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PIAZZA DEL LUSSO OPENED AT MILAN MALPENSA AIRPORT

Milan Malpensa Airport has completed the first stage of an expansion project with the opening of Piazza del Lusso.

The development is part of a €30 million airport makeover by operator SEA, that will see the Italian gateway transformed. SEA decided to bring the project forward with 2015 Milan Expo taking place.

The new shopping area featuring the Piazza del Lusso, will be accessible to all passengers, and one of the largest in Europe with a surface of 8,000 square metres and 46 new retail spaces, including a 2,000 square metre duty free area.

The new mall will increase the total retail offering in the departures area to 23,000 square metres, and bring the number of restaurant, bars and shop concessions to 100.

This is part of SEA's strategy to expand and improve the retail offering of its airports.

Truly Italian in style, the design of the new shopping gallery will be a tribute to the city of Milan, with its appearance resembling a modern version of the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele.

The lighting, created by lighting designer Cinzia Ferrara, is one of the distinctive features and retail outlets include luxury brands Bulgari, Armani, and Gucci.

Once the restyling project is completed, Milan Malpensa will be an airy state-of-the-art steel and glass facility, featuring an aerodynamic design, marble floors, and zinc-titanium cladding.

Terminal 1, is expected to be completed by April 2015, will have a total surface area of 350,000 sq metres, 90 boarding gates and up to 270 check-in desks, and 41 loading bridges.

Architectural designer, Gregorio Caccia Dominioni, explains: "The new spaces have conceived, designed and built to project into the future an airport facility intended to contribute to the relaunch of a new Milan, while keeping the memories of its past, having a careful eye on its present and eager to participate in a leading role in the creativity of the years to come."

SEA president Pietro Modiano, says Milan Malpensa is "pivotal" in the Milan airport system: "It is strategic for this country, that SEA invests in an infrastructure that was able to grow even during the crisis and is now capturing the signs, albeit still weak, of an upcoming recovery.

"What we can see today is only the beginning of a Malpensa's new success story unfolding before our eyes."

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