



# Indagare<sup>®</sup>

The next generation of travel wisdom<sup>®</sup>

Venice & Beyond

# Sharing Travel Tales



Far-flung journeys: Venice, Melissa in Bagan, Myanmar; along Spain's Camino de Santiago.



One of the reasons that I founded Indagare was to share stories and tips with travelers. As a magazine editor, I scouted destinations and wrote about what I discovered. My articles were printed, and people read them, and very occasionally someone would send a letter to the magazine or share stories of their travels with me at a cocktail or dinner party. But mostly, my articles were like speeches—and I craved having a conversation. I loved hearing about other travels and learning from other people's discoveries. Now—thanks to the community of Indagare—we get to swap travel tales with members daily.

Some of my favorite trips have been inspired by other members. I went to Atacama in Chile, Laucala in Fiji and most recently to Myanmar after members raved about their trips there. Some of our favorite guides in Berlin, Venice, Cairo, Tokyo, Prague and Normandy we heard about from our members. And we continue to learn every day. In this issue, we have a postcard from a member who walked the last five days of the Camino de Santiago to qualify as a certified pilgrim. She trekked through small towns in Basque country, slept in simple guesthouses and met kindred spirits from all over the world. One day she walked for hours in silence. Before reading her postcard, it never would have occurred to me to embark on this particular journey. After reading it, I was ready to sign up.

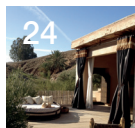
Another member recently asked us to help him plan a two-week trip to the Falkland

Islands so he could photograph penguins and other birdlife. The 750-plus islands together cover a land mass equal to that of Connecticut and most of them are inhabited by fewer than a dozen people. Island owners grant permission for visits and accommodations may be in a lighthouse. Who knew? I didn't, and now I am intrigued. When we run his remarkable photos in an upcoming issue, you may be as well.

I have favorite memories of Venice: my first visit as a teenager in spring, seeing art with my parents; my second with a boyfriend huddling in candlelit restaurants in winter; my fourth one visiting in fall in the company of natives and going behind closed doors; my sixth one in summer with my daughter, who was seven and who believed it to be an enchanted other world. And I have collected others' stories of the Biennale, of getting lost and of arriving by sea on an ancient sailboat.

Travelers have been trading tales of their journeys for as long as they have been setting out on adventures, but the thrill of hearing them has never worn thin for me. We come to understand destinations through our own lens of experience and, if we are lucky, through the lenses of others. I hope you continue to share discoveries with us and challenge us with your requests so that we can be inspired by your trips and, in turn, enrich your experiences.

*Melissa Bagg*



- 2** **On My Mind**  
Sharing Travel Tales
- 4-7** **Escape**  
Munich Rising
- 8-11** **Active/Adventure**  
Gorilla Trekking
- 12-14** **Insider Trips**  
Preview: 2013 Trips
- 15** **Member Postcard**  
Family Travels in Patagonia
- 16-17** **Escape**  
Bodrum Calling
- 18-20** **Food/Wine**  
Paris Dining Now
- 21** **Style**  
Miami
- 22-23** **Active/Adventure**  
Spanish Pilgrimage
- 24-25** **Style**  
Marrakech Shopping
- 28-52** **Destination Report**  
Venice & Beyond

## The World of Indagare



### About Indagare

Indagare comes from the Latin word that means to seek, scout, discover. Indagare Travel is a high-end travel company with robust online editorial content and a boutique in-house travel agency. We travel, we write, and we plan memorable journeys for our members. To learn about our travel community, visit [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com) or call 212-988-2611. Annual membership rates begin at \$325.



### Bookings

At Indagare you can research ideas for a trip on our site and consult with a specialist on the phone or by email to create, refine or expand your itinerary. Our Bookings Team can help you with something as simple as a hotel room or as complex as a multi-stop itinerary. We also have special rates and amenities at hundreds of properties. Email [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com) or call 212-988-2611.



### Insider Trips

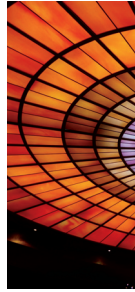
Insider Trips are special journeys designed exclusively for Indagare members. With their insider access, mapped-out itineraries and exciting immersion in far-flung destinations, the trips offer members a rich and rewarding way to explore the world. Upcoming destinations include India, Cuba and Myanmar. For more information, call 646-963-2242 or email [insidertrips@indagare.com](mailto:insidertrips@indagare.com).



**Indagare Plus** Members who book through Indagare receive preferential rates and/or special amenities at the properties with the Indagare Plus symbol.

# Munich Rising

Known to many simply as the birthplace of the Oktoberfest, the German city has much more to offer, including a stunning arts scene. **Simone Girner** investigates.



**M**uch like the Parisians, Munich locals, or Münchner, are convinced that they live in the best city in the world. They see few reasons to leave and many like to brag to visitors: do you realize how close to the Alps they are? How many gorgeous hikes and skiing opportunities are nearby? How about the charming cityscape and the law that prohibits any building to rise above the height of the

Frauenkirche? What about the fantastic quality of life, thanks to the many parks and beer gardens? Speaking of the latter, what about the excellent locally brewed beer, famous the world over? And are they aware that *Monocle* magazine voted Munich the world's most livable city in 2010?

In short, the Münchner often grates on the nerves of his fellow Germans. But, as any visitor to Bavaria's

capital can attest, he is also kind of right. My father and my parents-in-law hail from Munich, so I have inherited a light dose of this chauvinism. My most recent trip, during the holiday season, revealed once again why the city should top the list places to see for visitors to Germany, or those eager to explore the stunning landscapes between southern Germany and Austria (Salzburg is just an hour-and-a-half



Clockwise from top left: Dallmayr, a room and the cupola at the Vier Jahreszeiten Kempinski; the rooftop pool of the Mandarin Oriental; Schrammehalle; Englischer Garten

drive away).

Munich is Germany's third-largest city (behind Berlin and Hamburg), but its scenic historic center, which contains most of the major sites and museums, is easily explored on foot. Founded in the 12th century, Munich functioned as one of Europe's major art centers for centuries, particularly during the 19th-century reign of Prince Regent Luitpold. The city center still has glorious

medieval piazzas, beautiful churches and Art Nouveau buildings. Not all of it is original: Munich was heavily bombed during World War II (after all, Hitler and his party first rose to prominence here), but it was meticulously rebuilt. Today its red-roofed uniformity is more reminiscent of an Italian town than of a major German metropolis.

Any first-time visit should kick off in the Zentrum,

which has as its center the Residenz, the former home of Bavarian royalty and Munich's answer to Vienna's Hofburg. A walking tour of this area will also lead past the large Marienplatz, with its colorful Glockenspiel, and such churches as the Baroque Theatinerkirche and the Romanesque Peterskirche. Not to be missed during a first-day exploration is the closeby Viktualienmarkt, an

incredible open-air farmers' market with small restaurants and shops carrying everything from spices to fresh juices and flowers. It's a vibrant spot, and although it draws tourists, you will also spot chic locals and the occasional chef shopping for supplies. The area is also becoming buzzy at night, thanks to the addition of fabulous boutique Louis Hotel and its acclaimed Japanese restaurant, Emiko.

Art aficionados will be very happy in Munich. It has a wealth of museums, including the terrific Alte and Neue Pinakothek; the Kunsthalle, which hosts world-class temporary exhibitions; and such privately funded collections as Sammlung Brandhorst and Sammlung Goetz. A more conservative, older city, Munich doesn't have the youthful energy of Berlin, so don't expect a cutting-edge cultural scene. But with the acclaimed

Bavarian State Opera, three orchestras, including the renowned Radio Symphony Orchestra, and a strong theater scene, Munich remains one of Germany's most acclaimed art centers, and performances are booked months in advance, especially the ones in the jewel-box-like Cuvillées Theatre.

Of course, a much less rarefied event puts Munich at center stage every year: this is the original home of the Oktoberfest, when the city virtually shuts down for two weeks of beer-drenched celebrating. If you are planning your trip to coincide, it's best to book way in advance. The festivities are relegated to the large Theresienwiese, a large meadow outside the city center, so nonpartiers are not affected by drunken revelers. But the city overall is a lot more crowded during this time, so if the Oktoberfest is not a draw for you, it's best to avoid these weeks.

Munich is one of those cities where even first-time visitors will feel encouraged to relax into its laid-back rhythm, especially if they are here during the summer. Stroll the lovely streets of the boho-chic Schwabing district. Take in the scene at a beer garden in the Englischer Garten (larger than New York's Central Park), then watch locals surf in the Eiskanal (yes, there are waves). Take a day trip to Schloss Nymphenburg, where the delicate eponymous porcelain is made. Sample hearty German fare at one of the Brauhäuser. And shop the lovely boutiques around the Gärtnerplatz or in boho-chic Schwabing.

