



SPLENDIDO MARE

A BELMOND HOTEL
PORTOFINO

PRESS KIT

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A woman wearing a white bathrobe and a white towel turban is smiling and eating ice cream on a balcony. She is holding a small plate with ice cream and a spoon. The background shows a view of Portofino harbour with boats and buildings on the hills. The text "Relaxed sophistication in Portofino harbour" is overlaid on the image.

Relaxed sophistication in Portofino harbour

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THE ART OF HOSPITALITY

Splendido Mare is blessed with an incomparable soul. It has all the overtones of a film set, like the village of Portofino itself, its special kind of beauty turning cultivated casual into an art form. Home to discreet elegance, with an intimate yet lively ambience. Impeccable, warm and gracious hospitality.

Welcome to the Splendido Mare, a Belmond Hotel, Portofino, a charming guesthouse in the heart of the legendary Piazzetta.

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THE HISTORY

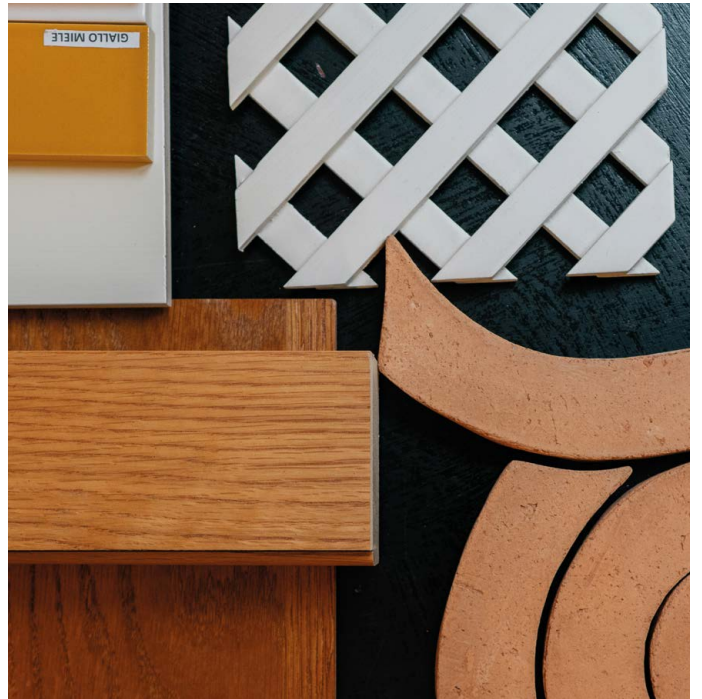
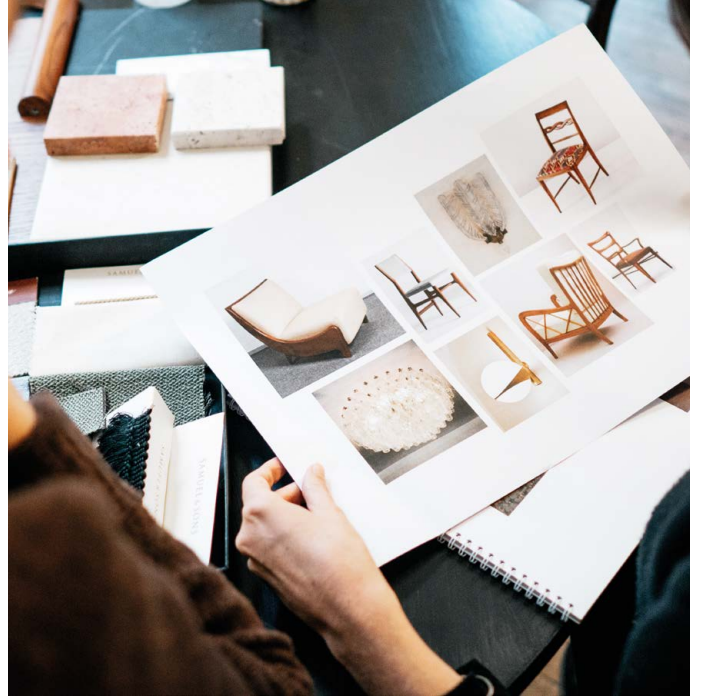
The building that is now home to the Splendido Mare has its own story to tell. Like the rest of Portofino, part of the building was constructed even before the Roman era, on the ruins of the existing dwellings of the zone's first inhabitants, the Ligurians. Portofino was already a fishing village when the Roman historian, Plinius, visited the settlement of Portus Delphini. This building was the first inn of Portofino, called the 'Nazionale', established by Silvio Gazzolo, an elderly retired fisherman. Visitors arrived here in horse-drawn postal carriages, stopping to enjoy delicious hot meals and a comfortable bed. The same family looked after the building for four generations, giving it its current appearance.

Belmond purchased the property in 1997 and replaced some of the smaller rooms with bright, well-appointed Double Rooms, Junior Suites and Suites.

There was no better place than the Chufly Bar for anyone who liked to "see and be seen". Located on the Piazzetta, it has always been a hive of activity, the perfect place for people-watching while enjoying breakfast, lunch, dinner or an aperitivo, and maybe even catching sight of a few famous faces.

