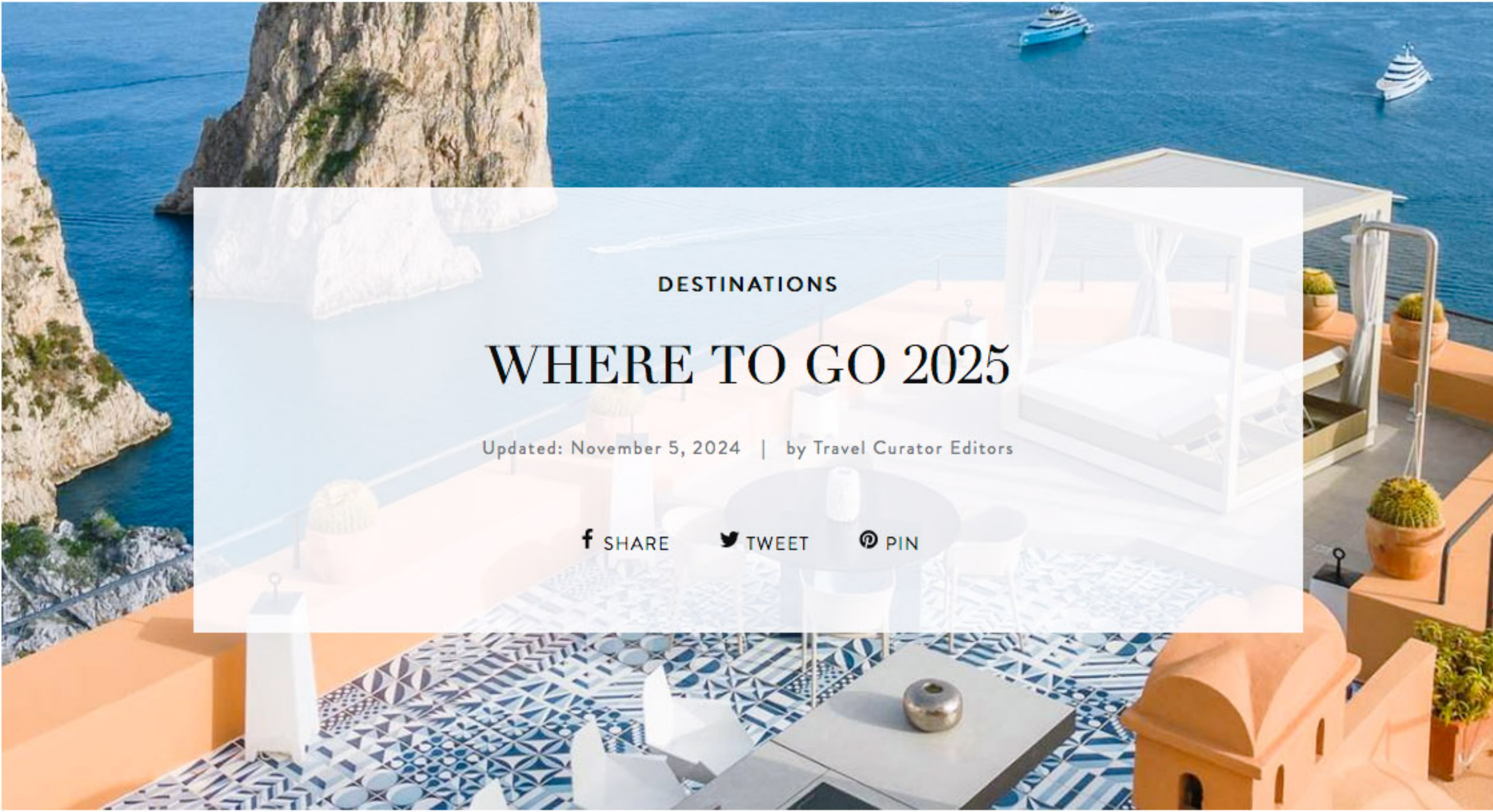




DESTINATIONS

WHERE TO GO 2025

Updated: November 5, 2024 | by Travel Curator Editors

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If you are anything like our team of intrepid *Travel Curator* writers and editors, you are already thinking about your 2025 travel plans. Where to go? What to see, do? Where to stay, dine, spa? Certainly we have been living and breathing next-year's adventures – for months now – spending time on the ground and in the air (also on the rails and at sea), exploring, discerning, and, of course, curating. Unearthing the next-best places, while still holding space for the hotels and destinations we've long known and loved is what we do best. Following, we unveil our top travel destinations for 2025. Some of the reveals you may already know and cherish (did someone say Italy?). While some are perhaps lesser traveled (i.e. Cartagena and Bolivia); and still others offer a slightly different take on a classic (i.e. immersing with rescue elephants in Thailand; taking a walk on the spiritual side in Portugal).

Where will you jet off to in 2025? Consider one of the incredible destinations on our curated list or even some of the very special places (i.e. North Carolina) hit hard by natural disasters this year, but already making their recovery and welcoming guests back. Wherever your travels take you, be sure to tag us in your photos. Happy traveling.