Those in need of constant sightseeing stimulation won't get Munich; but everyone else will fall for the city's easy charm and, perhaps, ultimately leave agreeing with the locals that life in this German city is, well, pretty sweet.

“Paris is the most beautiful city in the world, then comes Rome, then quickly thereafter Munich.”

~German playwright Frank Wedekind, 1913

# MUNICH INSIDER

**EAT:** The dining scene is varied and casual, with the most famous establishments firmly in the hands of a handful of chefs and restaurateurs. There are also plenty of small eateries with a congenial vibe and helmed by young cooks with a loyal following. Be sure to try one of the classic Brauhäuser for hearty German fare (the most well-known is the **Hofbräuhaus**; other favorites include the **Franziskaner** and **Weisses Brauhaus**). For fine dining, book a table at **Tantris**, a *Michelin*-starred restaurant, at **Spatenhaus an der Oper** or **Schuhbeck's**, both run by celebrity restaurateurs. Hip hot spots include Thai restaurant **Spicery**, Japanese **Emiko** and neighborhood favorites **Theresa**, **Gesellschaftsraum** and **Last Supper**.

**EXPLORE:** Munich has a wealth of museums, including the terrific **Alte** and **Neue Pinakothek**; the **Kunsthalle**, which hosts world-class temporary exhibitions; and such private collections as **Sammlung Brandhorst** and **Goetz** (the latter is open by appointment only). Ask your concierge to get tickets for the **Bavarian State Opera** and any chamber music performances at the jewel-like **Cuvillées Theatre** in Munich's Residenz.

**BEYOND:** Munich is a great base from which to explore the nearby alpine countryside, a paradise for outdoor aficionados who flock to hike on the **Zugspitze**, in **Berchtesgaden National Park** and around **Lake Chiemsee**. The **Bregenz Opera Festival** draws crowds to its Austrian lakeside setting, and **Neuschwanstein Castle**, a fairytale concoction on a hilltop, is one of Germany's most visited attractions. Less overrun is scenic **Schloss Herrenchiemsee** and the castles and glorious mansions along the **Romantic Route**, which runs from Würzburg towards Munich. Another scenic route culminating in yet another wonderful European town is the one-and-a-half hour drive to **Salzburg**.



# Gorilla Trekking

Indagare's **Alexandra Erdman** travels to Rwanda and Uganda in search of the country's majestic mountain gorillas.



Sitting at my desk in New York, it's hard to imagine that just a few weeks ago I was trekking through the jungles of Rwanda and Uganda in search of mountain gorillas. I have always been an adventurous traveler and love far-flung and exotic destinations like India and Thailand, but East Africa was in an entirely different league. Although I was familiar with the logistics and terrain of the trip, nothing could have prepared me for the immense power of seeing gorillas, which share 98 percent of human DNA, up close.

Unlike a typical African safari, gorilla trekking is an incredibly laborious adventure. Days begin at 5:00 A.M. and time in the jungle can last anywhere from two to eight hours, depending on the location of the gorilla family that you are paired with. Early in the morning trackers,

who have spent a significant amount of time with the animals, head out into the jungle to find the precise location of the gorilla family. Once the trek begins, guides are in constant communication with the trackers, who lead visitors toward the general location of the animals, a task made more complicated by the fact that gorillas are constantly moving throughout the day, sometimes deeper into the jungle. Permits allow groups to spend exactly one hour with the family to monitor its activities, take pictures and interact from about seven yards away. The hike itself is exhilarating and fills you with adrenaline and anticipation. The women in my group, ages 26 to 66, were all able to keep pace.

Walking through the extremely dense vegetation, I felt my heart rate spike with every crack of a branch or rustle of a tree. When we were

about 50 yards from the family after two hours of hiking, a slight breeze carried with it the strong scent of the Silverback, the extremely large head male of the family. We stopped to unload our gear (except for our cameras) and were briefed again on gorilla protocol. From there, we walked around a bend and came upon the Silverback and the rest of the family sitting in a clearing. Much like the rest of my group, I felt the smile that had been on my face the entire way up become even bigger, to the point of absurdity. All the family's twelve gorillas were going about their daily activities (eating and playing) just feet in front of us. One of the females had recently given birth to twins—twins rarely survive in nature because of the logistics of feeding two young ones at a time—and she

was carrying her newborns on her back and under her stomach. When the Silverback felt that we had stepped too close, he would move around and grunt to warn us to move back. But overall the family barely noticed us. The experience was so surreal and the animals' movements so humanlike that at times I expected one of them to unzip the gorilla costume and reveal a human beneath. It was simply elating. Watching gorillas partake in everyday activities in the jungle was one of the most profound interspecies interactions that I will ever have.

The closeness of the encounter, however, also prompted moments of fear. One of the most terrifying episodes happened when the Silverback turned toward us, grunted, came over for a closer inspection and then knocked a member of our group over with a full-body-weight hip check. This must have been a common occurrence, as it did not seem to worry our guides!

Our days spent in the jungle were fascinating and rewarding, but they are not the only ones that stand out. I was also deeply moved by my experiences with the people of Rwanda and Uganda, many of whom identify both countries as their home. I knew a bit about the history of Rwanda and Uganda, and in preparation of my trip, I had read Paul Rusesabagina's *An Ordinary Man*, about his time as the general manager of the Hotel Mille Collines during the Rwandan genocide. Like many Rwandese, our guide, Amon, was raised in Uganda by a family that was able to escape from Rwanda in the late 1950s after the first genocide. It wasn't until after his twenty-first birthday, in 1994, and after losing his brother to the violence in 1992, that he even stepped foot in his native Rwanda. His story, along with similar ones I heard along the way, was a touching example of how the strength of a people in the face of such a dark past can bring light to an entire country.



Trekking in Rwanda



Perhaps having been through such a difficult time is what makes the people there so hopeful. The positive energy is palpable throughout Rwanda's cities and rural areas.

During my nine days in Rwanda and Uganda, I stayed in three lodges and one hotel, went gorilla trekking twice, chimpanzee trekking once, game driving three times and spent an afternoon lying on Lake Kivu a few miles from the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I met inspiring people and interacted with some of our closest primate relatives in some of the most beautiful settings I could imagine. The experience was as authentic and wild as it was deeply emotional.

**WHO SHOULD GO:** Anyone looking for a great adventure in nature and who is in good physical health will enjoy this trip.

**WHO SHOULD NOT:** Gorilla trekking is for adventurous travelers (there are many unpredictable moments in the itinerary, and the lodges are not luxurious). Drives were long and hard on the back, and obviously the thread count of sheets is well below those at luxury safari properties like Singita. Children under the age of sixteen are not permitted to go gorilla trekking, and the limits exist for a reason: the treks are strenuous and they involve interacting at close range with massive wild animals.

# Rwanda/Uganda Basics

Some travelers have bucket lists for hotels, others chase the world's most unique experiences. For wildlife lovers, trekking to see mountain gorillas figures prominently. But travelers considering a trip need to understand what to expect. For one, the handful of lodges in Rwanda and Uganda that are considered four star are extremely "eco," usually running on generators and with spotty hot water. Visitors who require five-star amenities and service will be greatly out of their comfort zone. Booking a trip in advance is crucial, as most of the few high-end lodges fill up during the high season. Gorilla permits are also limited.

## LAY OF THE LAND

Rwanda is commonly known as the "land of 1,000 hills," with mountains dominating the landscape in the western part of the country while savannas and swamps lie in the east. The country also has quite a few lakes throughout. Rwanda is located just south of the equator, but the entire country sits at a relatively high elevation, making temperatures lower than is typical for equatorial countries. Uganda sits directly on the equator to the north. Uganda's western parts are dominated by mountains and are at a high elevation, creating a cooler climate. In the southwest, the snowcapped Rwenzori Mountain functions as a natural border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The area is also home to the Queen Victoria National Park and Kyambura Gorge, as well as the source of the Nile, Lake Victoria. One of the world's largest lakes, it is located in the south of the country, and both Entebbe and Kampala are near its shores. You can also combine gorilla trekking in Rwanda or Uganda with a safari in Tanzania.

## GETTING THERE

The best way to access Rwanda's Virunga Mountains is to begin your journey in Kigali (Virunga is a three-hour drive north or a short helicopter ride). From there, you can drive an additional five hours to Bwindi or charter a flight. If you are only visiting Uganda, you can begin your journey in Entebbe and then drive six hours south to Bwindi. As an alternative, charter flights are available through Aerolink.

## WHEN TO GO

The rainy seasons last from March to May, and October through November, with dry seasons in between. Generally the best time to visit is from June to mid-September, in the long dry season. Both countries have tropical highland climates in the mountainous regions, there is always quite a bit of rain or cloud cover.

---

Contact our Bookings Team for help planning a trip to eastern Africa: 212-988-2611.