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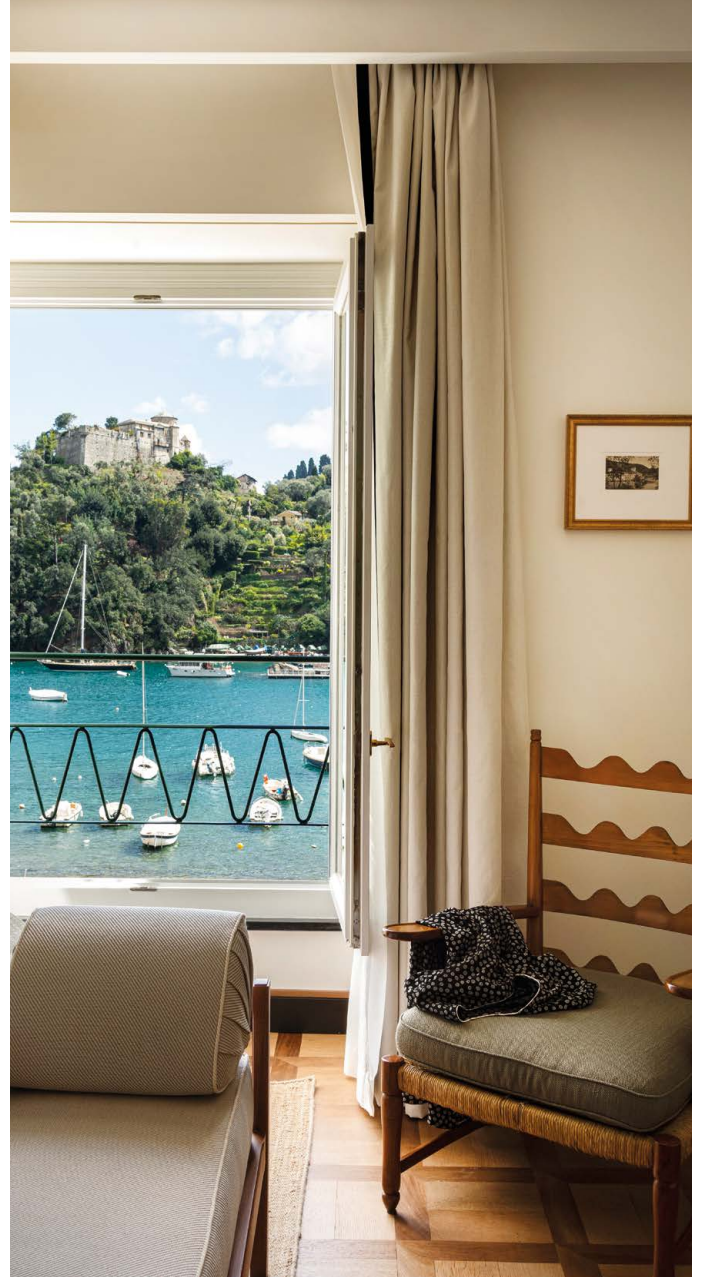
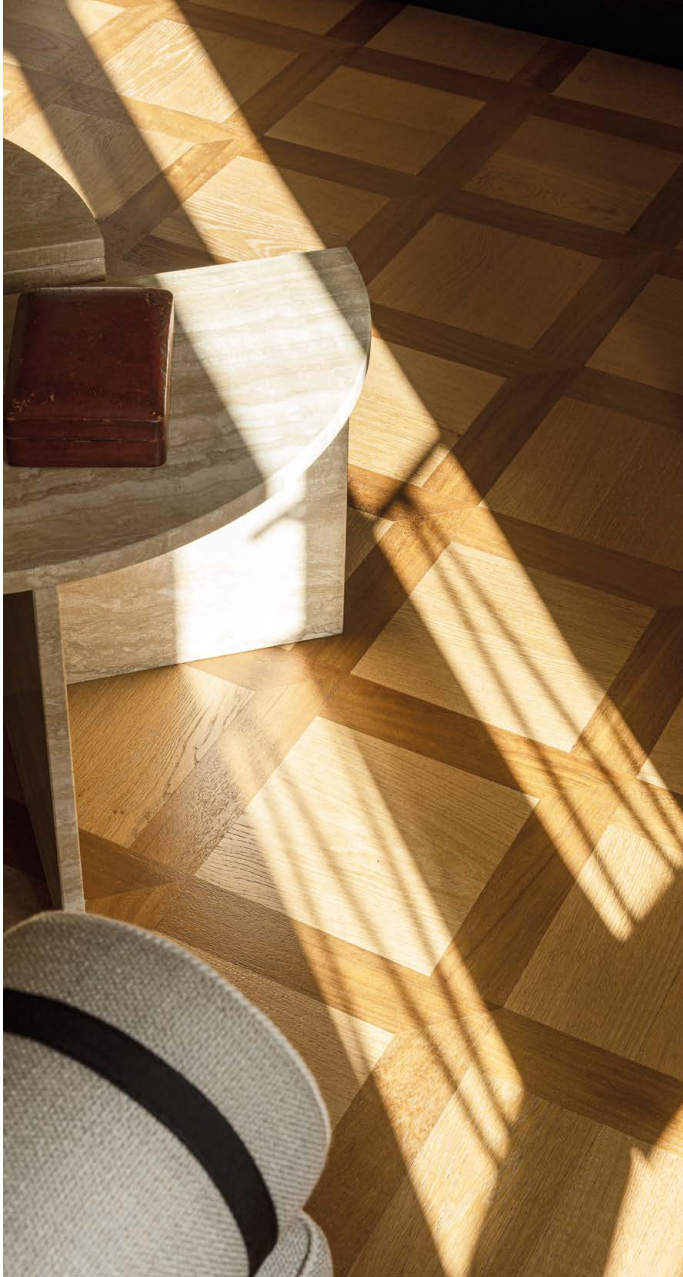
REFURBISHMENT AND NEW LOOK

Splendido Mare is reopening in May 2021 with a completely new look designed by Paris-based firm, Festen Architecture, reviving the timeless charm of Portofino condensed into a welcoming, stylish guesthouse.

