





Grand Hotel Billia

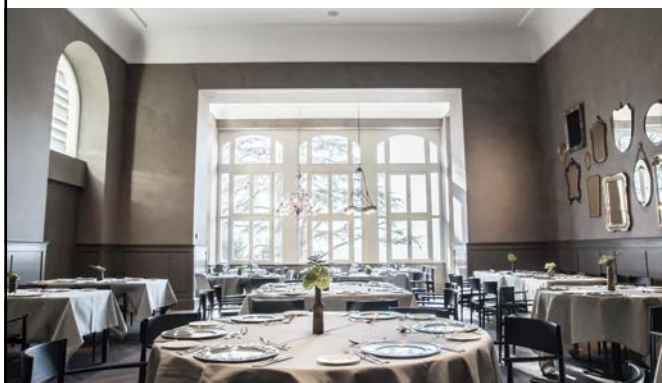
by Giorgia Mauri



If you want to avoid stormy weather and climb the highest mountains in Europe, come to Italy, in Aosta Valley, on the French and Swiss border.

These friendly "Giants of the Alps" are: Mont Blanc, Matterhorn, Monte Rosa and Gran Paradiso.

The **Grand Hotel Billia**, placed ideally centrally among the four "four thousand", is a 5 stars luxury hotel affiliated to Leading Hotels of The World. It is the heart of SAINT-VINCENT RESORT & CASINO, the pearl of the "charming little village" of Saint-Vincent, which became famous, as a summer destination of crowned





heads of Europe, thanks to its hot springs discovered in 1770.

Incidentally, at a few kilometers, in Gressan, there is a stud farm of Arabian horses.

The **Grand Hotel Billia** is the only Leading Hotel of The World which runs a gambling house, one of the most popular in the Continent, the historic Casino de la Vallée. Furthermore, the hotel has a Spa where you can do exclusive treatments with pure water that flows directly from the mountain peaks, and - in the Congress Centre Billia, with a capacity for more than 1000 delegates - a theater, where worldwide famous artists perform for the Resort's guests. A photographic exhibition testifies to the success of this historic structure, where events have drawn celebrities such as Sophia Loren, Sean Connery, Vittorio De Sica, Gina Lollobrigida, Marcello Mastroianni, Vittorio Gassman and Alberto Sordi, and film directors such as Federico Fellini and Michelangelo Antonioni. Since 2008 the 'International Festival of Magic', with the leading expert magicians of the planet, is taking place in Saint-Vincent.

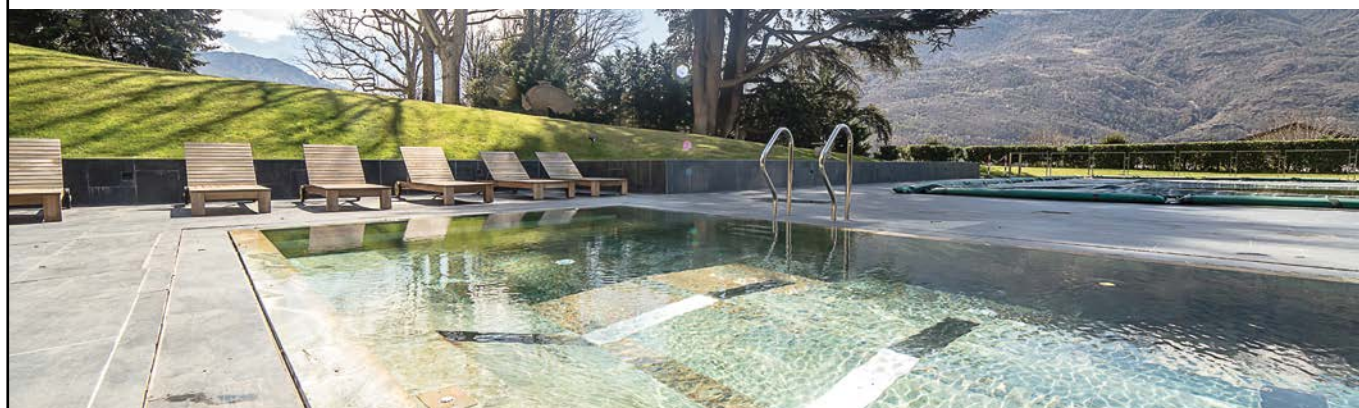
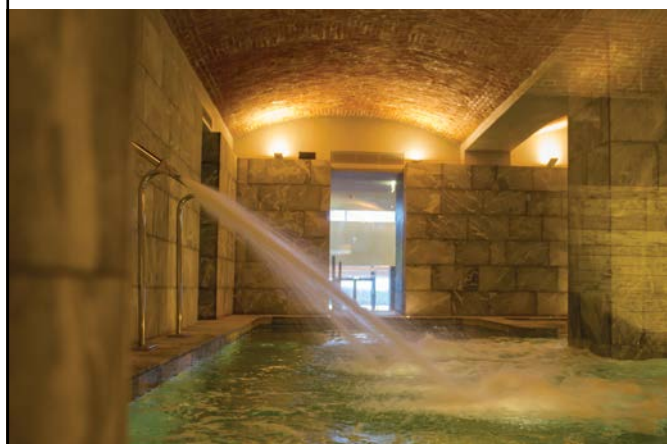


