

# SLEEPER

HOSPITALITY EXPERIENCE & DESIGN





# CHECK-IN

## Joe Stella

Having wowed the Sleep & Eat crowd with a dynamic and vibrant concept guestroom, **twenty2degrees** Creative Director Joe Stella sails to the Mediterranean to soak up the sun in a fantasy palazzo.

### Where are you?

In a recently restored palazzo, on the grounds of a small private island in the Mediterranean and the weather is perfect.

### How did you get there?

Sailed from the Sicilian coast on an Italian super yacht.

### And who's at the concierge desk?

Surprisingly, the actor Christoph Waltz. He has a lead role in a new Wes Anderson film and is doing a stint on the island in order to get into character.

### Who are you sharing your room with?

My wife, SJ. We have travelled far and wide together, but are always drawn back to the Mediterranean; the perfect Summer weather, the freshest food and the warmest of the people.

### Is there anything you would like waiting for you in your room?

Afternoon sunlight, a cool breeze, the sound of the sea nearby, and freshly made mezcal margarita's with pink grapefruit and lots of chilli.



### NOTABLE HOTEL PROJECTS

The Dixon Hotel London; Hyatt Regency Nairobi, Marriott Prague, Marriott Budapest  
[www.twenty2degrees.com](http://www.twenty2degrees.com)

### Describe the hotel, your room and the view...?

An amazingly ornate renaissance building that was partly decaying prior to its refurbishment and has recently been restored with contemporary additions. The result is a blissfully harmonious balance of contemporary and Renaissance architecture. The island's landscape is rugged, its contours and tones a feast for the eye; nearer at hand, the palazzo's enchanting gardens offer just the right manicured touch surrounding the main hotel building.

### Who designed it?

Hotel lobby and guestrooms by Wes Anderson, restaurants by AvroKO, cocktail bar and dining room by Kelly Wearstler, contemporary architectural additions by Neri&Hu, music by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis, and an eclectic mix of art adorning the walls by Paul Insect, Mike Ballard, Rebecca Horn & Kate MccGwire.

### What's the restaurant and bar like?

There are three restaurants at the hotel, but tonight we dine off-site in the Old Hop House on the estate. Its original circular structures seem to be similar to the Trulli you find in Puglia and there is a raw, rustic appearance to the exterior. However, when you enter you are met with a space that contrasts the outside magnificently. Its recent refurbishment is both avant-garde and calm, designed yet unconventional. Light pastel coloured, hand rendered walls are coupled with warm timbers and soft, bright hand woven rugs. Each circular space houses one large circular communal dining table in the centre, perfect for sharing both a meal and stories.

### Who are you dining with this evening?

Anthony Bourdain, Ettore Sottsass, Nick Cave, the local wine maker, and of course my wife SJ.

### Who's manning the stoves?

My good friends from Sood Family take Italian cuisine to the next level and do fantastic pop-ups across London. They would be in their element here and would shine in this environment.

### And what's on the menu?

The main course is freshly caught seafood, barbecued over coal and paired with an unknown bottle of chilled wine that was handed to me by a friend in Lisbon on a recent trip to Portugal. Followed by an Italian cheese and Australian honey degustation for desert and a boozy citrus sorbetto cleanser. All accompanied with my aperitivo of choice, a Stellaspritz – using one of the Stellacello Pompelmo liqueurs I concoct myself.

### What's on your nightstand at bedtime?

I always have a small sketchbook on the nightstand in case an idea springs to mind during the night. The most bizarre ideas come at the most unexpected times.

### Would you like a newspaper or magazine in the morning?

I ban reading the newspaper while travelling. Relaxing holidays and world news are kind of an oxymoron.

### Swimming pool, spa or gym?

An outdoor infinity pool with a majestic view.