

A Rare World.



THE TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE JOURNAL

Bali

CAPELLA UBUD

Capella Ubud

AMSTERDAM Pulitzer **LAKE COMO** Vista Palazzo

PARIS Lutetia Grand Hotel du Palais Royal **HONGKONG** The Murray

SINGAPORE The Capitol Kempinski Six Senses

VISTA PALAZZO

LAKE COMO

Intimate, and in town.



A **VENETIAN STYLE** palace in the center of Como proper has been renovated for 18 months, and as of June 2018, rebirthed as this 18-room boutique hotel called Vista Palazzo. Unlike many of the other top choices in the area, Vista does not offer a vast selection of on property facilities and amenities. A stay here is about savoring the destination itself, immense personal attention, and a central location. It's also open year-round, a rarity for this area.

Whenever we've visited Como, we've always been keen to take the train up from Milan. It's so easy and efficient, only about 30 minutes. Heading to Vista, it was all the more efficient, as the front entrance of the hotel is just around the corner from Como Lago Station; it's about 10 or 15 minutes' walk or a blip of a taxi to the more popular Como San Giovanni Station.

Inside the palace, we entered first into a gorgeously designed hallway leading to a cozy ground floor nook, where a small desk for one person serves as guest reception. We were greeted as family, and shown without delay upstairs to our suite for the nights ahead.

As previously mentioned, there are 18 keys in the house. They are divided into four categories—Deluxe Double Room, Junior Suite, Corner Junior Suite, and Suite. Suites measure at just shy of 600 square feet, but the real-life feel of these one-bedroom layouts goes beyond this number. Spacious as they are, both Junior categories are only a touch smaller.

Design in all keys is sleek and modern, comfortably in contrast to the antique edifice. There are lots of greys, but there is also a fair representation of color pops, like royal blue drapes and teal side chairs. Throughout, original parquet floors have been gloriously refinished, providing a soothing and clean feeling. Baths are richly appointed with fabulous slabs of marble and glorious soaking tubs. With the shades up, we could see the lake from ours.

The only common space in the building is on the penthouse level, which provides for a small library lounge, a bar, and the restaurant called Sottovoce. The space includes a small terrace with stools facing the best view this building has to offer.

With a max capacity barely above 20, Sottovoce provides a most intimate dining experience all day long.



A stay here is about savoring the destination itself...



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF VISTA PALAZZO

Breakfast is complimentary for guests, and includes a light cold buffet with an inventive menu made-to-order. On both mornings of our stay, we slept in and went up for breakfast closer to the stop time of 11am. If we had to find a critical point, it would be that we felt a little bit rushed through breakfast, but of course we were straggling...

We also visited Sottovoce once for lunch and for dinner. For lunch, we focused our selections on standards and basics, like a pasta pomodoro. The kitchen triumphed in creating comforting Italian flavors. The dinner menu is classical Italian, but with a bit of contemporary twist and flair, enough to keep things very

interesting without the slightest bit of gimmick. Service interactions at lunch and dinner were also much more accommodating and relaxed.

The service vibe here is can-do and familial, but with such a limited staff, the service you receive will absolutely be dependent upon whoever happens to be working when you need something. At reception, pros are pleased to offer recommendations from the heart, or to arrange for transportation or local experiences. Some will appreciate the "anything you want, just ask," aspect of this experience, but others may miss having a formal concierge desk.

Vista Palazzo is most certainly the choice on Lake Como for a more independent traveler. Location is the main draw here, and backing that up, personalization and intimacy. It's a unique addition to the Lake Como hospitality scene, and though it isn't for everyone, we feel a certain set will find a stay here to be absolutely dreamy. ●●●●

DOS & DON'TS

DO dine at Sottovoce. Simple pasta dishes were perfect for a comforting mid-day meal. Dinner was very interesting and worthwhile as well.

DO explore the town. It's right outside the door, as is the departure point for ferries and seaplanes to other villages on the lake.

DON'T expect lots of amenities or facilities. This is a luxurious refurbished palace with 18 bedrooms and a restaurant, but nothing else.

Vista Palazzo

Como, Italy

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