

# TOP ITALIAN RESTAURANTS 2026

GAMBERO ROSSO

TOP  
Italian  
Wines  
road show

Bali

PRESS RELEASE

## Bali has made its debut on the Gambero Rosso map of the world's finest Italian restaurants

In Bali, Gambero Rosso is launching its **Top Italian Restaurants** guide, thereby confirming what has long been evident: the Indonesian island is no longer merely a dream destination for surfers, yogis and international travellers, but also one of Asia's most dynamic hubs for fine Italian dining. For the first time, **eight restaurants have been awarded**, a sign of a gastronomic scene that has grown impressively in recent years, driven by high-end international tourism, the opening of iconic hotels and an increasingly curious and knowledgeable public.

One statistic immediately stands out: two restaurants have instantly reached the **top of the selection**, establishing themselves as symbols of two distinct yet complementary souls of contemporary Italian cuisine in Bali. On the one hand, there is **Mauri**, now a historic establishment on the island, which over the years has built a very strong identity around an elegant, personal Italian cuisine deeply rooted in local produce. On the other is **Il Ristorante - Niko Romito**, the project by the Abruzzo-born chef within the luxurious Bulgari Resort Bali, one of the island's most spectacular hotels, perched on the cliffs of Luwatu overlooking the Indian Ocean, which opened twenty years ago.



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Two different approaches, yet united by the same vision of Italianness: rigorous, contemporary, and instantly recognisable. And this is perhaps the most interesting point: today in Bali, people are no longer simply seeking the comfort of classic Italian cuisine, but a complete, refined experience that reflects a distinct identity. The rise in the island's gastronomic standards since the pandemic has been impressive. New luxury hotels, cocktail bars, fine dining restaurants and increasingly ambitious wine lists have transformed Bali into an increasingly credible Asian gastronomic hub. In this context, Italian cuisine plays a central role.

The presence of Gambero Rosso and the Top Italian Restaurants guide therefore marks a significant step forward. No longer simply Italian restaurants 'for tourists', but establishments entering a truly international arena, where technique, innovation and authenticity become essential elements. The fact that eight restaurants have immediately made it into the selection speaks volumes about how high the average standard is today, at least among the island's finest establishments: **Amici Bali, Bella Cucina, Osteria Luna, Zia Tina, La Lucciola** and even a pizzeria, **Da Maria**, confirming a now well-established Italian scene where fine dining, regional cuisine, historic venues and more informal formats coexist.

Last but not least, the two establishments mentioned earlier, which have taken the top spot on the podium: Il Ristorante – Niko Romito aims to bring a contemporary vision of Italian cuisine to the world, characterised by purity, lightness and a focus on the ingredient itself, and does so through the talented Francesca Stabile, chef, and Alessandro Mazzali, executive chef of the entire resort.



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Mauri, on the other hand, is an establishment that over the years has become an absolute benchmark for those seeking top-tier Italian cuisine in Bali. A restaurant that has made a tangible contribution to raising the profile of Italian gastronomy on the island, well before the arrival of the major international luxury hotel brands. It is no coincidence that the chef and owner, Maurizio Bombini, spent time right here in Bali, at the Bulgari and the Ritz-Carlton, before embarking on his entrepreneurial career.

Looking at this first selection of Balinese restaurants from **Top Italian Restaurants**, one gets the feeling that we are only just getting started. For **Bali** today seems to possess all the hallmarks of a major emerging gastronomic market: an international clientele, a growing interest in wine, cultural curiosity, and a form of luxury that is becoming less ostentatious and increasingly experiential. In this context, Italian cuisine continues to be one of the most powerful and sought-after culinary traditions in the world.

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