

ELISABETTA FABRI
President and CEO of Starhotels



Florentine, mother of twins, Elisabetta Fabri lived between Florence, Rome, Washington and New York, before returning to her hometown, where she lives today.

Surrounded since her childhood by the captivating world of hospitality, she developed a strong passion for the industry and decided to focus her studies on it, attaining her diploma at Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne and earning her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from John Cabot University in Rome. A cosmopolitan background, combined with a long apprenticeship covering various roles, enabled her to develop a thorough understanding of hospitality management.

In 1992, she made her official debut as entrepreneur creating Starhotels International and purchasing The Michelangelo in New York, in the heart of Manhattan, which she personally followed until 2000, the year she was appointed CEO and Vice President of Starhotels SpA. Eleven years later, she became President of the company, whilst remaining the CEO. While the management style has evolved over the years with the aim of increased efficiency and developing an international outlook, direction has retained its authenticity. Under her guidance, Starhotels has seen an upgrade in its offer thanks to important investments in renovations and new hotel properties in Italy and Europe. The Castille opened in Paris in 2005, while the company's first two hotels in London opened their doors in 2014.

In 2016, Starhotels affirmed its place in the world of luxury hospitality with the acquisition of four new properties in Italy – Hotel d'Inghilterra in Rome, Helvetia & Bristol in Florence, Grand Hotel Continental in Siena and Hotel Villa Michelangelo in Vicenza – and the Franklin in London.

Elisabetta Fabri constantly works to improve the company's properties and their performances and to reinforce its leading position as a private Italian Hospitality Group in the 4- and 5-star hotel market both in Italy and abroad, with the goal of creating memorable experiences for its guests and providing them an intangible sense of well-being through an excellent and welcoming service.

With 30 hotels in the heart of the most beautiful destinations around the world, Starhotels is the only Italian hotel chain to own properties abroad: the Fabri family has created constant and ethical company growth for the last 40 years, leading Starhotels to be the top-earning Italian hotel company.

"In our hotels we have put all our love for our country and its beauties, choosing to interpret the hotel as an expression of the city where it is located, its style, beauty and gastronomic specialties. In our hotels in Paris, London and New York, we aim to be the reference point for lovers of Italian style, hospitality, elegance and quality of life".

The dedication and passion for this work, inherited from her father Ferruccio, who established Starhotels in 1980, are the hallmarks with which she guides the family group, earning important recognitions over the years: The Fondazione Marisa Bellisario awarded her the 2001 Golden Apple Award "for exporting Italian style in the hospitality world".

In 2007 she was honored with the Premio Excellent for representing Italy in the international hôtellerie industry, a recognition she earned again in 2014 for the innovative sustainable hospitality project Starhotels E.c.ho, an ecological contemporary hotel situated in the heart of Milan. Confirmed in 2019 for heading the Group into the Third Millennium, actively engaging in the enhancement of Italian cultural heritage, with constant investments in innovation and quality of service.

In 2012, Ernst & Young awarded Elisabetta Fabri Entrepreneur of the Year in the Trade & Services category "For having created a chain of 4- and 5-star hotels, one of a kind, capable of expressing all the elegance and style of made in Italy hospitality in the world, combining high service with results consistently above the industry standard".

In 2017, she was awarded "Alumni of the Year" by the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne. The same year, she was given the Supreme European Family Business Award by Campden FB, part of the namesake network that includes Europe's leading business families, for the outstanding growth and profits achieved in 2016. The same year, for the

2nd edition of the Premio Industria Felix - Lombardia, she was awarded two High Honours as best business in the tourism sector in the Region of Lombardy and best female-led business in the Province of Milan.

In September 2018, the prestigious John Cabot University has honored Elisabetta Fabri with the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her accomplishments and leadership in the field of Hospitality, Culture and Humanitarian support.

In January 2019, she was awarded the “Bel San Giovanni” on behalf of Starhotels, an annual award given by the Società di San Giovanni Battista to individuals and companies that have stood out in Florence, serving as ambassadors of Italian entrepreneurship abroad and actively striving to promote Italian cultural heritage.

In recognition of her role in the promotion of Italy’s cultural heritage, in June 2019, Elisabetta Fabri was made Cavaliere del Lavoro (knight of labour) by the President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella for her services as an entrepreneur and for bringing Starhotels abroad, as well as for her moral and social values and strong sense of responsibility.

In October 2019 the municipality of Florence, awarded her for her role as ambassador of Florence in the world while she was awarded the MAM Award “Supporters of Art Professionals”, a prestigious recognition by the Cologni dei Mestieri d’Arte Foundation And ALMA International School of Italian Cuisine in November 2020.

The company’s sponsorships have enabled the restoration of several monuments: from the 28 Statues of Illustrious Figures in the Loggia of the Uffizi Gallery, to the Maschio Angioino, Raphael’s Madonna con il Velo, in the 16th-century copy attributed to the artist’s students, and the recent restoration of the balustrades in Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence.

Starhotels also supports Italian craftsmanship excellence with the project La Grande Bellezza – The Dream Factory, new contemporary patronage campaign. Vaunting the full support of the group’s President, the project relies on two leading institutions whose mission is to safeguard top Italian craftsmanship, Associazione OMA (Osservatorio dei Mestieri d’Arte), Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d’Arte and with Gruppo Editoriale.

Heading into the third generation, the company has a strong female presence, with women making up 55% of its resources. Recognising their critical role in today’s business world, Elisabetta Fabri supports projects led by Fondazione Pangea Onlus against domestic violence towards women and their children.

In 2021, Elisabetta Fabri announces the project “A future as a STAR for 10 female managers”. The initiative aims at the professional growth of 10 Italian female talents that

will be accompanied in a 3/5 years career path that will lead to important positions of responsibility and prestige within the group.

In addition to her work for the family business, she also held and holds important positions in other organisations and companies; from 2014 to 2017 she served as a board member for Poste Italiane, and in 2015 she was appointed board member of the Toscana Airports.

Also in 2014 she was elected a member of the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze and since October 2021 she is an active member of the steering committee, a non profit organization that pursues social interest through a program of investments and projects on the territory.

Since July 2021 Elisabetta Fabri is Honorary Ambassador of the prestigious HoteliersGuid, a private and independent society of luxury hoteliers.

She is also a member of AIDDA (Association of Women Entrepreneurs and Corporate Executives), YPO (Young Presidents' Organisation) and AIDAF (Italian Association of Family Businesses).

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