With easy access to the airports of Aosta, Turin, Malpensa, Geneva - capital of Swiss watchmaking - and Milan, capital of fashion and design and venue of the Universal Exhibition EXPO 2015, the Grand Hotel Billia is the perfect destination for a complete and exclusive “**Alpine Luxury Experience**”.

With helicopter and snowmobile or even on foot, accompanied by the most experienced mountain guides in Europe, you can get up to the mountain refuges over 2,000 meters, such as the Hospice of the Great St Bernard Pass (2,473 meters above sea level), which gives its name to the famous breed of dogs specialized in finding people under the snow.

At certain heights, the view extends over mystic landscapes, made of glaciers, lakes, forests, pastures. All this is easily accessible in all safety thanks to the Cervino Guides, whose experience and skill have distant roots in the history of alpine climbing.

Indeed, on July 2015 Aosta Valley celebrates the 150th anniversary of the conquest of the Matterhorn by the mountain guide Jean-Antoine Carrel and the region will promote several important events in partnership with Switzerland.





Another significant moment of summer 2015 will be the inauguration of the cable car "Skyway Monte Bianco", one of the highest in the world, rising up to 3,466 meters above the sea level, reaching Punta Helbronner, facing "au pair" the Mont Blanc. Already described as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World', the cableway will offer high tech spherical booths, which rotate 360 degrees to allow a full view of the surrounding tops of the 'giants'. Up there, above the four "four thousand", the sky is so clear that it seems you can touch it with your fingers. The scenery attracts tourists from all latitudes in summer and in winter too, thanks to a ski area of over 900 km of slopes and 300 cross-country tracks. The area has so many unique landmarks noticed by the Stars of Hollywood, so that Marvel Studios and Walt Disney wanted to shoot in the Bard Fort, under the Grand Hotel Billia, the sequel of The Avengers, 'Age of Ultron'.

The hotel building is extraordinary, it dates back to the early '900 and is in perfect Belle Epoque style, very sumptuous, with two towers, precious furnishings and vintage decorations. The Grand Hotel Billia has recently been completely renewed by the Architect Piero Lissoni, who mixed the tradition with contemporary design and modern facilities, with 27 suites including two "Presidential" of 100 square meters each. All the rooms support the latest technology, multimedia TV and Wi-Fi.

Surrounded by an age-old park, during summer, the hotel offers a large outdoor swimming pool with breathtaking view.

Even the gambling house has been restored by Lissoni within the 'Resort Project'. The Casino de la Vallée has been visited by famous people from the world of culture, politics and economy. It covers 3500 square meters on two levels, directly connected with the hotel facilities and with smoking areas characterized by large windows to enjoy the view of the valley.



Close to the hotel, there are tennis courts and, at a few kilometers, you can find the Cervino Golf Club, one of the highest in Europe, with 18 holes.

And after a day on the green, the Resort offers a drink in the bars located in different parts of the complex, in a contexts of design always different, welcoming, discrete or dynamic, and finally the pleasures of the table of skilled chefs in its five restaurants. The choice ranges from the nice "Brasserie du Casino", open until late at night, to "Gaya - Mood & Food" which serves the slot area, "Le Rascard Salon et Terrasse" with **traditional Aosta Valley cuisine**, to the most refined "1908" and "La Grande Vue", inside the Grand Hotel Billia, for an audience that prefers international cuisine. The dishes are rich in Mediterranean flavors thanks to the contrast of the climate in the area, including the "Adret", the side exposed to the sun, and the "Envers", the side in the shade, with two different microclimate. While appetizers and main courses recipes are made with worldwide famous cheese as the Fontina DOP and Salignön (a cottage cheese with hot and spicy flavour mixed with salt, pepper and chili, which makes superb "entrée" of each menu) made with milk coming from herds in the mountain pastures; the desserts are made with walnuts, hazelnuts, walnut oil, almonds and chestnuts. The staff of the SAINT-VINCENT RESORT& CASINO consists in local inhabitants who keeps by nature the traditional kindness of the mountains' people. They welcome tourists with friendliness, with open arms, with a smile, ready to exceed any needs. They will also entertain your children, in the Resort Mini Club or in the nearby equipped playground of Col de Joux,.

At the end of the day the Grand Hotel Billia pampers his guest with the "Goodnight praline", totally handmade and lovingly prepared by skilled local chocolatier.



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