



"Magical at any time of day or night, with its rounded forms, the plasticity of the sculptures and an unrivalled richness of ornaments, the square is a perfect setting for the exquisite art and performance of Alta Moda", state the designers on the topic of their location of choice, the Piazza del Duomo, Ortigia.

*L'Officiel Austria* presents this season's most notable and most memorable *fashion show*. This year, Dolce&Gabbana celebrated its 10-year anniversary of Alta Moda with a three-day extravaganza in Sicily.

By ANNA ZNAMENSKY

# A Grandiose AFFAIR



Unlike the presentations of most of the other brands showing during Couture Week this year, rife with celebrity appearances and unnecessary showmanship that overshadowed what was meant to be at the focus of our attention, namely, the clothing, Dolce&Gabbana did everything right. Despite the pomp, the breathtaking backdrop, the operatic music and the pre-show performance, nothing could trump the absolute stars of the evening: the gowns. A story of three magical midsummer nights in Sicily.

"The Grotta dei Cordari is an extraordinary and evocative succession of empty spaces, a magnificent monument carved entirely into the rock that surprises with an infinite array of colours and tones", explain the designers.



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that are accentuated by the presence of water from several natural springs. For the presentation, Dolce&Gabbana put their faith in Lunati Manufacturing, who were responsible for the set design by recreating rocks and painting them in hues of baby blue and baby pink to match the magical setting of the Grotta. It was on these rocks that the display cases carrying the creations, inspired by buried riches, myths, and enigmatic rumours of treasures lost for centuries, were mounted. The magnificent works, painstakingly hand-crafted by talented artisans, are emblems and testaments to a legendary splendour: one-of-a-kind and unrepeatable.

As a tribute to Dolce&Gabbana's Sicilian heritage, the Sicilian woman served as the muse for this year's outstanding Alta Moda show. The magnificent Piazza Duomo, served as her runway. The cathedral, also known as the "white lady of the square," was the focal point of the Piazza. While its façade honors



Dolce&Gabbana's alta-gioielleria is renowned for its breathtaking tiaras, head-pieces, earrings and of course necklaces.

This year's Alta Moda extravaganza spanned over three consecutive days, beginning with the Alta Gioielleria Presentation inside the Grotta dei Cordari, Siracusa on July 8th, followed by the Alta Moda Fashion Show in Piazza Duomo, Ortigia on July 9th and concluding on July 10th with the Alta Sartoria Fashion Show in Marzamemi. All three locations were chosen by the designers for their historical importance.

The Ropemaker's Grotto (the Grotta dei Cordari in Italian), is a section of the Latomia del Paradiso, along with the Ear of Dionysius. Here, the brand held its Alta Gioielleria presentation. Due to its extremely large proportions, unusual succession of chambers, and vaults supported by massive pillars, this cave ranks amongst the most beautiful in the world. It astonishes the senses with its polychrome pinks and greens, which highlight its surfaces and provide unexpected light-plays

"A legend of extraordinary beauty" is how the designers referred to the runway presentation of their Alta Sartoria collection, which took place on the 10th of July 2022 in Marzamemi.



the magnificence of the Baroque, the interior's Doric columns' linearity attests to the presence of an ancient Greek temple dedicated to Athena that once stood here and was later incorporated into the church. It is here on her many steps, walkways and podiums, that Dolce&Gabbana staged their grand performance, beginning with the Cavalleria Rusticana, a well-known Italian opera from the late 1800s by Pietro Mascagni, performed live and directed by Davide Livermore. A large number of men and women, who signed up to take part in this theatrical production, which portrays the story of a Greek tragedy, were all dressed in Dolce&Gabbana costumes. The narrative was broken up into five acts, describing this fabled tale while establishing the drama and grandeur of the collection that the audience was about to see. Many of the actors taking part in the performance remained on the stairs and walkways of the Piazza as decorative elements, watching the models parade the magical creations. A total of 106 dazzling spectacles ensued, with a corseted bridal gown named "Angelica" leading the way. This costume was topped off with a matching white head and neck covering adorned with oversized rosebuds. Black lace played a central role, as did the wings and the oversized shoulder ornaments in the form of two cherubs. These are just a few of the traditional Italian motifs incorporated as a tribute to the brand's heritage. While all black and all white creations were at the focus of the first part of the show, colourful grand gowns and coats with intricate embellishments, sequins, velvets and crystals appeared during the second stage. Chiffon and taffeta were central elements, as was the extravagant wealth of the creations, a characteristic so typical of the brand. A truly breathtaking spectacle.

The grand finale came in the form of Alta Sartoria, Dolce&Gabbana's couture for men. Described as "bold structures created from mythological inspirations" that "enhance the anatomy of the male skeleton as if they were forged on the bodies themselves", this collection relies heavily on ornate head pieces that mirror those of ancient warriors. Jewel encrusted tops, gladiator sandals and gold elements as far as the eye can see.

We congratulate Dolce&Gabbana on their 10-year anniversary, wishing them many more successful years to come, and thank them for bringing the magic of Italian couture to our lives.

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