

THE HISTORY

1500 De Barbari, the celebrated Renaissance painter and engraver, famous for his woodblock matrix for producing copies of the most accurate map of Venice of the 16th century, included in this work a building that can be identified as the present-day Hotel Metropole. Original copies of the map are on display at the Museo Correr in Venice and the British Museum in London.

1686 A chapel is added to the original building. This is where Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) gave music lessons and from 1703 to 1740 composed his masterpieces: the *Estro Armonico* op.III, the *Concerti*, and the *Four Seasons*.

1745 Work starts on the reconstruction of the whole area. In 1760 the new church, called Santa Maria della Visitazione, or the *Pieta*, designed by Giorgio Masari and erected next to the site of the hotel, is consecrated.

1880 The first major restoration takes place, and the original building is turned into a hotel.

1895 Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, on a trip to Venice, stays at the hotel, at that time called Casa Kirsch. He wrote to his wife Martha: 'Don't expect me to send you much in the way of description. The thrill of being in Venice makes it impossible.'

1897 In the historian A. Muller's *Pocket Guide to Venice and its Surroundings*, this hotel is listed as one of the best in town.

1939 In order to comply with nationalistic regulations introduced during this period banning the use of foreign names, the hotel changes its name to the *Metropoli*.

1942-45 During this wartime period the hotel is taken over by the Red Cross and turned into a hospital.

1912-54 The hotel is owned first by Vittorio Boscaro, then Plinio Boscaro, both Venetian.

1968 Control of this prestigious hotel passes to the Beggiato family, who by devoting themselves with passion and determination to the art of receiving guests have over the years established the *Metropole* as the most welcoming and elegant hotel in the city.

1990 The *Metropole* expands, with the acquisition of the secret garden and the north wing. Ten new rooms and the spiral staircase dating from 1440 are opened to the public.

2000 Drawing with originality and discrimination on the latest international trends and innovations, Gloria Beggiato, daughter of Pier Luigi Beggiato, gives the hotel a new look, introducing to the *Metropole's* style and aesthetic an element of mystery and an oriental elegance, and opening it up to a variety of cultural initiatives.

HOTEL METROPOLE

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2005 For the first time in its history the Met Restaurant is awarded a Michelin star, the greatest of gastronomic accolades. Chef Corrado Fasolato's cuisine is a huge success in the lagoon city, winning favour both with food critics and with the general public.

2006 In April the final stage in the restyling of the hotel begins. The Exclusive Suites, with breathtaking views over the lagoon, luxury furnishings, unexpected details, and each with its own totally distinctive character, become the most luxurious and desirable rooms in the hotel.

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