

ELISABETTA FABRI
President and CEO of Starhotels



Florentine, mother of twins, Elisabetta Fabri lived between Florence, Rome, Washington and New York, where in the Nineties she personally managed The Michelangelo, the first hotel opened abroad by Starhotels.

After her graduation from the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne, she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from John Cabot University in Rome. A cosmopolitan background, combined with a long apprenticeship enabled her to develop a thorough understanding of hospitality management. In 1992, she made her official debut as an entrepreneur creating Starhotels International. In 2000 she came back to Florence permanently, where she was appointed CEO and Vice President of Starhotels SpA, of which she became President eleven years later, whilst remaining the CEO.

Under her guidance, Starhotels has seen an upgrade in its offer thanks to important investments in renovations and new hotel properties in Italy and Europe.

The Castille opened in Paris in 2005, while the company's first two hotels in London opened their doors in 2014.

In 2016, Starhotels affirmed its place in the world of luxury hospitality with the acquisition of four new properties in Italy – Hotel d'Inghilterra in Rome, Helvetia & Bristol in Florence, Grand Hotel Continental in Siena and Hotel Villa Michelangelo in Vicenza – and The Franklin in London.

In 2020, the prestigious Terme di Saturnia Natural Destination joined Starhotels Collezione network. In 2021, Rosa Grand in Milan grew with Duomo Luxury Apartments, the group's first property in the "luxury serviced apartments" segment. Furthermore, in 2022 Starhotels announced the upcoming addition to Starhotels Collezione of the Hotel Gabrielli in Venice, which reopened as a 5-star property in August 2025, and the Teatro Luxury Apartments, 156 apartments located in the former Teatro del Maggio Fiorentino and managed by Starhotels, opened in autumn 2025.

With 34 properties and luxury residences in the heart of the most beautiful destinations around the world, Starhotels is the only Italian hotel chain to own properties abroad: Fabri's family has created constant and ethical company growth for the last 45 years, leading Starhotels to be the top-earning Italian hotel company in 2019.

The dedication and passion for this work, inherited from her father Ferruccio, who established Starhotels in 1980, are the hallmarks with which she guides the family group, earning important recognitions over the years.

In 2001, the Fondazione Marisa Bellisario awarded Elisabetta Fabri with the Golden Apple Award "for exporting Italian style in the hospitality world".

In 2007, she was honored with the Premio Excellent for representing Italy in the international hôtellerie industry, a recognition she earned again in 2014 for the innovative sustainable hospitality project Starhotels E.c.ho., in the heart of Milan. The honor was confirmed in 2019 for heading the Group into the Third Millennium, actively engaging in the enhancement of Italian cultural heritage, with constant investments in innovation and quality of service.

In 2010, Elisabetta Fabri received the "Partner 2010" award from the "Italian Women in the World" Association, the first network of women of Italian origins who stand out for representing excellence in different fields on an international level.

In 2012, Ernst & Young awarded Elisabetta Fabri Entrepreneur of the Year in the Trade & Services category "for having created a of one of a kind 4- and 5-star hotels chain, capable of expressing all the elegance and style of the Italian hospitality in the world, combining high service with results consistently above the industry standards".

In 2017, she was awarded "Alumni of the Year" by the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne. The same year, Elisabetta Fabri was given the Supreme European Family Business Award by Campden FB, part of the namesake network that includes Europe's leading business families, for the outstanding growth and profits achieved in 2016. The same year, for the 2nd edition of the Premio Industria Felix - Lombardia, she was awarded two High Honours as the best business in the tourism sector in the Region of Lombardy and best female-led business in the Province of Milan.

In September 2018, the prestigious John Cabot University honored Elisabetta Fabri with the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her accomplishments and leadership in Hospitality, as well as for her support of Italy's cultural heritage and social commitment over the years.

In January 2019, she was awarded the “Bel San Giovanni” on behalf of Starhotels, an annual award given by the Società di San Giovanni Battista to individuals and companies that have stood out in Florence, serving as ambassadors of Italian entrepreneurship abroad and actively striving to promote Italian cultural heritage.

In recognition of her role in the promotion of Italy's cultural heritage, in June 2019, Elisabetta Fabri was nominated *Cavaliere del Lavoro* (Knight of Labour) by the President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella for her services as an entrepreneur and for bringing Starhotels abroad, as well as for her moral and social values along with her strong sense of responsibility.

In October 2019 the municipality of Florence, awarded her for her role as ambassador of Florence in the world, helping to facilitate the acquisition of conferences and events with important returns on Florence's economic spin-off.

Elisabetta Fabri has always been committed to valorizing the Italian historical and artistic heritage. The company's sponsorships have enabled the restoration of several monuments from the Maschio Angioino in Naples to the Great Spire of the Duomo in Milan, up to the recent restoration of the balustrades in Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence on the occasion of the Company's 35th anniversary.