ITALY

LA DOLCE VITA ORIENT EXPRESS



Photo courtesy of La Dolce Vita Orient Express

Better than a murder mystery party a la Agatha Christie, you can now board the bonafide, utterly reimagined La Dolce Vita Orient Express, a stunning new locomotive launching in spring 2025. A collaboration of various entities including Trenitalia, Arsenale, and Accor, the luxurious train conjures Federico Fellini glam and sybaritic bygone opulence in its 31 silver screen-worthy cabins and suites. The long-awaited railroad adventure will choo choo through eight unique itineraries in Italy, embracing less explored locations including Palena in Abruzzo (known for its medieval architecture) and Matera in Basilicata, the third oldest city in the world. – Becca Hensley

SARDINIA

Called the Caribbean of the Mediterranean for its crystal clear turquoise waters and white sandy beaches, the Italian island has long been known to European tourists and is just starting to get on North Americans' radar. While the blingy Costa Smeralda gets busy, there are more and more alternatives that have the same beauty without all the bustle. Opened in 2024, the family-owned Le Dune Piscinas is surrounded by the dunes of the island's southeastern Costa Verde and stands out for its culinary program curated by Michelin-starred chef Fabio Ciervo. Also owned by a local family, the Delphina collection of resorts along the north coast includes some standouts, such as the romantic Capo d'Orso, which is a short boat ride from Porto Cervo but a quiet retreat on its own. – Ann Abel

THE DOLOMITES

The jagged peaks in the northeastern, German-speaking part of Italy have long been home to some of the world's best skiing and hiking. Now things are heating up in advance of the 2026 Winter Olympics, for which Cortina d'Ampezzo will be one of the host cities. The storied Rosa Alpina hotel is about to emerge from a major renovation as an Aman Resort, and other new places to stay include the gorgeously resorted Castel Hörtenberg in Bolzano and the brand-new, 19th-century gem Steinach Townhouse brought back to life in the historic center of Merano. On the culinary front, chef Norbert Niederkofler's latest restaurant, Atelier Moessmer, earned three Michelin stars right out of the gate last year. – Ann Abel

CAPRI



Photo courtesy of Manfredi Fine Hotels Collection

The epitome of la dolce vita and high-glam couture, this picturesque isle off the Amalfi Coast is not for the faint of heart. Capri is all about walking (uphill and down). After being dropped at the pedestrian-only palazzo, follow the twisty cobblestone streets past rows of designer boutiques (Gucci, Prada, Dolce&Gabbana) and walls of bougainvillea to the island's inner sanctuary: the five-star Punta Tragara, originally built as a private home. Set high on a cliff overlooking the sea, the now 38-room hotel (still owned by the Manfredi family), is home to a Michelin restaurant, sweet spa (we love the Italian INSÏUM products), art-deco style furnishings, and terraced suites. For the ultimate stay, reserve the recently renovated, two-story Art Suite, offering unequivocal views of the sea and Faraglioni rocks – from the deep-soaking tub and even more dreamily, from the bed. – Shari Mycek

MILAN

The undisputed capital of Italian fashion and design, Milan continues to cement its status as a hub for luxury travelers. With the iconic Duomo and high-end shopping districts just steps away, the Bulgari Hotel remains a favorite for those looking to immerse themselves in the city's chic atmosphere. Recent additions to Milan's luxury hotel scene include the stunning Casa Cipriani, offering an intimate yet glamorous stay near the financial district, and Portrait Milano, located in the historic Corso Venezia. Both hotels provide exceptional service, exquisite design, and proximity to Milan's cultural landmarks and exclusive boutiques, ensuring that even the most discerning travelers are catered to in true Milanese style. – Deanne Kaczerski

LAKE GARDA

Lake Garda, Italy's largest and perhaps most serene lake, is a destination where dramatic mountains meet tranquil waters, offering visitors a perfect mix of natural beauty and laid-back Italian charm. Known for its idyllic villages, olive groves, and historic towns, the region is a haven for those seeking both adventure and relaxation. At the heart of this paradise is the [Lafay Resort & Spa](#), a superb luxury retreat offering a world-class wellness experience. With an expansive spa, several outdoor and indoor pools (many heated), Michelin-starred dining, and panoramic views, LaFay is the ultimate escape for those looking to recharge. Opt for one of their exclusive Sky Suites offering multi-room living, personal sauna, and terrace with hot tub overlooking the lake. It's the sort of place where wearing a bathrobe to breakfast is encouraged. –

