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Island Girl

A glamorous tastemaker gives her Sardinian resort a dose of west-coast cool

BY CAROLINE CAGNEY

With white sandy beaches and plunging granite cliffs, Sardinia’s Emerald Coast—or the Costa Smeralda—is a playground for Hollywood royalty (Johnny Depp and Meryl Streep) and the international jet set. They flock to the strand for its exclusive regattas, polo matches, posh soirées and fine-boutique shopping.

This summer, in honor of the lauded Hotel Romazzino’s 50th anniversary, four new seaside villas (each with its own private butler, garden and pool) will be unveiled. Former model for Fendi and Giorgio Armani, among others, Laurel Barrack—who owns the resort with husband Tom Barrack (of L.A.’s Colony Capital)—has overseen the redesign.

“The anniversary is the perfect time to update a hotel from the ’60s with some California retro flavor,” says Barrack, who worked closely with architect Tonino Fadde and Los Angeles interior designer Joan Behnke. The team later collaborated with local interior decorator Beatrice Bez. The challenge was to stay true to the architecture Prince Karim Aga Khan IV employed when he hired architect Michele Busiri Vici to create the original retreat in the early 1960s. “I wanted to balance the ethnic interior with a colorful, modern vibe.” Think burnt orange tie-dyed pillows, handwoven turquoise-and-cream wool rugs and custom olive Loro Piana cashmere throws. “This isn’t your average hotel room,” says Barrack. “But this isn’t your average clientele, either.” Villas from $20,000/night; romazzinohotels.com.

THE C LIST

LAUREL BARRACK’S GUIDE TO PARADISE

• FRATI ROSSI “For the shrimp scampi and views of the bay of Pevero.” fratirossi.it. • PHI BEACH CLUB “It’s the place for an aperitif with your caftan and bikini still on. Great for dancing.” phibeach.com.

• BERENICE VIEN DAL MARE “Sells the best home accessories like ceramics and pillows.” bereniceviendalmare.it.

• PEVERO GOLF CLUB “The course was designed by legendary architect Robert Trent Jones.” golfclubpevero.net.