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In Manduria, an albergo diffuso built around one word: **comunanza**

The first three suites of 15Dolcevit open in summer 2027 in the old stables of a noble palazzo, in the old town of Manduria, Salento, Puglia.

MANDURIA (Salento, Puglia), Italy, 16 October 2026. In the old town of Manduria, Salento, Puglia, the stables of a noble palazzo become the first three suites of 15Dolcevit in summer 2027: an albergo diffuso born around one word. **Comunanza**: being well together, effortlessly.

Pronounced koh-moo-NAHN-tsah, it means having something in common (Treccani dictionary). In the Middle Ages a **comunanza** was land, the pastures and woods a village used in common. Today it is a piazza. **Restanza** is the anthropologist Vito Teti's word for those who stay; **ritornanza**, for those who come back. **Comunanza** is the third word, and it holds the other two together: those who stayed, those who came back and those who arrive, at the same table.

"It is the word we use for what brought us home after twenty-eight years abroad. Not the sea, not the food: being well together, effortlessly," says Mario Dimitri, co-founder of 15Dolcevit.

Restored by hand

The stables have star vaults and a courtyard with two new arches, five months of work by local masons with tufo blocks cut by hand. At one o'clock the site closes and everyone sits at the same table, which the site diary calls the place "where the next decision gets taken". At opening there will be a noble kitchen, a hamam, an infrared sauna, red light therapy and the Gymnásion. The first fifty members become Founding Members.

A town to live in all year

15Dolcevit is the first place of **Manduriashire Srl**, which restores ten historic buildings in the old town without demolishing a single house, and helps people who come to live here: a long lease first, then the house. The project's money stays within thirty kilometres. Manduria already has 136 residents from western countries, up 27% since 2021, and 85% of them are German, Swiss or Austrian (Istat, 1 January 2025). "Manduria does not need more tourists. It needs more residents," Dimitri wrote in an open letter to the town in September 2026, with five proposals to the council that cost nothing from its budget.

The notice corner

On the corner of Piazza Garibaldi and Piazza Ciracì, which for decades carried the town's death notices and public announcements, "Si rende noto" ("Notice is hereby given") will paste artists' posters four times a year, one over the other. The theme of the first season is "Comunanza". A free international call for artists is planned from 1 December 2026 to 24 January 2027, dates to be

confirmed; the public prize is a one-week residency in Manduria as members of 15DolceVita, to make a new work with the people who voted for it. Promoted by [Manduriashire Srl](#) as a private collateral activity, in the spirit of Manduria's bid to become Italian Capital of Culture 2029, the project has the moral patronage of Confcommercio Manduria. A selection committee chooses the works.

Key facts

- 15DolceVita: albergo diffuso in ten historic buildings of the old town of Manduria (TA), Salento, Puglia. First three suites in Via Giuseppe Verdi 15, summer 2027
- Founding Members: the first fifty members
- Getting there: Brindisi airport 50 minutes by car, the Ionian sea 15 minutes, a metro stop nine minutes' walk from the piazza, expected in 2027
- Who: [Manduriashire Srl](#). Mario Dimitri, co-founder; Maria Pia Ancora, investor
- "Si rende noto": public art on the town's notice corner, four seasons a year. First theme "Comunanza". Moral patronage of Confcommercio Manduria
- Visits: one journalist or creator a month, a hard-hat visit among the star vaults

About Manduriashire Srl

[Manduriashire Srl](#) restores historic houses in the old town of Manduria, Salento, Puglia, by hand and with local craftsmen, and helps people who want to live there all year. Its first place, 15DolceVita, opens in summer 2027. It promotes "Si rende noto", public art on the town's old notice corner. Comunanza: being well together, effortlessly.

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