

ALESSIO  
BOSCHI



# An Italian Journey with Alessio Boschi

By Ivan Allegranti

"What matters in art is not thinking but making". Jewellery is an art form and the Italian jeweller Alessio Boschi has taken very seriously these words from the German writer and statesman, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Alessio Boschi has made a remarkable collection of jewellery devoted to Italian architecture, taking in Venice, Florence and Verona, Pisa, Luca and Rome. Through his craft, Alessio Boschi pays tribute to Italian magnificence – eight creations, eight wonders, a bejewelled journey through Italy, its history and its fascinating, monumental architecture.

Romanticism and nostalgia combine in Boschi's jewellery to create a palpable allure. He uses modern and intricate techniques which sometimes permit the jewel to be multifunctional, creating a crescendo of secret surprises.

Starting in Venice, Alessio takes inspiration from the iconic gondolas that navigate the Venetian canals, and also from the Bridge of Sighs, which connects the prison to the interrogation rooms of the Doge Palace, passing over the Rio di Palazzo. As Lord Byron said, this was the place where the condemned people could see their last ray of lights and take the last breath of fresh air before going to prison, but if a couple passed under the bridge with a gondola and kissed, that means eternal love.

So, the Italian jeweller, carving white gold to represent candid marble, recreated faithfully the Bridge of Sighs, encrusting diamonds in all details and adding on its top an astonishing violet un-heated spinel. The real surprise comes when you open the ring and find three little figurines sculpted in different coloured gold, depicting the scene of two lovers bidding each other farewell. The man goes into prison accompanied by a guard armed with a





halberd. The triumph of justice and the protection of society over a dramatic and subjective family situation is the focal point of the creator and it is also engraved in the rose gold lining work inside.

The other inspiration, the gondola, led Alessio to two creations. The asymmetrical gondola earrings are in yellow gold and imperial topazes with a cascade of black diamonds, baby akoya pearls and a gondolier on one side, while on the other we find the famous Rialto bridge crowned by a boat's miniature.

The gondola ring is a mini-sculpture of the famous Venetian gondola, mounted on a white gold base with two Rialto bridges encrusted with emeralds, light blue sapphires and pearls to recreate the water. The boat hull is crafted in fossilized black palm wood with a centred Tanzanite marquise, embellished with finer yellow gold details.

Moving to Verona, Alessio pays tribute to Romeo and Juliet with a ring that recreates the famous house and balcony where the two lovers used to meet. Crafted in pink gold and embellished with rubies and diamonds, the particularities of the ring are hidden behind the opening doors: a kneeling white gold micro-sculpture of Romeo bringing a rose to Juliet, while on the other side appears their final carved alcove. The top of the ring, underneath the impressive un-heated yellow sapphire, reveals a rare micro-mosaic pendant on a gold chain decorated with their rival families coat of arms. This can also be worn as a small and charming bracelet.



The scene, completely made in Rome, features a faithful reproduction of the 19th Century French painter Jules Salles-Wagner's portrait of Romeo and Juliet. It is hand carved and on the reverse it features meticulous medieval motifs.

In Florence, Alessio Boschi's travels arrive at the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore and from his creativity a gothic bangle and ring are born. Made in pink gold, the Santa Maria del Fiore bangle and ring are embellished with white and champagne diamonds and intricate details that recall the elaborate architecture of that famous Italian landmark.

In the historic centre of the town of Luca, in Tuscany, there are alluring curved streets and beautiful archways conjoining many buildings. There are four passages leading to the market square, originally the arena of a Roman Amphitheatre. Using the Google Earth application, Alessio was able to reproduce the roofs and walls of the houses, crafting them in textured white and rose gold and then custom cutting diamonds in the shapes of little arches and windows to decorate the square. In the centre we find a stunning oval tsavorite framed by champagne diamonds. This ring opens and reveals a chain bracelet with the Luca coat of arms featuring oak and laurel leaves rendered in rubies, tsavorites and diamonds.





In Pisa, Alessio displays some of his best craftsmanship in recreating the famous leaning tower, carved in white gold and custom cut pink sapphires. The columns and arches of the tower are engraved and their windows are decorated with small purple sapphires framed with micro diamonds. The first unexpected element appears while opening the top lid: a faithful reproduction of the leaning tower that can also be removed and worn as a necklace.

After unlocking the safety system this micro-sculpture splits into two halves with an engraved and powerful message "Trust You, Never Fall" written in a medieval font. The bottom of the ring features the complex coat of arms of the four Marine Republics (Venice, Pisa, Amalfi and Genova) and underneath lies behind them a reproduction of the Pisa coin, with the words "Populi Pisani" and two little carved arches, each with a leaning tower, all in pink gold.

Finally all roads lead to Rome, where Alessio's journey concludes for this year with a tribute to the Colosseum, the most iconic Italian monument. Via two exquisite rings, the Roman jeweller looks at this architectural masterpiece in two perspectives: The Colosseum when it was constructed between 70 and 80AD, and the Colosseum today. In pink or white gold, the two rings depict majestically the Colosseum in a labyrinth of intricate details, such as the she-wolf with the child twins Romulus and Remus or the astonishing padparacha sapphire that centres a rose gold miniature of a colosseum engraved in pink gold, in which we find two micro figures of a gladiator facing a tiger in a 6mm proportions. The micro-amphitheatre can also be worn as a small chain necklace with a delicate rose gold chain passing through the arches.



The Colosseum nowadays ring features a reproduction of the northern wall with three levels of semi-pilasters set at the base of each level in lines of diamond pavé, crowned by custom-cut black diamonds. The two upper levels are then decorated with a micro-reproduction of some of the mythical statues that adorned the building during the Empire period. In alignment on the inner side of the Colosseum the inclined surfaces alternate princess-cut emeralds and lines of baguette diamonds, giving the impression of descending rows and seats.

The southern part of the Colosseum is embellished with micro-diamonds leaving visible the details of the arcades and the internal vomitoria (caves) from which two wild beasts burst forth, connected with chains. The arena is occupied by a large oval morganite that is reminiscent of the warm colour of the bricks and stones underneath the marble. The final surprise of the Colosseum ring is the curved aerodynamic flanks, set with champagne diamonds and depicting the engraved Latin sentence, "Quandiu stat coliseus, stat et Roma; quando cadet coliseus, cadet et Roma; quando cadet Roma, cadet et mundus" (As long as the Colosseum stands, so shall Rome, when the Colosseum falls, Rome shall fall; when Rome falls, so falls the world).

The two gallery's springs are carved on one side with the SPQR abbreviation for Senatus Populusque Romanus (the Senate and people of Rome) while on the opposite side a legionnaire's helmet and the crossed spears pay homage to the Roman's prowess in combat.

Alessio's journey through jewellery not only allows the wearer to enjoy the utmost artistry but also to behold the inner beauty of Italy, its secrets and its incredible architecture.

