



Explore the perfect fusion of history and style along Via dei Condotti

GEMS OF THE ETERNAL CITY

A love letter to the magic and mystery of Rome by night: Bulgari's Lucia Silvestri's addresses for dinner and drinks with a view

Rome by day is mysterious. By night, when the moon breathes new life into crumbling friezes and the murmur of fountains blends with the click of high heels on cobblestones, it slips into the mythical.

"Nighttime doesn't stop the city. Instead it emphasises its most special possessions," says Lucia Silvestri, who has been jewellery creative director at Bulgari for a decade.

From the use of antique coins to the iconic cabochon cut of gems, Rome has shaped the brand's identity throughout its history. In turn, Bulgari has contributed to the restoration of iconic monuments including the Spanish Steps and the Baths of Caracalla.

This symbiotic relationship is celebrated through photography and a display of the most iconic designs from Bulgari's 139 years in the Domus Avrea, an intimate museum in the Via Condotti store.

Silvestri joined the gemmological department more than four decades ago and was mentored by Paolo, Nicola and Gianni Bulgari, the grandsons of Sotirio Bulgari (who founded the jewellery house in 1884). "I love to take late night walks around the Eternal City, for me it's a way to rediscover its cinematic beauty from a new perspective," she says.

She goes on to highlight that moment when the sky

turns 'navy' and the city is once again lit by monuments such as the Pantheon, Castel Sant'Angelo and Piazza Navona. "It's amazing to see the sensual darkness coexist with the constellations and illuminated landmarks. It's a sharp, intense contrast which is echoed by the way we combine sapphires with diamonds at Bulgari," she adds.

The brand's latest high jewellery collection, 'Mediterranea', includes several necklaces with this combination of gems including the Southern Sapphire, which took 1,650 hours to complete.

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Take in the breathtaking beauty of the Spanish Steps

Silvestri believes being spontaneous is typical of Romans which is why they favour 'casually elegant day to night' styles. "Often evenings are organised at the last minute. I go for an aperitivo after work and it flows into dinner."

One of her favourite places for a classic spritz is Terrazza Caffarelli, a cafe bar owned by and adjacent to the Capitoline Museums. She also names Terrazza Borromini and the terrace of the newly opened Bulgari Hotel Rome as 'hotspots'. "When evening falls, Rome unleashes all its magic."

For more info please go to italia.it/en

