

See Inside Dolce & Gabbana's New Boutique

Modern opulence comes to San Francisco's Union Square

BY DAMION MATTHEWS - DECEMBER 22, 2015

Mere moments after the new Dolce & Gabbana boutique in San Francisco opened its doors our Instagram feed began welcoming its presence in the City.

Customers and fans are eager to show the place off! A favorite feature is the store's baroque window display, with its fantasy cornucopia of fruits, foliage and jewelry.

The interior design is unique to San Francisco but shares some similarities with other Dolce & Gabbana stores, such as in Melbourne or Tokyo, in its color scheme and materials.

Crimson brocade walls and velvet seating suggest 19th century opulence, while sleek fixtures and lacquer display cases present modern-day functionality — a juxtaposition that fits well with San Francisco's Victorian-meets-Apple aesthetic.

When boutique design is too often bland and sterile, Dolce & Gabbana's worldly approach to modern opulence is a wonderful addition to San Francisco!



That's Amore! Our Love Affair With Italian Style

Dolce & Gabbana the latest Italian luxury brand to open shop in SF

BY DAMION MATTHEWS - FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Paris will always be the capital of fashion, but in San Francisco, Italian design now rules the retail scene!

Roman design house **Valentino** opened its signature boutique on Geary Street in 2014, joining longstanding **Gucci**, **Prada**, **Bottega Veneta**, **Salvatore Ferragamo**, **Giorgio Armani**, **Max Mara** and **Bulgari** stores in Union Square.

Last year **La Perla** made its mark on the City, in an elegant space across from Neiman Marcus. And this month, the most Italian of all Italian fashion houses, **Dolce & Gabbana**, has finally opened its plush jewel box of a boutique at 100 Grant Avenue, directly across from Valentino.

In a City named for an Italian, whose opera was founded by an Italian (Bank of America founder **A.P. Giannini**), whose most famous sports heroes, **Joe DiMaggio** and **Joe Montana** are Italian, whose greatest filmmaker, **Francis Ford Coppola**, is Italian, and whose most prominent political families, **Alioto** and **Pelosi**, are Italian, it's no surprise our fashion should be Italian too!

To welcome the brand's arrival in the City, the Fine Arts Museums' **Dede Wilsey**, along with the Co-chairs of the 2016 Mid Winter Gala (which is to be sponsored by Dolce & Gabbana), **Vanessa Getty** and **Trevor Traina**, hosted a party that brought many of San Francisco's most stylish to the store for the first time. With the Italian house overseeing the design for this year's gala, one expects guests will be immersed in the sensual, colorful vitality so indicative of the Dolce & Gabbana style, and which was very much on display in their boisterous spring 2016 collection, entitled "Italia is Love."

The collection was a celebration of Italy's great tourist destinations — Capri, Venice, Amalfi, Rome, and Florence — and the wonderful handmade embroideries and souvenirs that were sold there in the 1950s. The result was a collection of colorful full-skirted organza dresses, pieces with applique flowers and crocheted doilies, embroidered poppies and daisies, and witty prints inspired by vintage tourist postcards.

Vanessa Getty looked absolutely beautiful in a dress from the spring collection, a knee-length shift in striped sequins. In preparing for the upcoming Mid Winter Gala (March 31, 2016), here are a few more spectacular new pieces from the collection.



Dede Wilsey, Trevor Traina, Alexis Traina, Vanessa Getty. Photo: Drew Altizer



Allison Speer, Carolyn Chang, Victoire Reymal Brown, Anne Waterman, Kathryn Lasater.



Komal Shah, Deepa Pakianathan.



Stephanie Marver, Katie Traina.



Dolce & Gabbana Spring 2016 Collection

Dolce & Gabbana boutique alights in San Francisco

By Carolyn Zinko | December 31, 2015 | Updated: January 4, 2016 12:51pm

If sex and sensuality are driving forces in the collections of Dolce & Gabbana (and they are), then San Francisco, with its women-friendly sex shops and leather street festivals would seem fertile ground for the Italian fashion house's new luxury boutique off Union Square.

It helps that Dolce & Gabbana is a study in contrasts, the sex juxtaposed with religious and Sicilian folkloric references, because San Francisco is full of contrasts, too: high and low society, high-tech and traditional industry, high fashion and vintage fashion, gays and straights.

