

The Palazzo Caracciolo joins the MGallery collection in Italy offering guests a unique hotel experience

Naples, March 16, 2010 – MGallery, Accor's collection of upscale hotels, has chosen the splendid setting of the Palazzo Caracciolo to present five historical Italian residences, each of them one of a kind.

The **Palazzo Caracciolo** evolved over time from a fortress into a seat of Neapolitan power. Though it appears detached from the hustle and bustle of the city, it is closely associated with Naples through its thick walls, its history, its role and its location.

The palace was once home to the short-lived governments of General Championnet's Neapolitan Republic and of Joachim Murat, King of Naples. It was renovated in 2009 and its distinctive former solemnity has now given way to the easy elegance and refinement that prevails in the designs of the hotel's 143 rooms.

This four storey building is structured around two vast porches and two large gates. Its interior design is in keeping with the building's perfect symmetry: simple curves emphasize its architectural beauty drawing their inspiration from the numerous historical periods witnessed by the palace. Pure lines and simple building materials like stone and wrought iron create the setting for the Neapolitan cuisine served in the hotel's restaurant "La Cucina".

The Palazzo Caracciolo in Naples, the Cerretani Hotel in Florence, the Papadopoli Hotel in Venice, the Tombolo Talasso Resort in Castagneto Carducci and the Villa Torretta in Milan.

These five unmistakably charming and prestigious historic residences form part of the MGallery collection in Italy. They will appeal to travelers seeking quality services as well as locations with personality and a soul. Whether they are situated right in the city centre or near exceptional tourist sites, all the hotels in the collection radiate remarkable personality and provide an environment where guests can enjoy an original hotel experience and pure self-indulgence.

The Cerretani Hotel reflects all the charm and elegance of Florence. Located in the heart of the birthplace of art and culture, this 17th century residence combines classical architecture with contemporary design perfectly. It was a favorite haunt for artists, intellectuals and some of the leaders of the Italian Futurism movement. The hotel is located in the heart of the city, a stone's throw from both the *Duomo* and Dante's House. Its 82 luxurious rooms and 1 suite feature solid wood furnishings and marble bathrooms. All the rooms are soundproofed ensuring a tranquil stay in a relaxing environment. Amenities include 24 hour room service as well as a broadband internet connection. The Cerretani's wine bar, "Il Michelangelo" is the

perfect place to relax in an elegant charming environment. Guests can enjoy delicious cocktails and Italian sparkling wines or sample traditional Tuscan specialties with local wines.

Venice, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, is home to the **Papadopoli Hotel**. This residence was built in 1959 on the edge of the old town, close to the Santa Lucia railway station. It looks out onto the Tolentini canal and the Papadopoli gardens. The hotel, which comprises 91 rooms and 5 suites, features sober architecture and luxurious Venetian furnishings. Hugo Pratt used to enjoy staying here after his travels.

The **Tombolo Talasso Resort** lies between land and sea in Castagneto Carducci (Livorno), amongst the Tuscan coast's "Tomboli" dunes praised the poet Carducci. In fact, these white sand dunes gave the hotel its name. The Tombolo Talasso Resort features elegant, minimalistic Art Déco design and offers an enchanting spa close to the sea which specializes in thalassotherapy and hydrotherapy. The thalassotherapy centre is located inside a charming grotto where color therapy reigns. The hotel's cuisine is inspired by local products and seafood. The 96 rooms and 10 suites are the ideal place to recharge one's batteries and find true harmony with the elements.

Lastly, the **Villa Torretta** is an oasis of calm on the outskirts of Milan. It was the former residence of the noblest and richest Milanese families. Their spirit lives on in the frescoed halls, adorned with marble and family coats of arms and in the rooms with coffered ceilings and antique furnishings. All the rooms look out onto lush gardens where flowers and rare plants abound. Each of the 67 rooms and 25 suites arranged over the five floors are different. Likewise the hotel's 3 presidential suites feature their own very individual interiors with four poster beds and luxurious oak sofas. The hotel's restaurant serves delicious Milanese and Lombard specialties that will delight even the finest of palates.

For more information about the hotels in the MGallery collection visit www.mgallery.com.

MGallery is a collection of upscale hotels that are remarkable in their personality. They will appeal to individual travelers looking for distinctive services or seeking a place with a true soul.

Whether located downtown or in prime tourist areas, each hotel in the collection offers a distinctive setting in which guests will enjoy an original hotel experience reflecting a philosophy of pleasure.

Launched in September 2008 by Accor, it now extends to the five continents with 30 properties and will comprise 100 hotels by year-end 2012.

More information about the hotels in the MGallery collection is available at the mgallery.com website.

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