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# 10 things you need to know about Palazzo Versace Dubai

*Versace has a new address in Dubai and a palatial 215-room one at that.*

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Delna Prakashan | December 2, 2015



In the heart of Dubai's new Culture Village, 15 minutes from the airport and 10 minutes from Downtown's Burj Khalifa, the Italian luxury label's new hotel screams "Versace" from every Medusa pore. It may not have a spa yet or BMWs to ferry guests to its door. But it does have much under its roof that will make you go "wow". Here are our top 10 picks to go googly-eyed at:

## 1. Gianni on the floor

1.5 million pieces make up the mosaic floor of the 10,800sq ft lobby lounge, *Mosaico*; each piece is hand-cut and laid out to emulate an original Gianni Versace design. The mosaic was designed in conjunction with the renowned Italian mosaic company *Fantini*, who were also commissioned to work on all the mosaics in Gianni's palatial home in Miami.

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## 2. High, high tea

This is the only hotel in Dubai to serve the *Dammann Frères* brand of teas. The illustrious tea label from Paris (since 1692) feels even more special when served in a classic Versace tea set by Rosenthal, with Robert Welch crafted silverware to stir things up.

## 3. The 'look' (OR Touched by Alan)

The hotel owes its trademark Versace styling to Alan Rohwer. Donatella Versace's right-hand man has personally overseen the installing of every piece of furniture and fixture. God



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this piece of work appears like a delicate rose due to its individual lace-like arrangement and pink hues.

## 5. J Lo did it first

Remember that jungle-green Versace dress worn by Jennifer Lopez at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grammy Awards in 2000? From ceiling to floor, *Giardino* – the Palazzo's all-day dining restaurant is literally an ode to that piece of design. The walls are frescoed with tropical leaves and bamboo patterns, which are repeated on the silk-finished chairs.

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## 6. Cocktails from a barrel

The chic and intimate bar La Vita serves 11 ‘aged cocktails’ put together by skillful and award-winning bartenders. The cocktails with names like Grilled Coconut Infused Rum and Goat’s Cheese Fat Washed Russian Standard are aged in an oak flask for up to a month before service.

## 7. Uniform impression

Fashionistas, eat your heart out! All staff uniforms—front and back of house—have been designed by The House of Versace, but obviously. These custom-designed uniforms include designer scarves and ties with iconic Versace motifs and patterns.

## 8. Quench in style

The mini-bars stock two tall Medusa Lumière glasses from the Versace Home Collection. The glasses have a 3D Medusa head at the bottom, crafted by Rosenthal.

## 9. The House of Versace touches

Apart from the obvious Medusa heads and the infinity Greek key line along the ceiling, on the service ware, floor patterns and door handles, the lobby and common areas are studded with Baroque-style furniture using designs and fabrics referenced from the archives of the fashion house. In fact, some of the pieces are replicas of the furniture used in Gianni Versace’s villa!

## 10. The finesse of Italian maestros

No Italian masterpiece is complete without the touch of a brushstroke. Several Italian painters were flown in to hand-paint the exquisite ceilings of Mosaico and Italian restaurant Vanitas (which, as any Versace addict would know, is the name of the brand’s stellar fragrance line).

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