

STARHOTELS®

L'ITALIA NEL CUORE

ELISABETTA FABRI
President and CEO of Starhotels



Florentine, mother of twins, Elisabetta Fabri lived between Florence, Rome, Washington and New York, before returning to her hometown, where she lives today.

Surrounded since her childhood by the captivating world of hospitality, she developed a strong passion for the industry and decided to focus her studies on it, attaining her diploma at Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne and earning her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from John Cabot University in Rome. A cosmopolitan background, combined with a long apprenticeship covering various roles, enabled her to develop a thorough understanding of hospitality management. In 1992, she made her official debut as entrepreneur creating Starhotels International and purchasing The Michelangelo in New York, in the heart of Manhattan, which she personally followed until 2000, the year she was appointed CEO and Vice President of Starhotels SpA. Eleven years later, she became President of the company, whilst remaining the CEO. Under her leadership, Starhotels has undergone a redevelopment of its properties through major investments in restructuring and adding new hotels in its portfolio throughout Italy and Europe, like the acquisitions in Paris and London.

Today, Starhotels is the only Italian hospitality group with an international presence, whose ownership and management have been held by the same family without interruption for over thirty-five years. Leader in the upscale and upper scale & luxury markets, with 29 hotels in Italy, London, Paris and New York, Starhotels aims to be ambassador of high-end Italian lifestyle and hospitality excellence, offering an outstanding service that exceeds guests' expectations.

"In our hotels we have put all our love for our country and its beauties, choosing to interpret the hotel as an expression of the city where it is located, its style, beauty and gastronomic specialties. In our hotels in Paris, London and New York, we aim to be the reference point for lovers of Italian style, hospitality, elegance and quality of life".

The dedication and passion for this work, inherited from her father Ferruccio, who established Starhotels in 1980, are the hallmarks with which she guides the family group, earning important recognitions over the years: The Fondazione Marisa Bellisario awarded her the 2001 Golden Apple Award "for exporting Italian style in the hospitality world". In 2007 she was honored with the Premio Excellent for representing Italy in the international hôtellerie industry, a recognition she earned again in 2014 for the innovative sustainable hospitality project Starhotels E.c.ho, an ecological contemporary hotel situated in the heart of Milan. In 2012, she was awarded Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in the Trade & Services category "For having created a chain of 4- and 5-star hotels, one of a kind, capable of expressing all the elegance and style of made in Italy hospitality in the world, combining high service with results consistently above the industry standard." In 2017, she was awarded the Supreme European Family Business Award for the excellent growth and profits achieved in 2016 amongst the most renowned entrepreneurial families in Europe. Lastly, the cultural association Industria Felix, awarded Starhotels as best female enterprise in Milan and best tourism company in Lombardy.

Supporter of "Friends of the Uffizi" and Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, under her leadership, Starhotels has distinguished itself for the strong commitment to Italian historic and artistic patrimony. The company's sponsorships have enabled the restoration of several monuments: from the 28 Statues of Illustrious Figures in the Loggia of the Uffizi Gallery, to the Maschio Angioino, Raphael's Madonna con il Velo, in the 16th-century copy attributed to the artist's students, and the recent restoration of the balustrades in Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence. Starhotels also supports Italian craftsmanship excellence by partnering with OMA (Osservatorio dei Mestieri d'Arte) for the project Contest "Venti>quaranta," which gives young artisans the opportunity to develop their activity, providing concrete help for the future of artistic traditions.

Heading into the third generation, the company has a strong female presence, with women making up 55% of its resources. Recognising their critical role in today's business world, Elisabetta Fabri supports projects led by Fondazione Pangea Onlus against domestic violence towards women and their children.

In addition to her work for the family business, in recent years she has held important positions in other organisations and companies: in 2014 she was elected a member of the Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, from 2014 to 2017 she served as a board member at the Italian Postal Service, and in 2015 she was appointed member of the Toscana Airports Board.

She is member of AIDDA (Association of Women Entrepreneurs and Corporate Executives), YPO (Young Presidents' Organisation) and AIDAF (Italian Association of Family Businesses).

Elisabetta Fabri constantly works to improve the company's properties and their performances and to reinforce its leading position as a private Italian Hospitality Group in the 4- and 5-star hotel market both in Italy and abroad, with the goal of creating memorable experiences for its guests and providing them an intangible sense of well-being through an excellent and welcoming service.

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