

ELISABETTA FABRI

The second generation of Starhotels, with
a passion for hotellerie

Elisabetta Fabri, CEO of Starhotels and Chairperson of Starhotels International, is in charge of 22 hotels, 20 of which are in Italy, one in New York and one in Paris (3726 rooms with a target in 2008 of a turnover of 140 million euros + 27 million dollars at The Michelangelo in New York). Born in Florence in 1962, with an American husband and the mother of two twins, Elisabetta Fabri has lived in Rome, Florence, Washington, Lausanne and New York for a total of 10 years spent abroad.

She has always loved hotels, has worked in this field from an early age and is an expert on how they work. She loves living in them, because *“hotels are geared towards the future, a source of action, stories, meetings, friendships, business... and so they are a source of life. A hotel lobby is a shelter and, at the same time, the stage on which the interesting lives of our guests interact. I love hotels because, while they carry out their reassuring mission of hospitality, they provide a vision of human variety. Every guest is different, with his or her own story to tell, with us for his or her own specific reason, and so the world is in at arm’s reach, every day in a different way.”*

By nature, a curious traveller, she has pursued the “American Dream” since she was 19. Her studies include Management at Georgetown University in Washington DC, Business Administration at the John Cabot University and a diploma at the prestigious Ecole Hôtelière in Lausanne in Switzerland. She speaks fluent English and French.

A tireless worker, for several years she has been at the head of Sstarhotels, the chain created by her father Ferruccio Fabri, in 1980. With pride and determination, Elisabetta is developing her father’s entrepreneurial project, thereby giving it family continuity and defending the characteristics of the only company in Italy whose property and administration is 100% in the hands of one family.

As the company heads towards the third generation under her guidance, Elisabetta Fabri is concentrating on repositioning the existing properties whilst developing an international project with the creation of a hotel collection in the main cities.

With her characteristic determination, she finalized the purchase, in 1992, of a hotel in NY, which was re-named The Michelangelo: 179 rooms and 28 apartments in the heart of Manhattan, a name that is a symbol of Italian culture at the service of hotellerie. The Michelangelo has been a shining example of Italian hospitality in NY for fifteen years, now, and a highly successful business. A year ago, the restaurant “Insieme” was opened, ranked one of the 100 best restaurants (source: Condè Nast, May 2008, the 100 best restaurants in the world).

In 2005, Starhotels acquired the Starhotels Castille Paris, creating a hotel di charme in the Triangle d’Or in Paris, exporting once again Italian style and hospitality, visible both in the hotel and the restaurant “il Cortile”, the benchmark for Italian cuisine in Paris.

“All our acquisitions are part of a strategy to make real estate investments in the best locations in Europe and elsewhere. The leitmotif of the Starhotels development plan is to give value to and export our Italian identity, creating reference points both abroad and in Italy for travellers looking for the taste and style for which we are famous all over the world.”

Elisabetta Fabri is also personally involved with several associations, be they professional, artistic or in defence of children. She is a member of AIDAF (associazione italiana aziende di famiglia), AIDDA (Associazione Imprenditrici e Donne Dirigenti d’Azienda) and the Fondazione Marisa Bellisario (named after the first Italian woman to be appointed CEO of a company). The Fondazione Marisa Bellisario awarded her the Mela D’oro prize in 2001.

In her hometown of Florence, she actively promotes and supports the arts and music and is a member of the “Amici degli Uffizi” that sustains the acquisition, restoration and promotion of the Gallery’s artistic heritage, and is also a supporter of the Ente Maggio Musicale di Firenze, one of the most important musical foundations in Europe.

In the U.S.A., Elisabetta Fabri is a member of GEI, the association of leading Italian companies, of NIAF (National Italian American Foundation) and YPO (Young President Organization).