



## VILLA PRINCIPE LEOPOLDO HOTEL & SPA Celebrating twenty years of professionalism

Nestling on top of the “**Collina d’Oro**”, an elegant residential district in Lugano, **Villa Principe Leopoldo Hotel & SPA** owes its name to Frederick Leopold, a descendent of the famous Hohenzollern dynasty.

In 1986 the Villa was turned into a Hotel. Paintings, stucco-finish artwork and period furniture provide the magnificent backdrop to exclusive suites and rooms, imbuing the establishment with the warmth and elegance which are so typical of royal residences.

Guests will also enjoy the luminous winter garden, the **Limonaia**, the **Bar & Lounge Principe** and the **Cafè Leopoldo**: a haven of peace and quiet.

In addition to the heated outdoor pool, lovers of beauty and wellness treatments will relish the Villa’s exclusive, brand new **Kiso Spa**. **Kiso Spa** has re-elaborated natural cosmetic products and using high-tech formulae, has created its own cosmetic line, an ode to beauty in this sumptuous fairytale hotel.

But it is the **Restaurant Principe Leopoldo** which takes pride of place in the Hotel and which this year celebrates an important anniversary: it is twenty years since the Executive Chef **Dario Ranza**, the Maître **Claudio Recchia** and the Maître Sommelier **Gabriele Speziale** first set foot here.

Each of these three great professionals embarked on a career in hospitality at a young age but it was destiny that brought them together at Villa Principe Leopoldo in 1989 and they soon became a close-knit team, one which has grown over the years, selflessly training young staff and never losing that initial enthusiasm and passion. After all these years these three men have remained true to the same unmistakable style which initially set them apart and which enabled them to win the Hotel management’s trust and esteem, so much so that they are given a free rein as to how to achieve important goals.

Though a close-knit team, each man has very different character traits as can be seen from their curricula.

Dario Ranza, a native of Bergamo, Italy, completed his studies in Geneva and in 1980 began working in the Canton Ticino, later joining Villa Principe Leopoldo. In 1990 he became a Federal Maestro in German-speaking Switzerland, recognised by the FIC (International Federation of Cooks). His approach blends tradition and reinterpretation, exalting the ingredients, seasonal produce and the local territory. Reserved, but always ready to cater to the requests of the most demanding guests, he rejects the excessively showy approach adopted by many in his profession.

Claudio Recchia, left the Lake Maggiore area, thrilled at the chance of working at Villa Leopoldo with its particular magical atmosphere. The watchwords of his success, achieved at the cost of great sacrifice yet never flaunted, are commitment and continuity. In 2006 he was appointed Restaurant



Membre des Grandes Tables de Suisse

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Gran Maestro, awarded within the framework of AMIRA (the Association of Italian Hotel and Restaurant Maître); he is the youngest Gran Maestro. What he most appreciates about his profession is the dual relationship, consolidated on a daily basis both with his co-workers and with the Restaurant's clients whose every detail he studies in order to indulge their whims and desires.

Luxury and enchanting atmospheres are the underlying themes which have accompanied Gabriele Speziale as he acquired a wide range of professional experiences ranging from cruise ships to a royal residence on the Lake of Lugano. Curiosity is what underpins his constant search for the best wines as he constantly renews the wine cellar stocked with over 500 labels.

In short, three top notch profiles based on mutual respect and esteem. Three motivated professionals who are constantly striving to better themselves, always seeking out the best results and intent on growing professionally on a daily basis.

## **VILLA PRINCIPE LEOPOLDO HOTEL & SPA**

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