# Indagare Trips in 2013

Indagare's **Brooke Pearson** reveals this year's destinations for Indagare's Insider Trips series, including in-depth explorations of Cuba, Russia and Myanmar.



Clockwise from top: A performance at the Salzburg Festival; the pool at the Ranch at Live Oak Malibu; hiking in Montana; praying in Myanmar.

Indagare's Insider Trips have evolved into unique experiences that are about relationships just as much as the destinations. The trips are scouted, designed and curated by our constantly traveling team and often hosted by Indagare founder Melissa Biggs Bradley or Indagare senior staff. They offer a seamless way for our members to experience corners of the world in a special way, with a small group of likeminded travelers. Says Biggs Bradley: "One of the best parts of these trips, besides the enriching immersion in a destination, is getting to know extraordinary people who become really good friends." Indagare's 2013 schedule has a more diverse list of offerings than ever before.

## **MOROCCO** *April 28-May 3*

Marrakech has it all: history, romance and atmosphere. Our trip begins with three days staying in the medina of Marrakech, where the group will take in the amazing architecture, the gorgeous gardens and epic shopping. The trip concludes with two days of hiking and exploration at Richard Branson's retreat in the nearby Atlas Mountains. *From \$7,300.*

## **BLACKBERRY FARM** *May 10-12*

Springtime is special at Blackberry Farm, located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, where Indagare is hosting a weekend retreat. The family-owned estate covers

4,200 acres, and for those who like to keep busy, activities abound, from fly-fishing, biking, hiking and farm-to-table culinary experiences to horseback riding and sport shooting. Others can opt to relax at the spa or enjoy the fresh air and mountain views. *Packages from \$2,200.*

### **HAVANA, CUBA** *May 1-5*

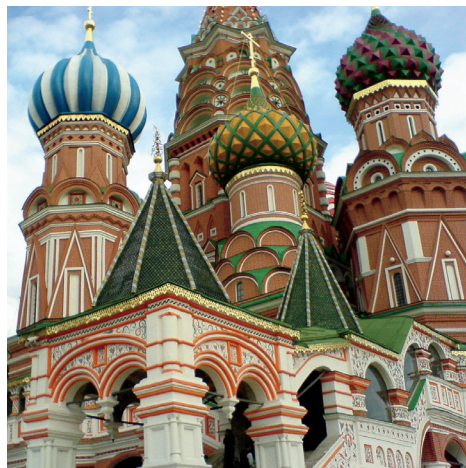
The closest experience to time travel is spending a long weekend in Havana, a city that has endured hardships yet remains full of confidence and joy, as expressed in art, music and the Cubans' characteristic sense of humor. On this trip, discover the city's architectural and cultural jewels, as well as visit artist studios, Hemingway's home and haunts, and take long strolls through Old Havana with expert guides and share intimate dinners with locals. *From \$5,800.*

### **RUSSIA** *May 3-9*

To understand Western arts and civilization, Russia is a must-visit destination. Our journey combines the modern side of Moscow with the treasures of St. Petersburg. Highlights include a visit to Catherine the Great's diamonds in the vaults of the Kremlin, a backstage tour of the recently reopened Bolshoi Theater, a private tour of the workrooms of the Hermitage Museum, tickets to a performance at the refurbished Mariinsky Theatre and special access at Peterhof Palace. *From 10,400.*

### **NICARAGUA** *July 8-14*

This family/community trip is perfect for parents and children (ages eleven to sixteen) who want to combine having fun with doing good. The group will stay at the gorgeous new Mukul resort, located on the Pacific Coast. Mornings will be spent with the service director, learning and volunteering at community projects, while afternoons will include trips to volcanoes, lakes



and Granada, a UNESCO World Heritage site. *Rates tba.*

### **AMERICAN WEST** *July 27-August 1*

Indagare's all-family Insider Trip debuts with an expedition-style journey through Montana's Glacier National Park. Families will learn about the region's geology, natural history and native cultures while hiking, rafting, fly-fishing, horseback riding and panning for gold. The four nights are split between the Lodge at Whitefish Lake and a full-service camp that will be erected in the park. For children ages six and up. *From \$4,150.*

### **SALZBURG FESTIVAL** *August 15-19*

Every summer since 1920, Mozart's birthplace has hosted one of the world's most renowned music festivals. Through a joint venture with Gioia Zwack and the Salzburg Festival Society, Indagare has selected the most important musical events scheduled for mid-August, when the festival reaches its peak. The itinerary includes performances, insider access to the city's contemporary art scene and intimate events

hosted by locals. Guests will stay at the Hotel Sacher. *From \$7,300.*

### **TURKEY** *September dates TBA*

At the crossroads of Eastern and Western civilizations, Turkey is an amazing mix of ancient history and new energy. Our itinerary includes four nights in Istanbul at the Four Seasons on the Bosphorus—your days spent exploring the iconic sights and modern galleries and navigating the Grand Bazaar with a local expert—as well as an enchanting visit to the otherworldly landscape of Cappadocia. *Rates tba.*

### **RANCH AT LIVE OAK, MALIBU**

#### *September 29–October 5*

After sold-out trips in 2011, Indagare returns to the Ranch at Live Oak Malibu, a wellness retreat nestled in the Santa Monica Mountains, with acres of hiking trails and breathtaking ocean views. The intense seven-day agenda includes four to five hours of group hiking as well as core and ab work, weights, yoga sessions and massage therapy. The fitness program works in conjunction with a strict dietary program.

*From \$5,600.*

### **INDIA** *September 29–October 11*

India tempts the traveler with an intoxicating mix of culture, chaos, beauty, modernity and antiquity. Our fall itinerary includes pulsing Mumbai, dinner at the home of a local family in Jodhpur, an evening in luxurious tents pitched in the Rajasthani countryside, elephant polo and shopping time in Jaipur and a visit to Udaipur (the city of lakes), before ending in Delhi. An optional extension to the Taj Mahal is available. *From \$11,000.*

### **MYANMAR** *October 30–November 8*

Visiting places on the eve of great change af-

fords a different view, and now is the time for Myanmar. Our itinerary begins in Yangon, followed by four nights aboard the ship Road to Mandalay sailing up the Irrawaddy River to the temple-strewn fields of Bagan and the ancient capital of Mandalay, and finishing at the water gardens of Inle Lake. *Rates tba.*

### **NEW ZEALAND** *November 3–10*

This most exclusive Kiwi experience, limited to just six travelers, includes seven nights at Julian Robertson's three 5-star properties, shuttled between them by a private plane. Sail the Bay of Islands, helicopter into the heart of Fjordland at Milford Sound, and golf some of the best courses in the world during this unforgettable Indider Trip. *Rates tba.*

---

For more information, full itineraries and to join one of these Insider Trips, contact Brooke Pearson by emailing [insidertrips@indagare.com](mailto:insidertrips@indagare.com) or calling 212-988-2611.



Kauri Cliffs



## Family Travels in Patagonia

An Indagare member recently took her family to Patagonia and Atacama in Chile. Here are her impressions of the trip.

Patagonia's Cliff Preserve was so wonderful—words and pictures could never begin to do it justice. My husband and I have traveled through some of the best African game parks, and that's probably the closest experience to it in terms of service. Each family has its own house and private guide. Ours accompanied us to everything, but in a way that was never invasive of family time. Our sprawling two-bedroom home had sweeping views of the Pacific from every room. The refrigerator was always fully stocked with drinks and wine. The lodge building, the center of the property, is bright, with sunshine flooding every room. The spa was excellent, and we

were delighted that each guest received a complimentary massage. Some activities we loved included galloping on the beach on horseback, then trekking through the mountains; fishing off drift boats in a beautiful river and having a grilled picnic lunch in a grove of trees; a canoe trip; endless trails and hikes, each with a view more spectacular than the last; taking a Zodiac boat to see penguin colonies and sea lions; and woodworking with a carpenter who helped our kids build a toy dog to bring home. I cannot rave enough about this place.

crannies for reading or playing games. The food was five-star, and the chef superb. Every meal started with fresh-baked bread and artisanal butter. With only six houses at the Preserve, there was never a wait, and meals were available whenever we wanted. The bartender was a treasure—he would make delicious drinks for the kids with fruits and vegetables but keep it all a mystery so they never caught on to the fact that they were drinking something healthy. His creativity and talent were matched only by his warmth, a fact that was true of all the staff. Everyone we got to know would hug and kiss us, and we got to know everyone by name. The spa was excellent, and we

---

[Read the complete postcard, including a review of Chile Atacama, on Indagare.com.](#)

Turkey's seaside resort of Bodrum



## Bodrum Calling

**Lizzie McGirr** visits the so-called “new St.-Tropez” and finds it to be a perfect spot after visiting cultural Istanbul and before starting a blue cruise on the Aegean.

In recent years, Bodrum has emerged as a destination of two seasons: the glamorous summer months, when the global *haute monde* descends, and the spring and early fall, when the less pretentious, quieter Bodrum emerges.

