

VILLA SAN MICHELE

A BELMOND HOTEL
FLORENCE

UNMISSABLE BELMOND EXPERIENCES

Villa San Michele presents “The Art of Making” and an exciting art season with an unmissable photographic exhibition by Massimo Listri



This season Villa San Michele is launching a series of incomparable and authentic experiences that showcase the art of savoir faire in a dialogue between tradition, innovation, creativity and sustainability. Don't miss the works on display in the hotel by Florentine master Massimo Listri.

Florence July 2021 - In keeping with the spirit of Villa San Michele, a hotel steeped in history, architecture and art, and with a strong link to local excellence, the Belmond property in the hills of Fiesole above Florence has created a programme of behind-the-scenes experiences for its guests this year. A journey through outstanding craftsmanship and the creativity of great masters, together with women and men who are passing on their expertise and creative spirit with dedication and passion.

In this series of experiences and excursions, Florence will be revealed to our guests as a vibrant hub of knowledge, where contemporary design dialogues with historical production techniques, resulting in irresistible creations that embody Florentine craftsmanship.

ABOARD A FIAT 1100 MUSONE: AN ICONIC CAR FOR VILLA SAN MICHELE

We set off in a FIAT 1100 Musone, an authentic 1950s car exclusive to Villa San Michele guests, who will be able to travel to the centre of Florence in style.

The saloon car, which is completely restored with original parts, boasts an unmistakable bonnet with a front grille reminiscent of a nose, hence the name 'Musone', meaning 'big muzzle'. Belmond has gone a step further, turning it into a **travelling work of art**. Featuring a latest-generation electric engine for sustainable mobility, available only to guests to explore Florence and the surrounding area, and exterior decorations by renowned street artist Lucamaleonte, the car is a perfect blend of art and elegance.

Riding in this vintage car to the city centre is a unique experience for a timeless journey.

THE ART OF MAKING TOUR – SUSTAINABLE TRADITIONS

Belmond's Musone will take guests to meet artisans in their workshops located in authentic areas of the city, where contemporary design dialogues with traditional forms of manual production, resulting in very high-quality, unique products: from a hat maker to a jewellery sculptor, via 'boxes of wonders' that recount lives through images, to clothes skilfully hand-sewn for generations. Each craftsman who opens the doors to their creative space will share a story of cultural heritage and uniqueness, expertise that they continue to pursue with enthusiasm and knowledge.

TALES OF TIMELESS CREATIVITY

The Artigianelli

Guests curious about the world of paper can enjoy a closed-door visit to the Atelier degli Artigianelli, based in the premises of the Istituto Pio X degli Artigianelli, once the heart of the city's artistic craft sector. In 1901, the complex provided aid, civil-religious education and handicraft training to children, and it maintains the same philosophy today. The Atelier's primary goal is to spread, through courses with expert craftsmen, knowledge of the artistic crafts associated with the world of paper.

A private workshop to experience the art of making handmade paper will offer a rare and unique opportunity to rediscover the art of papermaking and to appreciate a precious commodity hidden in a seemingly ordinary part of everyday life.

The Zeffirelli Collection

The day ends with an exclusive visit to the Franco Zeffirelli Collection, assembled by the famous Italian director of theatre, opera and film. The Foundation is located in the city's former Courthouse, which has been transformed into a museum of magnificent treasures. These include 3D stage reconstructions, unpublished behind-the-scenes photos, sketches and drawings by Zeffirelli and an entire room dedicated to Dante's Inferno. Guests at Villa San Michele will have an exclusive opportunity to access Zeffirelli's library and private archives to explore his thinking and the evolution of his productions by examining his papers and sketches.

ART IN VILLA

For the first time in Fiesole, from 13 May to 15 October, works by the internationally renowned Florentine photographer Massimo Listri, will be on display in selected common areas of the hotel. In his career, Listri has captured the most extraordinary villas and architectural works of all time. Guests at the La Loggia

restaurant and other selected locations in the hotel will be greeted by his photographic works. Anyone who spends a special stay at the villa will therefore be able to 'go on a journey' through lesser-known perspectives and details of some of the most famous cultural sites. The thirteen works on display will dialogue with the villa's Renaissance architecture. Works include photographs of historic Florentine buildings – Palazzo Serristori and Palazzo Martelli – as well as the Sala del Mappamondo in Palazzo Vecchio. The exhibition is organised by Mark Robinow, Artology Gallery. To find out more:

<https://www.belmond.com/it/hotels/europe/italy/florence/belmond-villa-san-michele/about#listri>

CURIOSITY CIRCLE: 25-28 NOVEMBER 2021

Life is theatre

This season Belmond is launching the Curiosity Circles, weekends dedicated to personal growth and exclusiveness where you can learn an art or craft from experts through moments of inspiration and creation. From 25-28 November, Villa San Michele is presenting a three-day event devoted to discovering the secrets of the fascinating art of set design. Accompanied by an expert set designer, guests will discover the world of theatre design, from costumes to props. It will be an opportunity to fuel your imagination and creativity during an immersive weekend that blends reality and fantasy. The experience includes a three-night stay at Villa San Michele.

For more information and to book activities and the accommodation package:

reservations.vsm@belmond.com

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ABOUT BELMOND

Belmond has been a pioneer in the luxury travel industry for over 45 years with a collection of unique experiences in some of the world's most fascinating and exciting destinations.

Since acquiring the iconic Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has continued to perpetuate the legendary art of travel, offering travellers from around the world the chance to experience amazing and unforgettable adventures. Its portfolio spans 24 countries with 46 extraordinary properties that include the illustrious Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train, remote retreats such as Cap Juluca in Anguilla, Italian havens such as Splendido in Portofino, and incomparable locations overlooking natural wonders such as the Hotel das Cataratas in Brazil's Iguazú National Park. From trains to river cruises, safari lodges and hotels, each property boasts incomparable experiences and has its own unique story to tell. The spirit of the Belmond brand is based on its historical heritage, craftsmanship and reputation for genuine, authentic service. Belmond regards itself as the custodian of timeless heritage, devoted to preserving its properties through sensitive restoration plans. Belmond is part of the world's leading luxury goods group LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.

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