



## **Extra Ordinary Byblos Art Hotel**

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This photo-art volume features the extraordinary spaces of the Byblos Art Hotel-Villa Amistà, just a few miles from Verona, Villa Amistà stands on the remains of a Roman “fortified house”. In the 15th century, the architect Michele Sanmicheli built the central body of the villa in Venetian style, while the present building, the work of the architect Ignazio Pellegrini, dates from the 1700s. The interior is filled with wonderful frescoes and original finds from both periods, recovered through careful scholarly restoration.

In 1999, Dino Facchini, an entrepreneur active in the field of fashion, bought Villa Amistà, which had lain abandoned since the last World War.

In 2004, Dino Facchini called in Alessandro Mendini to design the furnishings and curate the interiors. Through the addition of numerous works by internationally renowned artists, collected and also commissioned over time by Facchini, the villa was transformed into a veritable museum of contemporary art. Today Villa Amistà houses the Byblos Art Hotel, where history blends with contemporary artworks to generate a sense of wonder.

Mendini had the skill to harmonize the more eccentric qualities of his design with the Villa’s classic interiors. Glowing colors and sculptural forms coexist with paintings and marbles in the 17th-century rooms, creating a unique and exclusive project. On display in this original setting, in the communal spaces (from the restaurant to the winery), as well as the guest rooms, are more than 200 site-specific installations, paintings and sculptures by international artists, including Vanessa Beecroft, Damien Hirst, Marc Quinn, Anish Kapoor, Giulio Paolini, Beatriz Millar, Peter Halley, furnishings and objects by designers Ron Arad, Philippe Starck, Marcel Wanders, Ettore Sottsass, Eero Saarinen, Eero Aarnio and many others.

In this miscellany of such different styles and artists, the hotel presents itself as a kaleidoscopic container rich in fascinating juxtapositions, which coexist harmoniously, inviting the guests to be a part of it all.

The surprising collection and the creative work in Villa Amistà are the subject of a photo shoot created for the book by Paolo Riolzi with the stylist Carolina Trabattoni.

The volume, written by Maria Chiara Antonini, is enriched with contributions by Gabriella Belli, Massimo Minini, Mathias Facchini, Manuel Facchini and Paola Pimpi Amistà under the supervision of Beatriz Millar.

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