

Masseria Trapana
Conference & Incentive Travel
September 2016

C&IT

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Shortlist showdown

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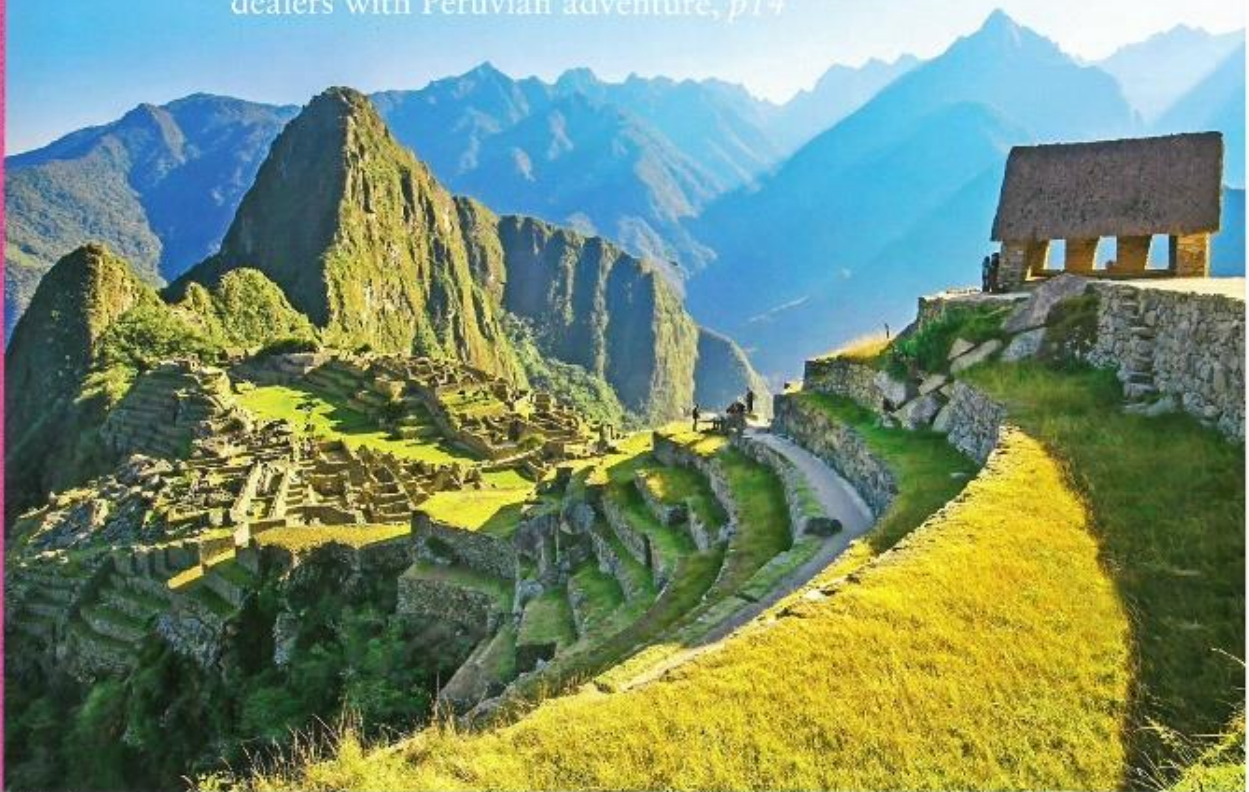
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ITALY

FLORENCE CONTINUED



GASTRONOMY

No visit to Florence is complete without a visit to one of the many gelaterias for a taste of authentic Italian ice cream available in a mouthwatering array of flavours. Michelin-starred options include Il Palagio at the Four Seasons Hotel, which offers authentic Italian

cuisine by executive chef Vito Mollica, including dishes such as the signature Cavatelli pasta Cacio e Pepe with red prawns and marinated baby squids as well as an extensive wine list. Meanwhile, Irene, named after Sir Rocco Forte's grandmother, is the new bistro at Hotel Savoy. The terrace is ideal for sipping on a signature cocktail while the tempting menu offers a modern take on Tuscan classics and divine desserts such as strawberry and rhubarb soup with vanilla ice cream.

VS

MILAN CONTINUED

GASTRONOMY

The Pavarotti Milano Restaurant Museum, dedicated to legendary tenor Luciano Pavarotti, opened last June, with seven rooms and a menu featuring some of the star's favourite dishes. Clandestino Milano at the Hotel Maison Moschino restaurant seats 45 and two-Michelin-starred chef Moreno Cedroni creates what he calls "Flower Child Sushi", which replicates the Japanese original, but uses carnaroli rice, Italian extra-virgin olive oil and Burrata cheese in place of wasabi or seaweed.



Famous food
(above left) Hotel Savoy's Irene; (right) Pavarotti Milano Restaurant Museum

VENUE UPDATE

Renaissance restorations

The much anticipated **Il Serano**, set on the eastern shore of Lake Como, opened its doors last month (August). Designed by Patricia Urquiola, *Wallpaper Magazine* Designer of the Year 2015, the five-star boutique property offers 30 suites, a 60-foot-long freshwater infinity pool suspended above the lake, spa and restaurant with a panoramic view of the lake and mountains.

Intercontinental Hotels Group has announced the signing of its first property in Venice – **InterContinental Venice - Palazzo Nani** – which will be set in a converted 16th-century palace on Cannaregio Canal. Due to open in early 2018, the 51-room property will feature a wellness centre, modern meeting facilities and Club InterContinental Lounge. The palace's hand-painted alfresco ceilings and hand-carved

wooden beams will be restored to their original beauty.

In Rome, the Dorchester Collection's **Hotel Eden** is closed until early 2017 for extensive renovation. During this work, the lobby, bars and restaurants – including the Michelin-starred **La Terrazza dell' Eden** – will be renovated, and a spa will be added.

Meanwhile, Starwood Hotels & Resorts announced that Le Méridien will open in Rome,



Boutique Masseria Trapani, Puglia

marking the brand's return into Italy. **Le Méridien Visconti Rome** is scheduled to debut by the end of this year following a renovation and conversion from the independent **Visconti Palace Hotel**. The 240-room property is located in the Prati district near the Vatican, Castel Sant' Angelo and one of Rome's

premier shopping streets, Via Cola di Rienzo.

Puglia's newest boutique hotel, **Masseria Trapani** opened last October. The converted 16th-century farmhouse is located just outside Lecce with nine stylish suites and a private villa, making it ideal for small high-end incentives.