When you visit Bodrum off-season, it seems as if the entire peninsula breathes a quiet sigh of relief, as echoes of celebrities in designer bikinis, Saudi petroleum heirs and European

partygoers fade from the decks of the beach clubs that cut into the otherworldly blue of the Aegean Sea. That’s not to say that the summer months aren’t fabulous: the population of Bodrum explodes from 40,000 locals from September through April to more than one million inhabitants from May through August, 90 percent of whom are wealthy Istanbul residents seeking shelter from the oppressively hot city at their

breezy seaside houses on the peninsula.

Bodrum Town has come a long way from its founding as the ancient Greek seaside city of Halicarnassus in 1,000 B.C., but history lingers if you look for it – at the ruins of the Mausoleum (one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World), at a Hellenistic amphitheater and at the 15th-century Castle of Saint Peter, which commands the Bodrum Town harbor.

Bodrum exploded onto the scene in the past ten years as a summer “it” destination for glamorous travelers. This status looks set to become more established in the next ten—and with good reason: every glimpse of the water from the seaside roads is extraordinary, and it has quickly become an area where it is as fashionable to be on the beach club decks looking out to sea as it is to be aboard a luxury yacht or *gulet* looking back at those who lounge on shore. The relaxed summer atmosphere that harkens back to the Bohemian lifestyle of past decades still exists. You just have to know where to look to find it.

“Bodrum” refers to both the town on the southern shore and the entire penin-

sula, about 250 square miles of sand, rock, cypress trees and Mediterranean pines. It extends out from Southwestern Turkey into the Aegean Sea with a 110-mile coastline of scalloped bays where fishing villages nestle within tangerine orchards and olive groves.

The historic port of Bodrum proper served as the dining and nightlife hub in the 1970s, but some of the peninsula’s most luxurious hotels have recently sprung up in smaller towns (the Macakizi and Amanruya in the northern town of Turkbuku and the Kempinski Barbaros Bay in the southeast). Hot spots are spread out, and visitors should expect drives between fifteen and forty-five minutes from one town to another.



## Bodrum Insider

### STAY

Families and couples who want to centrally based should book at the **Marmara** (read *Indagare’s review*), atop a hill just outside the city. For peace and quiet, consider the **Amanruya** (read *Indagare’s review*), in a removed location and with 36 freestanding cottages with private pools. Hipsters should book the **Macakizi** (read *Indagare’s review*), a sexy boutique hotel with beautiful gardens, while families will appreciate the activities offered at the and **Kempinski** (read *our review*).

### EAT

Diners at the **Macakizi** sit on wooden decks that reach out over the water. For dinner, request a romantic candle-lit table and take in the view. *Read Indagare’s review.*

### EXPLORE

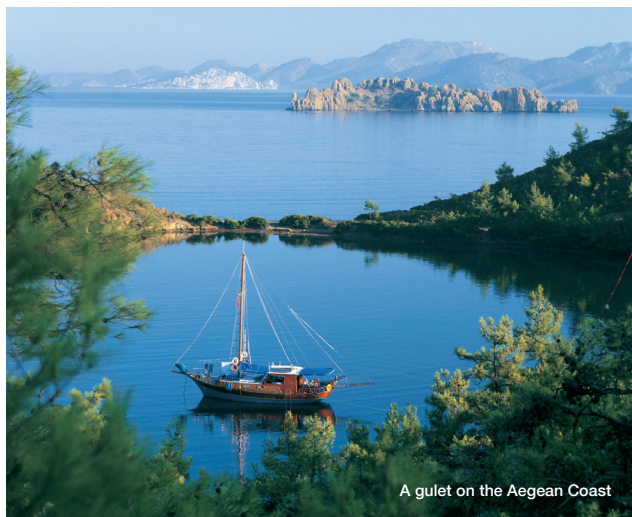
For a day of leisure, wander among vendors, restaurants and stores on the boardwalk that runs along the **Turkbuku** waterside. For a scene during the day, claim one of the many daybeds at Macakizi Beach Club or Bianca Beach Club, and watch as VIPs are ferried from their yachts anchored offshore.

### SEE

The ancient city of **Ephesus** lies just 100 miles north of Bodrum and makes a wonderful cultural addition to a sun-and-sea vacation.

### DO

The best way to see the area is from the water, and at least a day **sailing the Turkish Riviera** shouldn’t be missed. Contact Indagare’s Bookings Team for help planning a traditional gulet cruise: 212-988-2611.



A gulet on the Aegean Coast

Clockwise from top left: Chef Daniel Rose of Spring; a dish at Frenchie; romantic wine bar Verjus; a dish at Septime.



# Paris Dining Now

Exploring the vibrant restaurant and bar-à-vins scene in the City of Light has never been more exciting. **Simone Girner** reports on the hot spots not to miss.

**F**or a classic capital, Paris is surprisingly trendy, especially when it comes to its culinary offerings. Sure, there are eternally popular standards, but newcomers keep raising the bar, and the best of the crop transform into mainstays. Here are ten Indagare favorites that are sure to inspire you during your next trip to the City of Light.

## Reliable Classic: L'Ami Louis

With only twelve tables, this small restaurant has a mixed reputation: people either love it or hate it. Prices are outrageous, portions are huge, and the waiters are French (read rude). However, it delivers consistently with excellent food and a wine list that spoils diners. Expect such perfectly prepared French classics as duck confit, escargots and roast chicken. For those looking for an authentic—and unforgettable—Parisian culinary experience, dinner at L'Ami Louis remains a must. *32 Rue du Vertbois, 3rd Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-48-87-77-48.*

## Reinvented Classic: L'Ami Jean

Although the atmosphere is a bit rough and tumble, brave it for the marvelous Southwestern French cooking of chef Stéphane Jégo. Jégo worked for ten years with Yves Camdeborde at La Régale, and the master's touch shows in dishes like baby scallops in their shells with tiny croutons and flat parsley, sautéed baby squid served with white beans from Tarbes, and *axoa*, a Basque veal stew. Ideal for a hearty casual supper. *27 Rue Malar, 7th Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-47-05-86-89.*

## Worth the Hype: Frenchie

The secret's long out about this foodie favorite on a tiny back street in the 2nd Arrondissement, but the innovative, often-changing menu and ultracozy setting are worth the wait for

the hard-to-come-by reservation. Frenchie's Bar à Vins across the street is rumored to be expanding; online reservations can now be made a month in advance. *5 Rue de Nil, 2nd Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-45-57-28-28.*

## Chef's Table: Spring

Chicago-born chef Daniel Rose's restaurant is one of the toughest reservations to score. The ideal number of diners is about twenty-two, and there is only one service. The well-choreographed meals are unique, often brilliantly conceived, culinary explorations, and dishes changes daily, depending on what's fresh and inspiring to the chef. Naturally, there's no menu; as Daniel says, simply: "I make dinner." *6 Rue Bailleul, 1st Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-45-96-05-72.*

## Wine Gem: Verjus

One of Paris's current culinary power couples, Laura Adrian and Braden Perkins ran the city's most-buzzed-about supper club, the Hidden Kitchen, before opening this lovely place. Tucked behind the Palais Royal, Verjus comprises a small wine bar on the ground floor (no reservations and a small-plate menu), a more formal restaurant upstairs and a great private dining room on the third floor. The restaurant is often mentioned alongside other hot spots with American or American-trained chefs (Frenchie, Spring), but this place feels totally Parisian: small, intimate, congenial and with incredible food and wine pairings. *52 Rue de Richelieu, 1st Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-42-97-54-40.*

## Museum Dining: MiniPalais

Set in the early 20th-century grandeur of the Petit Palais, MiniPalais offers a chic and contemporary dining alternative to the popular Parisian classics. This Right Bank hot spot



Dessert at Jean-François Piège

seamlessly blends the traditional and contemporary. The space reads museum-meets-industrial-TriBeCa-warehouse; the large open-plan dining room has soaring twenty-foot ceilings supported by wrought iron beams and walls that feature ancient marble busts and original carvings in relief. The menu offers a modern twist on old-time bistro fare, with pops of Asian, Spanish and Italian influences. Window booths showcase views of the picturesque palm-tree-clad terrace, where alfresco dining is a “must” during the summer months. *3 Avenue Winston Churchill, 8th Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-42-56-42-42.*

**Intimate Setting: Jean-François Piège**

Located above venerable brasserie Thoumieux, this Michelin-starred restaurant was designed by India Madhavi, who conceived the intimate space as a groovy living room, with sleek couches scattered with zebra-print pillows, comfy armchairs and contemporary light fixtures. Chef Piège, formerly of Le Crillon, has always been a culinary innovator. Food critic Alexander Lobrano sums it up best, calling him “one of the two or three wittiest chefs working in Paris right

now.” *79 Rue Saint-Dominique, 7th Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-47-05-79-79.*

