UNEARTH THE ESSENCE OF VENICE
WITH OUR EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES
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- CURATED EXPERIENCES
1,600 YEARS OF VENICE

Step back in time to discover the rich history of Venice. Journey through monumental libraries and hidden archives or follow a trail through museum storage rooms and ancient gambling houses to explore the city’s fashionable roots.

Secret Archives: to celebrate 1,600 years of Venice, we invite you to enter immense libraries and secret archives to discover rare tomes and precious manuscripts rarely visible to the public. Special access to hallowed rooms will reveal incredible details about the city’s unparalleled history, brought to life by expert curators and engaging historians. Visit the Fondazione Cini Library, Biblioteca San Vidal of the Museum Correr and the Library of San Francesco della Vigna Monastery – a church designed by Palladio, which conceals the only vineyard left in Venice.

A Brief History of Venetian Fashion: enjoy a unique celebration of Venice as a capital of style and fashion for more than 300 years. This experience will take you inside museum storage rooms and ancient gambling houses. Unearth exquisite traces of a golden past formed of elegant clothing, jewellery and sophisticated objects that were created in Venice and fêted all over the world. The tour will take you to hidden spaces in Palazzo Mocenigo, Casino Venier and a sumptuous private residence still jealously guarded by its founding family.

Talk to the Concierge to personalise your tour. Suggested duration: three hours. Advance booking required.
GIUDECCA BEHIND THE SCENES

Uncover the hidden gems of Giudecca on a fascinating tour. This tiny island overlooking the city centre is actually one of the largest in the lagoon and offers stunning attractions away from the crowds. An itinerary can be put together including any of the following:

Learn the exclusive art of Venetian rowing
Master this unique technique, dating from the 5th century, in a 90-minute session with champion rower Gloria Rogliani. A variety of boats accommodates between 1 and 15 people.

Meet one of the last ‘moecante’
Encounter one of the last fishing families that specialises in Venetian moeche, delectable soft-shelled green crabs. Discover the skills, challenges and intriguing stories behind their work.

Immerse yourself in an ancient boatyard
Visit Mr Crea, a Regata Storica champion, at Squero Crea, one of the last real gondola boatyards in Venice. Gain an insight into the craftsmanship required to create the iconic Venetian vessel.

Discover a medieval pharmacy
Delve behind the majestic façade of Palladio’s Redentore Church to discover a tiny pharmacy, dating from 1577. Admire ancient tools, recipe books and ampoules belonging to the Capuchin monks of the time.

Each tour is tailored to your personal interests. Advance reservations required.
SLOW VENICE

We encourage slow travel initiatives to protect the Venetian lagoon. As such, these tours can be enjoyed aboard an electric boat.

Sail to Sant’Erasmo Island, the green heart of Venice, and hop on a bicycle. Visit the celebrated apiary, Il Miele del Doge, where a local family tends the beehives that produce 100% organic barena honey – barene are salt marshes, tiny strips of land that disappear at high tide. The bees feed on sea lavender flowers to produce a sweet, balsamic honey with a slightly salty tang. At the end of the tour, visit owner Mara’s home for a delicious tasting.

Alternatively, cycle through Lio Piccolo, a cluster of islets separated by tiny canals in the Venetian Lagoon. Pedal along a narrow road bordered on both sides by barene. Visit the local villages of Saccagnana and Pra and meet some of the 30 inhabitants of this pristine, nature-rich wilderness. At the end of the day, relax with a little aperitivo set right by the water, before gliding into the sunset and back to the hotel.

Available from May to October. Speak to the Concierge to personalise your tour.
Set sail into the Venetian lagoon aboard Edipo Re, the beautiful boat on which opera diva Maria Callas and film director Pier Paolo Pasolini developed a profound love. The elegant, 16m motor sailing yacht is ideal for exploring the lagoon’s lesser-known corners such as Torcello, with its seventh-century cathedral and shimmering Byzantine mosaics, and Pellestrina, a narrow sliver of land barely 200 metres wide. After your explorations, return to the gleaming deck for dinner, cocktails or canapés, or a tasting of exquisite local produce such as cult caparossoli clams or Venetian soft-shell crab.

