

Hotel Eden

Rome

Dorchester Collection

## Gabriele Rizzi, Bar Manager at Hotel Eden, Rome



Gabriele Rizzi was born in 1981 in Monza, Lombardia.

After a variety of work experiences in Milan and Cagliari, Gabriele arrived in London in 2011 and was introduced to the world of luxury hospitality. He started his experience in *Bar Max* at London's Covent Garden Hotel and shortly after he became head barman.

After receiving his qualification from WSET (Wines & Spirits Educational Trust), he deepened his managerial training by attending the ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) in 2013. A year later, he was entrusted to lead The Soho Hotel's *Refuel Bar*.

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Gabriele returned to Italy in 2015, to oversee the launch of *Café del Pincio* and the *Chill Bar* at the exclusive Casina Valadier in Rome. An important experience, which encouraged him to stay in Italy.

In 2017, Gabriele began his role as bar manager at Dorchester Collection's Hotel Eden, Rome. He joined the hotel for its grand reopening following an extensive 17-month renovation.

### His Philosophy

Originally from the north of Italy, Gabriele Rizzi has always been linked to the Italian tradition of the "Aperitivo". It reminds him of his family, who would never miss the opportunity to take a moment to relax before dinner. His passion for mixology started early in his career and the desire to continuously delight guests during their free time has contributed to his successes.

Fascinated with the idea that mixing different ingredients can produce a unique and well balanced concoction, Gabriele has honoured Rome through one of his creations *La Grande Bellezza*. It is a romantic cocktail with rose coloured undertones, developed as a tribute to the warm Roman sunsets, which guests can enjoy from the panoramic rooftop of Hotel Eden's *Il Giardino Bar*. The cocktail combines the softness of Aperitivo Rosato, infused with tamarind and Mezcal, together with a few drops of mandarin bitters, which give a light citrus scent.

Each drink by Gabriele Rizzi is created to satisfy the five senses: sight and sound come from observing the preparation of the cocktail; smell and touch then follow, when the drink is brought to the lips; and last but not least the taste, always surprising and balanced.

His philosophy is summarised in three main principles:

- Less is more: the creation of a cocktail should use the minimum amount of ingredients possible, ensuring they are well balanced. For this reason, the *Negroni* is one of Gabriele Rizzi's favourite cocktails.

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- **Authenticity:** through mixing spirits with local ingredients, Gabriele respects the flavour and the territory. For example, since he has been in Rome, Gabriele has rediscovered the use of citrus and aromatic plants, dedicating a space in the bar menu called “The Garden of Eden”. Highlights include *The Green Lady*, which combines basil and citrus flavours and *The Orange Punch* blends sage and thyme. *Martini Trevi* is also found on the menu, which features a touch of lavender, inspired by Gabriele’s walks through the hotel’s neighbouring park, the Villa Borghese.
- **Travel:** Gabriele Rizzi encourages guests to travel through the colours, smells and flavours of his cocktails. Each drink is reminiscent of a place which has inspired him and leads the drinker on a sensorial journey. For example, using Tequila and Mezcal evokes the feeling of being in Mexico and the country’s energy.

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