**Neighborhood Favorite: Septime**

A hands-down foodie temple, Septime is headed by chef Bertrand Grébaut, who changes the menu almost daily and is one of the darlings of the *le fooding* movement. Book well in advance to dine on innovative seasonal dishes in a chic but cozy dining room, with a fabulous list of organic wines. For less of a commitment, sample small plates and a glass of wine at the nearby Septime Cave (*3 Rue Basfroi*) across the way. *80 Rue de Charonne, 11th Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-43-67-38-29.*

**Worth the Wait: Le Comptoir du Relais**

Chef Yves Camdeborde’s cozy, ten-table bistro in the center of St.-Germain is one of the most coveted reservations at dinner, so go for lunch, when it’s first come, first serve. The menu at this 1930s-vintage dining room is often changing but is always spot-on. If you don’t have time for a meal, grab a crêpe to go at L’Avant Comptoir next door. *9 Carrefour de l’Odéon, 6th Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-44-27-07-97.*

**French Food Break: Sola**

When you’ve gorged on too much cheese and rich meat, head to this beautiful fusion restaurant for a lighter meal. Opened in 2010, the restaurant is run by Japanese chef Hiroki Yoshitake, whose menu is all about flavor and composition. Indagare members who have dined here described the meal not as Japanese but rather as incredibly innovative French food with a Japanese twist. There are two prix fixe menus, and diners should request to be seated in the classic dining room upstairs (not the tatami-matted room downstairs). *12 Rue de l’Hôtel Colbert, 5th Arrondissement; 33 (0) 1-43-29-59-04.*

# Hedonism and Health in Miami

With nearly perpetual sun, a vibrant arts scene, excellent spas and innovative dining, the city beckons with a new wellness image, finds **Amelia Osborne**.



The Setai Miami Beach

My, what a health-conscious city Miami has become,” I thought to myself at the end of a South Beach day that had included exercise classes at beachside gyms and lying in a cabana lathered in high-SPF lotion and spritzed with lemon-scented filtered water. And then... well, then night happened, and with it 11 P.M. dinners, scantily clad bottle-service girls, thumping house music, valets flaunting Lambos and parties that didn’t end until the sun came up. So I was wrong, but I was also right, because Miami can be two entirely different cities. One attracts with a crazy party scene, while the other beckons with sunny weather and excellent spas.

Like Miami Beach, the city’s hotel scene is split between party properties offering wild nights (the SLS, Soho Beach House and W), and the more understated oases of calm in the center of the action (the Betsy, Setai and Tides). For relaxation outside the party sector, I recommend heading due north or south—to the St. Regis Bal Harbour or the newly renovated Fisher Island.

Regardless of whether your Miami days and nights will be spent in Havaiana flip-flops or Jimmy Choo glitter sling backs, you’ll want to take advantage of the thriving cultural scene. To the west sits the gritty Design District and Wynwood, famous for its graffiti-covered walls and funky

galleries. The area has become the city’s SoHo, complete with hipster cafés next door to Louis Vuitton boutiques. In terms of dining, once you get past the fact that many of the great restaurants are outposts of originals in London, L.A. and New York, there’s some excellent cuisine (favorites include Casa Tua, Ceconi’s and Juvia). So while the übercool roll their eyes at the bathrobe-clad spa goers, and health nuts scoff at the hungover hiding behind sunglasses, Miami is one of those rare places where these groups happily coexist. And honestly, who can be too annoyed when it’s 78 degrees, sunny, and you have a mojito, or cucumber-infused ice water, in hand?

# Spanish Pilgrimage

Anyone considering walking the Camino de Santiago this spring should read **Noelle Alejandra Salmi**'s account of her experience on the famous route.



Together with five girlfriends from Barcelona, I trekked the last five days of the famed Camino de Santiago with a backpack through forests, pastures and small villages in Spain's rural Galicia province. The best-known route for following the Camino de Santiago begins in the French Pyrenees and continues westward across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela, where the remains of the apostle James are said to have been brought from Jerusalem. The Camino de Santiago has been drawing pilgrims since at least A.D. 900. In fact, so many pilgrims traveled the Camino that it's credited with bringing central European architecture and culture to Spain during the Middle Ages. Nowadays as many people travel the Camino for personal reasons as for religious ones. Equipped with proper shoes, backpacks and walking sticks, modern pilgrims usually complete the whole trek from France in about a month. Those who don't have a month to spare can walk or bike a portion of the Camino but

must travel at least 100 kilometers (62 miles) to receive an official pilgrimage certificate from the Pilgrims' Office in Santiago. For that reason, we started our trek in Sarria, located 111 kilometers east of Santiago along the Camino trail.

Minutes after arriving in Sarria, a hilly town crossed by a tree-lined river, we found ourselves chatting with one animated pilgrim after another. I've seen that openhearted spirit in just a few places in my many travels, and I quickly realized this is one reason travelers return to the Camino again and again. We headed to the monastery atop the hill to pick up our pilgrim passports. Each day pilgrims should get at least two stamps (at chapels, inns or even roadside cafés) in their passports as proof of their journey. From the monastery we took in the sweeping view of the pastoral spring landscape we'd soon be crossing.

The next morning we gulped down coffee, donned our backpacks and set out on our trek. We passed several farms, at times sharing the

road with cattle, admiring fields covered with yellow or purple flowers. Elsewhere we walked across rivers, over hillsides dotted with oak trees and through dark, fern-filled forests. The landscape was ever changing, as were the types of refreshments we found along the way. At one café we sat under trees, sipping strong coffee and sharing thick slabs of Galician bread topped with local cheese. At an unmanned fruit stand, we grabbed cherries and left our coins in a can. And one late afternoon we ate ribs grilled outdoors, accompanied by salad and cold beer.

Everywhere we went, we encountered travelers from incredibly varied places. We dined twice with Margot from Australia, who had been trekking on her own for a month. The jovial Cuban-American retirees from Miami were making their five days on the Camino as pleasant as possible, using a baggage service to transport their many suitcases from one hotel to the next. Charlotte from Texas, walking with her son all the way from France, recited poetry as we passed through a quiet forest.



On our fourth day, I decided to walk solo. By this point my blistered feet were painfully sore, and I now understood the unusual shrines I'd seen often along the way: a pair of abandoned hiking boots laid atop a stone wall, always decorated with pine cones, flowers or stones. It was a way to say, "Thank you for taking me so far on this journey. I never want to see you again." I realized I had to get into a walking rhythm, without stopping to chat or take pictures, and the throbbing would ebb. Day four was a long one, through a forest of majestic eucalyptus trees, along a dusty road facing the blazing sun, next to a chain-link fence bedecked with thousands of twig crosses placed there by pilgrims.

On our last day, we left the countryside, passing the industrial outskirts of Santiago before reaching the historic center and eventually the famed Cathedral of Santiago in time for the noon pilgrims' mass. We shared hugs and congratulations with people we'd met along the way and later sipped Champagne at an outdoor table. We flew home to Barcelona that night, my feet still aching. I woke up the next morning glad not to be putting on my trail shoes—and yet somehow sorry I didn't have another day's walk ahead of me.

## Where to Stay:

**Hotel Carris Alfonso IX:** This hotel is spacious and modern, with friendly service. *29 Rua del Peregrino, Sarria*; (34) 982-530-005; [sarriahotelalfonsoix.com](http://sarriahotelalfonsoix.com).

**Pousada de Portomarin:** This elegant old building boasts expansive river valley views. *s/n Avenida Sarria, Portomarin*; (34) 982-545-200; [www.pousadadeportomarin.com](http://www.pousadadeportomarin.com).

**La Cabaña:** These cozy wooden lodges are known for their large restaurants, where pilgrims gather. *C/ Doctor Pardo Ouro, Palas de Rei*; (34) 982-380-750; [www.complejolacabana.com](http://www.complejolacabana.com).

**Casa Teodora:** This diminutive hotel has cute, tidy rooms. *38 Calle del Lugo, Arzuá*; (34) 981-500-083; [www.casateodora.com](http://www.casateodora.com)

**Pazo Xan Xordo:** This historic country estate has lovely grounds. *6 Xan Xordo, Lavacolla*; (34) 981-888-259; [www.pazoxanxordo.com](http://www.pazoxanxordo.com).

# Marrakech Shopping

Indagare founder **Melissa Biggs Bradley** returns to Morocco's style city and unveils its newest hot spots for fashion, accessories and home accents.

**M**arrakech is one of my favorite cities because of the way it blends history and tradition with innovation and energy. New restaurants, chic shops and hotels continue to pop up as the "Red City" remains the darling of many travelers. Some additions, like the Delano with its "Miami comes to Morocco" vibe are not for me. But on a recent trip, I found just-opened boutiques that bring European flair to the medina, cool clubs and casual French bistros serving comfort food in hip surroundings.

