sole, located in the unparalleled Sienese country, at Val d'Orcia's west side, in proximity of Montalcino. When Roberto Cipresso was in search for some more soil to expand his winery – Brunello de La Fiorita – he had the chance to get it by his neighbor, a vigneron as well. Within the property, he inherited a structure hugely damaged by a fire, where nature had prevailed. Inside, amidst the remains of the original building, there were a powerful fig tree, lots of root suckers and a massive olive tree. After years of work, the building was rigorously brought back to the original project, as registered at the real estate registry office. Today it is a linear structure, simple and imposing, perfectly integrated in the natural context, subdivided in several independent housing units.

Although guests have at their disposal all the necessary to enjoy a very pleasant stay, the atmosphere is informal and relaxed. This facilitates a very easy sharing of common areas, as the two vast and elegant gazebos, for high quality events or dinners and lunches; a swimming pool; a neat and accurately kept Mediterranean garden.

The wonderful nature of Val d'Orcia displays a lake, low, thick and scented woods where roe deers, hares and boars timidly show to visitors. The silent volcano – the Monte Amiata between Castelnuovo dell'Abate and Sant'Angelo in Colle – dominates everyone and everything. Famous guests and friends: Felipe Massa, Rubens Barrichello, the famous brazilian journalist Galvao Bueno keeping his apartment reserved, Federico Buffa and many others. The property owner, Roberto, can be easily met during your stay at Poggio al Sole.

www.robortocipresso.it

Polo page 78



The most challenging venture was to find the field for the polo competitions in Gstaad. In February '93, the hotel owner Walter Felix foresaw the real possibility of creating a tournament. Following the Airport President's suggestion, Beno Lüthi, the only flat and grassy area sufficient to host the event was identified in the Saanenland airport

field. The first edition was played after three years, with two feminine and two masculine teams. Gstaad would become a point of reference thanks to Pierre E. Genecand. He would fight during five years with his team El Mirasol, until he would become its President in 2006. In the meanwhile, important goals have been achieved:

14000 VIP presences, 6000 spectators, 120 Polo Ponies and 120 Criollo thoroughbreds in the boxes, 500 guests at the gala dinner concluding the four days' competition. 2015 was a year of celebrations for the 20th anniversary. "I believe that we must be proud of our Swiss values, shared with the visitors gathered on this occasion, above all the Argentinian players", the President states. 2016 inaugurates the international exposure: for the first time in its history and in Europe, the Chinese team – whose captain is Shilai Liu (Hcp. 0), owner of Tang Polo Club in Beijing – took part in the competition. Hublot, as Title Sponsor of the event in 2008, shared their sponsorship with the namesake team. The milestones of the event are Eric Sturdza SA – owner of the prestigious bank – and Gstaad Palace. Companies and private partners have chosen to support the 4th Polo Friends' team. "Mr. Shilai Liu owns an exceptional Polo Club in Beijing. I was very impressed by the quality of his game and his extraordinary hospitality. I am very honored he decided to accept my invitation to come and play in Gstaad and wear the Hublot shirt", the President concludes. Gstaad switches its lights off on one of the most remarkable festival dedicated to the equestrian world, gaining visitors', VIPs' and sponsors' appreciation, renewing the rendezvous, with enthusiasm and many unexpected surprises for the future 2017 tournament!

www.polo-gstaad.ch

Lifestyle page 80



The hotel was built in 1901 and stays at the feet of its namesake Monte Cristallo. It belongs to The Leading Hotels of the World as an icon of luxury 5 stars. The building reflects the Nordic neoclassicism of Gustaf III of Sweden. Elegance and exclusive charm reside in the indoor swimming pool on the Tofane, or the thermarium

and the solarium. Culinary research deploys traditional Made in Italy flavors in the La Veranda del Cristallo restaurant; from the windows of Il Gazebo, gourmet dishes and mountains together realize a performance of high altitude. Il Cantuccio, Chef's Private Table, is a special location for intimacy, romantic dinners or private

parties for twelve guests max. A choice of four tasting menus in combination with wine glasses, accurately selected by the hotel's sommelier. Dating 1872, La Stube is the ideal place where tasting uncontaminated Ampezzo atmosphere, with recipes and Veneto wines in winter.

This summer, the hotel offers a total family friendly involvement, particularly conceived for children, accurate from the welcome. As grown-ups, at the check-in, kids receive a registration card and a colored pass with which they are able to access all the services specially thought for them a and a dedicated menu to paint. Besides, with Kids eat free, for any adult paying, a child can eat for free, up to five years old.

A universe for children: a little wooden hamlet in the mountains, animals of the wood, rock climbing, an interactive rug, excursions, sports and interactive laboratories.

New proposals for families: "Il Bosco dei Giauili" that includes three nights in a family room and an excursion day discovering the Giauili, gran buffet lunch, shuttle to and from Cortina and free access to the SPA. "Insieme al Cristallo" is thought for little explorers and their families, with an excursion to Sorapis lake accompanied by an alpine guide, packed lunch, free entrance to Adrenaline Park, a dinner at the restaurant of Cristallo, three nights in family room, gran buffet breakfast, shuttle service to and from Cortina and free entrance to the SPA. The Queen of Dolomites is always an ideal destination, both in winter and in summer, and a stay at Cristallo Hotel SPA & Golf always leaves an unforgettable souvenir to all the family.

www.cristallo.it



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