"We really love transforming classical spaces, delving into their storied past to conceptualise their future. It was inspiring to learn about the humble beginnings of Splendido Mare as a guesthouse for fishermen and a natural gathering place in Portofino. Our project echoes the style of a private residence, where contemporary and vintage pieces coexist to create an atmosphere filled with personality. We tried to keep the design of the hotel as faithful as possible to its surroundings: we want guests to feel at home, but also to feel and appreciate the historical spirit of the location", says Charlotte de Tonnac, co-founder of Festen Architecture.

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The Nautical Style

Each of the 14 guest rooms and suites are a nod to the marina's seafaring history, with details made from the locally sourced, hand-varnished wood traditionally used in the fishing boats. Fishing boats also inspired renowned textile designer Véronique de Soultrait, who crafted the custom-made headboards, using braided ropes to create geometric patterns. The hotel's emblem is the nautical knot, channelled through subtle details in the glassware and room keys. An incredible 7,000 terracotta tiles were handmade by a local artisan for the restaurant floor to echo the gentle motion of the sea, making it feel as if you're walking across the water.

Liguria

Every detail in the interiors evokes a sense of place, with discreet yet clear references to Liguria. Archways and ceilings feature accents in the traditional colours of the local fishermen's houses - amber, sea green and terracotta - the same pastel palette used on the facades for generations, immediately conjuring up the prevailing spirit of Liguria. The bespoke wooden latticed flooring is a Portofino signature, inspired by the church of San Giorgio that can be seen from the hotel. The bathrooms allude to the nearby 'Santa Margherita' beach cabins, with white, yellow, coral and green geometric tiles forming bold striped walls that stand out against the white marble floors.

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The 1950s

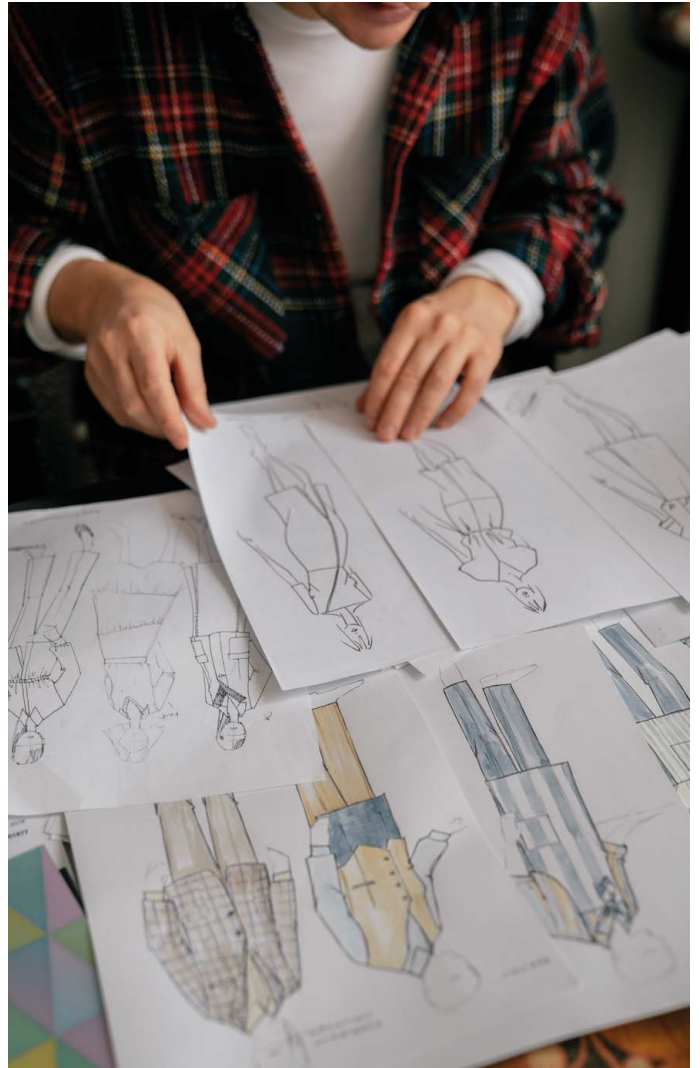
The mid-century decor is a celebration of Portofino's glamorous history and the iconic 1950s era, also a highpoint for modern Italian design. Each guestroom features authentic antiques, like the understated and iconic walnut armchairs by Gio Ponti and Paolo Buffa that add a layer of nostalgia, particularly for many Italian guests who grew up with similar decor in their homes. One of the suites is dedicated to Ava Gardner - mid-century glamour personified - who was a frequent visitor to the hotel Splendido in 1954, while filming 'The Barefoot Contessa' with Humphrey Bogart.

Genuine elegance

The architects have tastefully combined traditionally crafted elements revisited with a contemporary twist, original vintage pieces and bespoke decor. Every detail conveys the spirit of the place, underpinned by fine Italian craftsmanship and materials sourced in Italy, like the Carrara marble on the bathroom floors and the slate on the terraces. The decor is offset with fabrics by Loro Piana and Rubelli and the wall lamps are made from Murano Glass. The rooms have been named to reflect the heritage of the sea and nature and include La Marea (tide), Gozzo (traditional fishing boat) and Riva (shore).

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FASHION AND ART

Fashion designer Arthur Arbesser was commissioned to design the hotel staff attire. Recognised by Vogue and LVMH as an up-and-coming talent in the fashion industry, Arthur took on the challenge of creating an original style that would reflect the spirit of Portofino, revisiting the whole concept of uniforms and designing an actual collection. He drew most of his inspiration for the colour palette of the outfits from the distinctive light of the bay that enhances and transforms the colours of nature throughout the day. Although his creations hint at the classic style of sophisticated, casual 1950s elegance, they also express a contemporary language. The exclusively Italian fabrics, which fall in flowing, understated lines, match the design of the interiors, the geometric patterns are reminiscent of the nautical world and the floral prints are a botanical reference to the Portofino National Park.

