

# GLOBAL DESIGN NEWS FROM BELMOND

## 2025 NEWS: HOTELS & VILLAS



### 1. **VILLA BEATRICE: THE ITALIAN RIVIERA'S MOST SCENIC PRIVATE VILLA, DESIGNED BY MARTIN BRUDNIZKI, LAUNCHING JULY 2025**

Perched on a private spit above Punta Caiega, on the Gulf of Portofino, between the Ligurian coastal hamlets of Paraggi and Portofino, this masterfully restored family palazzo offers a panoramic viewpoint over the Riviera, bringing guests seclusion and intimacy with private sea access. Villa Beatrice was crafted by Tuscan architect Gino Coppedè, blending Gothic Revival with Art Nouveau innovation. Belmond acquired the villa in 2021 and has since overseen its meticulous restoration under Martin Brudnizki's interior design vision and Marco Bay's landscape architecture expertise. Villa Beatrice's design identity is a heartfelt homage to Portofino's architectural heritage. The full façade has been carefully renewed to unveil intricate designs and deep terracotta tones, while the villa's grand arches, windows, and frescoed walls and ceilings have been preserved and uplifted. Hand-blown Murano glass and timber chandeliers hang from the ceiling to add a sculptural quality, and a sense of refinement, alongside antique Ligurian furniture and hand-painted ceramics, adding layers of texture and history.

**HOW:** [IMAGES](#) | [WEBSITE](#)

### 2. **A NEW ERA FOR SPLENDIDO, A BELMOND HOTEL, PORTOFINO, REVEALING MAJOR REDESIGN BY MARTIN BRUDNIZKI**

Splendido will reopen in June 2025, revealing a new, major phase of the multi-year renovation led by internationally renowned Martin Brudnizki Design Studio, capturing the spirit of Ligurian craftsmanship and design. The grand dame will reveal an entirely new main building, including new rooms and communal areas; a restyled cocktail bar; coffee bar; breakfast area; retail space, and Italy's first Dior Spa. The new rooms and suites are adorned with contemporary Italian artworks and local botanical prints, whilst the corridors feature exclusive sketches of Portofino and heritage photos of the iconic property and its guests. The new bar blends tradition with elevated design: bespoke Italian furniture, Murano glass chandeliers, and antique Ligurian details add texture and history.

**HOW:** [IMAGES](#) | [WEBSITE](#) | From £2,039 per night.



# BELMOND



### 3. **STUDIO ASHBY REDESIGN VILLA ROBERT GRAVES AT LA RESIDENCIA, A BELMOND HOTEL, MALLORCA, LAUNCHING APRIL 2025**

Launching April 2025, internationally acclaimed interior design firm, Studio Ashby embraces the artful spirit of La Residencia in the renovation of Villa Robert Graves, centred on thoughtfully elevating the existing interiors whilst infusing the space with a renewed feeling of spirit and soul. Honouring the Villa's Mallorcan heritage, select antiques will sit alongside exquisite Spanish pieces and locally crafted elements such as Mallorcan linen drapery, blown glass lamps, and other artisanal pieces. Offering a home to groups of six, with access to La Residencia's amenities only a five-minute stroll away, Villa Robert Graves boasts three double bedrooms, two of which can be reconfigured from double to twin, whilst the dressing room can serve as a nursery. The three floors are fully equipped with kitchen, bar, dining, and living area, complimented by two terraces and a pool. At the heart of Ashby's work is the art of layering, instilling a medley of strong shapes, vibrant patterns, expressive rugs, characterful antiques and plants across the décor, to make the space come alive.

**HOW:** [IMAGES](#) | [WEBSITE](#) | From £2,920 per night.

## 2025 NEWS: TRAINS

### 4. **BELMOND UNVEILS THE BRITANNIC EXPLORER, A BELMOND TRAIN, UK – THE FIRST LUXURY SLEEPER TRAIN IN ENGLAND & WALES, DESIGNED BY ALBION NORD, LAUNCHING JULY 2025**

From July 2025, England and Wales' first ever sleeper train, the Britannic Explorer will celebrate rail heritage, merging tradition with contemporary British culture. The train interiors, led by renowned London-based studio Albion Nord, will set a new standard in luxury design blending British charm, natural hues inspired by the surrounding breathtaking landscapes, heritage motifs and playful details. Each of the train's 18 cabins will couple sophistication and comfort, offering the three Grand Suites, inspired by British botanicals with playful upholstery, oak panelling, and an apothecary-style bar. Whilst the 15 Suites will be adorned in elegant Rubelli fabric by Luke Edward Hall, reconfiguring from bedroom by night to private dining rooms by day. Each carefully crafted in Britain, with ensuite marble mosaic bathrooms. This is complimented by the vibrant social heart of the train – the Observation, Restaurant and Bar Cars, and England's first and only spa on the rails, the Wellness Suite in collaboration with Wildsmith. Departing from London, the train offers three-night journeys through Cornwall, the Lake District, and Wales.

