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THE ART & STYLE ISSUE

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YOUR OWN PRIVATE PALACE

Palazzo Volpi
Campo San Giovanni e Paolo, Castello

Luxury has been a late adopter of the 21st century's sharing economy. But things are changing. With Palazzo Volpi, husband-and-wife design team Anna Covre and Frédéric Tubau have transformed a formerly run-down 16th-century palace into something quite remarkable for a city married to history and tradition: elegant and expansive private rental apartments finished to the very highest standards of contemporary design.

Overlooking one of the city's prettiest—and quietest—squares, Palazzo Volpi is a rare thing in Venice: modern. But this is a modernity tempered with respect for the bones of this grand old building and its privileged position. Every understatedly glamorous detail is bespoke, from the striking Nero Marquina and Venetian White marble flooring—laid in a design inspired by the entrance to the Zattere church—to the silk velvet-upholstered Maxalto chairs, sanded oak-framed MiraStar mirrors, and light fixtures made by local artisans.

"We wanted to create a place different from everything else in Venice," says Covre, a native Venetian who has lived and worked extensively in Paris and Tokyo. "Neutral and contemporary, in contrast with the outside to enhance the view, but at the same time to showcase specific elements of Venice: walls painted the color of the famous white marble; the exotic wood lacquer, evocative of the water taxis on the Grand Canal; sliding panels inspired by the portals of the Basilica San Marco; and green and pink velvet, which remind us of the colors used in the boudoirs of the city's *palazzi*."

In such considered interiors, it would be easy to luxuriate in the comfort of Palazzo Volpi without ever going outside. But Venice demands meandering, and this location feels refreshingly off the tourist trail. Fortunately, the city's oldest and arguably finest *pasticceria*, Rosa Salva, is just next door, where the simple act of ordering an espresso or a few *tramezzini* makes you feel like a local.
www.palazzovolpi.com