Different tour options are available. Ask the Concierge to recommend what best matches your interests. Subject to availability; advance booking essential.
- LAGOON LIVING
TOUR OF THE LAGOON

Hop aboard the hotel's private boat, Shirley, or another gleaming wooden vessel. Enjoy an enchanting tour of the islands in which art, craftsmanship, culture, tradition and fine food are irresistibly blended.

Personalise your tour choosing from:

Murano
Visit the home of traditional blown glass to watch the experts in action. After a factory tour, you can also visit the island’s Church of St Maria and St Donato to admire extraordinary Venetian-Byzantine architecture, including 12th-century floor mosaics.

Burano
Once famous for its delicate and ornate lace, Burano is distinguished by its colourful fishermen’s cottages - blues, reds, yellows and purples all stunningly reflected in the water. Stroll along inviting streets, buy decorative lace and linen, and sample the famous island pastries, buranei.

Torcello
First inhabited in 400 AD, this was where the earliest Venetians settled. Now just 15 inhabitants live here, mainly fishing and farming. Discover the majestic Torcello Cathedral, visible for miles around and concealing glittering marble mosaics within.

You can also combine a visit to the lesser-known islands of the northern lagoon, such as lush Sant’Erasmo, San Francesco del Deserto, home to a Franciscan monastery, and San Michele, the city’s monumental cemetery. Or explore fascinating islands in the southern lagoon, such as San Lazzaro, site of an Armenian monastery, long, thin Pellestrina, and Lido, famous for its beaches and Venice Film Festival.

Customise your tour with the Concierge. A professional guide can accompany you. Duration varies according to number of islands visited. Recommended departure time: 10:00.
ISLAND VINEYARDS

Embark on a private tour of two extraordinary lagoon wineries and meet their pioneering owners.

Departing from the hotel in an elegant wooden boat, head to tranquil Mazzorbo island, a 45-minute ride away. Here, Matteo Bisol will open the doors to his estate. Venissa is one of the last remaining examples of a walled vineyard with a heritage dating back to the Middle Ages. The entire farm is completely surrounded by a restored medieval wall. Adding to the sense of serenity is the soaring 14th-century bell tower of St Michael the Archangel Church. The vineyard is largely home to original, ungrafted vines, whose roots are nurtured by lime- and clay-rich soils. After showing you around, Matteo will give you a tasting of his globally prized Venissa wine.

Your second stop is Sant’Erasmo island, 20 minutes away, where a wine called Orto is produced. Michel Thoulouze will welcome you in his red Ape car. Former CEO of Tele+ and creator of Canal Plus, the Frenchman’s strong bond with the lagoon compelled him to move here over 20 years ago. He enriched his vineyard soils by planting barley and oats, eschewing all fertilisers and chemicals. After a few years, he singled out three grape varieties, Vermentino, Fiano di Avellino and Malvasia Istriana, and blended them to make Orto. Sample the revered white together with tasty lagoon bites before returning to the hotel.

Suggested departure time: 10:30. Tour lasts 4 hours. Mazzorbo and Sant’Erasmo wines are available in Cipriani’s restaurants.
GONDOLA TOUR

When in Venice, a gondola ride is an absolute must. Embark on a leisurely tour discovering the city’s picturesque canals. After exploring the smaller waterways, glide up to Rialto Bridge and enter the Grand Canal before slowly rowing back to St Mark’s. Departure is from the gondola station just a few metres from our private shuttle pier in St Mark’s Square. Fancy a little music as you drift? Let us know and we’ll arrange a musician to serenade you.

Advance reservations not normally required. Day and night-time tours available. Please book with the Concierge.
KAYAK TOUR

Like to see Venice from a beautiful new perspective? Take to the water. On a blissful half- or full-day excursion, paddle through its quieter canals. No experience necessary – after a 15-minute lesson, and guided by expert instructors, you’ll find it a breeze. Next door to the boatyard is one of the quietest parts of the lagoon, perfect for practising. You’ll need to bring your own sports clothes and footwear, as well as a change of clothes, hat, sunscreen and sunglasses.

