



## V-A-C FOUNDATION AND ORIENT EXPERIENCE LAUNCH 'SUDEST 1401' AT PALAZZO DELLE ZATTERE

V-A-C Foundation launches new bar and restaurant sudest 1401 at Palazzo delle Zattere

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V-A-C Foundation is proud to launch a new project with Hamed Ahmadi and his Venice based restaurant Orient Experience at their Venice headquarters Palazzo delle Zattere this week.

Born in Bamyan, Afghanistan in 1981, it was Hamed Ahmadi's work in film that first brought him to Venice to present a short and a documentary with two other colleagues at the Film Festival in 2006. The disapproval of the film by extremists in his home country resulted in Hamed and his colleagues having to seek political asylum in Venice after they were unable to return to Afghanistan – and it was here, from a small refugee camp on the outskirts of Venice where Hamed and his friends who shared a common interest in food as an important means of integration, decided to set up a social, intercultural programme with the combined flavours of the Middle East and those of their adopted home of Italy at its core.

Founder Hamed Ahmadi said: «Orient Experience has been sharing the stories of migrants from the Middle East since 2012, when we launched the first restaurant run by political refugees in Venice, a historical crossroads of different cultures.»

Building on the success of this, they opened another restaurant in Sicily, Africa Experience, in 2016 to bring testimony of African refugees to Europe. And now, with **sudest 1401**, the aim is to nurture a more united way of thinking about the East and the South.

Teresa Mavica, Director of the V-A-C Foundation says of the new project "**sudest 1401** stems from a mutual desire for dialogue among diverse cultures considered as 'other' until they come together. The proposed key to developing this conversation is food, by means of a menu that narrates the geographical and cultural journey undertaken by migrants on their way to Italy, an important gateway to Europe."

At **sudest 1401** stories from the Balkan and Middle East will come to life through traditional regional dishes, while the culture of the south will be represented through the rich cuisine of Sicily, an island with a long history of migration. Uniting these traditions, **sudest 1401** is the perfect metaphor for hospitality and coming together in a land for everyone.

Food and conviviality is an ideal vehicle for sharing knowledge and ideas, an opportunity to learn about each other and foster social harmony. In the context of V-A-C's Venetian headquarters Palazzo delle Zattere, **sudest 1401** brings these values to the art world and further supports V-A-C's core mission to overcome cultural divisions.

**sudest 1401** bar and restaurant at Palazzo delle Zattere will be open every day from 8am to 11pm.

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## V-A-C FOUNDATION

V-A-C produces new culture together with artists and audiences alike. It is a platform for open discussion aimed at redefining the contemporary landscape. Working with local communities, V-A-C promotes its exhibition, publishing, performative and learning programmes beyond all disciplinary boundaries and thus constantly resets the coordinates for dialogue within a new global geography. This methodology is employed in all V-A-C initiatives, taking place in its Venetian space, through international, cross-institutional partnerships and in its future home for arts and culture in Moscow, GES-2.

Palazzo delle Zattere is V-A-C Foundation's Venetian headquarters launched in spring 2017. This newly renovated building, situated on Zattere overlooking the Canale della Giudecca, can accommodate exhibitions, events and residencies. Originally dating back to the mid 1800s, the building's interior was renovated at different times from the 1950s to the 1990s. The Foundation commissioned local architect Alessandro Pedron of \_apml architetti to carry out the more recent renovation project, transforming Palazzo delle Zattere into a new centre for contemporary culture for the city of Venice. The entire space covers 2000 sq metres over four levels, half of which is exhibition space.

V-A-C Foundation supports as donor the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

[www.v-a-c.ru](http://www.v-a-c.ru)