CENTURION



Punta Del Este Now

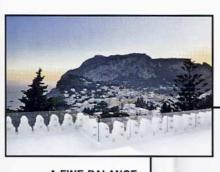
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Above the roofs of CAPRI

One of the most beautiful residences on the Italian isle is now taking reservations



A FINE BALANCE The villa overlooks the spectacular Marina Piccola Bay, while the bright interiors feature chic decor



FOR ELEVEN YEARS Capri was, in a certain sense, the power centre of the Roman Empire: Tiberius had had enough of the capital's intrigue and preferred to devote his last years to life's finer pleasures. Ever since, there have been more than a few imitators fleeing to Italy's most exclusive isle in search of the good life. Magnificent villas arose on both sides of Monte Solaro, including the particularly striking Villa dell'Arco. The Pompei red façade radiates light, while snow-white columns and roof battlements are unmistakable in its idyllic location, just minutes from the Piazzetta and the Via Le Botteghe.

This season, for the first time, the villa's heavy wooden door is open to pleasure seekers, complete with chef, butler and maid. The 200-year-old residence has been given a painstaking three-year makeover, newly fitted out with cream-coloured stone tile floors the same as those used by architect Fabrizia Frezza in her recent remake of the Capri Palace - as well as individually styled bedrooms (of which there are six, each with its own bath) and bright and airy dining and sitting rooms. The garden and roof terrace with Jacuzzi are equally breathtaking, with triumphant views that might not be very different from those the emperor enjoyed all those centuries ago. Weekly rates on request, cedricreversade.com THOMAS MIDULLA •