

SERVANE GIOL AND THOMAS JONGLEZ

Soul of Venice

A GUIDE TO EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES



JONGLEZ PUBLISHING



01

ENTER ST MARK'S AFTER OPENING HOURS

There's a way to avoid the crowds in St Mark's Basilica, arguably the most beautiful church on the planet: go after public opening hours.

Here's how it's done: about half an hour after the basilica closes to the public, it reopens for Vespers. The meeting point is on the left side of the building. Put away your camera and say or indicate that you intend to pray. The guard posted at the entrance to turn away non-worshippers will let you in.

Once inside, keep a low profile. You're not here as a tourist. Sit down quietly, savour the gorgeous singing and marvel at the basilica in all its splendour.

For true believers, hearing the voices of the choir rise up beneath the golden cupolas is a moment of pure magic.



BASILICA DI SAN MARCO
PIAZZA SAN MARCO 328
30100 VENEZIA



Vespers time: 5:30 pm (5pm on winter Sundays and holidays),
approximately 30 minutes after the closure of the Basilica



PHOTOS © ANGELA M.L. COLONNA

02

HEADING ONTO THE SILK ROAD

In 1500 there were more than 6,000 looms in operation in the City of Venice. Today, some of the city's wealthy families, such as the Bevilacqua – now in their sixth generation of weavers – continue to keep this tradition alive.

In addition to their exceptional know-how, the Bevilacqua have the added advantage – particularly appreciable to visitors – of owning an amazing wooden loom that dates back to the 18th century and is still in operation. The loom is located behind the showroom and can only be visited by appointment, but the visit offers a truly memorable experience: in a timeless ambiance seven weavers work on velvet, silk and gold threads using ancestral techniques and patterns that can be found in the historical archives, which include more than 3,500 drawings.

It takes an entire day to make a 30-40 centimetre piece of fabric.

LUIGI BEVILACQUA
SANTA CROCE 1320
30135 VENEZIA



Visits to the weaving workshop on reservation only
 +39 041 721 566
 luigi-bevilacqua.com

€60 for a group of up to four
 €15 per person for larger groups





03

THE SPECTACULAR REDENTORE FIREWORKS

Every year since 1577, the Festa del Redentore (Festival of the Redeemer) in Venice takes place on the third Saturday in July. Truly spectacular fireworks mark the occasion, reflecting magically on the surface of St Mark's Basin. Here are some ways to experience this exceptional event.

> From a boat:

Obviously otherworldly. If you don't have any Venetian friends, you can hire a boat at Brussa; from a small wooden *topetta* (six people) to a majestic *bragozzo* with driver (ten people). From 6pm hundreds of boats begin gathering in St Mark's Basin after picnicking on the water. The atmosphere is fantastically friendly. Forget trying to leave before the fireworks are over – but who's complaining?



BRUSSA IS BOAT
FONDAMENTA CANNAREGIO 331
30121 VENEZIA



+39 041 715 787

brussaisboat.it







23

WHERE THE ANGEL PASSES BY

The exceptional Tribuna within the magnificent Palazzo Grimani near Santa Maria Formosa was the original home of the collection of Greek and Roman sculptures owned by the Grimani family. The works of art were given as gifts to the Republic of Venice by Giovanni Grimani in 1587. They were initially moved to safety in the Biblioteca Marciana, before being transferred to the Doge's Palace.