**HOW:** [IMAGES](#) | [WEBSITE](#) | From £11,000 for 2 pax, 3-night itinerary.



**BELMOND**



## 5. **L'OBSERVATOIRE BY JR: A NEW CARRIAGE LAUNCHES ABOARD THE VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS, A BELMOND TRAIN, EUROPE, FROM SPRING 2025**

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is proud to present L'Observatoire, an exclusive sleeper carriage with interiors conceptualised and designed by world-acclaimed artist JR. Now on the rails, this private carriage is the train's first to be designed by an artist and will become the most spacious accommodation type onboard any Belmond train. Drawing inspiration from astronomical observatories and Renaissance Europe's cabinet of curiosity, the sleeper carriage meticulously replicates the spirit of JR's Parisian art studio with personal "objets d'art" or keepsakes to be uncovered throughout the "studio on wheels". The carriage interiors flow through several micro-environments, from the bedroom featuring a free-standing bathtub, the adjoining bathroom, a lounge, library, and hidden Tea Room. With astronomy at the heart of the design inspiration, two oculi have been added to the ceiling in the bedroom and the Tea Room, creating a sense of wonder whilst guests gaze at the sky as the train trundles through Europe.

**HOW:** [IMAGES](#) | [WEBSITE](#) | From £80,000 per night.

## 2026: MORE TO COME

## 6. **VILLA SAN MICHELE, A BELMOND HOTEL, FLORENCE EMBARKS ON A JOURNEY OF REIMAGINATION, RELAUNCHING SPRING 2026**

Belmond is delighted to announce the renovation of Villa San Michele by Luigi Fragola Architects, with a grand reopening for the 2026 season. As an emblem of Italian Renaissance, from its façade attributed to the School of Michelangelo to its surrounding woodlands where Leonardo Da Vinci first attempted flight, this initiative will meticulously safeguard the hotel's historical architecture and gardens. Upon its reopening, 38 completely redesigned, state-of-the-art rooms and suites capture the spirit of the Villa's storied past with renewed elegance and sophistication, elevating the accommodation offering to new heights. At the heart of each room's design lies a celebration of time-honoured Tuscan craftsmanship, thanks to the collaboration with local makers deeply rooted with the heritage of the territory. For the 9,700 sqm gardens, Florentine landscape architecture studio Luca Ghezzi Garden Design will take the helm, restoring and redeveloping the historical aesthetics whilst enhancing the captivating views. The restoration of Villa San Michele underscores Belmond's unwavering dedication to preserving history and culture, once reopen the Villa promises to offer guests an unparalleled sojourn in a timeless retreat immersed in beauty, craftsmanship, and surrounding nature.

**HOW:** [IMAGES](#) | [WEBSITE](#) | Bookings live from June 2025.



# BELMOND

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information, please contact:

**Alexa Withers, Senior Manager - Global Brand Communications** - [alexa.withers@belmond.com](mailto:alexa.withers@belmond.com)  
**Aya Aroukatos, Manager - Global Brand Communications** - [anastasia.aroukatos@belmond.com](mailto:anastasia.aroukatos@belmond.com)

#### ABOUT BELMOND

Belmond was born from a passion for connecting discerning travellers with the world's most remarkable properties, locations and journeys. From hotels and trains to river cruises and safari lodges, Belmond's Slow Luxury invites guests to discover a new pace of travel as they savour time, engage with local culture, and connect with nature and people around them through incomparable experiences and unforgettable stories. With a legacy spanning over 45 years, since the acquisition of Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has grown into a global collection of 44 properties spread across 25 countries and territories. Exceptional destinations connected by legendary journeys are the very soul of Belmond, where the path that brings you to a place is as important as the destination itself. A pioneer of slow travel, Belmond has been operating the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express since 1982. Belmond later expanded to include pristine beach resorts, such as Maroma on the Riviera Maya, historic hideaways such as Villa San Michele in the Florentine foothills, urbane icons, such as Copacabana Palace in Rio de Janeiro, and gateways to UNESCO world heritage sites, such as Hotel das Cataratas in Brazil's Iguassu National Park. As proud custodians of storied properties, Belmond is committed to building on the past to create a new legacy: the heritage of the future. Working with communities and local talents, together with the world's most respected chefs, designers and artists, Belmond continues its purpose of perpetuating the legendary art of travel. Since 2019, Belmond has been part of the world's leading luxury group, LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton).

[belmond.com](https://belmond.com)

Follow Belmond: [\*\*Instagram\*\*](#) • [\*\*Youtube\*\*](#) • [\*\*Facebook\*\*](#) Please visit the [\*\*Belmond Media Hub\*\*](#)

# BELMOND