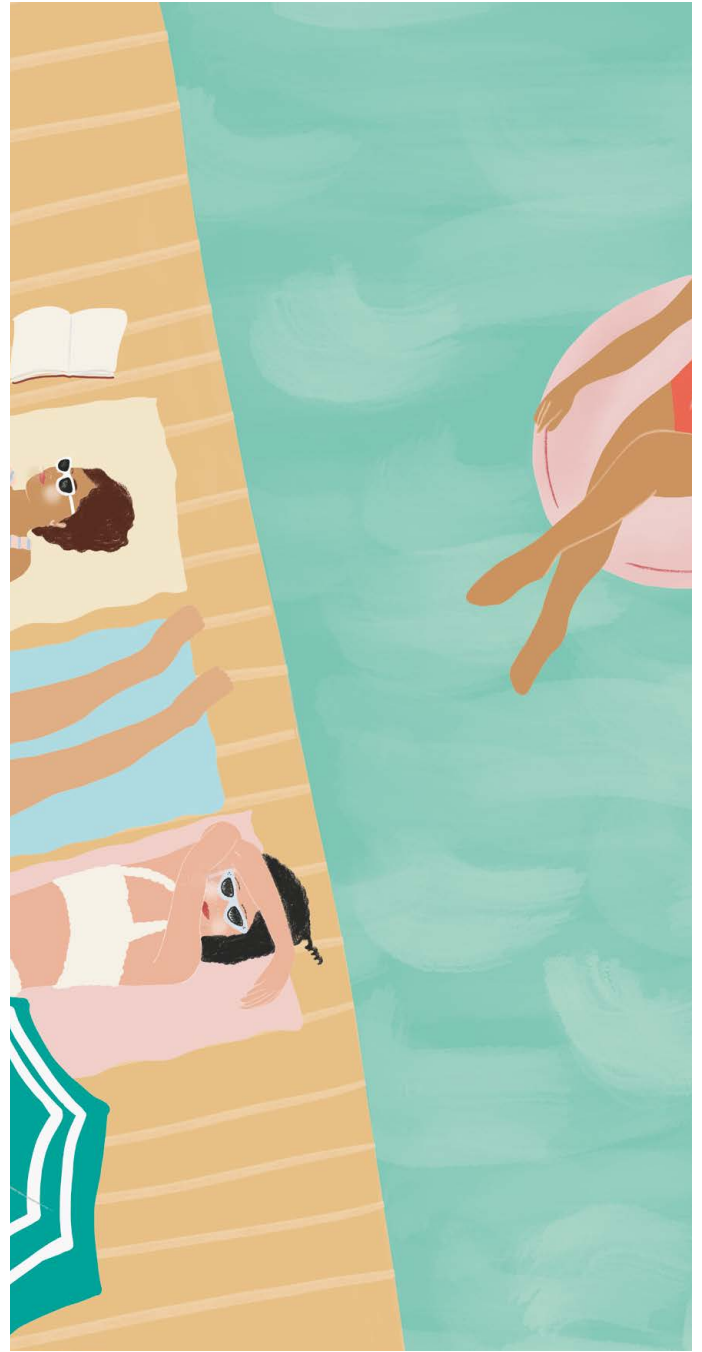
Art is an important feature, showcased throughout the hotel. Most of the artworks in the collection are by Italian artists, and include a range of mediums - paintings, photography, collages, drawings. They are curated by Artiq, an art consultancy based in London. The works and the artists were mainly chosen to complement the hotel's interior design, including the details in the use of forms, the motifs, the decorative flooring, the local landscape and the typical colours of the buildings in Portofino. The art collection expresses all these aspects and establishes a cohesive identity with the interiors.

The carefully selected collection of contemporary art scattered throughout the hotel includes pieces by Italian artist Gabriele Cappelli - recognised for his modernist simplicity and exploration of colour - which convey the typical sense of undiminished elegance that makes Portofino so unique. A selection of art photographs and abstract works by Ligurian artists portray the spirit of the place, its iconic history and the beauty of its landscape, enhancing the feeling of being at home.

Other artists who have played their part in complementing and enhancing the hotel's collection include Gianni Lucchesi, Rossano Liberatore, Jesus Perea and Holly Miller.

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CLOROPHILLA'S ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THE "MARE"

Ludovica Basso, aka Clorophilla, is a versatile artist who lives by the sea. She is also an avid traveller, and when she cannot travel physically, her mind steps up to the plate. Clorophilla is a freelance illustrator and works with leading brands and companies from her studio in Liguria. She uses a range of materials and techniques for her art. Hers is an imaginary world, populated by enchanted animals, goddesses, mermaids, shooting stars, votive offerings and halos, a world where sacred and profane come together. She has created an exclusive set of illustrations and images for Splendido Mare, interpreting the beauty of the landscape and the village. Her works will be incorporated into the hotel's graphics range, which includes postcards, brochures and gifts for guests.

In creating her illustrations, Clorophilla envisioned the advertising images from the 1960s, which depict a joyful, refined and elegant imagery, as well as fashion shoots of that era, portraying the glamorous lifestyle that Portofino embodies. The images convey a sense of sophisticated lightness, encouraging guests to embrace the beauty surrounding them. The colours echo the palette of the facades of Portofino's buildings and the almost greenish blue evokes the hues of the sea at nearby Paraggi. Her images will enable guests to relive the sensations and memories of their stay at Splendido Mare once they return home.

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THE DaV MARE RESTAURANT AND THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CEREAL FAMILY

The opening of the new DaV Mare restaurant and the partnership with Da Vittorio Group bring a new dimension to fine dining on the eastern Ligurian riviera, combining the Belmond brand's legendary art of hospitality with the extraordinary culinary expertise of the Cerea family.

The restaurant, and its alfresco dining experience, is set to become the new social hotspot of Portofino's famous Piazzetta.