– TREASURES OF THE LAND
FROM VENICE WITH LOVE: MOVIE TOUR

Explore famous film locations on a cinematic journey through the decades. Beginning in St Mark’s Square you can admire the backdrop used in Orson Welles’ 1952 Othello as well as settings for two James Bond movies, From Russia with Love and Moonraker. Spot Caffè Florian, which played a starring role in 1955’s Summertime, starring Katherine Hepburn, and in 1999’s The Talented Mr Ripley with Matt Damon. Continuing towards Campo Santa Maria del Giglio, discover the place where Woody Allen follows Julia Roberts in bittersweet musical comedy Everyone Says I Love You. Enter La Fenice Theatre to recall the unforgettable opening scene of Luchino Visconti’s 1954 Senso. The fascinating tour may continue with glimpses of backdrops from The Merchant of Venice, starring Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, The Italian Job and Casino Royale. Discover the tiny church used in 1973’s Don’t Look Now, the Daphne du Maurier thriller that evoked a chilling, mysterious Venice. These and many more locations will delight lovers of cinema and have you reaching for the DVD the moment you arrive home.

Expertly guided movie tours can be customised to your interests and requests and last around 4-6 hours.
SUNRISE ON THE SCALINATA DEL BOVOLO

Board our complimentary shuttle to St Mark’s early in the morning, while the city is still sleeping, and prepare for an unforgettable experience. Walk among the deserted streets – Venice is all yours at this time of day – to reach the stunning Palazzo Contarini del Bovolo. Climb its impressive spiral staircase and take a seat at a private table overlooking the rooftops. Savour breakfast as the sun comes up and Venice, spread out beneath you, slowly wakes up.

Suitable for a maximum of 6 people.
STROLL WITH A VENETIAN WRITER

Step into authentic, artisanal Venice, fuelled by history, beauty and charm. Accompanied by Elisabeth Rainer, author of My Pretty Venice: A Girl’s Guide to True Venice, discover boutiques, studios and experiences that elude the regular tourist trail. Walks can be customised to your interests. Potential stops include a gondolier’s hat workshop, an apothecary creating timeless Venetian scents, a dextrous jeweller specialising in Murano glass bead necklaces, and a maker of classic Venetian slippers. Perhaps end your tour on the Rooftop Terrace of the new Fondaco, a restored warehouse now home to luxury stores, and soak up the breathtaking 360-degree views of the city.

*Personalise your tour with the Concierge. Suggested duration is around 4-5 hours.*
TOUR OF THE JEWISH GHETTO

Venice was the site of the world’s first ever ghetto. Gain an insight into its history on this thought-provoking tour, which begins with a visit to four out of the five existing synagogues in Venice. Admire their different architectural styles. Visit the Jewish Museum to learn about centuries-old Venetian Jewish heritage, well-known characters and music of the ghetto, then see where it all began. Time-travel through all the site’s eras and pay a visit to the first official bank in the world. At the end of your tour, enjoy a cup of tea or a glass of wine with your guide and discuss all that you’ve seen and experienced.

Boat transfer to the ghetto will be arranged by the Concierge.
Suggested duration: 2.5 hours.
CLASSIC ITINERARIES

The Cipriani has devised this series of tours to take guests to the most important, compelling sites in Venice. Each is guided by art and history experts with outstanding knowledge of the city’s monuments, palaces and collections.

Recommended itineraries:

**San Marco and Rialto**
Discover the treasures of St Mark’s Square: the Doge’s Palace and Basilica. Enjoy an hour at each monument before strolling to the Rialto.

**Castello**
Unearth one of the city’s most authentic districts. A naval museum, boat ramps and the Venetian Arsenal sit cheek-by-jowl with beautiful churches.

**Dorsoduro and San Polo**
Be immersed in art from the 15th century onwards. Gallerie dell’Accademia, Ca’ Rezzonico, Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana are among the unmissable highlights.

**Cannaregio**
This rarely visited area near the train station, around 20 minutes by water taxi from the hotel, is home to the oldest ghetto in Europe, the Church of Madonna dell’Orto and the ornate Ca d’Oro palace.

*We strongly recommend booking your tour at least a week in advance.*
BATTILORO – GOLDEN VENICE

Watch solid gold bars be transformed into shimmering, paper-thin leaves at this rare artisan workshop. Master goldbeater Mario Berta Battiloro launched his business in 1969, intent on continuing the family tradition and keeping 18th-century Venetian skills alive. Visit the atelier where craftsmen hammer gold, silver and other precious metals into leaves of extraordinary thinness. These are then used to gild artworks, interior decor, culinary masterpieces and more.

