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THE “FLOATING” RESIDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO ITALY

This paper examines the appointment of Tilmann Joseph Fertitta as US Ambassador to Italy in spring 2025, because this event has some notable and unprecedented aspects. Since 1933, in fact, US Ambassadors to Italy had always chosen Villa Taverna as residence. Ambassador Fertitta, instead, believing that Villa Taverna was in need of major restoration and conservation work, decided to use his own yacht, the Boardwalk, as his temporary residence in Italy. This is the first time that a vessel – specifically, a large yacht – has been used as a diplomatic residence, albeit temporarily.