

Small guide of Venice

by Leslie Ann Genninger

Leslie's Venice

Although Venice has been around for over 1000 years, many visitors to “La Serenissima” try to see the sights in just a few days. Venice is magical. There are very few tourists travelling this year. Come visit and stay as long as you can. Experience the wonderful Murano Glass, museums, palazzos, art exhibitions, islands, churches, artisans, cuisine, and neighbourhoods.

Relax, enjoy and live Venice!...And come visit us at Genninger Studio located in the heart of Venice, in the Dorsoduro sestiere, in the picturesque Campiello Barbaro, between The Guggenheim Collection and The Salute Church.

“Ci vediamo a Venezia!”

Leslie Ann Genninger



Favorite things to do

1. **Basilica di San Marco:** a visit in the late afternoon or evening for an ethereal experience.
2. **Collateral Events of the Art and Architecture Biennales:** tour through Venice during the Biennale and visit the off-site collateral events hosted in amazing private palazzos around town.
3. **Peggy Guggenheim Collection:** I adore the Jackson Pollocks paintings in this amazing collection which is one of my favorite museums and just around the corner from Genninger Studio
4. **Fondazione Cini on the island of San Giorgio:** a lovely island located across from San Marco and easy to reach via vaporetto. The bell tower has an amazing bird-eye view of Venice and the lagoon (and has no line!). Le Stanze del Vetro always hosts beautiful glass exhibitions.
5. **Scuola di San Rocco:** located around the corner from the Frari Church, upstairs has an amazing ceiling painted by Tintoretto.
6. **Fondaco dei Tedeschi:** See spectacular sunsets from the rooftop terrace but make an RSVP.
7. **Venice Music Project, Church of San Vio:** enjoy wonderful concerts of Baroque Music and their talented soprano Liesl Odenweller.
8. **The island of Torcello:** make time for a wonderful day trip to my favourite island for a visit to the Basilica of Santa Fosca, where I was married and lunch at Locanda Cipriani.
9. **The island of Murano:** contact me to visit the private studios of the greatest Murano glass artists, masters, and artisans, whom I have worked with for over thirty years.

Favorite spots for a treat

1. **Da Nono Colussi:** since 1956 Franco Colussi has been creating the most wonderful traditional focaccia cakes in the world. When you walk into this little gem of a family establishment, your senses will become overwhelmed with joy. Nono Franco has taught his granddaughter Marina all of his best kept secrets and she has now taken over the daily baking while her mother Linda attends to their loyal clientele.
2. **Caffè Florian:** my favorite place for hot chocolate with fresh whipped cream is in the heart of Piazza San Marco at Caffè Florian, which is one of the oldest cafes in all of Europe. I enjoy the bustling back bar where the barmen serve a perfect cup of delight, which I enjoy while reading the international papers on velvet bench at my private table.
3. **Gritti Palace Hotel Riva Bar:** I adore the baroque mirrored green glass tea room, which is adjacent to the Riva Terrace on the Grand Canal. The Gritti Palace, which used to be the private home of the Doge Gritti and today's one of the chicest places to stay and enjoy a special cocktail while watching the world go by!
4. **Palazzo Ca'Giustinian:** the Biennale's main offices are located in this huge palazzo where you can find out all about the current events of the Biennale. It is located directly on the Grand Canal across from the Punta della Dogana. While you enjoy a light lunch or late afternoon cicchetti snack with an amazing view!
5. **Al Bottegon già Schiavi:** a standing room only local's bar where you can enjoy an "ombra" of wine and award winning Venetian "cicchetti" finger foods which are freshest. Stop in the late morning or early afternoon. It's on the canal of San Trovaso in the Dorsoduro sestiere and just a minute away from one of the last existing gondola boatyard.
6. **Gelati da Nico:** they are famous for their "gianduiotto" ice cream brick of chocolate and nutty flavour submerged in a cup of fresh whip cream. Enjoy it as you stroll down the Zattere overlooking the Giudecca Canal and watch an amazing Venetian sunset.
7. **Corner Pub:** this is the place for great grilled sandwiches. The owner Ale grills up over 20 different styles and serves them up all day long with the perfect beer or spritz. It's located down the street from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and a 1 minute stroll from my store.
8. **Al Teatro:** adjacent to the La Fenice Opera house, all day long you can enjoy fresh "tramezzini" sandwiches, cold plates, wonderful cappuccinos and a variety of freshly baked pastries in this newly renovated bar.
9. **Ca' Fujiyama:** just off of Campo San Barnaba is a lovely little tea garden in the back courtyard of this B&B. In the afternoons it's open to the public and you can enjoy some of the finest green and jasmine teas as well as homemade cakes.