With the Bay Area tech economy booming, there's more wealth to go around than ever — which is why a dozen or so luxury purveyors have opened stand-alone boutiques here during the past year. Dolce & Gabbana is the latest.

The two-level store with apparel for women and men opened in sleek digs at 100 Grant Ave. on Dec. 22. Its charcoal basaltina floors and black lacquer shelves are accented by velvet burgundy drapes that evoke La Scala in Milan. Upstairs, burgundy damask wallpaper and a purple Murano glass chandelier mimic the air of a stately private home.

The design duo, who founded the fashion house in 1985, said in a recent e-mail interview that they're excited about their West Coast venture, Stefano Gabbana noting that "North America is facing a rebirth" and Domenico Dolce aware that California "is a very important market, especially due to the booming technological industry, which created a supply and demand for luxury products."

The house's aesthetic, said Dolce, "has always been about contrasts. The masculine with the feminine, the sensual with the austere, luxurious fabrics as well as more simple fabrics. It is a combination of many things, especially the Italian tradition united with our creativity, along with our ideas and inspirations, which come from daily life, travels around the world, and from books to the music we listen to."

Gabbana loves color and prints: "I could put decorations and sequins everywhere. I am very baroque!"

Dolce, the son of a tailor, said he is "more prone to the linear simplicity, black, and naturally, lace, which is never forgotten. For me, the cut and fit of the clothing is very important. When a woman wears one of our creations, I feel very proud when she tells me she does not need to modify anything, that she feels comfortable and at ease."

The business partners, who were lovers for 20 years, found themselves at the center of controversy this spring after Dolce made remarks to an Italian magazine that criticized in vitro fertilization and nontraditional families. Bay Area readers should note he has since re-thought those remarks, telling Vogue magazine in September: "I've done some soul searching. I've talked to Stefano a lot about this. I've realized that my words were inappropriate, and I apologize." He also said: "I don't know everything about IVF, but I love it when people are happy. It's like medicine. Science has been put on the table to help people."

Their collections are less contentious, drawing upon the art, culture and history of Italy — from Norman kings who invaded to Greek antiquity to the Byzantine and Venetian mosaics of the Cathedral of Monreale, near Palermo.

The spring/summer 2016 collection for men, with prints of birds, bamboo and other Chinese motifs, was inspired by the Chinese Palace of Palermo.



Dolce & Gabbana boutique alights in San Francisco

By Carolyn Zinko | December 31, 2015 | Updated: January 4, 2016 12:51pm

"We found many stylistic elements in common: the exotic beauty of the peacock, yellow as bright as lemons, oranges that recall Sicilian citrus fruits," said Dolce. "Then, we merged the traditional Sicilian *corretto* (donkey carts) print with the *Pupi* (marionettes) aesthetics to the Chinese pagodas, cacti, lanterns and typical Oriental prints."

The spring/summer 2016 collection for women was influenced by vintage Italian travel posters and post-World War II souvenirs such as embroidered skirts, straw hats, sandals and printed scarves.

The duo are not especially technological. They don't wear Apple watches or Fitbits, but Gabbana loves Instagram, posting landscapes from his travels, and customers in Dolce & Gabbana clothes. Of FaceTime, he marvels, "To think that my mother and I can speak like that!"

The designers won't be here for the boutique's invitation-only grand opening party on Jan. 27. But Dolce & Gabbana is one of several sponsors of the Fine Arts Museums' Mid-Winter gala on March 31. If they do visit them, Gabbana would like to see everything from Facebook and Google to Napa Valley and the Golden Gate Bridge.

"We would like to see our boutiques and understand the perception of the locals," he said. "These are fundamental aspects of our job."

Ah, now they're onto something. In Silicon Valley, knowledge is sexy.



High society's high-rolling holiday parties

December 30, 2015 | Updated: January 4, 2016 5:45pm

Lovely Legion: Returning home from the Elegant Evening in the Court of Honor, my notebook was empty — nary a blotch of ink dotted its pristine, lined pages.

