

ARABIA Harper's BAZAAR

Hind Sahli
MADE IN
MOROCCO

ALL HAIL OUR
HEROINES

*Ground-shaking
& bias-breaking*

BAZAAR

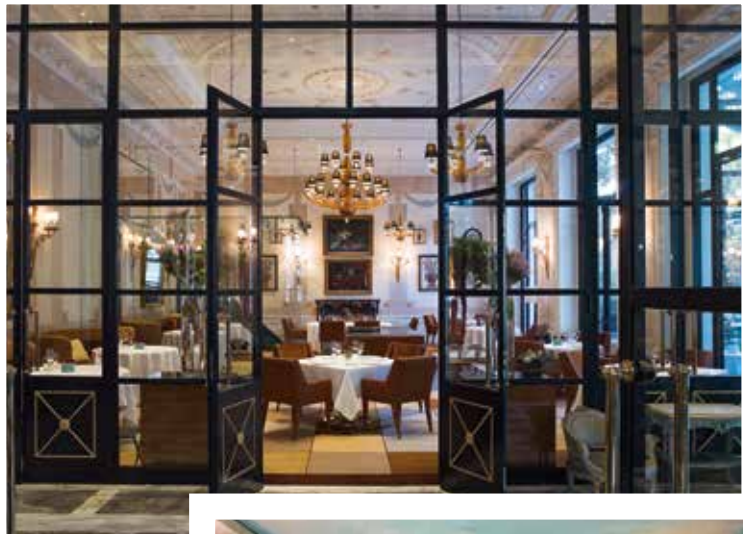
THE ESCAPE

LA DOLCE VITA

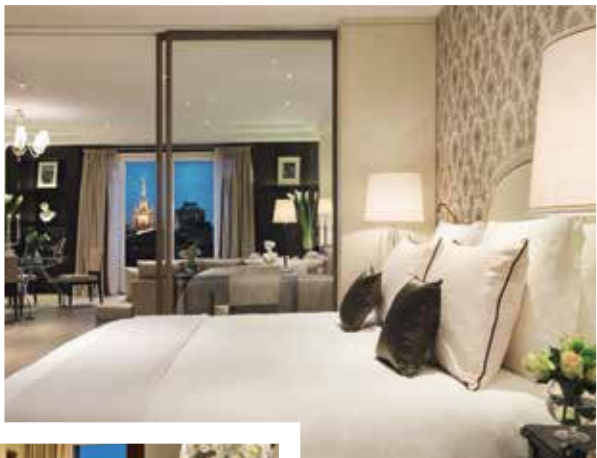
Bazaar journeys to Milan's Palazzo Parigi Hotel & Grand Spa and discovers a heady mix of modernity and history, function and fantasy

Words by **BIANCA BRIGITTE BONOMI**





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Above: Scenes from Palazzo Parigi



sheltered by a peaceful oasis in the heart of the city. As if taken from the pages of Evelyn Waugh, Palazzo Parigi's lavishly decorated rooms are replete with antique furniture and artworks spanning 19th-century oil paintings to Art Nouveau marble statues. A distinctly Milanese style is present throughout, testament to the building's aristocratic past and paying homage to the city's landmarks. The pink Baveno marble columns recall the Scala Theatre; the parquet flooring of Caffé Parigi and the Lounge Bar draw inspiration from the drawing room in Villa Reale created by master cabinetmaker Giuseppe Maggiolini; whilst the hotel's large skylight is designed in identical shape and size to those in Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, Milan's iconic shopping arcade. Contemporary Milanese style finds its way into a selection of rooms and suites, whilst others have a more classically Parisian, decorative aesthetic. Terraces and balconies come as standard, many with striking city views of the Duomo, the Sforzesco Castle or the Porta Nuova skyline. There is real glamour here and

Deliciously grand and unapologetically elegant, Palazzo Parigi possesses the rare quality of making guests feel both dazzled by their surroundings and quite at home within them; as if owner and architect Paola Giambelli and legendary interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon had come together with the purpose of creating a welcoming and luxurious haven, rather than hotel, for visitors in the heart of Milan. Here, in the chicest of lobbies attended to by the most heedful of staff, there is a palpable sense of belonging; a feeling that one's host might greet you at the foot of the sweeping signature staircase under the towering chandelier, or breakfast with you in the private garden, shaded by large trees and interspersed with antique statues. When Giambelli first discovered the building in 2008, originally a 17th century palace later repurposed as the headquarters of a bank, she had a vision of creating a new kind of luxury destination in Milan – one that combined abundant space with elegance and heritage; a heady mix of modernity and history, function and fantasy. Located in the artistic district of Brera, the hotel is just a short stroll from via Montenapoleone and its luxury boutiques, a stone's throw from quaint cobbled streets lined with lively cafés and restaurants so that guests are close to everything but spared the trappings of noise and bustle;

understandably the property has become a favourite with Italy's fashion and art glitterati. In November last year, Lady Gaga chose it as her home in the city whilst promoting her American biographical crime drama House of Gucci. Emerging from the Palazzo wearing a leopard-print Valentino gown and retro-inspired hair and make-up, flanked by adoring fans and paparazzi, she captured the Golden Age of Italian cinema, with the Parigi as a perfect backdrop. Property highlights include the aptly-titled Grand Spa, a lavish affair widely regarded as one of the capital's very finest. Boasting Moorish-inspired architecture and cutting-edge treatments courtesy of exclusive Swiss brand Valmont, the spa features a glorious Hammam and swimming pool, in addition to seven therapeutic rooms inspired by countries from around the world. Combining the wisdom of ancient ritual and traditions with the latest advances in anti-ageing technology, treatments are both deeply restorative and rejuvenating. Dining outlets – whether the Gastronomic Restaurant, showcasing Milanese classics served against an interior of rare artwork, hand-painted ceilings and the finest leather seats, or the fashionable Caffé Parigi – are excellent. The property's private outdoor garden, dating back to the 18th century, offers guests a delightful al fresco experience. Adorned with statues and ornaments and shrouded in foliage, it's a gorgeously secluded sanctuary in the heart of the city; perfect for intimate dinners with friends or an afternoon espresso after a day of shopping. ■ www.palazzoparigi.com