## SHOPPING MUSTS

Before opening the lovely **Topolina** (*Medina; 436 Sidi Ghanem, 134 Dar El Bacha*), the French designer had sold her designs at cool concept store 33 Rue Majorelle. Fashions have been sold in the medina since the 12th century, but never before have the walls held a sleek concept shop like **Maktoub by Max & Jean** (*Medina; 128 Fontaine Mouassine*), mixing many designers' work. Legendary personal shopper Laetitia Trouillet opened a showroom called **Studio Lalla** (*Gueliz; 5 Rue de la Liberté, 2nd floor*) that features the full range of her bag collection. Shop for everything from Berber rugs to woven antiques at **Al Matjar** (*Medina; Souk Semmarine 26*), the space opened by the son of the owner of fashion shop Au Fil d'Or. Another favorite spot in the medina is the **Souk Cherifa**, where a number of boutiques opened in the second story courtyard space just below the café Terrasse des Epices. Look for **Baboucheshop**, **Sissi Morocco**, **Lalla**, **Un Dimanche au Soleil**, **Meriam Rawlings** and **Zaaz**. Also note that

wonderful concept store **KIS** (*36 Rue Fhal Chidmi*), which was originally a by-appointment only is now open to the public.

## FRENCH FAVORITES

**Le Studio** (*Gueliz, 85 Avenue Moulay Rachid*), a hip wine bar/bistro in Gueliz, serves staples like mussels and escargots. Reserve ahead. **Le Loft** (*Gueliz, 18 Rue de la Liberté*) feels like a slice of the Marais, with exposed brick walls and cozy banquettes. The owners of Terrasse des Epices and Café des Epices opened another hot spot, **Le Jardin** (*Médina, 32 Souk El jeld. Sidi Abdelaziz*) in the heart of the medina.

## HOT SPOTS

Parisian club king Claude Challe, who founded Buddha Bar, has a new hot spot in Marrakech called **Djellabar** (*Villa Bougainvillée; 2 Rue Abou Hanifa, Hivernage*). And the rooftop bar on the top of the **Delano** hotel (*Angle Av. Echouhada et Rue des Temples*) boasts one of the best views of Marrakech (though the Miami Beach-does-Morocco scene is not for everyone).

## DAY TRIP

For those who want to get a sense of the country's varied and dramatic landscapes, there is a fantastic encampment only a forty-five minute drive from the city called **La Pause**. It's best to book this experience through Indagare for special attention (our members are given VIP treatment): 212-988-2611.

---

Find many more shopping suggestions at [Indagare.com](http://Indagare.com).

## Morocco Black Book:

Number 32 of Indagare's Black Book magazine focuses on **Marrakech & Beyond**, covering the best hotels, restaurants and boutiques, as well as other captivating Moroccan destinations (Atlas Mountains, Fez and more). Members can see the digital version of the issue online or download a PDF. Visit: [www.indagare.com/magazines](http://www.indagare.com/magazines).



Clockwise from top: La Pause; KIS boutique; detail of a Beldi caftan; Hadya boutique.

THE LUXURY COLLECTION

Hotels & Resorts



ICONIC LANDMARKS,  
HISTORIC PALACES,  
EXTRAORDINARY DETAILS.

*Discover the two finest hotels in Venice,  
The Gritti Palace, recently re-opened after a  
meticulous restoration, and world-renowned  
Hotel Danieli with its renovated Signature  
suites in Palazzo Dandolo.*

*Each of these hotels is a local treasure, a  
historic monument to Venice's past. These  
legendary palaces are where heritage and  
culture blend with Venetian elegance.*

LIFE IS A COLLECTION OF EXPERIENCES  
LET US BE YOUR GUIDE

[theluxurycollection.com](http://theluxurycollection.com)

spg  
Starwood  
Preferred  
Guest

MERIDIEN

loft

FOUR  
POINTS

WESTIN

THE LUXURY  
COLLECTION

W  
HOTELS

S  
Sheraton

ST REGIS

element



HOTEL DANIELI  
THE GRITTI PALACE  
Venice  
THE COUNCIL OF VENICE 1455





# Venice & Beyond

**Simone Girner, Barkley Hickox and Amelia Osborne** revisit La Serinissima, covering its best hotels, restaurants and rich cultural offerings.

Venice is in midst of an identity crisis. You can see it in obvious places, like the Giudecca Canal that now allows massive cruise liners to pass (prompting worries about the devastating environmental impact on Venice's delicate framework). You can also see it in more hidden spots, like Campo San Bortolomio, where the window of a pharmacy displays a numeric counter of the diminishing population, (once nearly 200,000, today there are less than 50,000 residents). "Venice is becoming a theme park, and we have to work together so that it can be a good theme park," says Countess Bianca di Savoia Aosta Arrivabene, whose family owns one of the city's most stunning Grand Canal palazzi. Francesca Bortolotto Possati, the energetic owner of the Bauer hotels, concurs, saying: "What Venice needs is people who believe in its long-term future, as I do, and who realize that this is a unique place as long as it maintains its identity."

The combination of eternally rising *acqua alta*, trampling tourist hordes and crumbling infrastructure would have destroyed a lesser place years ago—but not Venice. Quiet but powerful, crumbling yet proud, the city continues to cast a captivating spell. The moment your water taxi turns into the Grand Canal and the faded, pastel-colored *palazzi* rise from the lagoon like pillars of another era, is always breathtaking, whether it's your first or fifteenth visit. For to-

day's traveler, getting off the beaten path is more important than ever. Seemingly with a mind of its own, the city reveals its treasures slowly, layer after layer. To understand it, you have to succumb to its rhythms (languid), sounds (footsteps and water) and scents (the sea). If you rush, you miss the details: the garden, the alley that spills into a square, the street where red geraniums vie with clotheslines of drying laundry.

Of course, the challenges noted by Arrivabene and Possati, among other passionate Venetians, are real, and they have to be addressed thoughtfully and with urgency to assure the city's survival. But Venice's uncanny way of transporting even the most blasé visitor creates confidence in its future. Yes, things have changed since Henry James wrote *The Italian Hours*. But there are moments when you can still hear the words of the great author reverberate across centuries: "The mere use of one's eyes in Venice is happiness enough," he muses, as you wander through the red-hued alleys of Santa Croce. "Generous observers find it hard to keep an account of their profits in this line," he teases, as you cross a stone bridge in Castello. "Everything the attention touches holds it," he whispers, as you make your way to the tip of the Dorsoduro, the stone lions of San Marco rising on your left, the quiet mansions of the Giudecca appearing on your right, and the azure *laguna* stretching before you—ethereal, timeless, intangible, real. Venice.

---

## Book My Trip: The Indagare Advantage

### **We Know More...**

Our personal team is constantly traveling, to give you the most relevant, unique and up-to-date recommendations.

### **We Think More...**

We are frequent travelers and we pool our knowledge and member's feedback to tweak the details of your trip.

### **We Care More...**

There's no such thing as a "best" hotel or destination. We customize all your trips based on your preferences.

### **We Do More...**

Think of us as your advocates who go above and beyond to ensure that each trip is packed with special touches.

### **We Get More...**

We secure special rates and amenities at hundreds of properties worldwide, including upgrades and VIP treatment.

*There is no bookings fee for Indagare members. Contact us at 212-988-2611 or [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com).*

“

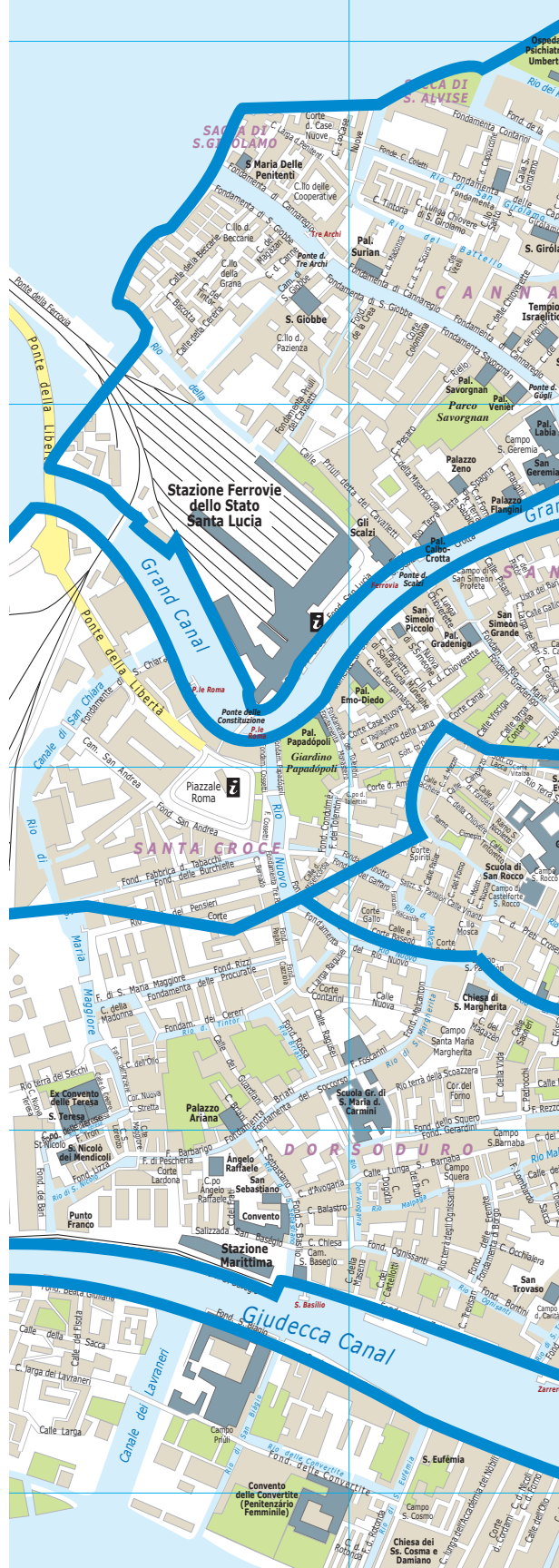
*Venice is a daily aesthetical experience. Every day, the whole day, you are surrounded by beauty. One's eyes get spoiled and from an aesthetic point of view, you cannot imagine living anywhere else.*

