

## HOTEL CIPRIANI

### VENICE

94 Story by Mary Gray

All leading hotels in Italy claim to be places where you can live *la dolce vita* but Venice's Hotel Cipriani ([qantas.com/hotels/hotelcipriani](https://qantas.com/hotels/hotelcipriani)) captures the sweet life like no other. You'll feel it the minute you glide off the hotel's shuttle boat and onto its private jetty, the doorman taking your hand to keep you steady on the dismount.

But it's not just the white-glove service that gives the Cipriani its stellar reputation. Today, *la dolce vita* is used as shorthand for the pleasures of Italy but the term originally described the extravagant lifestyles during the years of the Italian economic miracle – the postwar period of the 1950s and '60s – which the Hotel Cipriani, founded by former bartender Giuseppe Cipriani, embodied in full. Tucked at the tip of Giudecca Island, the 67-room property has welcomed stars (Sophia Loren has been a longtime regular), socialites and luxury-seekers since 1958. To this day guests appreciate the mix of discretion and immersion in Venetian beauty.

The clean-lined Rationalist exterior of the Cipriani is the first sign you're in for something different in this floating city. The second? The soaring height of the new arrivals area adjacent to the original lobby, which American architect Peter Marino unveiled last year as part of a wider renovation.

The hotel's core aesthetic is still Mid-century retro but Marino's upgrades honour the *dolce vita* heyday without feeling fossilised. Expect to see nods to "Old Venice" (Murano glassworks, terrazzo-inspired floors, timber beams) along with the city's Biennale-driven art heritage (Emilio Vedova paintings preside over new arrivals), all fused with contemporary touches (collectable design pioneer Vincenzo de Cotiis created the bespoke white bronze and fibreglass desks in the lobby).



Massimo Listri

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Many rooms look out on the lagoon or St Mark's Square, which is just a short water taxi ride away. But there's little temptation to cross the canal when you can lounge by the Olympic-sized seawater pool (the largest one in central Venice), clear your mind in the Casanova Gardens, sip a Bellini at Bar Gabbiano (Giuseppe Cipriani's Harry's Bar was the birthplace of the cocktail) and tuck into a gold-flecked tiramisu at Massimo Bottura's freshly restyled Michelin-starred restaurant Oro.

Outside the common spaces, Marino's eclectic approach shines brightest in the sprawling new Laguna and Serenissima signature suites, which include additions such as a colour-saturated Carla Accardi painting and 19th-century Chinese folding screen, respectively. With the subtle East-meets-West references, the artistic touches and the sweeping lagoon views, you'll know you're staying in a Venetian classic – just more dusted-up and design-conscious than ever.

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## AMYTH OF NICOSIA

CYPRUS

Story by Billy De Luca

A few breakfasters are sitting in the internal courtyard of the newly opened boutique hotel Amyth of Nicosia ([amythhotels.com](http://amythhotels.com)). They chat among marble-topped tables in the shade of young olive trees. A Brutalist fountain

trickles behind them as staff carrying breakfast baskets pass beneath a tall concrete peristyle into the property's dining room.

Initially constructed by an Italian architect in the early 20th century as a family mansion, this building in Cyprus's capital later served as a private school in the 1970s. It was purchased by the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus in 1998 and remained derelict until

