

## SEVEN STARS AND STRIPES

TOWN HOUSE GALLERIA:  
EUROPE'S FIRST 7-STAR HOTEL

By Barry Kay

Our staff landed in Milan with the highest of expectations. Town House Galleria claimed to be Europe's first 7-star hotel. The hotel opened its elegant doors in December of 2006 and is located in the historic location of Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in Milan, Italy.

Milan is one of Italy's largest cities and is located in the plains of Lombardy with a population of over

7.4 million people in its metropolitan area. The city is renowned as one of the world's fashion and design capitals; the English word "milliner" is derived from its name. Milan is also considered one of the major artistic centers of northern Italy and its landmarks include:

- The Duomo, the second largest church in Italy the world's third largest church.

- The Teatro alla Scalla - Milan is considered one of the most famous centers for Opera.

- The Biblioteca Ambrosiana, containing the drawings and notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci.

The skyline of Milan is undergoing a dramatic architectural and urban design renaissance. Milan's new building projects have been fostered and accelerated by the city's bid to host Expo 2015. Projects include a new addition added to the Teatro Alla Scala, along with City Life, the European Library, Porta Nuova, and the Garibaldi Project. Daniel Libeskind, Renzo Piano, Norman Foster, Zaha Hadid, and Massimiliano Fuksas are among the world famous architects involved in Milan's transformation.

From the moment our review staff left the airport, they were accompanied by their chauffeur/butler, Vito Lazzazzara, and driven to the hotel in a \$250,000 Bentley that the hotel provided. World class service began at that moment and continued upon arrival at the magnificent modern Town House Galleria. The hotel is located in a priceless 1860s palazzo



right above the flagship Prada store inside Milan's famed Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Upon emerging from the limo, the group was led into an elevator that took it to a marble entrance into the hotel. There they were greeted by an elegantly attired hotel staff that was both charming and enthusiastic. The magnificent hotel lobby floor is made of the finest oak parquet and the walls of the lobby decorated with a rainbow of subtle colored paint and beautiful fine art and statuary.

The team was immediately taken to its magnificently decorated accommodations. Mr. Lazzazzara offered service that was unobtrusive, dedicated and highly addictive. He opened the windows of their suite and made them aware of the one-of-a-kind location that exemplifies Town House Galleria. The hotel is strategically located in one of the most fascinating and historic cities of the world, and overlooks the sites where aristocracy and the rich and famous meet, shop, and dine. The hotel offers 24 luxuriously appointed suites,



Caviar service.

# TOWNHOUSE GALLERIA

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decorated in understated elegance highlighted by priceless works of art in each suite. Each suite has the latest in high-tech computerized gadgets to provide comfort and efficiency to tourists and top executives on the go. Prior to the arrival of our team, they had been contacted by their designated butler to make sure that every one of their needs would be met. The extensive list of preferences included shoe sizes, thread count of the linen, room temperature, as well as preferred music style. At Town House Galleria even the most demanding superstar's desires can and will be accommodated.

Staying in one of the style capitals of the world enticed our review team to tour the charming boutiques and galleries below the hotel. After a few hours of touring and shopping, the team returned to sample the award-winning cuisine of the hotel. Town House Galleria's "in house" restaurant is not open to the public and offers complete privacy as well as customized gourmet cuisine. All meals are exquisitely personalized, with an elegant seamless service unmatched throughout the world.

Town House Hotels are managed by Planhotel Resorts and Hotels, a relatively new luxury brand designed for the sophisticated business and leisure traveler. Alessandro Rosso, the owner, is a visionary entrepreneur with a charming personality

and professionalism based on expertise and education. The management of the Town House Galleria has accomplished for its high profile guests a lasting memory of unequalled luxury and "out of this world" service and amenities. ●

