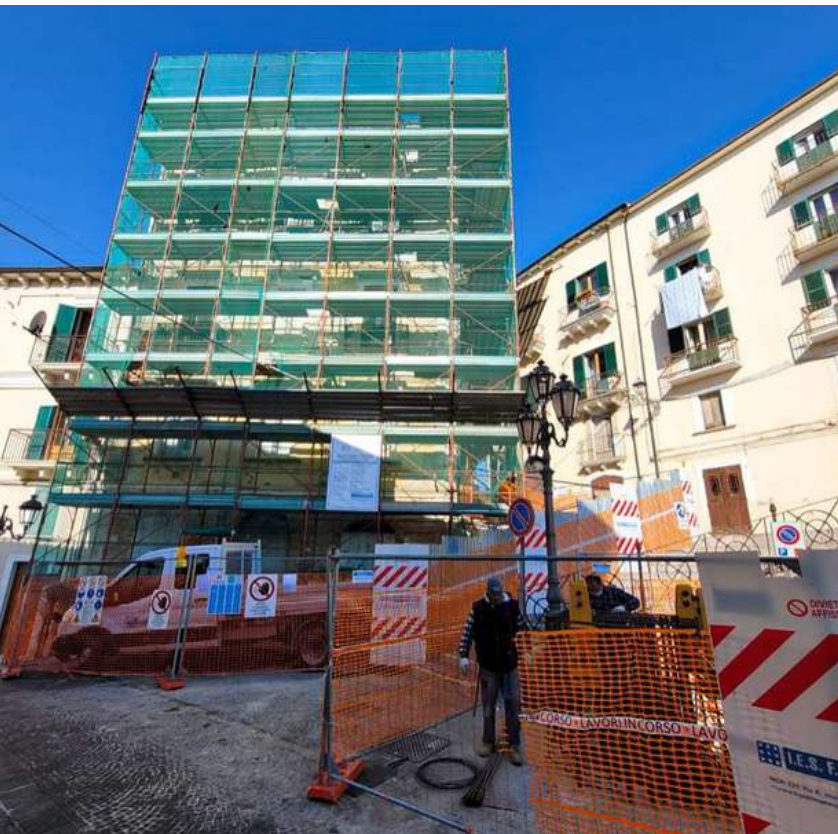


RESTORING A NOBLE PALACE: WORKING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

By Valeria Milano

The grand project of turning a crumbling noble palace in the hilltop town of Casoli into fourteen luxury residences continues. The restoration works have finally started, and the team behind the project is determined to revive the local community.



Above: work has begun at Palazzo Ricci; right: a rendered image of the future facade

These last few days have been hugely exciting for us at Palazzo Ricci as our crane, which has an enormous 50-metres-long arm, finally arrived and was installed. There was a palpable air of excitement in the town as the huge parts of it were slowly driven up the hill and then assembled. After two days and many photos and videos later, the crane is in place, towering above the old town,



and the renovation has begun. The painstaking propping of the building, from the basement upward, is being done to ensure the safety of the future works.

KEEPING IT LOCAL

The local Casolani are enthusiastic about the restoration and intrigued by the refurbishment works. Many of them have told us that they are looking forward to the rebirth of the palazzo, which since the early 1800s was Casoli's

cultural and social hub. I am often stopped by the town's curious shop and bar owners who ask me about the progress. They understand how important a steady stream of new residents will be for local businesses.

From the start of our project, we wanted to work closely with local businesses and artisans. Our builders from Vacri, a town nearby, have many years of experience in restoring famous historic buildings. All the windows and shutters for the palace are being constructed by a local company in Casoli to comply with the tricky requirements necessary for an old grand building in a *centro storico*. Our electrical and plumbing systems are likewise provided by a well-established local firm. We will be specifying and ordering the floors, kitchens, and joinery from trusted suppliers within a short drive from Casoli.

Meanwhile, our painting and decorating works will be carried out by a team of local tradesmen, with Spencer Power, one of our Founding Partners, heading up the specialist painters who will be tackling the more complicated restoration works. The local charity, *La Cooperativa Sociale Casolana*, will supply fine linens and interior textiles woven on antique looms. They will also make beautiful fragrant soaps for every residence in the palazzo. It goes without saying that once the Palazzo is up and running, concierges, housekeepers, gardeners, and drivers will be all from Casoli and the towns nearby.

LUXURY RESIDENCES

The Palazzo is going to be run as a Private Residence Club comprising fourteen luxury residences in fractional ownership, with nine owners per residence. Apart from owning their share in Casoli, they will also be part of Elite Alliance, a global exchange network which allows its members to spend holidays in 135 other stunning locations around the world throughout the year.

The 126 owners and their families will be immersed in the town's life, enjoying its excellent restaurants, bars, farmers' market, and shops.

Despite the economic upheavals of the last year, our project is on track and moving steadily forward. We already have some fantastic investor-owners who have committed to the Palazzo Ricci project sight unseen and are keen to hop on the plane as soon as Italy opens for visitors. We have our first 2021 "Experience Tour" planned for this month, and if all goes well travel-wise, we will be showing the investors and prospective buyers the palazzo, the town, and all the wonderful sights, as well as taking them on wine tastings, pasta making lessons, even perhaps over the Maiella mountain in a hot air balloon! In this way, they will see for themselves what makes Abruzzo the very best place in the world to live and to visit.

<https://palazzoricci.club/>