And that's just how it should be following the Legion of Honor's beloved holiday dinner-dance celebrating the Fine Arts Museums' deep-pocketed donors. Co-hosted by FAM trustees **Kathryn Lasater** and **Kate Harbin-Clammer**, with able encouragement from honorary co-chairs **Marion Cope** and FAM Board President **Dede Wilsey**, 220 guests donned black-tie best as they convened for cocktails and a McCall's dinner at glamorous **Lewis Sykes**-designed tables. Yet before the first course was even served, dedicated twinkle-toes hit the dance floor, expertly gliding along to Big Band classics or grooving to Motown sounds laid down by the **Bob Hardwick Sound**.

Still, we managed to glean a brief tidbit: Joining this year's fete were dapper Dolce & Gabbana execs **Paolo Cigognini** and **Valerio d'Ambrosio**, on hand to experience the Legion in action prior to the luxe Italian label's March 31 sponsorship of the Junior Committee's Mid-Winter Gala. Well, that and their beautiful new Union Square boutique.



Photo: Catherine Bjelow, Special To The Chronicle

Dolce & Gabbana execs exec Valerio d'Ambrosio (left), Mid-Winter Gala co-chair Allison Speer, FAMSF Board President Dede Wilsey, and Dolce & Gabbana exec Paolo Cigognini at the Legion of Honor party.

Miss Universe bungle; Dolce & Gabbana opens on Grant; MAC Day in SF

By Tony Bravo and Carolyn Zinko | December 21, 2015 | Updated: December 24, 2015 10:52am



Photo: Courtesy Of Dolce & Gabbana

A little bit of Sicily comes to San Francisco with the opening of the new Dolce & Gabbana store on Geary at Stockton streets, scheduled for Dec. 22. Union Square is awash in luxury shops, with retailers eager to cash in on the tech boom and growth of high-net worth individuals.

Prego! A little bit of Sicily has come to San Francisco with the opening of **Dolce & Gabbana** on Grant Avenue (at Geary St.), on Dec. 21. Why now? “North America is facing a rebirth,” said **Domenico Dolce** by e-mail. “The Dolce & Gabbana style has always been about contrasts. The masculine with the feminine, the sensual with the austere, luxurious fabrics as well as more simple fabrics.” San Francisco is also a study in contrasts: old money and new money, high fashion and thrifty/vintage/bohemian looks, tech industry and traditional industry, so they may be right on target.

SPOTLIGHT: DOLCE & GABBANA

At last Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana have brought their color-saturated designs to San Francisco's Union Square where they are set amid black lacquer shelves and burgundy velvet drapes in a gleaming new boutique. The Italian fashion house's **Dolce & Gabbana** shop at Grant Avenue and Geary Street includes ready-to-wear collections for women—suggestive cuts are juxtaposed with looks that more closely resemble traditional full-skirted Sicilian garb—in addition to the men's Sartoia line as well as ready-to-wear collections, plus jewelry and eveningwear. The business partners—formerly a couple—founded the house in 1985, and have relied on contrasts for inspiration over the years. They have mined masculine-feminine dualities, paired simple cottons with luxurious silks, even cast young models alongside stately village matrons in print campaigns. But the Dolce & Gabbana look has always revolved around sex appeal. For men this spring, the designers created suit coats printed with birds, taking the Chinese Palace of Palermo as inspiration. The women's collection riffs on Italian travel posters, straw hats, and the sort of scarves you'd wear while driving a convertible in wine country. The space's voyeuristic glass facade reveals all manner of shoes, bags, and dresses covered in animal prints, floral motifs, yards of lace, sequins, and intricate embroidery patterns. As the new year begins, the house's more-is-more aesthetic seems a fitting addition to the Bay Area's current building boom, and the house's intricate designs have arrived just in time to grace this March's Mid-Winter Gala benefiting the **Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco**, an evening that will surely be awash in technicolor gowns.

By Elizabeth Varnell



DOLCE & GABBANA BOUTIQUE OPENING PARTY

San Francisco's finest descended upon **Dolce & Gabbana's** newest boutique on Wednesday in anticipation of the 2016 Mid Winter Gala; An annual black tie affair that the fashion house has long supported, benefiting the **Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco**. The stately flagship—accented in plush velvet drapery—served as the perfect backdrop for a pre-gala celebration, where the Bay Area's most notable patrons sipped on Champagne while mingling in the opulent new storefront. Dede Wilsey, along with Mid Winter Gala Honorary Co-Chairs Vanessa Getty and Trevor Traina, welcomed guests Mayor Willie Brown, Denise Hale and more to toast the forthcoming event of the season.