The taste of the "Mare"

Local, seasonal fresh fish and seafood are the main feature of the menu, alongside creatively reinterpreted regional specialties like 'cappon magro', a majestic assemblage of fish and vegetables. Signature dishes from the Cerea family restaurant in Brusaporto will also be served, including Paccheri alla Vittorio, a pasta dish masterfully finished at the table in front of the guests, as well as innovative creations like Risotto with Pesto and Santa Margherita Ligure shrimps.

"When we opened our first restaurant - Da Vittorio - in Bergamo 55 years ago, we were determined to innovate, proposing a fish and seafood cuisine in a city traditionally dominated by meat. Now we are bringing our culinary knowledge back to the seaside, making a family dream come true. Like Belmond, we feel passionate about simplicity, with the addition of a dash of innovation to reinterpret tradition. Just one more reason why we can't wait to embark on this partnership, which promises to be very exciting", declared the Cerea family.

DaV Mare is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. You can also enjoy a coffee in the morning, a snack in the afternoon and an aperitivo before dinner, watching the sun as it sets over the picturesque village and the people converging on the Piazzetta as its social scene warms up. The restaurant provides 24-hour room service for the 14 rooms and suites of Splendido Mare, so guests can enjoy casual fine-dining from their private terrace as they taken in the mesmerising views of the marina.

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The Chefs at the helm

Executive chefs Enrico and Roberto Cerea and Paolo Rota combine their culinary expertise and creativity with the local knowledge and skills of Roberto Villa, executive chef at the Splendido Mare. Together, they seek out the finest ingredients, use simple cooking techniques to elevate the flavours and emphasise the principles of Slow Food®, a movement that originated in Italy.

Enrico 'Chicco' Cerea expertly combines the experience and interest in international cuisine gained from his extensive travels all over the world, with the recipes handed down from father to son. Roberto 'Bobo' Cerea too has spent time abroad, turning his experiences into delicious recipes inspired by the most authentic tradition of Mediterranean cuisine, seasoned with a cosmopolitan touch.

Paolo Rota joined the Da Vittorio family in 1990, at the tender age of 24. Seeing a keen and enquiring mind, the restaurant owner, Vittorio Cerea decided it was worthwhile sending him to train in international kitchens - at Lasarte, in the Basque Country, run by multi-starred chef Martin Berasategui and with Michel Roux, "godfather of modern restaurant cuisine in the UK". He and his brothers-in-law Chicco and Bobo are the present-day creative mind of Da Vittorio.

Last but certainly not least is Executive Chef Roberto Villa, who began working at the Splendido Mare twenty years ago and is renowned in the Portofino food scene for his extensive knowledge of local cuisine. He has forged strong ties with local fishermen and suppliers who supply him with the freshest ingredients, perfectly tailored to his style of cooking.

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DaV Bar

The cocktails at DaV Bar are inspired by the Ligurian landscape, by the colours and lush flora of Portofino and its park, which offers endless suggestions with the changing seasons.

Expert use of seasonal Ligurian staples, ingredients and products, like Levantello liqueur and chinotto from Savona, together with sophisticated mixology techniques transpose into sublime cocktails, with clear, distinct flavours and aromas, and a strong character. Bar Manager Jeff Zanotti presents each of his creations as a perfect balance of flavours and colours, experimentation and bouquet. In addition to the classics, the menu includes cocktails crafted from locally sourced ingredients, like Luce Solare, named after one of the Hotel's 14 splendid rooms - a bold cocktail, prepared with Pernambucco liqueur, obtained from the infusion of Pernambucco oranges from Finale Ligure. It continues with Il gozzo, a strong flavoured cocktail, made with hazelnut liqueur called "misto Chiavari", the Ligurian amaretto liqueur, with toasted hazelnuts and almonds mixed in very pure alcohol - the result is a smooth, enveloping infusion of pure almond and hazelnut, with a lingering aroma.

The DaV Bar offers genuinely local mixology, where the cocktails stand out for their distinctive character.

