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The redesigned Capri Tiberio Palace offers something intimate and unique around every corner.

By Jeff Weinstein,
editor in chief

The colors and fragrances of Capri take center stage at the redesigned Capri Tiberio Palace on the island of Capri in Italy. The hotel has reopened after an extensive renovation by interior designer Giampiero Panepinto, whose interpretation of a typical Capri home uses cozy and personal spaces with continuous references to international trips and experiences.

"The hotel had a very full feel and was way too opulent with curtains, mirrors and finishes in fool's gold, damask cloth sofas, baroque decorations and trompe l'oeil on the walls," says General Manager Edoardo Officioso. "So we wanted to make everything lighter, more simple and contemporary."

While the 60-room hotel has retained its charm, among the noteworthy

changes: local chef Marco Iaccarino directing the new Terrazza Tiberio restaurant, a new wellness center and a color palette reminiscent of a typical summer in Capri with various shades of yellow, cyclamen, purple, turquoise and emerald green. Panepinto adds that the restyling was characterized by the choice of soft, warm lights. "LEDs were absolutely avoided, as they were not suited to the philosophy that inspired the project," he says.

The change in style starts with the exterior, where optical hues of Mediterranean white characterize the essential furnishings as well as the shutters. The larger terrace is adorned by Mediterranean plants, while the lobby is full of natural light and scattered touches of acid yellow. The informal but sophisticated lounge has cozy

DESIGN



Opposite: Terrazza Tiberio restaurant has tables in the main hall and on a terrace overlooking the southern part of the island.

Left: The hotel is inspired by the island's colors and fragrances, with Mediterranean white characterizing the essential furnishings and shutters giving a new character to the façade.

Below: The reception desk is a remake of a "Buffa" vintage design table from the 1940s.

conversation corners and comfortable alcoves for reading.

"The typical customer staying at the Capri Tiberio Palace is looking for a unique and intimate hotel, where every corner is different and every detail is designed to characterize the different environments," says Officioso. "For the furnishings, only unique and individual pieces were chosen."

Panepinto points to the many vintage chairs purchased around the world as his personal favorites.

Suite success

While Officioso hopes the new look helps drive business, rates remain steady for the moment. However, he says three new suites are one of a kind for the island and should contribute to increasing rate.



DESIGN



The crown jewel, according to Officioso, is the Bellevue Suite, an elegant apartment furnished with a mix of design and antique pieces, with a living corner and ornamental fireplace as well as a double-deck private terrace with a breathtaking view.

The bath has a spacious tub made of stone, as well as a shower with internal seating and double rainshower jets. Twin washbasins in Santaflora stone come with a wide selection of amenities designed exclusively for the suite by Acqua di Parma as well as an Italian Resorts line by Blu Mediterraneo based on Capri's orange fragrance.

On the terrace, beside an open-air Jacuzzi tub with a view over the island is a teakwood deck with comfortable tatami where oriental-style beauty treatments can be arranged.

Making magic

Both Officioso and Panepinto say the Jacky Bar & Terrace, with its large counter revolving around the old palm which goes through the ceiling, is their favorite space in the hotel. It is the meeting point for hotel guests and



Above: Jacky Bar recreates the atmosphere of Cotton Club and Cuba in the 1960s with its white grand piano and a collection of original Borsalino panama hats pinned to one of its walls.

Left: The Bellevue Suite, with its private, 360-degree terrace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, includes an eight-seat Jacuzzi tub.

DESIGN

island habitués and boasts one of the best views over Capri. “We wanted to convey suggestions coming from the Cotton Club and Cuba of the 60s, including unique elements such as the elegant white grand piano and the wall decorated with authentic Borsalino Panama hats,” Panepinto says.

Another public space created the biggest challenge. The entry hall’s reception desk was off to one side, which made no sense to visitors entering the hotel, according to Panepinto. “Guests would feel lost, without any indication on where to go,” he says. “The hall is the first step of a structure — it must be built like a house entrance. The low counter designed by Buffa was found in a fabric shop, and — equipped with wiring and new colors — it now has a completely different feel. It is like entering the house of a great traveler. The three gold-rolled ampoules containing coarse salt are signs of hope and fend off negative spirits. The cozy lounges recall a bygone era, full of tradition and memories. The fans, strictly Indian, make you breathe a magical atmosphere.”

New money makers

For the restaurant and bar the design team created a style that could be defined as “modern vintage.”

Terrazza Tiberio has 60 seats in the main hall and on a terrace overlooking the southern part of the island. The menu has a strong regional and Mediterranean identity with signature dishes including bruschetta with calamari in warm guazzetto; gragnano paccheri with angler sauce, cheese and pepper; and a grilled fish of the day under a salt crust.

Finally, the hotel’s wellness area boasts a new Tiberio spa. With 12,917 sq ft (1,200 sqm) over two levels, the spa includes a large indoor pool with a Jacuzzi looking onto the main terrace solarium through large glass walls, a hydrotherapy area as well as a stylish, all-white treatment area enveloped in blue light to evoke the color of the sea.



Above: Guest-rooms balance colors according to their exposure and size. Powdery blue, yellow, neutral shades and coral-red is the color palette developed in the furnishing textiles and headboards.

Loft: In public spaces, a unique mix of design, memorabilia and vintage pieces create an informal elegance for cozy conversation corners and reading alcoves.

DESIGN



Capri Tiberio Palace

Location: In the high part of Capri, Italy, along the way to Villa Jovis

Renovation details: The 60-room hotel reopened April 10 after a complete renovation inspired by the island's colors and fragrances blended with eclectic decor.

Room rate: Average daily rate is US\$643 (450 euro); rack rate starts from US\$457 (320 euro).

Owners: Italian real estate firm ALED S.p.A; Eduardo Salvador Safdie is the main partner.

General manager: Edoardo Officioso

Design team: Interior designer Giampiero Panepinto; guestroom graphic or nature-inspired patterns designed by Dedar and Limonta.

Every treatment at Tiberio Spa starts with a "welcome foot treatment."

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