



Be patient... The Capua Palace will be officially opened in July when its Lm7.5 million construction is complete. AX Holdings chairman Angelo Xuereb (second left) with hospital staff in one of the state-of-the-art operating theatres.

Lm7.5m Capua Palace Hospital to open in July

Malta's latest private hospital will be completed by July, having cost developers AX Holdings Lm7.5 million to construct.

The 80-bed Capua Palace Hospital in Sliema, will be officially opened on July 19. The historic palace is incorporated in the building.

AX Holdings chairman Angelo Xuereb, speaking at a news conference yesterday, said Lm2 million of the investment had gone on state-of-the-art equipment.

The Capua Palace Hospital has a four-bed intensive care unit, six high dependency beds, 10 medical beds, 14 day care

beds, and eight consulting suites.

There are three main operating theatres all fitted out with the latest equipment as well as an endoscopy theatre and an obstetric theatre.

As a general hospital the Capua Palace will also offer specialised services like sports physiotherapy and plastic surgery.

Capua Palace will also carry out cardiac surgery.

All the rooms in the hospital have air-conditioning, en-suite bathrooms, television, radio, telephone and advanced nurse call systems.

A mixture of local and foreign staff are still being recruited by the hospital although some are already in place and now undergoing training in medical centres around the world.

Mr Xuereb said the entire operation was geared towards creating a centre of medical excellence.

"A private hospital seemed like an excellent opportunity, that not only made sense from a business point of view but also from the fact that such a medical cen-

tre would put Malta in a position to offer local and foreign communities yet another service," he said.

"It is the aim of Capua Palace to deliver the highest standards in medical and patient care, thus making this hospital the choice of all those requiring medical treatment."

Although a lot of emphasis has been placed on constructing a modern hospital the developers have also paid attention to restoring the old palace.

James Calvert

When plans to build the hospital were first announced there was controversy over the planned inclusion of the palace.

But instead of detracting from the historic building the hospital actually enhances its best features, many of which have been refurbished by the developers using ancient techniques.

"To give you an idea of the work involved one need only look at the columns which are produced out of one vertically cut quarry stone," Mr Xuereb said.

Work on the palace was carefully monitored to ensure it was properly restored and the com-

pany even managed to reverse some of the changes made by its previous owners.

"A regret we still harbour is the fact that several items were stolen during the period we were not allowed in the palace, including several stone ornamental artifacts, some of which have not been returned to date," Mr Xuereb said.

"Another challenge was the design of a new building that was needed to complement the old palace. We feel this was achieved through elegant styles and open spaces that contribute to the overall harmony of the project."