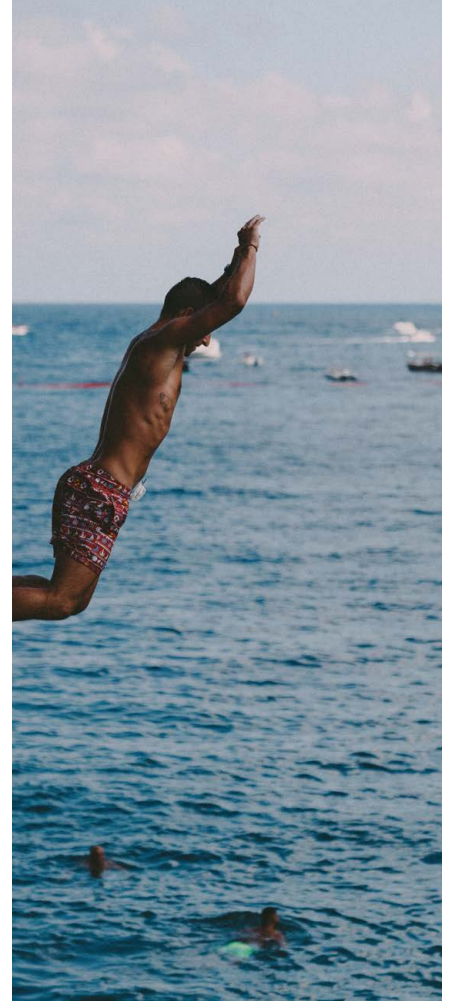
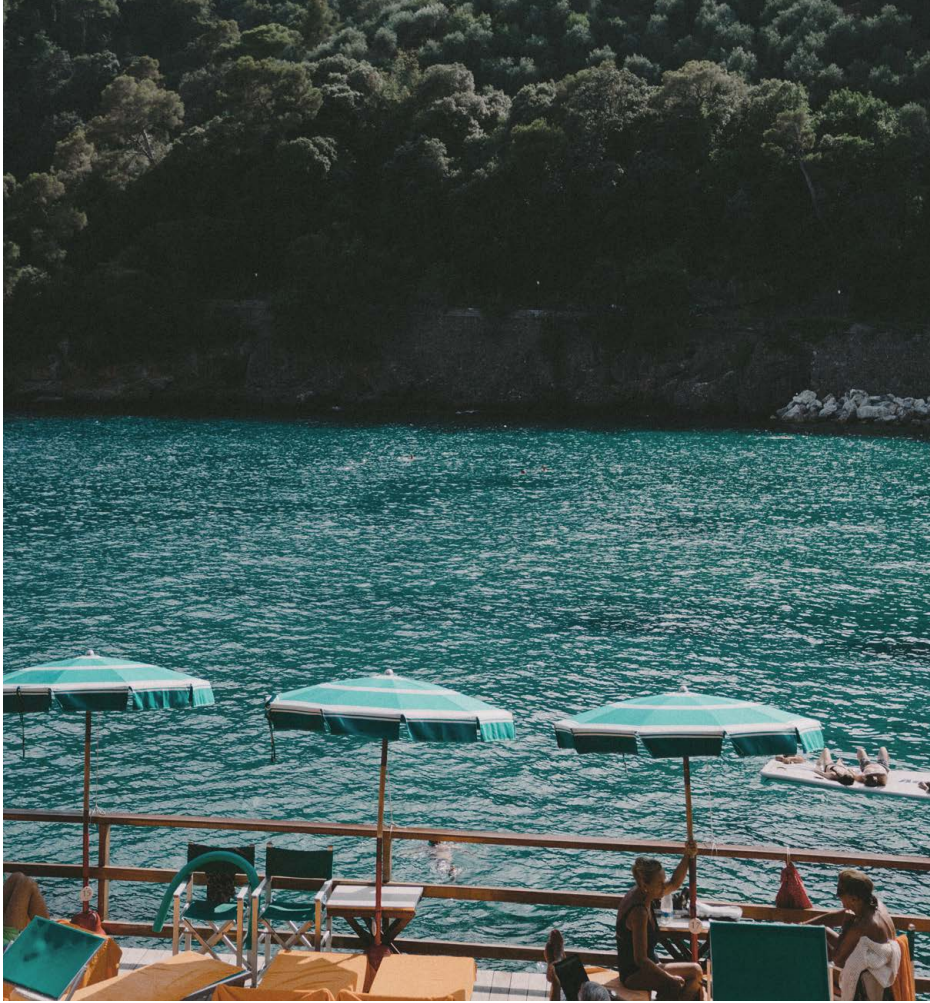


Let's meet at the "Mare"

The interior design of DaV Mare is also by Festen Architecture and expresses the hotel's laid-back sophistication. The details and nods to Portofino's early days as a fishing village are blended with its iconic 1950s glamour. Every little touch is designed to make guests feel at home as they soak up the hotel's quintessential past. Benefiting from its prime location in the centre of the infamous Piazzetta, DaV Mare's indoor and outdoor dining experience provides an inimitable setting to enjoy fine cuisine, while soaking up the natural beauty of Portofino and the spirit of La Dolce Vita.

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EXPERIENCES

The 'Bagni Fiore' on Paraggi Beach

Nestled in the spectacular natural setting of the Bay of Paraggi, between Santa Margherita Ligure and Portofino, since 1927 'Bagni Fiore' has expressed the essence of Italy's most elegant bathing tradition. A stone's throw from the turquoise waters of one of the most beautiful bays on the Ligurian coast, 'Bagni Fiore' has witnessed epic encounters between royalty and Hollywood stars. Boats are banned from this delightful bay: the rule here is total seclusion and tranquillity. A prestigious bathing establishment, a legendary beach, a place where privacy, flawless service and stunning scenery come together and leave you speechless.

The beach, with its fine sand and comfortable loungers, is popular with couples and families alike. The stone platform and boardwalk, featuring the traditional red beach cabins are a pleasant alternative to the sandy beach, perfect for lunch or an 'aperitivo'. The two teak decks overlooking the sea complete the exclusive offer of 'Bagni Fiore', delivering perfect views over the bay and its enchanting horizon, almost as if you were standing on the bow of a ship. Here you can relax and soak up the sun as the sea breeze gently caresses you.

Paraggi is just a short drive from the hotel in the courtesy shuttle, or an easy walk along the delightful, picturesque panoramic walkway called "Passeggiata dei Baci" that connects Portofino to Santa Margherita Ligure.

Amenities

Beach Concierge, dedicated staff to assist on the beach. Beach umbrellas, deckchairs and sun loungers. Water sprays, a selection of magazines and newspapers, books and games for children, sun creams on request.

Dining

All-day drinks and snacks provided by La Langosteria. A la carte lunch menu.

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Snorkelling and diving, the underwater treasures of Paraggi

The tiny Baia dell'Olivetta is located on the stretch of coast between Portofino harbour and Punta Faro, not far from Paraggi beach by the sea. The great variety of marine life populating these waters makes it a true paradise for snorkelling. Following the reef in the direction of Punta Faro, at a depth of a few metres, the submerged statue of the Olivetta portrays a scuba diver complete with fins and tanks. Rather unusual and unknown to most people, like all underwater statues it exudes an aura of intrigue and mystery.

Since time immemorial, a small underwater nativity scene has been located in the bay of Paraggi, a treasure hidden inside a small grotto at a depth of several metres, a popular attraction for divers.