Ask the Concierge to book your visit.
GAIN EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS

See the city through different eyes with the help of a leading photographer. In collaboration with the Casa dei Tre Oci, a renowned centre of photography and art set in the former home of famous painter Mario De Maria, the Cipriani has created a series of photography itineraries. These range from after-dark 3-hour tours to half-day tours capturing colourful markets, eclectic shops, the timeless beauty of the lagoon or Canaletto’s views. Day tours also include the chance to gain exclusive entry to the magnificent archives of Italian Neorealism, the Circolo Fotografico La Gondola. The Circolo was founded in Venice in 1948 and, historically, is the most important photography club in Italy. Slip on a pair of gloves to enter the vault, where you can handle precious images that have made national and world history.

Tours can be tailored to beginners and experts using a professional camera or iPhone. They last a minimum of 3 hours and are available for up to six people. Tripods and night lenses can be provided. From September to October, photographers can accompany guests on weekly tours of the Ghetto, the Arsenal or San Giacomo dall’Orio.
La Serenissima’s former commercial supremacy still echoes across today’s artisanal shops, where craftsmanship and traditions are kept passionately alive. If you’re seeking bespoke gems or one-of-a-kind pieces, this is the tour for you. Choose from:

**Eredi Jovon Jewellery**
Located near Rialto Bridge, this family-owned boutique has specialised in customised, hand-carved cameos and coral jewellery since 1934. A great opportunity to commission your own personal gem.

**Bottega dell’Indorador**
Here, a father and son specialise in restoration, using gold leaf to give antiques a new lease of life. Discover elegant artefacts for your home and unearth one-off, unusual gifts.

**Legatoria Piazzesi**
This was the first Bottega Artigiana d’Europa to invent the art of covering everyday objects with hand-printed decorative paper. For ornate diaries, notebooks, folders and pen holders, look no further.

**Ad un passo dai miracoli**
Venetian antiques and handmade lampshades covered in gorgeous Italian fabrics make this home interiors shop a dream. The owner welcomes commissions.

*Ask the Concierge to personalise your tour.*
SLOW SHOPPING IN VENICE

Strolling around the city, you’re sure to spot a variety of enchanting artisan shops. Discover a world where time-honoured traditions are kept alive on a personalised tour. Perfect for bringing home a piece of authentic Italy. Our Concierge recommends:

**Giovanna Zanella**
Turn your footwear dreams into reality at this exclusive boutique. From bright red boots to exquisite orange moccasins, let your imagination run free as you request a pair of bespoke, handcrafted shoes.

**The Merchant of Venice**
This perfumery near Teatro La Fenice is housed in a former apothecary that was redesigned in 1846 by architect Giambattista Meduna. Lose yourself in intoxicating fragrances inspired by the city’s mercantile heritage.

**Marchi Caffè Costarica**
This local gem fills the air each morning with delicious aromas of roasting coffee beans. Stop to enjoy a caffè della sposa, blended from the finest Arabica varieties, or order some Costa Rica to go.

**Casa del Parmigiano**
This renowned store may not be good for your waistline, but it’ll cheer your soul. Browse the range of fresh buffalo mozzarella, burrata, mascarpone and creamy ricotta, then treat yourself.

**Da Nico**
With the first rays of spring sunshine, Venetians crowd Da Nico’s terrace to indulge in mouthwatering ice cream. Try the decadent Gianduiotto, a slab of hazelnut gelato immersed in whipped cream.

*Speak to the Concierge to customise your tour.*
- WINING AND DINING
PICNIC ON THE LAGOON

Embark on a tasty tour of the lagoon aboard a private wooden boat or the hotel’s own gleaming vessel, Shirley. Sailing with you will be a delicious packed lunch, including a bottle of sparkling Ferrari wine and irresistible savoury bites. There’s nothing more relaxing than visiting the enchanting Venetian islands with sumptuous food at hand.

Personalise your tour with the Concierge. Please refer to our Food and Beverage Manager for dietary requirements.
BACARO TOUR

Immerse yourself in the most authentic of Venetian traditions on this engaging walk led by an English-speaking guide. The bacaro is a social watering hole where locals go for a refreshing ombra (drink), a cichetto (typical Venetian snack) and a bit of gossip. Venetians gather in the small, typical trattoria furnished with wooden tables and benches to exchange news and laugh with the owners, who are often as much of a draw as the bacari themselves. Your guide will lead you to a number of lively bacari renowned either for their culinary offerings or the charisma of the host.

