

Dine At The Alajmo Brothers' Gastronomic New Island Pop-Up In Venice



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Travel

I cover topical stories in the luxury travel sphere.

As restaurants across the world open back up, three-Michelin-starred chef Massimiliano Alajmo and CEO of the Alajmo Group, his brother Raffaele, have launched their brand new gastronomic pop-up on the Venetian island of La Certosa.



Alberto Sonino, Michele Pozzani, Raffaele Alajmo, Silvio Giavedoni and Massimiliano Alajmo at the new island pop-up. [-] ALAJMO GROUP

These are the brothers behind acclaimed restaurants including Ristorante Quadri on Piazza San Marco and Le Calandre in Padua, which on earning its third Michelin star in 2002 made chef Massimiliano the youngest three-Michelin-starred chef of all time. Together with his brother, he now oversees the kitchens of 11 restaurants in Padua, Venice, Paris and Marrakech with Le Calandre still acting as his culinary laboratory.

In line with the need we now have for social distancing and greater focus on outdoor-dining, the brothers have now launched their latest culinary venture, Hostaria en Certosa, in collaboration with Vento di Venezia, a company founded by Alberto Sonino to manage the island and Venice Certosa Marina.



Hostaria en Certosa sits at the at the end of the vaporetto dock on Certosa island. ALAJMO GROUP

"Until just over a decade ago," explains Alberto Sonino, "Certosa was one of the many abandoned state-owned islands of the lagoon. Recently, it was used for military activity, while historically it housed a magnificent monastic complex. Certosa is currently the subject of an urban development program managed by the Vento di Venezia company which, through a public-private partnership with the Municipality of Venice, has reclaimed the island and is gradually transforming the former military base into a large natural park, ideal for walks and picnics with family and friends: an oasis open to all in the Venetian lagoon."

The idea for this pop-up was conceived just two months ago in the midst of the pandemic. "It's an incredible story," says Raffaele Alajmo. "On the morning of Saturday, April 25th, I received a text message from Alberto Sonino suggesting we open on Certosa and, within a matter of days, we were already working on the new format. Many of our staff members contributed directly to the project and to bringing the city of Venice back to life."



The modern nautical-inspired interiors of Hostaria in Certosa, Venice. ALAJMO GROUP

Positioned at the end of the vaporetto dock, Hostaria in Certosa reflects its location on the island that is now primarily a yachting destination with tourist port and sailing school through the modern nautical inspired décor of its indoor and outdoor dining space. Staff uniforms are made with technical materials used by yacht crews and Italian lighting designer Davide Groppi's lamps were selected for the tables to create a sense of intimacy and warmth after dark.

The pop-up serves simple summer fare from Italian-style breakfasts to mid-morning tramezzini and spritzes, lunch, dinner and after-dinner cocktails prepared by the Alajmo group's head bartender, Lucas Kelm.

Expect dishes made with local ingredients such as baby Venetian octopus with olive oil, garlic, lemon and parsley; amberjack tartar with salad and tartar sauce; spaghetti with clams, extra virgin olive oil, chili pepper and tomatoes; and Venetian calamari with squash blossoms. Meat dishes include guinea hen with sage and rosemary, while vegetable-driven plates showcase produce grown in a garden planted to supply the restaurant's menus.

All of this is complemented by Italian wine, craft beers made exclusively for Alajmo, aperitivos, cocktails and coffee from the famous Italian roaster, Laboratorio Giamaica Caffè in Verona.



Massimiliano Alajmo, Silvio Giavedoni, Raffaele Alajmo and Alberto Sonino at the Alajmo brothers' new island pop-up, Hostaria in Certosa. [-] ALAJMO GROUP

As much as Hostaria in Certosa is a celebration of food, it's also a place to soak up the surroundings. As Massimiliano Alajmo says: "Hostaria in Certosa offers the chance to spend time outside in the middle of the Venetian lagoon, enjoying cuisine that reveals the beauty of our territory through its simplicity."

Find out more by going over to alajmo.it.