

# Mountain HIGH

Deep in the heart of the Dolomites, where Italy meets Austria, a pair of hostelries are showcasing Italy at its peak, says **Farhad Heydari**



**THE MAJESTIC VIEW** from San Lorenzo over the valley toward Brunico



**A RUSTIC LOUNGE** at San Lorenzo



**UNTIL JUST A FEW YEARS AGO,** Italy's northern-most region of Trentino-Alto Adige wasn't grabbing too many headlines. A quiet, mountainous province tucked up against Austria's Tyrol, it was renowned locally – and with visiting Germans, Dutch and Swiss – for its clean design, earthy cuisine and rich wines. Then in 2007, a pentad of its eateries were awarded stars by Michelin; today, this uniquely bilingual wedge of the newly UNESCO-crowned Dolomites boasts the most Michelin stars of any Italian province, vintages that are making oenophiles sit up and take notice, and rousing, minimalist architecture that is the talk of the design world.

Which is why the addition of a pair of equally rousing hostelries, to the ever-

bulging roster of stylish eco-friendly hotels and B&Bs that are speckled in its verdant valleys and on the hillsides of its serrated peaks, shouldn't come as any surprise. The first is **San Lorenzo Mountain Lodge**: a 16th-century *maso*, or farmhouse, perched 1,200 metres at the edge of a couloir in the Val Pusteria, above the town of Brunico. The brainchild of Giorgia and Stefano Barbini, the lodge, which sleeps six in three en-suite bedrooms and another four in a rusticated dwelling with a pair of bunks, marries centuries-old charm with mod cons, including an underfloor heating system hidden by the larch and stone. Guests, who must hire the lodge exclusively, have a troika of lounges to call their own, including one anchored by a roaring wood-burning fireplace and ➤

another by a massive flatscreen TV. To soothe the aches and pains following a day out on the hiking trails that crisscross the 17-hectare estate, there is a state-of-the-art outdoor hydrotherapy pool with jet lane and a petite spa, complete with an indoor whirlpool, a steam room, a sauna fashioned from ancient spruce and an automatically refilling bucket dunk. But the hallmark of the property, which also features a wine cellar and a traditional stube, are its artisanal accessories, like the rabbit and cashmere throws, the loden pillow coverings and the one-off blankets, handmade from wolf and coyote skin.

## INFO

**San Lorenzo Mountain Lodge**, from €900-€2,800, [sanlorenzo-mountainlodge.it](http://sanlorenzo-mountainlodge.it)