

HOTEL GABRIELLI VENEZIA – STARHOTEL COLLEZIONE

The return of an icon



Overlooking the charming Riva degli Schiavoni, just steps from Piazza San Marco and the Biennale - two landmarks that define Venice's essence - Hotel Gabrielli has reclaimed its place as a 5-star jewel under Starhotels' guidance, restoring one of the city's most treasured addresses. The hotel reopened on **August 25th, 2025** following a careful restoration work that celebrates its artistic and historical heritage, introducing a vision of hospitality where art, gastronomy and wellness converge. The project blends restoration mastery with the contemporary vision of **Starhotels Collezione**: thoughtfully reimaged rooms and suites, signature dining, one of central Venice's most expansive private gardens, and spaces designed for conviviality, creating a seamless experience for travellers, Venetians and connoisseurs alike.

Today the hotel returns renewed yet faithful to its original character: a Venetian palazzo honouring its architectural legacy through beamed ceilings, original frescoes and Murano chandeliers, while embracing refined contemporary design that speaks to the discerning modern guest.

Since 1856, a legacy of Venetian hospitality

Hotel Gabrielli holds within its walls nearly two centuries of Venetian hospitality and welcoming elegance. The story begins in 1856, when **Andreas Perkhofer**, a young Tyrolean soldier in the Austro-Hungarian army, chose to make Venice his home and opened the *Sandwirth* inn in the courtyard of Palazzo Gabrielli. Unknowingly, he set in motion a legacy that would span generations, transforming a modest establishment into a cherished landmark of Venetian hospitality.

The *Sandwirth* quickly evolved from inn to guesthouse to hotel, growing alongside the city and drawing cosmopolitan travellers from its earliest days. The hotel as it stands today emerged from the joining of several historic buildings along the Riva degli Schiavoni, with its oldest heart being the 14th-century Palazzo Gabrielli, also known as *Ca' Gabrielli*.

With the founding of the nearby **Venice Biennale** in 1895, the hotel began welcoming artists and travellers from across the globe, establishing itself as a haven for those seeking tranquillity and inspiration. The hotel evolved in step with the times, introducing designer furnishings, Art Nouveau interiors and one of Venice's first passenger elevator installations. Over the years, Hotel Gabrielli became the address of choice for travellers and intellectuals alike: **Sigmund Freud**, **Franz Kafka**, who penned some of his most celebrated letters to his beloved Felice Bauer within these walls (later published posthumously as "Letters to Felice"), **Thomas Mann**, **Walter Benjamin**, **Adolf Loos** and **Wim Wenders** all found sanctuary here.

An essential stop on the 19th-century Grand Tour and later a cherished retreat for Orient Express passengers, Hotel Gabrielli has always existed at the intersection of art, architecture and intellectual life, enriched by its proximity to the Biennale Gardens and the Arsenale.

In the new millennium, Hotel Gabrielli remains faithful to its identity, balancing tradition with thoughtful renewal. In 2020, the Perkhofer family embarked on a meticulous conservation project designed to preserve the palazzo's historic soul while celebrating every architectural and artistic detail, bringing fresh light and contemporary energy to its spaces.

Within this journey of enhancement, the collaboration with Starhotels emerged as a deeply considered choice, the family recognizing in the group a natural partner in both



sensibility and ambition. This alignment has allowed Hotel Gabrielli to honour its heritage while elevating its style and service to new heights through a shared commitment to excellence.

Today, fully restored and guided by **Starhotels Collezione**, Hotel Gabrielli returns as a five-star jewel within one of Venice's most storied buildings: a place where refined elegance continues to tell the city's story, weaving together memory, passion and enduring beauty into every experience.

Location

The hotel stands in the **historic centre**, close to **Piazza San Marco**, the **Biennale Gardens** and the **Arsenale**, where monumental Venice converges with the city's vibrant cultural scene of exhibitions, vernissages and major international events. Overlooking the Riva degli Schiavoni with sweeping views across to San Giorgio Maggiore, the setting delivers abundant natural light, endless water vistas and seamless access to Venice's principal landing points.

This strategic location places guests at the very heart of Venice, with effortless access to landmarks including the Palazzo Ducale, the Ponte dei Sospiri, and the Ponte di Rialto. Despite its proximity to the city's most celebrated attractions, the hotel enjoys a rare tranquillity for the historic centre, a quality that allows guests to reach Venice's most renowned boutiques and lanes on foot without ever sacrificing the serenity of an intimate setting.

The property's private water entrance provides an elegant arrival experience directly from the lagoon. With excellent connections to both the airport and railway station, Hotel Gabrielli serves as the perfect base for leisure travellers, special events and destination weddings, offering postcard-perfect views and immediate access to the Serenissima's most iconic landmarks.