Norman Stone & Sarah Stone



Dede Wilsey, Trevor Traina & Alexis Traina



Stephanie Meyer



Amit Shah



Carolee Chang



Barbara Brown



Vanessa Getty



Denise Hale & Allison Speer



Katie Traina



Yvonne Ferez Villarreal



Dorje Pabonathan



Morgan Dixon

SF: Inside the Dolce & Gabbana Boutique Opening Party

BY SONYA MOLODETSKAYA | FASHION, NEWS | FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Walls covered into deep red silk, twinkling chandelier, velvet couches and glittering mirrors...then there are the spectacular creations on the hangers...it must be true that Italy is love.

Ladies and gentlemen, one of the world's most creative duos have made it's way to San Francisco, and I was lucky enough to be there for the opening of the new Dolce & Gabbana boutique in the heart of the Bay Area.

And timing could not be better. Not only are we getting into a fashion state of mind with New York, Milan and Paris Fashion weeks approaching, but with Valentine's Day is just around the corner, what could be better than a new shopping spot to celebrate the day of love?

Without any doubt the epicenter of San Francisco's fashion world was at 100 Grant Avenue last week, where the most stylish Dolce & Gabbana devotees came to toast the opening of the new favorite spot. And I have to say they represented the popular brand by wearing fabulous designs what could make the catwalk proud.

The "catwalkers" browsed the two-level store admiring the women and men collections, shoes, jewelry and accessories. The very fashionable store opening honored the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, which will become a gorgeous venue for Mid-Winter Gala presented by Dolce & Gabbana on March 31.

Signature lace, dresses with appliqued flowers, sunglasses that are far from minimalism, exotic skin handbags: The Dolce & Gabbana woman is "Feminine, sensual, powerful, sexy, fashionable...everything," as Domenico Dolce described her. Poppies and lemons, jacquard and brocade, colorful stripes — the latest creations of the legendary Italian House remind us of a summer in Italy. Fifties and Sixties definitely dominated spring/summer 2016 ready-to-wear collection called "Italia is Love." True fashion lovers agree: San Francisco is a right place for Dolce & Gabbana boutique where your dream wardrobe becomes a reality.



Little Italy on the West Coast

Inside Dolce & Gabbana's new San Francisco boutique opening

Written by David Nash



Grant Avenue feels more like Little Italy these days, particularly since Dolce & Gabbana took up residence next to other well-heeled Italian labels like Prada, Valentino and Brunello Cucinelli. This week, the luxury fashion house celebrated its arrival with a proper housewarming, hosted by Diane Wilsey, Vanessa Getty and Trevor Traina. The two-level, high-concept boutique—with its glass façade, opulent burgundy drapes and transparent

furniture—had been long anticipated.

"The moment now feels right for us to open in San Francisco," explained Stefano Gabbana. "I strongly believe timing is everything...and right now is the perfect moment for us to open our first-ever boutique here."

Domenico Dolce echoed this sentiment. "California is such an important market...we feel that our new San Francisco boutique is an important piece to our global puzzle.

Guests, who sipped champagne served by waiters wearing black tailcoats, included Norah and Norman Stone, Denise Hale, Katie Traina, Willie Brown, Tanya Powell and David Lasker.





Victoria Reynar Brown, Anne Waterhouse and Kathryn Lüscher



Dede Wilbur and Denise Hale



Vivienne Kelly

Dolce & Gabbana

PHOTOS BY DREW ALTIZER PHOTOGRAPHY

Dolce & Gabbana celebrated the opening of its new boutique and heralded the approaching Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Mid-Winter Gala with an evening party in the store.



Yvonne Folsch Pittman



Willie Brown and Sergey Malodetskiy



Carolyn Chandler, Jorge Mañera and Barbara Brown

Sotheby's International Realty

PHOTOS BY DREW ALTIZER PHOTOGRAPHY

Sotheby's International Realty celebrated the end of a successful 2013 and rang in the New Year by treating its agents to a private soiree at the Battery Club.



Rooftop view from the Battery Club



Gregg Lynn, Kathy Korbe, Jeffrey Shinn and Arthur Sharp



Mary Fenton, Kathy Korbe and Janet Schneider