



## FLOATING CITY, AS CELEBRATIONS TO MARK THE 1600TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING CONTINUE

### A GOOD PLACE FOR A PIT STOP?

‘The historic Caffè Florian – a glorious neo-baroque bar which opened in 1720 – is an absolute must for a Bellini. The legendary designer Walter Albini, a pioneer of Italian fashion, once held a show here. And it’s right on Piazza San Marco – a wonderful spot to admire its splendour over a coffee, watching the hustle and bustle of Venetian life.’

### WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO SHOP?

‘I adore jewellery and Venice is a treasure trove for it. A visit to Nardi in San Marco is mandatory, and so is purchasing eccentric pieces from Attilio Codognato, a tiny boutique selling memento mori. I often take a boat to Murano on my never-ending quest for period glass objects and mirrors.

I also go for the one-off blown-glass designs by Massimiliano Schiavon, a sixth-

generation glassblower, with whom I collaborated for my theatrical, lagoon-like necklaces – he is a master of light, such a key aspect of the Venetian aesthetic. And I always try to pick up coloured crystal glasses by Giberto, as well as masks and costumes by Antonia Sautter.’

### EXPLAIN THE SYNERGY BETWEEN THE CITY AND YOUR LABEL

‘Venice has always inspired me – I dedicated a collection to it in 2017, in tribute to Canaletto and Boldini, with embroidery of St Mark’s lion, and carnival cloaks and masks. It fuels my work. It’s like living in a glistening jewel.’

### ANY OTHER LOCAL TIPS?

‘The gondola might be the most romantic way to explore, but I prefer to travel in a mahogany Riva boat. Otherwise, I walk around and just

get lost – I like to stroll through the *calli*, or pedestrian streets, and discover unexpected things. If I feel decadent, I go to the Lido to walk on the beach, then eat in the Malamocco district – the best spot for traditional seafood.’

### WHAT DOES THE 1600TH ANNIVERSARY MEAN TO YOU?

‘Venice is such a special city, and this is a landmark celebration of its singular beauty. I am so proud to have been a part of it. I collaborated with local artisans to create designs displaying authentic Venetian excellence; marbled silk damasks echoed the designs of Rubelli and Bevilacqua, shimmering pleated skirts and capes were a nod to Fortuny, and the jewellery was an ode to Murano glass. My collection was a tribute to the place, and now more than ever, a piece of me belongs here.’