*-Bianca di Savoia Aosta Arrivabene*

## LAY OF THE LAND

“Venice is a fish,” writes Italian poet Tiziano Scarpa in one of the best literary novellas about the city (see page 41 for our Library). And he's right. When seen from afar, the city map resembles an open-mouthed fish, its head **San Polo**, its lower jaw the **Dorsoduro**, taking a big bite out of chubby **San Marco**. The Grand Canal dissects Venice into two halves, with three *sestieri* (or neighborhoods) on each side. The central **San Marco** is the most famous, home to the illustrious square, cathedral and the Doge's Palace. Across the Rialto Bridge, visitors cross into San Polo and Santa Croce, which abut each other to the west of the Grand Canal and are home to some of the city's best restaurants, including Da Fiore.

Walking south, they lead to the **Dorsoduro**, home of the Academia dell'Arte and the Guggenheim, as well as contemporary art museum Punta della Dogana at its tip. The lesser-known and explored *sestieri* of **Castello** and **Cannareggio** extend northwest and northeast of San Marco. **Cannareggio** contained the ghetto in the 16th century and today is home to beautiful Renaissance and Baroque structures radiating from the Campo del Ghetto Nuova. **Castello** is home of the Arsenale and Giardini, two venues that take center stage during the Biennale (see page 45); it's also where most boats leave for the nearby islands of **Murano**, **Burano** and **Torcello**. The island of **Giudecca**, while not its own *sestiere*, is another lovely neighborhood, home to such hotels as Bauer Palladio and Hotel Cipriani, as well as the San Giorgio Maggiore whose tower can be climbed for top views.







## WHERE TO STAY

Venice's hotel scene is best described as old-school. There are few newcomers (Aman arrives this year), though classics, like the Gritti Palace and Hotel Cipriani, have undergone extensive renovations. The most acclaimed properties, including Bauer Il Palazzo, line the Grand Canal; more resort-like options are located on the Giudecca. *Here are reviews of Indagare's favorites; more can be found at Indagare.com.*

## LUXURY

**+** **Bauer Hotel & Bauer Il Palazzo**  
The Bauer properties represent among the last family-owned hotel collections in Venice and the only one run by a woman: Francesca Bortolotto Possati. It all started with the **Bauer Hotel**, purchased by Possati's grandfather in the 1940s. The 119-room hotel's Art Deco façade blends perfectly with the traditional Venetian style of the adjacent boutique hotel, **Il Palazzo**. The latter occupies a gorgeous 18th-century

Grand Canal mansion and offers the city's most authentic grand experience. The hallways are painted with crushed marble using an ancient technique; the rooms feature restored trompe l'oeil ceilings, silk wall coverings and curtains from Venetian fabric houses and delicate gilt furniture. The best rooms are, of course, those with a view of the Grand Canal. **Indagare Tip:** For a vibe slightly closer to Bauer's Art Deco Hotel next door, opt for the more contemporary rooms in Il Palazzo's annex. *Read Indagare's review.*

**+** **Hotel Cipriani**  
For a resort-like getaway, book at this iconic hotel on the island of Giudecca, a five-minute boat ride from San Marco. With its ninety-five beautifully appointed rooms and suites, a spa offering La Prairie treatments, lushly planted gardens and an Olympic-size swimming pool, the Cipriani is as luxurious as it gets in Venice. All 300-plus rooms are traditional in decor and were designed with comfort in mind. At 183 square feet, the standard rooms



From left: The lavish interior of the Hotel Danieli; a suite at Il Palazzo; the restored Gritti Palace

are smaller than the suites but still roomy, with views of the hotel's idyllic garden. The hotel is looking even better after undergoing four years of renovations. Parisian designer Michel Journet revamped rooms with modern touches while remaining true to their original vibe. Highlights include fabrics by Fortuny & Rubelli, handmade stuccos and Murano-glass lamps and chandeliers. Families might consider a room in the hotel's Palazzo Vendramin, whose suites come with kitchenettes. *Read Indagare's reviews.*

### **+** Hotel Danieli

With a foundation laid in the 14th century, the Danieli is one of the world's most famous hotels. It is comprised of three striking *palazzi*, the original of which belonged to the noble Dandolo family. Four of the Dandolos served as Doges of Venice; most famously Enrico, who returned from conquering Constantinople in 1204 and eventually incorporated some of the artful bounty he brought back into the interiors of the palazzo. Today's Danieli (it's been a hotel since

the 1820s) is located next to the fabled Doge's Palace and Bridge of Sighs. Film buffs will recognize the lavish interiors as those featured in *The Tourist*, starring Angelina Jolie). A special highlight are four exquisite new suites that were designed by acclaimed Pierre-Yves Rochon and were unveiled in Palazzo Dandolo in November 2012. Few places in Venice can match the splendor of the views, which encompass the Riva degli Schiavoni, Grand Canal and the lagoon's islands. Not to be missed is Restaurant Terrazza Danieli, one of the city's most romantic dining gems on the rooftop of the hotel.

*Read Indagare's review.*

---

**+** **Indagare Plus** Members who book through Indagare receive preferential rates and/or special amenities at the properties with the Indagare Plus symbol. Indagare is also a Preferred Partner of Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts, Orient-Express, Rocco Forte and Virtuoso, which means that members booking through Indagare receive preferred rates, special amenities and VIP treatment at properties worldwide.

Hotel Cipriani



### **+** The Gritti Palace

February 2013 saw the much-anticipated reopening of the Gritti Palace, closed for extensive renovations since 2011. Hundreds of expert craftsmen were involved in bringing the legendary property back to its former glory, while updates to the rooms and suites introduced contemporary amenities. Rubelli fabrics accent the guest rooms, delicate Murano glassworks are featured throughout and the stunning terrazzo floors were painstakingly restored. Every detail of the Gritti confirms the property's noble heritage. The palazzo it occupies dates back to 1475 and was the successive home of the famous Pisani and Gritti families for hundreds of years before it was turned into a luxury hotel in 1895 (initially as an annex to the adjacent Grand Hotel). With an enviable location directly on the Grand Canal and a five-minute walk from Piazza San Marco, the grand dame hotel has now reclaimed its spot as one of Venice's reigning properties. Current guests will agree with W. Somerset Maugham who wrote: "There are few

things in life more pleasant than to sit on the terrace of the Gritti." *Read Indagare's review.*

### **+** Villa F

Located on the Giudecca in a restored 16th-century Renaissance palazzo, Villa F has eleven palatial one- and two-bedroom residences. The sumptuous apartments are pitch-perfect in their details and impeccably styled in contemporary twists on old-world Venetian grandeur. All come with fully equipped Brummel kitchens, oversized plasma TVs, iPod docking stations and butler service. The property's three-acre gardens offer a peaceful enclave removed from the crowds. *Read Indagare's review.*

## **FAMILY FRIENDLY**

### **+** Bauer Il Palladio Hotel & Spa

For travelers who like to get away from the crowds and return at the end of a busy sightseeing day to a more peaceful setting, the Palladio on the Giudecca is a great choice. The Conventino building, an exclusive 20-room structure

“

*A nice evening stroll at the Zattere eating the famous Nico's gelato al Gianduiotto with whipped cream is another great experience. And the Ghetto, so quiet and interesting, is one of the Venice neighborhoods that I love the most.” -Serena Vianello, jewelry designer*

at the opposing end of the expansive gardens, opened in 2010. Its rooms are decorated in a more organic and contemporary aesthetic. One of the property's most enticing features is its organic, 4,500-square-foot spa, offering holistic treatments. A shuttle runs between the hotel and San Marco, but its hours can be inconvenient, so it's easier to take the *traghetto*, a short walk from the hotel. *Read Indagare's review.*

## HIP

### Palazzina Grassi

Venice isn't known for cutting-edge interior design, so the opening of Palazzina Grassi, in 2009, was big news. Created by French designer extraordinaire Philippe Starck (his first Italy hotel), the property is located in a 19th-century palazzo whose interiors have been envisioned in 21st-century style. The rooms feature a mostly white-on-white color scheme, with oversized mirrors, glass wardrobes, leather couches and

cool light fixtures. A perk that comes with staying here is access to the rooftop lounge, one of Venice's most exclusive spots for aperitifs. And the location can't be beat: in walking distance to the major sites, but tucked away from the tourist drags. *Read Indagare's review.*

## ON THE HORIZON:

**+** **Aman Venice**  
The sleek brand is bringing its beloved minimalist style to a city known for its opulence. The Aman Venice, due to open in the summer of 2013, will be housed in the Palazzo Papadopoli, long a private home of the royal Arrivabene family. The 21,000-square-foot palace is the largest on the Grand Canal and commands awe with its picturesque—and very Venetian—vistas.

