

Airbnb Presents Artist House in Ancient Village of Civita, Italy

Situated in Hilltop village with only 10 inhabitants still living in the original medieval buildings

- Traditional stone house retaining original features offers sanctuary for five guests to live like locals
- First public building in Italy to be permanently listed on the Airbnb platform through a partnership with the village
- All proceeds will pass back to the village to support cultural and regeneration projects

Italy, March 30 2017: Today, Airbnb welcomes the *Artist House* to its platform hosted by the Mayor of Civita, to serve as an inspiring creative retreat for the artist community and travellers alike. As part of its commitment to support communities around the world, Airbnb has enlisted a celebrated art curator, Federica Sala to work with designers and restore the ancient dilapidated house to its original glory after a major earthquake in the 1980s.

Perched on the top of a hill surrounded by the valleys formed by Chiaro and Torbido streams in central Italy, Civita di Bagnoregio is renowned for its artistic heritage. The ancient 13th century hilltop village is positioned precariously on a crumbling hilltop with the only access point along a suspended 70 metre high bridge. The village is in need of continued investment to remain intact and is one of the many villages supported by the Italian tourist board as part of its 2017 campaign to protect small villages.

“This project is an incredible extension of our commitment to supporting rural villages around the world,” said Joe Gebbia, co-founder and Chief Product Officer of Airbnb. “Our aim is to celebrate the heritage of these areas through art and design, while providing concrete ways for the towns to sustain their cultures and traditions.”

Francesco Simeti, a renowned Italian artist based in New York, was commissioned by Airbnb to design a bespoke installation for the house that symbolises the cultural heritage of the village. The artwork named *‘Plunged into Gullies, Entangled in Orchids’*, is inspired by the historical paintings of the Italian Renaissance and the layered landscape surrounding Civita. A contemporary tapestry in the living area depicts the local ravines and orchids that grow in the valley and bronze orchid sculptures are scattered inside and outside the house.

In collaboration with the curator Federica Sala, Airbnb appointed designers Alberto Artesani and Frederik De Wachter from DWA Design Studio to transform the interiors. Using a mix of traditional materials with modern furnishings, they created a home to reflect its timeless heritage and extraordinary surroundings. The versatile and cleverly designed rooms transform from dining areas to bedrooms depending on need and the colours painted throughout reflect the abundant nature surrounding the house with strong blues, greens, soft browns and greys. Fabrics from Kvadrat cover pillows, sofas and curtains and complement the cement and marble tableware from Mariotti Fulget. The furniture includes chairs from the Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld and his famous Utrecht design, alongside designs by Marco Zanuso from the design company, Cassina.

Hosted by the Mayor of Civita, the one bedroom house can accommodate up to five people and is available to book from 30 March for Euro 300 a night with all proceeds going to the village to sustain cultural projects. A special rate of Euro 10 a night is offered for the professional artist community (terms and conditions apply) - *link [here](#)*.

About Airbnb

Founded in 2008, Airbnb's mission is to create a world where people can belong when they travel by being connected to local cultures and having unique travel experiences. Its community marketplace provides access to millions of unique accommodations from apartments and villas to castles and treehouses in more than 65,000 cities and 191 countries. With Experiences, Airbnb offers unprecedented access to local communities and interests, while Places lets people discover the hidden gems of a city as recommended by the people that live there. Airbnb is people powered and the easiest way to earn a little extra income from extra space in a home or from sharing passions, interests and cities.