Taking a trip on a gozzo

Guests can enjoy a unique experience, setting sail on the hotel's very own 'gozzo' to explore the area from an extraordinary perspective.

The tour on board this traditional wooden fishing boat is a slow and gentle way to sail along the coast and explore its beauties, like the Bay of San Fruttuoso and the stunning Punta Chiappa.

Possible tours:

San Fruttuoso: stop for a swim in front of the Abbey and the chance to dive and marvel at the extraordinary submerged statue of Christ of the Abyss.

Punta Chiappa: stop off for a Ligurian lunch in perfect street seafood style.

Camogli: guests can linger for a stroll around this quaint fishing village, with the chance to visit the workshop of a local artisan.

Picnic

Why not combine your trip by gozzo with a gourmet picnic prepared by the DaV Mare Restaurant's chef?

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The green, sustainable mount of Portofino

Splendido Mare invites its guests to rediscover the culture and traditions of its land through the sustainable, environmentally friendly world of the new La Portofinese eco-farm, which specialises in reclaiming abandoned land and restoring old farming traditions in an area that for centuries lived off more than just the sea. Take the trail from the village to the mount of Portofino park, where the farm is located and you'll discover a different, more intimate and hushed side of the area. The trip includes guided tasting tours for children, families and couples; a visit to the apiary, the vineyard and the olive grove; exploring the world of hops and tasting local products.



A day on the farm

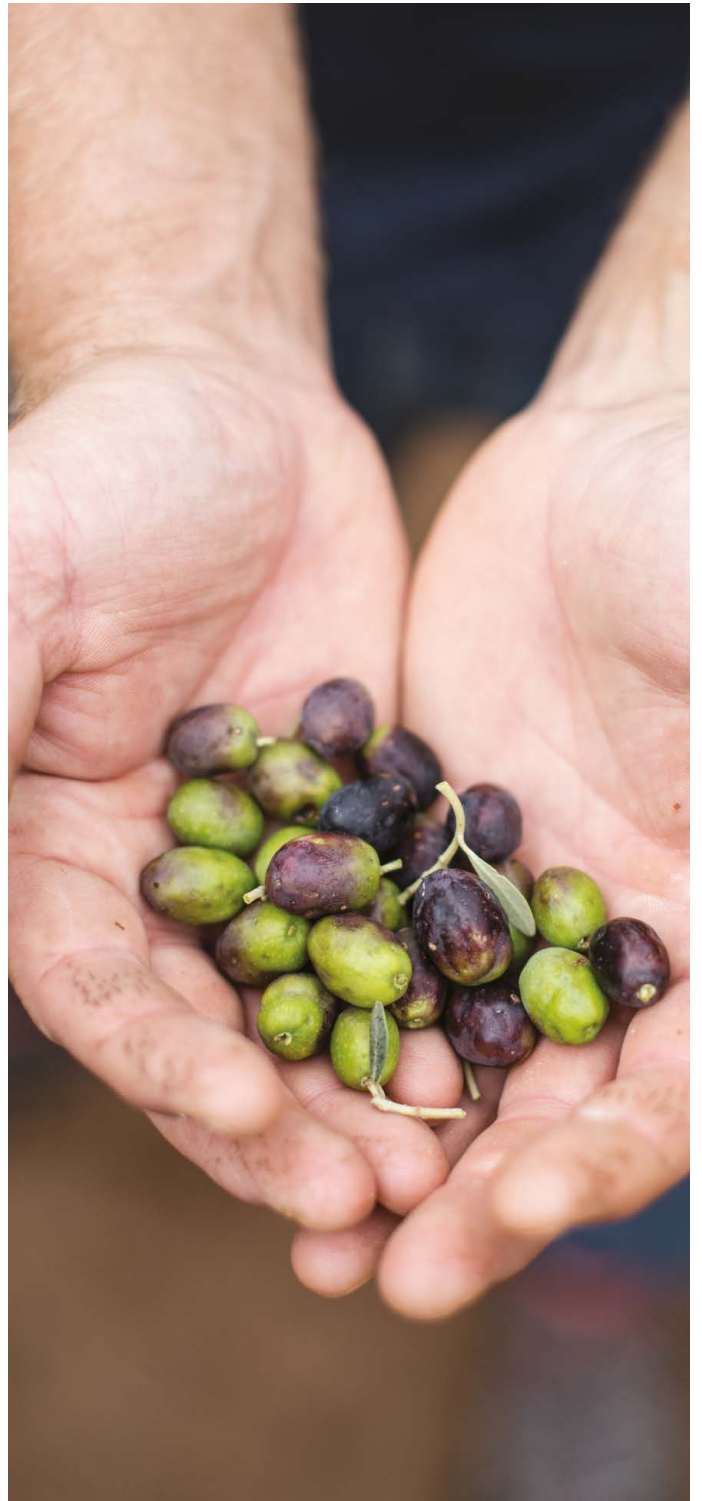
The I Coppelli farmstead stands between the ancient walls of an old drying room, used in the past to dry chestnuts, corncobs and other products harvested on the Portofino hillside. This structure has now been reconstructed, while still preserving its identity. The farm is equipped with an eco-sustainable system, soon making it energy self-sufficient and environmentally friendly. Inside, in addition to the cold press, a multifunctional workroom is used for processing and preparing the products of La Portofinese, including vegetables, fruit, wine and beer. A delightful old olive grove planted with young olive trees surrounds the building. Guests can enjoy an exclusive eco-friendly experience, visiting the olive grove, the kitchen garden, the herb garden and the petting farm, dining in the shade of the pergola overlooking the Regional Park of Mount Portofino, participating in cooking classes with the Chef and much more.

