

SPACE

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL DESIGN

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JW MARRIOTT VENICE RESORT & SPA, ITALY

Covering more than 16 acres, JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa sits undisturbed and ensures guests have an exceptional stay. Hamish Kilburn reviews...

There's something curiously relaxing about drifting through the vein-like canals on the narrow gondolier above murky waters. Venice is charmed through its location as well as its culture, much like the award-winning JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa, which captures the heart of the city from a unique perspective.

Surrounded by the Laguna Veneta's calm water and sitting in between the Lido and mainland Italy, the hotel is intimate yet enchanting. It's also a place where memories are made and barely forgotten. For Matteo Thun, founder of Matteo Thun & Partners, this was very much a highlight of the experience when restoring the buildings to create the new hotel. "I have revived the same emotions that I felt when visiting Venice as a small boy with my parents." He says.

The property is located on its own private island just a few miles off San Clemente. Artificially created around 1860/1870 with recycled sand and soil, the island was initially owned by the Royal Family and soon became the Venice Municipality.

Over the decades it has changed a lot: from deposit to sanatorium to a research site for science and sea technologies. "This has led to the construction of many different buildings in different periods and with diverse size, structure, style and function... thus making our work extremely interesting and

stimulating and making the island a unique place to stay," explains Thun.

The 266-room property has been sensitively restored to unveil the historic building while incorporating sustainable, modern and elegant design. Thun explains, "The design theme was definitely given by the location. We have decided to conserve the 20 historic buildings as much as possible by applying, for example, a box-in-the-box-concept, to regenerate the original structure of the landscape of the island and to express ourselves with the interior design emphasising a link between interior and outdoors, privileging wide windows and glazed façades wherever possible."

The bedrooms and suites – some with private pools – are simply decorated with bricks, glass and tiles to reflect the artisanal talent and styles of the region. Its rooms and suites offer both stunning views of the city, as well as secluded escapes into wonderful gardens. The locally sourced-bricks on the exterior create impressive arches, which juxtapose wooden window frames. "We have used soft fabrics, wood, glass. For example, specifically for this project, we have created the Laguna lamp for the Italian brand Artemide, made with glass and inspired by the misty atmosphere of the sea in winter. We have also used the typical 'Briccole', the wooden poles directing navigation on the sea and in the canals, for some of the conference and bar tables." Says Thun.

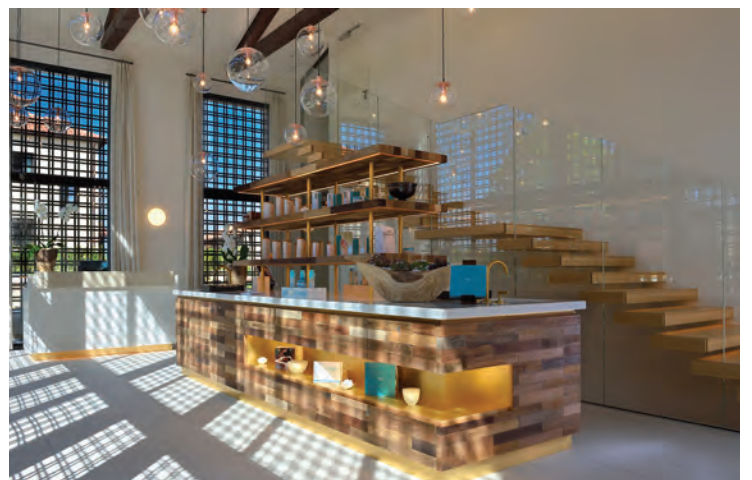


Mitzi Gaskin, Vice President and Global Brand Manager for JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts said, "The new JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa exemplifies the elegance and service that our guests have come to expect, incorporating modern design elements with authentic Venetian offerings to create a truly genuine experience in a culturally rich market."

On the 40-acre-plus plot, the hotel provides unparalleled levels of privacy and open areas. It features astonishing gardens and outside space, four restaurants and five bars. Thun explains, "We also had the opportunity to reopen a former canal of the island, now serving the mooring next to the 'Dopolavoro' restaurant.

"Two elements have particularly touched me; working on the Laguna lamps, designed specifically for the hotel. Also, frequenting Venice more often again during all the development and construction works. I have been reminded of how special and unique the city is."

In keeping with JW Marriott's superior yet informal ethos as well as providing personal service, the hotel houses a 1,750 square-metre spa, which is operated by GOCO Hospitality. It is the largest in Venice and offers bespoke treatments and has an indoor and outdoor aqua-tonic pool, a health club, eight treatment rooms, hammam and luxury spa suite.



JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa is the brand's sixth European hotel. With stunning views as well as the opportunity for guests to escape in magnificent gardens, the hotel offers a little bit of everything. Just a fifteen minute private boat ride to the heart of St Mark's Square, guests checking in can view Venice from a distance, yet choose to dive in at their convenience. With its fitting location and superb design, from top to tail it provides a unique way to experience the City of Bridges.

HOTEL GROUP: JW Marriott International

DESIGNER: Matteo Thun & Partners

SUPPLIERS: Outdoor: Roda, Kettal, Tuuci, Ethimo, Unopiù, Simes

Lighting: Artemide, Zumtobel, Muuto, & Traditions, Lightyears, CTO Lighting, Il Fanale, Secto Design, Gubi, Wästberg, Santa & Cole, Classicon, Zuiver, Barovier & Toso, Merci, Carpyen, Zonca, Oluce, Azucena, Object Insolite

Bathrooms: Duravit, Zucchetti, Inda, Geberit, Scirocco H, Ceramica, Catalano, Kaledwei, Victoria + Albert

Materials: Margraf, Made a Mano, Antica Ceramica Bartoli, Parador, Brintons, Tai Ping, Stepevi, Cigierre, Zahna Tiles, Ruckstuhl, Elitis, rosa, Gres, Sisis, Ceramica Vogue, Kasthall, 3M, Adielle, Grazi Cristalli, Gibus

Fabrics: Rubelli, L'Opificio, Tempotest

Furniture: Riva, Busnelli, Colber, Very Wood, Designers Guild, De Linea, B&B, Mater, Gervasoni, Thonet, Knoll, Vitra, Flli Levaggi, Andreu World, Simmons, Tom Dixon, Azucena, Living Divani, Porro, Ligne Roset, Puntmobles, Meridiani, Arte Venezia

marriott.co.uk



The beautiful chandeliers are they are original Murano artworks, by Barovier&Toso