Conservation and heritage: reimagining Hotel Gabrielli



The rich architectural identity of the Hotel Gabrielli – a collection of buildings belonging to different eras, from the 15th-century Ca’ Gabrieli to the Casa Molin overlooking the canal, from the Casa Nova of 1911 to the small eighteenth-century residences at the rear – shaped the extensive restoration led by **Milan-based designer Andrea Auletta**. The project embraced a conservation approach that honours the structure’s rich architectural complexity throughout. Auletta’s vision drew inspiration from the **lagoon’s *genius loci***, seeking to preserve the palazzo’s heritage while reimagining it for the present day. The colour palette recalls the tones of the typical Venetian landscape, with deep greys, lagoon green, warm ivory, canaletto walnut and “Picasso Green” marble, creating an elegance that requires no embellishment.

The extraordinary views across to San Giorgio Maggiore became central to the design concept: interiors were conceived to frame the landscape rather than compete with it, allowing the light and lagoon to take centre stage.

Artisan craftsmanship played a pivotal role throughout the contemporary patronage project by Starhotels, **La Grande Bellezza – The Dream Factory**. This collaboration enabled both the recovery and restoration of approximately 700 nineteenth - and early twentieth-century chandeliers and sconces from legendary Murano workshops including **Archimede Seguso** and the historic **Pauly & C.** glassworks, alongside the introduction of new pieces by renowned makers such as **Rubelli and Barovier&Toso**. The result is an elegant dialogue between past and present that gives the palazzo a cohesive identity.



The common spaces have been reimagined to guide the guest experience: the concierge area features **Rubelli** fibre-optic decorative screens that shift with the changing light, while the reception, designed for seated check-in comfort, is enhanced by ceiling mirrors reflecting views of the Riva degli Schiavoni beyond.



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This philosophy reflects the principles that guide all Starhotels restorations: to enhance without compromising the *sense of place*, preserving each property's distinctive character while deepening its relationship with its surroundings.

Today, Hotel Gabrielli stands as a five-star destination that returns a Venetian icon to the world: authentic in its heritage, contemporary in its service. Created for guests seeking beauty, history and comfort in one extraordinary setting.

Rooms & Suites



The hotel's **66 rooms**, including 27 suites, place comfort at the heart of the guest experience. Generous and light-filled, they embody understated luxury, where carefully chosen pieces selected for both quality and purpose create an atmosphere of genuine wellbeing.

Expansive windows flood the spaces with natural light while framing views across the city, lagoon or private garden. The interior design weaves Venetian tradition with contemporary sensibility. Refined materials – canaletto walnut, marble and gilded

accents – harmonize with a palette inspired by the lagoon and the pale hues of Istrian stone.

The bed headboards, in galuchat-effect leather by Prodital, curve to embrace both bedside tables and walls, echoing classic Venetian motifs. In high-ceilinged rooms, half-canopies in Rubelli damask fabric inspired by sixteenth-century designs create intimate sleeping alcoves. Seating and sofas feature Bold velvet by Mario Sirtori, complemented by decorative cushions from Rubelli in the same motifs as the beds. Light plays a central role: sconces and chandeliers sit alongside new pieces by Barovier&Toso, MLE Lighting and Zonca, creating a warm, calibrated glow that brings out the beauty of every surface. Underfoot, rugs by Édition Bouganville introduce a rhythm inspired by water’s gentle movement: organic woollen forms in the rooms, broader hand-woven geometries in the suites.



On the walls, **prints by Ottavia Moschini**, studies of masterworks from historic Murano glassworks, complete the composition with a poetic sensibility that honours Venice’s glass-making heritage. In the bathrooms, Fior di Pesco marble from the



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Carnic Alps alternates with Istrian stone, while heated floors and custom details reinforce the feeling of tailored craftsmanship. The minibar cabinet, adorned with a print reimagined by Andrea Auletta from a Canaletto work, introduces a refined narrative detail.

Presidential Suite



Designed for exceptional stays, the Presidential Suite offers a rare perspective over Venice: from above, the view sweeps across the San Marco Basin, the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore and the Campanile of San Marco, rising like natural curtains within a panorama unique in the world.

One of the city's highest and most spacious suites at 85 square metres, it is defined by interiors enriched with damask fabrics, canaletto walnut furnishings and delicate ivory and grey tones, creating an atmosphere of measured refinement.