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Bike tours and country jaunts among the vineyards

It has never been so easy to explore the Mount of Portofino on an exclusive guided mountain bike tour with an accredited guide. You will cycle along the paths of the Portofino Park, soaking up the natural beauty of the Mediterranean vegetation, until you reach the grounds of the La Portofinese farm above the bay called Cala degli Inglesi, for exclusive wine tasting with a breathtaking view of the Ligurian Gulf. A table set up for guests celebrates the delicious food, genuineness and eco-sustainability of the Portofino area, embraced by the magical, convivial atmosphere of nature. Being able to taste an excellent wine right where it is made, just at the moment when its bouquet wafts most intensely through the vineyard air, promises to be an unforgettable experience.

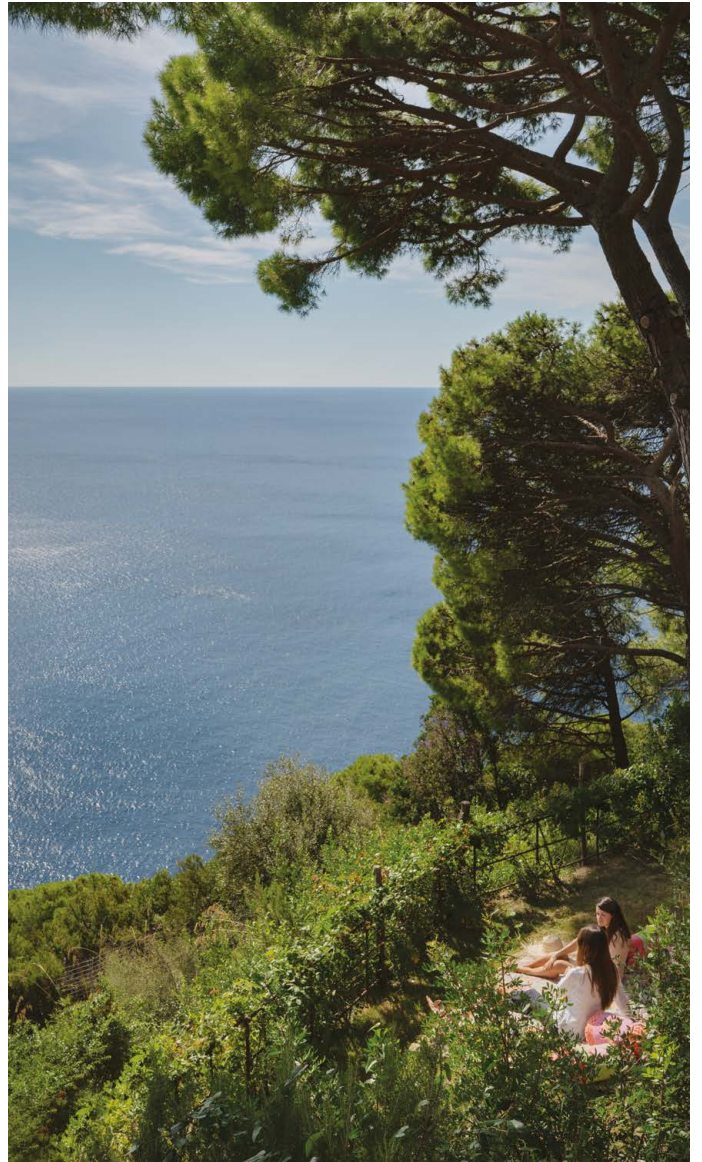


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Beekeeping tour followed by honey tasting and picnic

Honey, propolis and pollen from Mount Portofino are produced in the apiary forest, where beehives have been set up on biodynamic land following the ancient tradition of Benedictine monks. Naturally organic, two varieties of honey are produced: wildflower and chestnut. The beauty of the environment and the genuine quality of the products make this an exciting experience. It also offers the possibility of sponsoring a beehive and participating in an agricultural workshop.



Botanical tour of Mount Portofino

A cross between gastronomy and botany, a chance to explore the typical edible plants and herbs of the Tigullio area. A botanical guide accompanies guests along the paths of the Mount of Portofino, describing the properties of the wild herbs that grow in this region and how they are used for cooking, health and beauty.

Guests can see, touch and inhale the scent of the plants on this tour. Their essential oils will release the fragrance of these plants as they are touched, helping you to become familiar with the herbs in Liguria.

Guests will learn their scientific names and their common names, as well as their family, genus and species. The guide will explore the essential characteristics and interesting botanical features, as well as the use of aromatic and medicinal plants in cooking and for healing purposes.

The tour is rounded off with an exclusive culinary experience: guests will be able to taste the herbs they discovered during the tour at DaV Mare for a truly tasty Ligurian cooking lesson.

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Sustainable marine experiences

Raising public awareness and engaging the Portofino community are fundamental aspects of marine conservation. For this reason, in recent years Portofino has promoted and developed projects and partnerships focused on raising awareness among outdoor sports enthusiasts and the general public.

Outdoor Portofino is a team of professionals who love the sea and outdoor life in general. They are committed to promoting education, experiences, protection and communication projects associated with the local area, the environment and its sports, with the overarching goal of driving change towards a better future for people and the planet.

Hotel guests can enjoy some really special marine experiences, such as snorkelling and diving near the Bay of Paraggi with a professional marine biologist/ecologist or participating in a coasteering experience that combines swimming, diving and climbing: trekking across the sea rocks, traversing the coastline, walking, diving, swimming, climbing horizontally and exploring recesses and grottos. A marine biologist will introduce guests to protected species, providing insights into marine life and how to protect the environment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Danilo Quagliozzi | Public Relations Manager
T: +39 342 183 8488 - E: danilo.quagliozzi@belmond.com

FOR HIGH-RES IMAGES:

images.belmond.com

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Via Roma 2, 16034 Portofino, Genova
T: 0185 2678 02- E: reservations.spm@belmond.com

BELMOND.COM