

## PRESS RELEASE

### HOTEL SAVOY OFFERS GUESTS EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO CASTELLO SONNINO



#### *Journey into Italian Culture and Heritage*

From May 2019 onwards, guests of Hotel Savoy, a Rocco Forte Hotel can visit the beautiful Castello di Sonnino, a perfectly preserved historic place overlooking the gracious Chianti hills in the wonderful Tuscan countryside.

This authentic castle, home of Baron and Baroness Alessandro and Caterina de Renzis Sonnino, has an interesting history dating back to the 13th century when it was originally a customs post between the territories of Florence and Siena. The fortress was transformed into an aristocratic home in the 17th century by the Machiavelli family, and in the 19th century, Baron Isacco Sonnino and later his son, Sidney, the Prime Minister of Italy, converted the estate into a modern agricultural farm. Today, Castello Sonnino is an invaluable trove of history, housing an eclectic collection of objects, books, furniture, paintings and memorabilia than spans more than 500 years.

The Hotel Savoy experience at Castello Sonnino will start with a welcome cocktail in the courtyard offered by the Baroness, a stroll in the vineyard, the monumental wine cellars and the “vinsantaia” of the 17th century. It will continue with a VIP Tuscan lunch in the grand dining room or the Castel’s Wine House, prepared with local ingredients and paired with exquisite wines produced on property. Visit the 13th century tower, the private apartments and the historic archive of Prime Minister Baron Sidney Sonnino, which boasts a collection of over 200,000 documents, including the Treaty of Versailles Peace Congress agreement.



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Visitors will also explore the Sonnino's vast library comprising rare international publications, collections of ancient editions, and entire collection of nineteenth and twentieth-century periodicals.

With its eclectic charm and rich historic heritage, the Castello Sonnino is a destination not to be missed during your stay in the Florentine Rocco Forte Hotel.

- Ends -

- The private visits at Castello Sonnino must be booked in advance and are subject to availability.
- It is also possible to design bespoke experiences according to the client's requests, such as a personalised cooking class in the Castle's old kitchen or premium wine tastings.

For more information and reservations, please call +39 055 2735 836 or email [conciierge.savoy@roccofortehotels.com](mailto:conciierge.savoy@roccofortehotels.com)

#### Notes to Editors

##### Hotel Savoy

Hotel Savoy lies on Piazza della Repubblica in the heart of the city, between the Duomo and Ponte Vecchio. The 80 rooms and suites have been designed to enhance the Hotel's timeless elegance and celebrate Italian expertise. The 30 suites reflect Florence's history, culture, fashion and combine centuries-long heritage with contemporary design. The Restaurant Irene is inspired by a 1950s retro-chic bistro and the dishes, created by legendary Chef Fulvio Pierangelini, recall the traditional Tuscan cuisine.

##### Hotel Press contact

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##### Rocco Forte Hotels

Established by Sir Rocco Forte and sister, Olga Polizzi in 1996, Rocco Forte Hotels is a collection of 12 individual hotels and resorts. All of the hotels are landmarks, both old and new, occupying magnificent buildings in exceptional locations. Led by a family who has been in hospitality for four generations, the hotels are united by their distinctive approach to service ensuring guests experience the best of the cities and surrounding areas.



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Rocco Forte Hotels comprises: Hotel de la Ville & Hotel de Russie, Rome; Hotel Savoy, Florence; Verdura Resort, Sicily; Masseria Torre Maizza, Puglia; The Balmoral, Edinburgh; Brown's Hotel, London; The Charles Hotel, Munich; Villa Kennedy, Frankfurt; Hotel de Rome, Berlin; Hotel Amigo, Brussels; Hotel Astoria, St Petersburg.

Future openings: The Westbund Hotel, Shanghai in 2019 and Villa Igiea, Palermo in 2020

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