What truly sets it apart is its **private altana**: a suspended terrace that opens onto a surprising horizon, with an elevated view over the Arsenale and glimpses stretching as far as the islands of Murano and Burano; on the clearest days, the Dolomites can even be seen on the distant skyline. A privileged observatory from which Venice reveals itself in all its delicacy, amid water reflections, suspended silences and a beauty that seems never to run out.

Lagoon View Suites



Located in the building's main façade, the **Lagoon View Suites** overlook the spectacular San Marco Basin and the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore. These spaces, which evoke the timeless elegance of ancient Venetian noble residences, represent the very essence of Hotel Gabrielli's philosophy: the continuous harmony between history and contemporary living. Interiors feature period furnishings, curated artworks and distinguished pieces harmonizing with refined fabrics and bespoke details. Italian marble bathrooms with double vanities or dual showers offer an experience of absolute refinement.

Two suites are distinguished by **imposing *quadrifore***, the historic multi-arched Venetian windows that define the palazzo's iconic façade. The first-floor suite creates the sensation of being "at water level", with soaring ceilings and period details, while the third-floor suite captures the lagoon's ever-changing light, amplifying its reflections to offer an incomparable perspective.

Spacious interiors and separate living areas complete the experience, turning every stay into an immersive journey through Venice at its most authentic and spectacular.

Gabrielli Luxury Apartments

Housed in three historic buildings adjacent to the hotel, the Gabrielli Luxury Apartments offer a more intimate and independent way to experience Venice, without ever compromising on excellence. Reinterpreted with a contemporary sensibility by **Andrea Auletta**, who has managed to combine respect for architectural heritage with a modern approach to urban living, the six residences' interiors – featuring Canaletto walnut finishes, hardwood floors, exposed beams and Italian marble details – express a quiet, enduring beauty. Restored Venetian lamps and wall lights, originally from the historic Hotel Gabrielli, reinforce the connection to the property, extending its story through a new way of living Venice.

In this secluded sanctuary, moments from the lagoon yet removed from the busiest tourist flows, **Gabrielli Luxury Apartments** bring together privacy, a sense of home and the artisanal care that runs through the entire project. An authentic Venetian living experience, defined by light, refined materials and a tranquillity unique to this corner of the city.

The three buildings, developed over multiple levels, house apartments that differ in configuration and size, yet share a unified design sensibility. The **One-Bedroom Prestige Apartments** (39-55 sqm) overlooking Calle del Cagnoletto or Calle Morosina offer luminous and well-proportioned interiors, with canaletto walnut and Fior di Pesco marble kitchens, comfortable living spaces and tranquil bedrooms. The **Two-Bedroom Deluxe Apartment with Terrace** (109 sqm), spanning two floors, stands out for its generous proportions and private altana commanding views across the city's rooftops, the perfect vantage point to absorb Venice's light from above. The **One-Bedroom Heritage Apartments Garden View** (47-52 sqm), overlooking the tranquillity of Hotel Gabrielli's garden, reveal another facet of Venetian living: period beams, dual exposure and an ethereal atmosphere that encourages a gentler pace.

A gastronomic journey between memory and contemporary expression

Hotel Gabrielli’s culinary experience unfolds as a journey through Venetian memory, expressed in a contemporary language of flavour, atmosphere and ritual. Leading this vision, **Venetian Executive Chef Mirko Pistorello** brings a sophisticated approach deeply rooted in regional traditions and seasonal rhythms.



His international training and wealth of Michelin-starred experience enrich his culinary vision, resulting in a cuisine distinguished by its ability to elegantly fuse the authentic flavours of the lagoon with Mediterranean influences.

The dining concept, designed as a natural extension of the guest experience, draws directly from the territory through the “**Km Veneto**” – the Italian region where Venice is located – philosophy, aligned with the culinary philosophy of Starhotels group. This creates a journey accompanying guests throughout the day, from breakfast to after dinner, with careful attention to seasonality and cuisine inspired by the region with a contemporary touch, balancing exploration with authenticity.

In tribute to **Franz Kafka**, once an illustrious guest of the hotel, the restaurant **Felice al Gabrielli** and **K Lounge Bar** take centre stage. The former is named after **Felice Bauer**, the writer's beloved muse, and opens onto an internal courtyard evoking a winter garden. The latter sits harmoniously between the entrance and dining room, serving as an elegant transitional space, perfectly integrated within the hotel's convivial areas. Completing the experience, **Gabrielli Rooftop Terrace** offers a sky bar with 360-degree views across the lagoon, from Punta della Dogana to the Lido, the perfect setting for tastings and signature cocktails meticulously crafted by expert **Bar Manager Diego Filippone**.