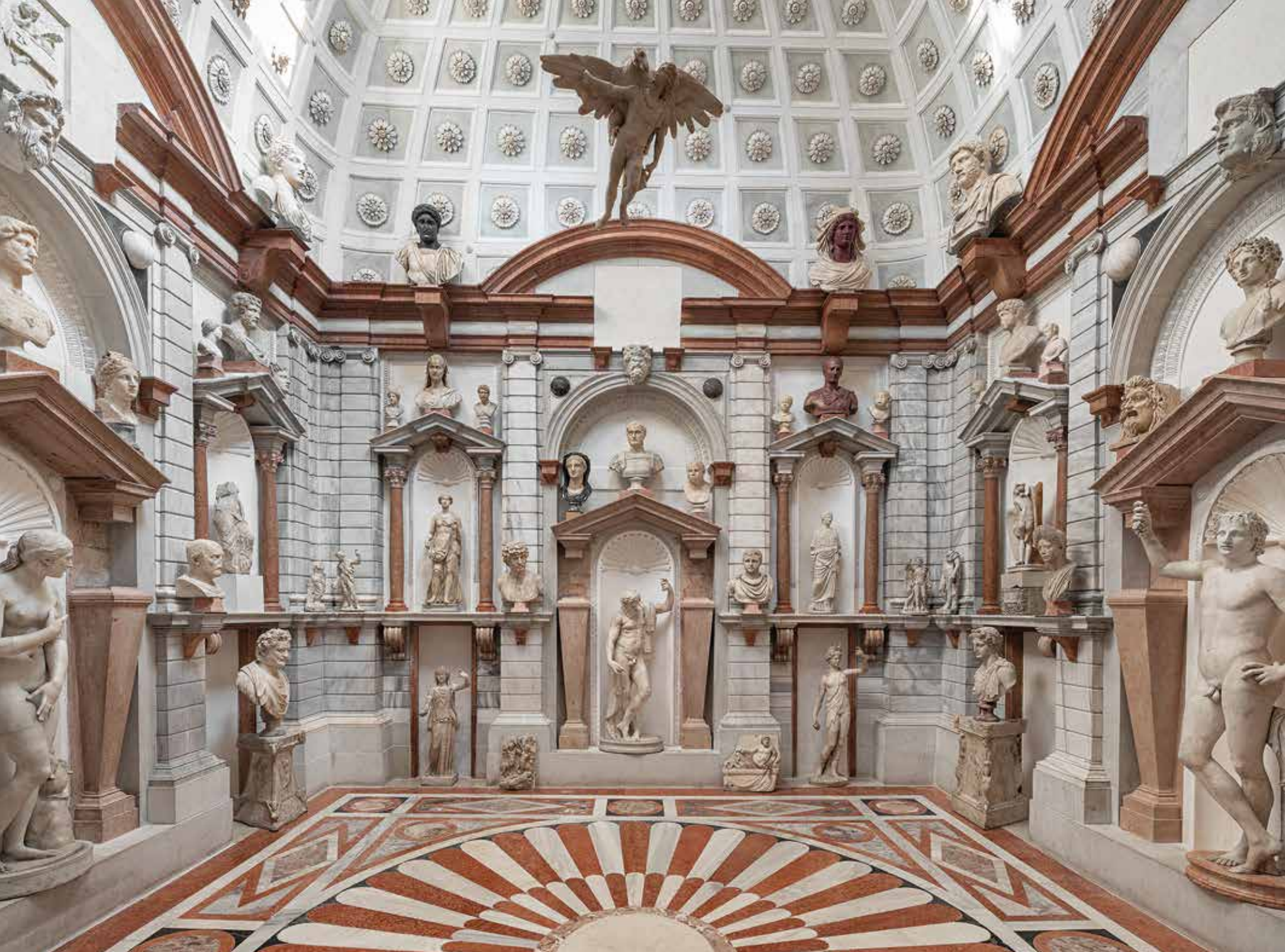
The collection, displaced for more than four centuries, eventually returned to its original home thanks to the non-profit organisation 'Venetian Heritage'. The result is breathtaking.



PALAZZO GRIMANI
RUGA GIUFFA 4858
30122 VENEZIA

+39 041 241 1507

museiveneto.cultura.gov.it/musei/museo-di-palazzo-grimani





28

A DAY ON A HISTORIC SAILING BOAT

Famous for having welcomed on board the famous Maria Callas and Pier Paolo Pasolini, the historic boat Edipo Re has been sailing the Venetian lagoon again since 2021. Its owners offer a range of itineraries designed to showcase the natural and historical heritage of Venice, its islands, lagoon and local produce. Slow, eco-friendly tourism, such as the discovery of the little-known island of Pellestrina from where the boat's captain hails.

For gourmets, be sure to book a day in the company of one of Edipo Re's star chefs. The menu depends on catch of the day and selection of vegetables from the gardens of nearby islands. A unique way to discover the islands south of the lagoon.

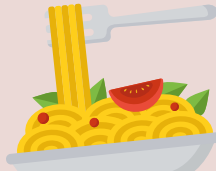
 **SAILING BOAT
EDIPO RE**



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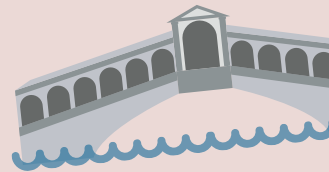
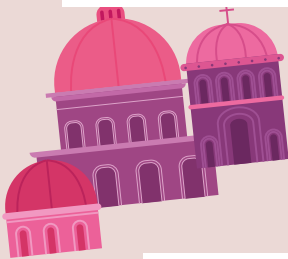
PHOTOS © EDIPO RE



**SOUL OF VENICE -
A GUIDE TO EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES**
WE TESTED 1,000 PLACES
AND INCLUDED ONLY THE 30 BEST

Visit St Mark's Cathedral without all the tourists, savour the most gorgeous panoramic view of the city, go to the market in front of a prison, take a break in a gourmet paradise, stay in the most beautiful palazzo, spend a night in the only bedroom in the world with a Tiepolo fresco, enjoy the best sandwich in Venice, discover the art of Venetian velvet slippers, go on a magical spiritual retreat on an island in the lagoon, spend a day on a historic sailing ship ...

This collection is a new approach to the art of travelling that's all about vagabonding around town, chance encounters, and unforgettable experiences. Guides for those who want to unlock the hidden doors of a city, feel its heartbeat, plumb every last nook and cranny to uncover its soul.



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