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vista ostuni

Design firm: Roberto Murgia Architetto, Milan

The details: The past quietly winds its way through the 14th-century corridors of Vista Ostuni, a restored palazzo in Puglia's storied White City. Once a convent and later a tobacco factory, the building has been rewritten many times throughout its history, and enters its latest era thanks to the work of Roberto Murgia Architetto. "From our very first visit, we fell in love with the purity of the spaces: a monumental yet bare house," recalls Roberto Murgia, founder of the Milan-based practice.

Today, it is anything but bare. The 64,000-square-foot property holds 28 spacious rooms and suites alongside two restaurants, two bars, three pools, a spa, and a gym. Restoring the property required the expertise of local artisans: stonemasons repaired façades, blacksmiths remade ironwork, and carpenters reproduced windows and doors to original detail.

The arrival sequence sets the tone, guiding guests through a Mediterranean garden filled with olive, carob, and mulberry trees—designed by landscape architect Erik Dhont—before crossing a six-foot-wide perimeter wall into the welcome room.

From there, the hotel unfolds across a series of cinematic spaces, including the grand cloister, where daylight filters through its glass ceiling; the rooftop Infinity Bar and pool that shimmer beside lush flora overlooking the Apulian countryside; and a fireplace that boasts views of the Adriatic Sea.

In the Chiostro bar, meanwhile, a Palladian floor anchors a striking 20-foot-high bottle display, while colorful chairs animate the volume. "Like after a good film, each person leaves remembering a different detail: a dress, a line, a light," Murgia adds. "But everyone shares the atmosphere—here, it's that of an Italian palazzo from another time."



Photos courtesy of VISTA OSTUNI