In 2019, this social responsibility takes shape with the project *La Grande Bellezza – The Dream Factory*, a new contemporary patronage campaign supporting Italian craftsmanship excellence, vaunting the full support of the President. In collaboration with two leading institutions in the Italian craftsmanship panorama, Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d'Arte in Milan and OMA – Associazione Osservatorio dei Mestieri d'Arte in Florence, the project relies on actions aimed at valorizing this extraordinary patrimony of tradition, beauty and savoir-faire, which cross and enrich our entire peninsula, making it a *unicum* at an international level.

In November 2020, she was awarded the MAM Award “Supporters of Art Professionals”, a prestigious recognition by the Cologni dei Mestieri d'Arte Foundation and ALMA International School of Italian Cuisine for her commitment to enhancing the territory through the work of Master Craftsmen.

Leading the company into its third generation - a group with a strong female presence - and recognizing the key role women play in today's business, since 2015 Elisabetta Fabri has been committed to fostering women's career development, as well as supporting different projects against domestic violence towards women and their children.

In 2021 Starhotels announces the project “A future as a STAR for female managers”. The initiative aims at the professional growth of female talents that will be accompanied in a 3/5-year career path that will lead to important positions of responsibility and prestige within the group.

Since July 2021, Elisabetta Fabri is Honorary Ambassador of the prestigious HoteliersGuild, a private and independent society of luxury hoteliers. In 2022, she was recognized by the association as the Corporate Hôtelière of the Year in the Sirius Academy Awards.

In 2022, she was included in the “Global 100 in Hospitality” by the International Hospitality Institute, a list that features the 100 Global Most Powerful People in the industry.

In 2023, she was awarded by Forbes Italy among “Top Quality Leaders” for her role in promoting the excellence of Italian hospitality worldwide.

In the same year, Elisabetta Fabri received the award “In onore dell’Italia che ci onora” (“In honor of Italy that honors us”) by Comitato dei Cento, for her commitment to combining excellent hospitality with her love for high craftsmanship.

In 2025, she received the ‘Italian Hospitality Champion’ award during Italian Design Week in Washington, in recognition of her contribution to promoting Italian hospitality as an ambassador of Made in Italy worldwide. In the same year, she was selected by Forbes Italy as one of the “100 Top Managers” who successfully engage with international markets on a daily basis. She was also recognized by Fortune Italy in its “Most Powerful Women” list, which highlights fifty professionals, managers and entrepreneurs who, through dedication and perseverance, have achieved outstanding milestones. Lastly, she was honored at the “WE Award – Women Excellence 2025” by Il Sole 24 Ore, in the Business & Management category, for her outstanding track record and active contribution to driving positive and necessary change within the community.

Alongside her longstanding commitment to the family business, in recent years, Elisabetta Fabri has held important positions in other organizations and companies. In 2014 she was elected a member of the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, and since October 2021 she has been an active member of its Steering Committee, a non-profit organization that pursues social interest through a program of investments and projects on the territory. Since 2022, she has been part of Florence Territorial Council of Banca Intesa, and since 2023, she has been a member of the International Advisory Board of the prestigious École Hôtelière de Lausanne. She previously held key positions on the boards of major companies, including Toscana Airports (2015-2023) and Poste Italiane (2014-2017).

Since January 2024, she has been an honorary member of the Board of Governors of HoteliersGuild’s LeadingHôtelières Chapter, a pioneering initiative that aims to accelerate the path to improved gender equality in higher-level positions across the hospitality industry.

Since December 2024, Elisabetta Fabri has been the President of the Italian Hotel Association Confindustria Alberghi (AICA), marking the beginning of a mandate focused on innovation, sustainability, and the promotion of Made in Italy.

She is also a member of AIDDA (Association of Women Entrepreneurs and Corporate Executives), YPO (Young Presidents' Organisation), AIDAF (Italian Association of Family Businesses) and Comitato Leonardo.

Starhotels

Starhotels, the first Italian private hotel company, is a market leader in the hospitality industry within 4 and 5-star hotels. The group counts 34 properties, with more than 4,500 rooms and luxury residences located in the heart of the top Italian destinations, in addition to London, Paris, and New York. For over 45 years, Starhotels has represented the excellence of Italian hospitality, embodying the values of Made in Italy, even abroad, through every detail. This vocation is also expressed through *La Grande Bellezza – The Dream Factory*, a contemporary patronage project founded in 2019 dedicated to promoting Italian high craftsmanship.

The prestigious **Starhotels Collezione** – icons of style in the world's most beautiful destinations – stand out as historic residences and boutique hotels with a unique identity, capable of reflecting the authentic soul of the cities in which they are located. Starhotels Collezione properties can be found in prime settings in Florence, Forte dei Marmi, London, Milan, New York, Paris, Rome, Saturnia, Siena, Trieste, Venice, and Vicenza.

Starhotels Premium, located in the heart of the most beautiful Italian cities – Bergamo, Bologna, Florence, Genoa, Milan, Naples, Parma, Rome, Saronno, and Turin – stand out for their strategic locations and contemporary style, providing the perfect blend of elegance and comfort, an intangible sense of well-being through excellent and welcoming service.

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