Deanne Kaczerski

VENICE

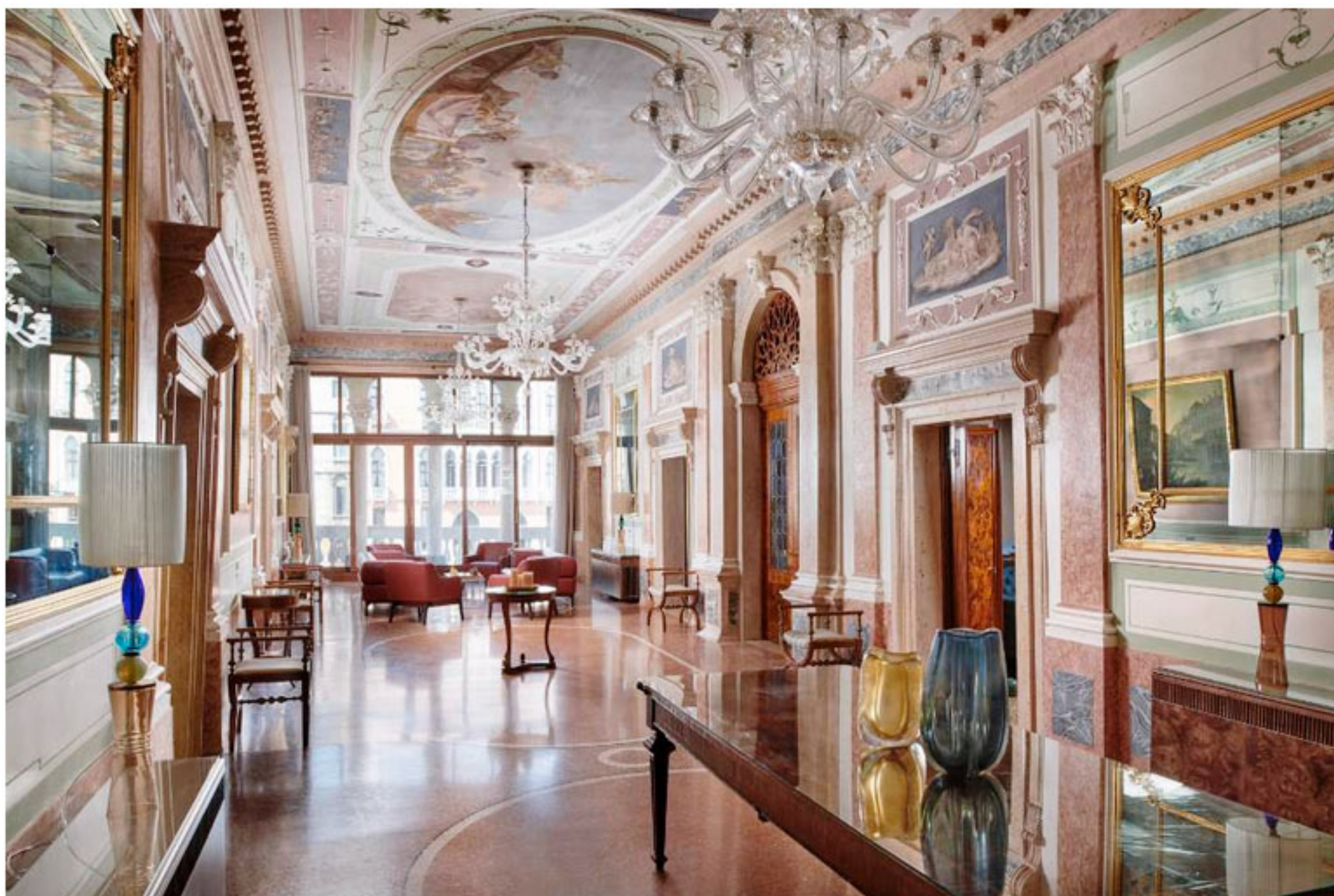


Photo courtesy of Palazzo Garzoni

Yes, there are tourists; day trippers snaking in single file behind flag-waving tour guides. But go anyway. Because this pretty, more than 1,000-year-old city, with its 100 small islands, 150 canals, and magnificent palaces and piazzas, is still worth traveling for. The secret lies in expertly and luxuriously navigating it. Start with a private, captained, teak (with leather interior) water taxi from the airport (don your giant shades and vintage scarf) to [Palazzo Garzoni](#), a restored 15th-century villa on the Grand Canal. Each of the four lavish apartments comes with original artwork, modish furniture, canal views, personal butler, and gourmet kitchen with pre-stocked Smeg refrigerator. More VIP decadence awaits at [The Gritti Palace](#), [The St. Regis Venice](#), or the city's most recent newcomers, [Nolinski Venezia](#) by the French group, EVOK or [Violino D'Oro](#), featuring Venetian blown glass and cocktails culled from Venetian gin. – Shari Mycek

VERONA

A short drive from Lake Garda, Verona, Italy's city of romance, sweeps visitors off their feet with its historic charm. Known for its ancient Roman amphitheater and Juliet's balcony (don't forget to grab her bronze boob for luck), Verona is as much about style as it is about story. Stroll down Via Mazzini to indulge in designer boutiques and artisanal finds, or take a pause at Piazza delle Erbe for a perfect morning espresso with a side of people-watching. For dinner, expect rustic dishes like risotto all'Amarone and hearty polenta, served with just the right amount of Italian flair. After a day of exploring, retreat to one of several luxurious five-star gems in the heart of Verona, including [Hotel Due Torri](#), [Vista Verona](#), and [Hotel NH Collection Palazzo Verona](#). It's a city where every corner feels cinematic – and a bit like it's flirting with you.

– Deanne Kaczerski