

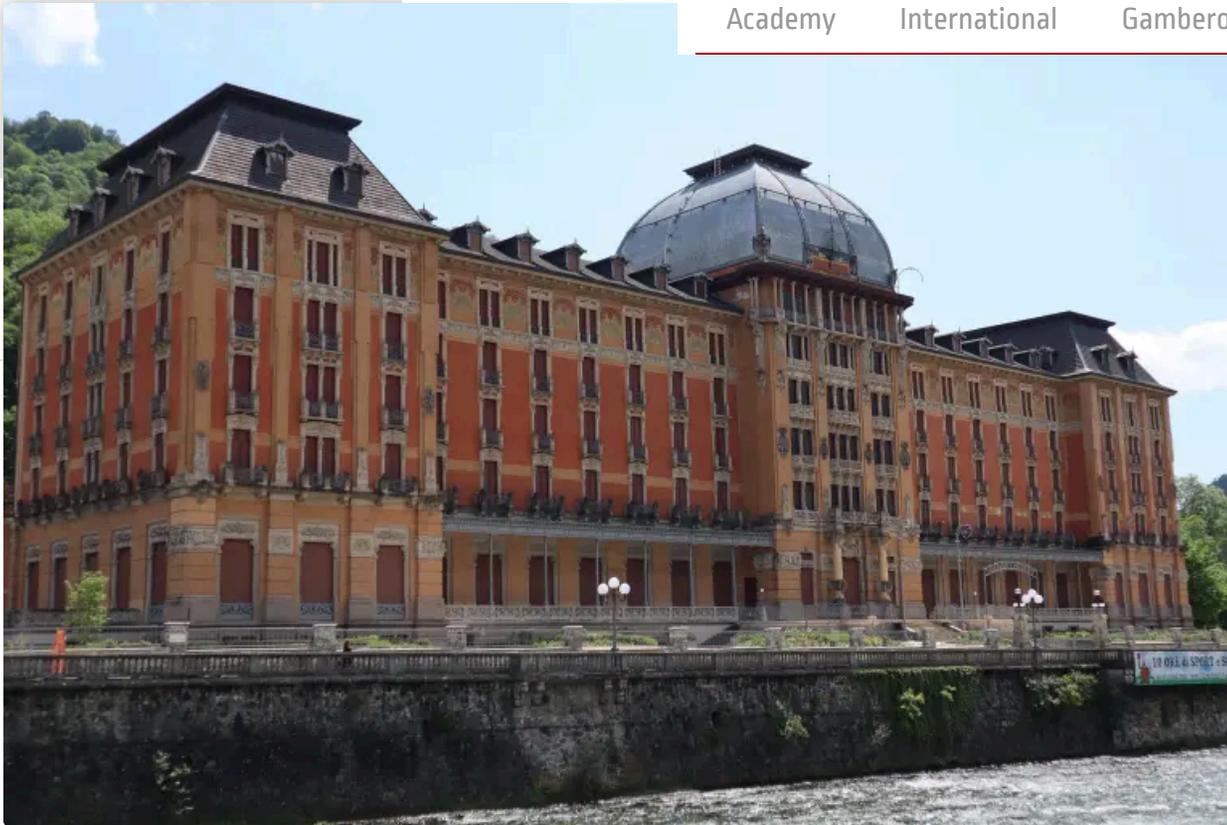
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GREAT RETURNS

## It seems like a Wes Anderson film, but it's true: the Grand Hotel is reborn

The American group EKN aims to bring the building back to the center of European luxury tourism by 2030. Their goal? A cutting-edge thermal spa, designer interiors, and Michelin-starred cuisine rooted in the traditions of the Brembana Valley.





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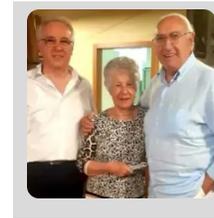


**SANREMO FESTIVAL**

We tasted Enrico Nigiotti's wine while he sang at Sanremo. Here's what it was like.

With its imposing ochre façade, Art Nouveau decorations, and an air of decadent grandeur, the **Grand Hotel** in **San Pellegrino Terme** seems straight out of a **Wes Anderson** film . A giant overlooking the Brembo River, reduced to ruins, it may now return to its former glory as it did during the Belle Époque. After more than forty years of neglect, the iconic hotel **will reopen its doors in 2030** as a five-star resort thanks to a redevelopment project led by **EKN Development** , which, after rumors of potential difficulties, has **confirmed its commitment** and the **start of construction in 2027** .

"We can't wait to complete the project. It will be something amazing, especially the spa," Ebbie Nakhjavani, CEO of the American group , assured *L'Eco di Bergamo* . *There's no rush, though. The operation is delicate and the investment is substantial. We're talking about over 64 million euros* , to be added to the **3 million** allocated by the **Municipality of San Pellegrino Terme** and the



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Lombardy Region . The bar is high, given th  
the big names in international luxury, from tl  
down .

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Between Spa and French design

C

The plant engineering has been entrusted to almost ready. For the interior design, EKN D



**Parisian firm , yet to be revealed. But the m**

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**focused on the spa. It will not be just any wellness center, but a cutting-edge facility with curative features** , housed in the basement and fed by the **municipal thermal springs** , already the subject of an agreement with the local administration. Management will be entrusted to a specialized international group, while negotiations for the entire hotel are underway with American chains such as **Marriott** and **Four Seasons** . The **118** planned rooms will all be top-of-the-range, with luxury resort rates.

While management is looking overseas, the focus will remain on the Bergamo area for the construction. " **Local businesses** will be involved ," explained Paolo Nesi, vice president of EKN Europe, in the Bergamo daily. And not just on the construction sites. The kitchen will also feature **Michelin-starred chefs** , but with strong roots in the **local food and wine culture** of the **Brembana Valley** . This will further integrate an offering geared toward an international audience into the urban and tourist fabric of the province of Bergamo.



## A story of collapses and splendor

In short, a **grand relaunch** for the hotel that since **1905** had made San Pellegrino one of the capitals of European **spa tourism** , **before exorbitant costs, a lack of modernization, and the decline in tourist traffic** to the valley led to its **closure in 1979**. Since then, the building has remained abandoned, with collapsing ceilings and blocked elevators. Over the years, **approximately €20 million has been spent** on partial restoration work, but never enough. Until the summer of 2024, when the Municipality launched a tender, which was won by the Californian group with a **99-year concession** . If EKN's project were to



materialize, San Pellegrino will be able to sa  
beloved symbols.



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