

The Story

"Aurora" 50 years of history in Sperlonga

When Federico and Marina Gagliardi opened the doors of the “Casina Fiorita” in 1956, the Via Flacca had yet to be opened and the seafront in Sperlonga was still travelled by a white road, but to fill the tables, of what was a small inn, from Fondi and the surrounding area always came in large numbers. Today, 50 years later, Marina still gazes at the same sea from the windows of what has become the “Aurora” hotel. Half a century has seen the Pontine coast change its face and Sperlonga's seafront take shape. The Aurora has also grown and has grown from a small inn to have 50 rooms: “It has not always been easy,” Marina Gagliardi says, “and there have been times when, without the help of friends, especially from Fondi, we would have been very close to giving up”. The history of the Pontine hotel is inextricably linked to the best and darkest moments of its host town. Through the “Aurora” came Raf Vallone, who was in love with the Pontine pearl, and Silvana Mangano along with many other artists and literary figures who had elected Sperlonga as their gathering place, after the celebrity of the Grotto of Tiberius, discovered in the late 1950s, had carried the town's name far beyond the borders of Lazio. Then came difficult times such as when, between 1967 and 1970, the hotel was closed for three years, coming very close to final closure. Today, however, Marina is still in Sperlonga in her “Aurora”; she is helped by her children and a sea that preserves its beauty intact, continuing to give the same magic as half a century ago.



When Federico died in 1981, the six children: Mirella, Roberto, Maria Celeste, Luciana, Sara and Massimo, united and together continued the family business, also beginning the renovation of the hotel. Many changes were made in the Mediterranean architectural style, with a new wing dedicated to the Jr Suites and the panoramic terraces on the second floor. Now the garden has a graceful touch, under the guidance of an experienced architect, the scent and color of flowers adorn the entrance. The veranda of the Nautilus Bar has a white, shiny look with pastel shades on the blue of the sea. All the rooms have been renovated with great attention to detail with a careful eye to the inclusion of artistic notes by local painters; for example, inside each door there is a painting with the relative number by the artist Francesco Pezzuco. The corridors are galleries of underwater photos by Egidio Fusco, which enhance the natural beauties of our blue sea. Marble and wood sculptures by Egidio Morelli are displayed here and there. The Marina room has been transformed for the breakfast buffet, and even in the lobby antique furniture and benches create the atmosphere of a hotel experienced as a large, cosy home ready to pamper its guests.

In recent years the new gymnasium and fitness was born following what are the new trends in the tourism market. Lastly the meeting and conference room to be ready also for an alternative type of clientele and for a new market strategy.

Aurora's history is already quite long and is ready to evolve with future generations