Chef Pistorello's vision draws from Venetian memory while embracing the present: ingredients sourced from local producers, seasons honoured, technique refined to its essence. The result is precisely constructed dishes with pure flavours that celebrate the lagoon and the Italian Northeastern cuisine with authenticity.

The dining venues offer menus conceived to accompany the day with thoughtfully crafted dishes: from Venetian *Cicchetti* to *Rosso di Mazzancolle* (red prawn), from *Branzino alla frittura* (fried sea bass) to desserts including a reimaged Tiramisù.

Hotel Gabrielli's culinary experience welcomes not only hotel guests but also the city itself. Dining spaces flow into one another by design, offering flexible, contemporary **all-day dining**.

One guiding vision interprets Venice, transforming every service into a bespoke guest experience.

Felice al Gabrielli Restaurant

Felice al Gabrielli is the hotel's signature restaurant, an enchanting space where the palazzo's history meets refined, welcoming contemporary design. The interior unfolds through distinct settings that flow seamlessly into one another, each with its own atmosphere within a harmoniously unified aesthetic.



The main dining room, overlooking Riva degli Schiavoni, is characterized by multiple shades of green: the velvet armchairs, adorned with oriental-motif cushions by **Antico Cotonificio Veneziano**, echo the tones of the tables and carved mirrors. Theatrical velvet drapes allow the space to be reconfigured, creating intimate alcoves. Restored original marble alternates with Istrian stone on the walls, while the ceiling retains the historic wooden beams and Murano glass chandeliers, each returned to its former splendour.

A second area extends along a gallery that connects the main dining room to the internal courtyard. Here, circular, intimate seating pairs with Murano glass chandeliers embellished with floral details, punctuated by lighting that evokes Venice's misty atmosphere.

The journey culminates in the **covered internal courtyard**, the restaurant's third space, conceived as a winter garden to be enjoyed year-round. At the heart of the courtyard stands a late 14th-century wellhead, featuring a coat of arms linked to the historic Gabrielli family. Seating in jute-effect fabric with green fringe details echoes the restaurant's chromatic palette, while plants and verdant elements create a hushed, welcoming ambiance. This space forms the palazzo's green heart, welcoming guests

throughout the day before becoming the natural setting for Felice al Gabrielli's dining experience as evening falls.



An elegant tribute to **Felice Bauer**, Franz Kafka's beloved and a figure connected to the hotel's history, the restaurant presents cuisine rooted in identity, honouring Venetian tradition while embracing contemporary exploration.

K Lounge Bar

K Lounge Bar, a tribute to the celebrated writer, welcomes guests throughout the day with its **All Day Dining menu**, offering snacks and a selection of dishes from Restaurant Felice al Gabrielli, alongside a list of signature cocktails and a wine selection suited to *aperitivo* and after-dinner moments.

Green tones defining the furnishings and details, combined with luminous interiors and fine woods, create an elegant yet relaxed atmosphere in seamless continuity with the restaurant and event spaces. A welcoming environment that effortlessly accommodates private moments, business meetings and social gatherings.



The cocktail programme reinterprets Venice through evocative recipes and ingredients linked to the lagoon. The drink list, ranging from classics to contemporary twists, is inspired by the city's most iconic legends and locations, transforming every cocktail into a small Venetian tale: *Sottoportego Zurlin* evokes the mystery of hidden passages and aquatic tales, while *Bòcolo* celebrates eternal love and the 25th April tradition when Venetians gift a red rose to their loved ones. Other creations reference the sestieri,

historic trades and the lagoon's suspended atmosphere, creating a sensory journey that unites memory, place and creativity.

Leading the bar, **Bar Manager Diego Filippone**, a Venetian born in 1986: with over twenty years of experience in luxury hospitality and the art of spirits, he combines technique and creativity, crafting cocktails that transform each sip into a tale of Venice.

Gabrielli Rooftop Terrace



The sixth floor reveals a 150-square-metre panoramic terrace commanding scenic views across the **San Marco Basin**. This is where sunsets meet water, where **Venetian cicchetti** and **signature cocktails** accompany moments of effortless, refined conviviality. A privileged vantage point over the lagoon, suspended between sky and water, ideal for exclusive drinks, events or simply absorbing Venice from above. A floating sanctuary where time slows and Venice extends its gaze to the Lido.



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Furnishings feature lightweight black wrought-iron seating enhanced by plush cushions in warm terracotta and burnt red tones, adorned with stylized botanical patterns. Generous sunshades in pale fabric with undulating edges create pockets of soft shade, ensuring comfort and intimacy. Dark wooden flooring provides visual continuity and natural warmth, while elegant planters filled with ornamental plants and lush greenery frame the space, harmoniously blending with the panoramic views.