Favorite places to dine

1. **A Beccafico:** one of my favorite restaurants in the heart of Campo San Stefano. It has wonderful fresh ingredients from Italy, great Sicilian wines and a fabulous menu with my favorite dishes: the mussel soup, the sea bass steamed with rock salt, the tiramisu, and the fruits...to name a few.
2. **Do Farai:** at this family-style osteria you will enjoy Stefano Ponga's table-side mastery as he fillets fresh sea bass for a fabulous carpaccio or whips up the best sgroppino (vodka gelato smoothie). My other favourites on the menu are their artichoke salad, risotto of the day, and grilled shellfish. Enjoy the cozy outdoors seating in the campiello situated behind the Ca' Rezzonico Museum
3. **Acqua Pazza:** this elegant restaurant is located in Campo Sant' Angelo and has outdoors seating in this beautiful square in the center of Venice. The owners, Antonio and Ivana, are from Amalfi and pride in serving the freshest ingredients with a professional Amalfitano flair. Their special appetisers, acqua pazza branzino, stuffed fruit gelato homemade limoncello are make for the perfect lunch on a sunny afternoon.
4. **Alla Madonna:** one of the best traditional Venetian restaurants in Venice, located around the corner from the Rialto Bridge and it has a lovely dedicated staff of waiters. I always try their fresh spider crab appetiser, daily risotto, filet of sole, and artichoke hearts.
5. **Ai Gondolieri:** this restaurant has some of the best meat dishes in the Veneto and in season you can't beat their lightly fried tempura style fresh zucchini flowers and porcini mushrooms. Located just across the canal from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and around the corner from my store.
6. **Ai Artisti:** situated between the Accademia and Campo San Barnaba on Rio della Toletta, it's a lovely little restaurant run by husband and wife team Vincenzo and Francesca. Here you will enjoy the freshest ingredients prepared daily by Francesca with a fabulous choice of wines by the glass selected by Vincenzo.
7. **Busa alla Torre da Lele:** Murano is a wonderful island of artisans and great glass masters but... don't "shop until you drop"! Lele Masiol's restaurant is located in a beautiful little campo along the main canal of Murano with a waiter staff that can't be beat. The "Great Lele" specializes in great traditional Venetian cuisine and his "fritto misto" is the best in the world...especially when the "moeche" or soft shell crabs are in season. Enjoy the freshest pasta with tiny delicate telline clams, Bellini aperitivo, risotto, grilled Adriatic fish andhomemade meringue cookies!

Favorite places to stay

1. **Ca' Della Corte:** Caterina Pensa is the owner of this wonderful family style B & B palazzo of apartments and rooms located between Piazzale Roma and Campo Santa Margherita. It is a short walk to many boat stops and close to the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, which is my favorite place to see Tintoretto's masterpieces.
2. **Ca' Pisani Hotel:** this 4-Star S boutique design hotel is in a XV century . palazzo situated in the heart of the museum district of the Dorsoduro sestiere, just behind the Accademia Museum. The Serandrei Family has been running hotels in Venice for over 50 years and the owner Marianne runs this European Deco design hotel like a finely tuned clock. The La Rivista Restaurant is one of my favorite getaways for an afternoon tea or a lovely lunch.
3. **Ca Sagredo Hotel:** this 5 Star L hotel is one of the finest 15th c. palazzo's in Venice and is located on the Grand Canal across from the Rialto food markets. Lorenza Lain is a brilliant General Manager and in just 10 years from its opening and impressive restoration has received some of the top awards in the international hotel industry including "Best Wedding Hotel" of 2017. The rooftop terrace has a beautiful view of the Grand Canal and is the perfect place to enjoy an afternoon spritz. They also have wonderful cooking classes where participants can shop the Rialto markets with the chef and then learn to create the day's special recipes.
4. **Sina Centurion Palace:** this 5-Star Gothic palazzo is located in the Dorsoduro sestiere on the Grand Canal and just a 2 minute walk to my store or the Salute Church. Paolo Morra, the general manager, has a great eye for detail and you can enjoy a lovely afternoon drink on the Grand Canal terrace.
5. **Hotel Cipriani:** this 5-Star L hotel is an oasis and is home to my favorite pool in the world! It is just a short boat ride from Piazza San Marco on their beautiful shuttle boat. While crossing the Canal from San Marco you will enjoy the most incredible views of Venice...especially at sunset! You will find my beautiful Murano Glass cesendelli lamps softly illuminate every treatment room in the spa as well as their top suite Al Paradiso.

We are open by appointment

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