

Wallpaper*

JUNE 2015

*THE STUFF THAT REFINES YOU

UK £4.99
US \$10.00
AUS \$11.00
CDN \$10.00
DKK 80.00
F C 9.00
D C 11.00
NL € 9.00
I C 9.50
J ¥ 1780
SGP \$ 18.20
E C 9.00
SEK 80.00
CHF 16.00
AED 50.00

On the ball

Julio Le Parc's rainbow coalition with Hermès, Norman Foster's stellar cellar and John Soane's model marvels

Moving pictures

The San Francisco start-up betting big on digital art

Free ride

Why the driverless car is closer than you think

Paste masters

Artist-designed wallpaper from Ai Weiwei, Toyo Ito and John Baldessari

TRANSPORT &
TECHNOLOGY
SPECIAL



Future-proof fabrics

Checking In

THE NEW JW MARRIOTT VENICE, ALSO SEEN INSET, IS LOCATED ON THE CITY'S ISOLA DELLE ROSE. MATTEO THUN AND LUCA COLOMBO'S DESIGN, INTEGRATES CONTEMPORARY ELEMENTS WITHIN EXISTING BUILDINGS



Isle seat

Matteo Thun creates a Venetian island resort

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES MOLLISON
WRITER: JJ MARTIN

In building-crammed Venice, a simple tree can be a rare sight, which is why the newest launch from hotel group JW Marriott comes as a breath of fresh air.

Built on Isola delle Rose, the largest of the hundreds of islets scattered across the lagoon, the property is like a floating slice of countryside, with its 20 buildings – a hotel, private villas and a spa and wellness centre – surrounded by a lush park of olive trees, ivy-trellised terraces and a vegetable garden that supplies the two restaurants with produce.

'This is a return to nature,' says Milan-based architect Matteo Thun, who with partner Luca Colombo not only designed the buildings, but also the landscaping that unfurls across the 160,000 sq m property. 'Empty spaces are a luxury for Venice.'

A former convalescent hospital, the original structures date back to 1936. Rather than toppling the abandoned buildings, Thun restored each, then built new structures within the original frames without touching the existing walls. 'When you're inside, it feels modern,' says Thun, 'but from the outside, everything appears as it once was.'

Thun's 'box-in-a-box' principle allows for an authentic rendition of the buildings. 'I can't stand the "fake old" thing,' the »



ABOVE, THE TWO BEDROOM VILLA ROSE HAS ITS OWN PRIVATE POOL AND DECK
LEFT, THE SPHERICAL 'LAGUNA' LAMPS IN THE ROSE BAR ARE MADE FROM HAND-BLOWN MURANO GLASS

architect observes of Venice's many artificially produced 'historic' hotels. But his interiors are strictly non-nostalgic, focusing on his design doctrine of sustainability and zero waste.

A reliance on local suppliers means there are textiles from Rubelli, customised light installations by Barovier & Toso, bathroom fixtures from Zuchetti, hand-blown spherical glass lamps by Antonio Rodriguez, produced by Artemide, and furniture crafted from local wood. Meanwhile, all of the treatment rooms in the spa as well as the rooftop infinity pool offer views of the Venetian skyline. 'You can see the sunset over Piazza San Marco,' says the architect. 'It's fantastic. It's so rare to actually see Venice in Venice.' ★ *Isola delle Rose, Laguna di San Marco, Venice, tel: 39.041 296 8111, jvvenice.com. Rates: from €395*