Tours depart from the hotel at around 18:00 and return 3-4 hours later. Comfy clothes and shoes recommended. The tour includes: transfer by traditional boat with soft drinks on board, English-speaking guide and two tastings with selected snacks and beverages at two different spots.
SUNSET APERITIFS ON A GONDOLA

Gondolas symbolise the romance of Venice. For centuries, these beautiful vessels have been used to navigate the intricate network of canals, following routes quite unlike those of city roads. They allow you to explore charming, hidden corners of the city in an intimate, graceful fashion. Board an elegant gondola, adorned in classic Venetian style, for a romantic sunset moment with a glass of sparkling wine. Two skilful rowers will then guide you to your favourite restaurant. It’s a magical way to mark a special occasion, such as an anniversary or marriage proposal.

Duration: 90 minutes. Recommended departure time: 18:00. Includes a bottle of sparkling wine. Champagne and snacks available on request.
FEASTS FOR THE SENSES

Awaken all your senses on our exclusive tour including places normally off-limits to visitors. Smell, hear, taste, touch and see a completely different side of the city.

Smell: the perfume shop
From St Mark’s Square, your friendly guide accompanies you to Il Mercante di Venezia, a family-owned store in Campo San Fantin. Breathe in the aromas of pure essential oils and luscious fragrances, meet a master perfumer and even blend your own bespoke scent.

Hear: the violin man
Continue to Corte Bottera where you have privileged access to a private medieval courtyard, home to Riccardo Guaraldi, a maker and restorer of violins. Listen to stories about his interesting work before hearing him demonstrate one of his superb instruments.

Taste: the chocolate experience
Take an indulgent break at chocolaterie VizioVirtù (Vices and Virtues) in San Polo. Modern recipes are combined with age-old ingredients, such as exotic spices, nuts and dried fruits. Learn about the art of making chocolate from cocoa beans and sample some of the melt-in-the-mouth specialities.

Touch and see: treasures of a Venetian palace
Your sensory journey culminates in a visit to Palazzo Ca’ Pisani, a glorious Venetian palace. As you stroll through its sumptuous interiors, let your fingers glide over silk and damask furnishings, touch gorgeous hand-blown Murano lamps and objets d’art from around the world. Or simply sit on an elegant divan and watch the gondolas go by.

Tours lasting 4 hours are available for 4 people. Venues may be subject to change.
WONDERS OF FRIULI

Enjoy a full-day tour of Italy’s north-eastern Collio region, where an array of white wines – considered by many connoisseurs to be the best in Italy – are produced. This lush, undulating part of Friuli offers a vibrant concoction of culture, colour and taste. Discover it in a chauffeur-driven minivan, enjoying the opportunity to explore aboard a classic yellow Vespa if wished. Meet celebrated wine producers, peek behind the scenes and learn the secrets of labels that you may later spot in top international restaurants.

Sample itinerary and inclusions:
- First wine tasting at Felluga, Livon or Castelvecchio winery. At this stage of the tour, you may wish to rent a yellow Vespa and drive through the vine-clad hills.
- Lunch at Michelin-starred La Subida restaurant or at Tavernetta del Castello di Spessa.
- Second wine tasting: a discovery of organic and biodynamic wines, perhaps by brilliant winemaker Gravner (‘the Philosopher’) or pioneer Radikon (‘the Purist’). Alternatively enjoy a tasting by the pool at the minimalist Laquin House, also known as the black cube.

Depart at 10:00 from Piazzale Roma and return at 18:30.
LUNCH IN A HIDDEN GARDEN OF BURANO

Hop in a private boat and head out to lunch on Burano, the colourful fishermen’s island. At the island’s centre you’ll be welcomed into a secluded, private garden by a local resident. Before eating, enjoy a refreshing aperitif on an altana, a wooden rooftop terrace typical of Venice. Then take your place in the garden at a beautiful, gazebo-shaded table. Enhance the occasion further with live entertainment from a band of local musicians.

Ride to Burano takes 20 minutes.
Photographer and band available on request.
Select your menu with the Concierge.
Table arrangements can be personalised.