

Savoia Excelsior Palace

Trieste



After a two year complete renovation, the Starhotels Savoia Excelsior Palace is once again “the most important and luxurious hotel in Austria-Hungary”... as it was proclaimed at the time of its original opening.

The Savoia Excelsior Palace is a modern expression of the majestic, refined, sumptuous, and unequalled style of the turn-of-the-century “Grand Hotel”.

It is located on the Riva del Mandracchio, opposite the Palazzo dei Congressi and the Stazione Marittima, with one side facing the Piazza dell’Unità d’Italia.

A legend

With the restoration of this historic hotel in Trieste, Starhotels endows the city with a splendid symbol of an epoch as well as an ideal location for official receptions, at a time when Trieste is re-inventing itself as a renowned international tourist destination.

This grand structure boasts an exceptional location from which to visit the city, the port and the monuments. It is an elegant meeting point for locals and a sumptuous sanctuary for travellers. First and foremost, it offers you a journey into the past and an irresistible opportunity to experience the marvellous hospitality of Starhotels.

1200 meters of boiserie, 20,000 meters of silk and velvet, 6000 porcelain antiques, decorated ceilings, stuccos, period furniture and the voluminous lobby, where the sunlight dances on glass and crystal, enhance this historic marvel.

Starhotels united a team of the best experts in their field to renovate the building in order to meet modern administrative and commercial demands.

The hotel was built in 1911, designed by the Austrian architect Ladislaus Fiedler, who used materials that were ultramodern at the time. The monumental building is in perfect early 20th century Mitteleuropean style which is the charm of most of the architecture in Trieste. Designed to be the ideal "Grand Hotel", it instantly became a model for other hotels. Throughout its history, its guests have included aristocrats, artists and diplomats, as well as the tourist elite visiting Trieste by land or sea, on their grand tour to or from northern Europe. Very fond of Trieste, the Emperor Franz Josef was a frequent guest. His private apartment and bathroom, masterpieces of interior design, are preserved intact.

Rooms



The 142 rooms, including 18 suites and an additional 18 suites with cooking facilities for longer stays, are furnished in a classical style with a contemporary touch. Luxurious, elegant materials, refreshing, bright wallpaper and Calacatta marble in the bathrooms, set the tone. Attention to every detail has been given; from the monogrammed cushions to the bolsters and the matching tassels and fringes. The large terraces overlooking the Gulf are perfect for a sea-view breakfast.

Bar & Restaurant

The lobby, bar and restaurant areas, all have sea views. Beneath a majestic shell-shaped ceiling, the “Le Rive” bar is a prestigious meeting point for visitors and residents of the city. The view of the Gulf of Trieste from its large windows is beyond compare.

Conference centre

The Conference Centre consists of 9 meeting rooms, all bathed in natural light and able to hold up to 650 people. The large conference room can seat up to 320 people and other meeting rooms are ideal for confidential meetings where discretion is the order of the day. Surrounded by frescoes, period chandeliers and boiserie woodwork panelling, working is definitely a pleasure. In the two meeting rooms overlooking the winter garden, the extraordinary amount of natural light and the unexpected view create a unique environment.

Decor and furniture

There are more than sixty fully restored period pieces of furniture and decor, mainly console tables, mirrors, chests and chairs, all of which were designed for the Savoia Excelsior Palace between 1910 and 1912. In Liberty and Imperial styles, with inlaid rosewood and gold leaf finish as well as bronze decorations, these pieces have returned to their former glory thanks to the expertise of Florentine restoration specialists.

Restoration techniques

Various parts of the facade have been restored: the mosaics in the upper section were cleaned and conserved. New pieces to replace those missing were created by Orsoni in Venice.

All the surfaces were cleaned with a low-pressure water jet and all the later additions and refurbishings were removed and then repositioned.

The structural elements in iron were treated with rust converters. Some were replaced with new pieces in fibreglass or steel.

The stained glass windows on the grand staircase were dismantled and cleaned. All the joints were re-soldered; the windows were then re-assembled and made more secure.

The embossed metalwork forming the two entrances to the lobby lifts underwent a delicate colour restoration, adjusting the parts that had lost their original tone and differentiating the various alloys.

The metal parts on the grand staircase's handrails and banisters were also restored in such a way as to enhance their decorative detail.

The stucco decorations on the frescoes of the great halls' ceilings on the ground floor and the lobby were also recovered and the colours, which had faded with time, returned to their original splendour.

The resulting effect is a spectrum of well-defined, warm hues and colours brought to life by the direct sunlight that pours in through the large windows.

Period porcelain

The 6000 pieces of porcelain crockery produced to order for the hotel by Ginori will soon be back on the tables at the restaurant. Made in 1912 in white porcelain, they have a brown double stripe on the lip, in the middle of which is a medallion with a Liberty-style garland framing the logo of the Savoia Excelsior Palace hotel.

Respect for the environment

For the Savoia Excelsior Palace, ecological sustainability is a priority.

100% of grey water is recycled into hygienic, safe water in conformity with bathing water quality parameters.

Energy is saved by the use of low environmental impact co-generators and a high efficiency heating system with low acoustic and gas emissions and LED illumination technologies.



Spa

A spa is planned which will enrich the hotel's appeal. Suspended between sky and sea, to be located on the roof of the hotel, the spa will combine the joy of relaxing and keeping fit with the pleasurable sea view.

The project

The mission of the renovation project, made possible with the consent and support of local institutions and the Sovrintendenza (city officials), was to restore this monumental building by respecting the original style of 1912.

The outcome is a result of teamwork: highly qualified professionals employed by Starhotels, coordinated by the CEO Elisabetta Fabri who established the guidelines, on the basis of plans designed by the architect Elena Carrabs.

Declaration by the Vice President and CEO of Starhotels

“Starhotels Savoia Excelsior Palace is a building of historical interest with the characteristics of a monument, in an extraordinary location. Trieste is at the centre of a system of countries whose economies are growing rapidly, with two-figure annual growth rates, and who utilize Trieste as their main port. The number of cruiseships arriving and leaving from Trieste is growing continually and flight connections are increasing enormously.

The number of arrivals at Ronchi dei Legionari airport and the number of destinations served by the airport are continually on the rise.

The total renovation of a hotel of historical importance is a further sign of our desire to give our contribution to an area with extraordinary prospects for growth and reasons to attract interest, and an acknowledgement of the profound bond uniting the Savoia Excelsior Palace and the history of the city of Trieste.”