The rooftop houses a panoramic bar open to all, forming the beating heart of the hotel's beverage programme. Overseeing it is **Diego Filippone, Bar Manager** of Hotel Gabrielli, who combines technique and creativity to offer the highest-level experiences to his guests.

Spa and Gym



Hotel Gabrielli's luxurious **Spa** delivers authentic relaxation through spaces dedicated to wellbeing and comfort. Reserved exclusively for hotel's guests, it features a Jacuzzi, sauna and Turkish bath, creating a wellness sanctuary within the lagoon city. Guests are guided toward personal equilibrium, before or after exploring the city, through a journey encompassing tranquil spaces, deep tissue or lymphatic drainage massages, and targeted neck and back treatments, all using premium products under the expert care of the team.

Situated on the *piano nobile* and spanning approximately one hundred square metres, the hotel's Spa forms a sanctuary of private tranquillity, designed to deliver complete relaxation in a space where comfort meets contemporary design while preserving the warmth and softness that distinguish the entire structure.

The **Gym**, finished entirely in canaletto walnut panelling, creates an enveloping, secluded space, while the couples' treatment room features supremely comfortable treatment beds within an atmosphere of privacy and tranquillity.

Gabrielli Garden



A **hidden garden** reveals itself behind the historic façades: created in 1808, this green sanctuary is one of Venice's few private gardens and the largest on the central island, with its 600 square metres of historic plantings and two ancient olive trees within a landscape that balances serenity and elegance. Recent restoration, the result of extensive **historical research**, has uncovered the original character of this exceptional space, now reserved exclusively for hotel guests. Designed as an oasis of calm and sophistication, the Garden features lounge areas with elegant umbrellas and seating, ideal for savouring the peaceful atmosphere. Perfect for outdoor receptions and intimate ceremonies accommodating up to 60 seated guests, it honours the site's botanical heritage through understated, refined stewardship.

Event and reception spaces

The palazzo contains historic rooms with distinctive character, capable of transforming into ideal settings for special occasions. The **Ballroom**, Hotel Gabrielli's ceremonial heart, captivates through original elements brought to light thanks to the restoration: three Murano glass chandeliers, Italian herringbone oak flooring and a grand period credenza now commanding the space. Natural light flooding through generous windows and clean architectural lines create an environment that adapts with effortless elegance to weddings, receptions and formal celebrations.

Celebrations can flow throughout the hotel: the outdoor dehor on Riva degli Schiavoni offers the perfect setting for toasts overlooking San Giorgio Maggiore, while the **Garden** provides a green haven for vows, cake cutting or after-dinner gatherings beneath the trees.



Set within a more intimate, secluded area of the Restaurant, the **Wine Room** forms a refined space flowing seamlessly into the tasting room. The former hosts and



showcases the hotel's curated collection, while the latter gathers guests around a **bespoke table designed by Andrea Auletta**, featuring a Fior di Pesco marble surface with Istrian stone inlays as its centrepiece. Emerald green velvet seating, a softly lit Murano glass chandelier, antique Venetian mirrors and handcrafted wooden panelling create a special atmosphere, ideal for wine tastings, private dinners, board meetings or small-scale events.

The **hotel's event team** guides couples through every detail – menus, table settings, music, flowers, photography – ensuring each celebration perfectly embodies their vision.

The Hotel Gabrielli “Hall of Fame”

Among the many Italian and international celebrities who have chosen Hotel Gabrielli Venezia – Starhotels Collezione are:

Sigmund Freud
Thomas Mann
Adolf Loos

Franz Kafka
Walter Benjamin
Wim Wenders

Awards and Recognitions

Hotel Gabrielli Venezia – Starhotels Collezione has been featured in the **2026 Tatler Travel Guide’s 101 Best Hotels in the World.**

Hotel Gabrielli is part of **Leading Hotels of the World, Signature Travel Network** and **Fine Hotels + Resorts.**

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Starhotels

Starhotels, the first Italian private hotel company, is a market leader in the hospitality industry within 4 and 5-star hotels. The Group boasts 34 properties with more than 4,500 rooms and luxury residences located in the heart of the top Italian destinations, in addition to London, Lugano, Paris and New York. Starhotels is synonymous with the excellence of Italian hospitality, offering impeccable service that excels at anticipating guests' wishes and exceeding their expectations.

The prestigious **Starhotels Collezione** – icons of style in the most beautiful destinations in the world – stand out for their strategic positions, sophisticated design and bespoke services. Starhotels Collezione properties are located in Florence, Forte dei Marmi, London, Lugano, Milan, New York, Paris, Rome, Saturnia, Siena, Trieste, Venice, and Vicenza.

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