

THE HISTORY



The history of Palazzo Dandolo, known as Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal, begins in 1638 as a public “Ridotto”, a place where the Venetians “reduced themselves”, that is, they retired for gambling, parties, entertainment, and all hobbies that perfectly represent the spirit of Venetian mercantile mentality. The Palazzo remained open during the Carnival, which lasted six months, earning an incomparable notoriety. It became a place frequented by many travelers attracted by the cosmopolitan worldliness of the city, which offered the wildest parties and entertainment. The long period of celebration, which brought with its games of chance, usury and prostitution, however, took on the appearance of scandal in the eyes of the people.

Therefore, on November 27 1774, the Council of Ten decreed the definitive closure of the Ridotto. The moment of great splendor ended and since then it has been used only during the now short period of Carnival. In 1936 the Palazzo was restored to host the Venice Casino, but the Curia objected, therefore, the place became the Modernissimo cinema. In 1947 it underwent the last transformation before becoming the Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal, hosting a small theater for which the name of Ridotto was proposed again.

The idea of using the Ridotto area for theatrical performances was proposed by Arturo Buleghin, a former partisan who, on his return from France, carried the lively theatrical culture of the Alps in his eyes and heart. Today the sumptuous halls of the Ridotto host international events that make these spaces relive the glories of the past.

Source: Alberto Fiorin, Fanti e Denari, Arsenale Editrice