---

For help booking a stay in Venice, contact Indagare's Bookings Team at 212-988-2611.



From left: Palazzina Grassi; Bauer II Palazzo



## Off to the Dolomites

Long a favorite getaway for Venetians, the resort town of Cortina d'Ampezzo is nestled in the Dolomites. **Simone Girner** reports on the region's highlights.

Just a two-hour scenic drive from Venice, Cortina d'Ampezzo lies in a dramatic Alpine valley, surrounded by the craggy majestic limestone peaks of the Dolomites. It has a reputation as a fashionable see-and-be-seen ski resort—it has been among the Continent's most fashionable hideaways since the beginning of the past century, when royalty and high society from all over the world wintered here. Today even the instructors of the fabled ski school are clad head-to-toe in red Prada, but Cortina also retains a low-key Italian side.

It also helps that just across the Valparola Pass the Veneto region spills into South Tyrol's Alta Badia, a place of serene villages and incredible diversity (there are three official languages, including the ancient Ladina). In one trip, travelers can easily combine the glitz of Cortina with the easygoing nature of Corvara and Badia. During the summertime, the area draws mostly hikers and climbers, who head into the wild peaks of the Dolomites, including the well-

known Sella group. Whether you opt to make your base Cortina or a nearby valley (by staying at Indagare favorite Rosa Alpina), this region is one of Italy's most stunning year-round.

### STAY

#### **Luxury: Hotel Cristallo**

Those who cannot live without such amenities as a large indoor pool, spa treatments and twenty-four-hour room service should book at the Cristallo, Cortina d'Ampezzo's only true five-star property, which has splendid views. Since the Cristallo is a distance from town, it's advisable to have a car here.

#### **Boutique: Hotel Ancora**

Those seeking a feminine touch should stay at this forty-nine-room hotel, two minutes' walk from Cortina's main street. One of the town's oldest hotels, the Ancora features such details as carved ceiling panels and hand-blown Venetian chandeliers.

### **+** **Hideaway: Rosa Alpina**

This beautiful property draws plugged-in travelers to the storybook-perfect village of San Cassiano, a 45-minute drive from Cortina d'Ampezzo. Owned and run for three generations by the Pizzinini family, it's one of those wonderful European hideaways where tasteful design, fantastic cuisine and heartfelt hospitality come together to create an extraordinary experience. The restaurant is one of the region's best. *Read Indagare's review.*

### **EAT**

Cortina residents boast that it's impossible to have a bad meal in any of the resort's more than 100 restaurants, whether on the mountain or off. Many of the lunch spots are open for dinner, but be aware that the mountain roads can be treacherous at night. Take a taxi or arrange with the owners for a special ride up by snowmobile and down by wooden sleigh. Dinner reservations, especially in high season, are essential.

**On the Slopes:** The must-try refugios tucked into the mountains are **Averau**, on the Cinque Torri, with an incredible terrace that seems to hang suspended over the mountain's fissured edge; **Scotoni**, which specializes in grilled meat, fish and vegetables and is located on the Armentarola; and **Col Druscie**, at the end of the dramatic Freccia nel Cielo ("Arrow in the Sky") cable car.

**Off the Slopes:** For Michelin-starred dining, explore the Alto Badia region, home to a host of top-rated restaurants, including **St. Hubertus**, in the Rosa Alpina, and ultraromantic **Stüia di Michil**. In Cortina, only one restaurant has a star: **Tivoli**, in a beautiful dining room with a skylight. Simpler, homey fare is served at **Baita Pie Tofana**, whose dining room is presided

over by a wood-burning stove; **Da Beppe Sello**, a great place to try regional specialties like pasta stuffed with beets; and **Baita Fraina**, a traditional mountain lodge where reservations are required.

**With a View:** Many restaurant terraces make the best of the region's incredible views. If you have time for only one, make it **Faloria**, stocked with colorful chaises longues and everything you've ever associated with an Italian ski holiday. Majestic **Lagazuoi** terraces face the Marmolada Mountain, while at **Ra Valles**, in Tofane, you lounge on a snowy plateau 8,100 feet above sea level.

---

Contact [Indagare's Bookings Team](#) for help arranging a trip to Cortina, including suggestions for the best mountain guides and ski school instructors.





## WHERE TO EAT

Planning meals in Venice is tricky. Although you can eat quite well in the more remote *sestieri* (neighborhoods) of this water-edged city, it's also remarkably easy to end up with a disappointing meal in the more touristy spots, unlike in, say, Rome or Vienna, where even the simplest places often deliver. Carefully mapping out meals around sight-seeing is also important, since time functions very differently in Venice—everything takes longer by water than on a paved road. Who has not had the unfortunate experience of wandering around mobbed San Marco with a throng of hungry—read unhappy—family members in tow, desperately searching for a lunch spot that doesn't look overly touristy? It is essential to come armed with a host of restaurant recommendations for each *sestieri* you'll be touring. *Here are some Indagare favorites. Many more recommendations can be found at Indagare.com.*

### SAN MARCO

*Nearby sights: San Marco Square, Bell Tower, Doge's Palace, La Fenice, Biblioteca Marciana, Correr Museum.*

#### **For an al fresco lunch: Aqua Piazza**

Located in the Campo San Angelo, this open-air restaurant is considered by many to serve the best pizza in Venice and is a good choice for families. *Campo San Angelo, San Marco 3803; (39) 041 277-0688.*

#### **For an intimate seafood lunch: Il Ridotto**

This place has just five tables and an open kitchen and serves ultrafresh Venetian seafood that's innovative with contemporary touches. *Campo SS. Filippo e Giacomo, Castello 4509; (39) 041 5208280.*

#### **For lunch/dinner: Osteria Enoteca San Marco**

The sister outpost to Bancogiro near the Rialto,



Dinner al fresco at Cip's

this enoteca feels miles from the tourist crowds and serves delicious pasta and fish. *Frezzzeria, San Marco 1610; (39) 041-528-5242.*

**For a coffee: Caffè Florian and Quadri Caffè**

As Angéline is to Paris, so are Florian (39-041-520-5641) and Quadri (39-041-522-2105) to Venice: landmarks that draw groans from locals because of the tourist crowds, but that are famous for a reason: their locations. The two mainstays have faced off across Piazza San Marco for centuries. *Piazza San Marco.*

**For a sweet snack: Colussi**

This family-run bakery, located between San Marco and the Rialto Bridge, opened in 1840 and sells delicious cookies and pastries. *Calle S. Luca, San Marco 4579; (39) 041-5222-659.*

**For a classic cocktail: Harry's Bar**

This Venice institution is a famous watering

hole for legendary *bons vivants*. Come for a Bellini—the Prosecco-peach purée concoction was invented here—but go elsewhere for dinner (the food is not what it once was). *San Marco 1323, Calle Vallaresso; (39) 041-528-5777.*

**For a classic Venetian setting: Quadri**

Raves Francesca Bortolotto Possati, the owner of the Bauer hotels: “Venerable Quadri restaurant was bought by two-*Michelin*-starred chef Alaimo [of famous Calandre restaurant in Padova]. It’s a hit: service, ambiance and food are all excellent, as is its central location, of course.” *Piazza San Marco, San Marco 12; (39) 041-522-2105.*

**DORSODURO**

*Nearby sights: Gallerie dell'Accademia, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Punta della Dogana, Fondazione Vedova, Ca'Rezzonico, Ca'Foscari, Campo San Barnaba.*

## destination report: where to eat

“

*The Fortuny Museum is a good point of departure, as is the secret tour of the Doge Palace. The church of Miracles is another must-see, as is the bell tower of Saint George and island of the Armenians.” -Stefano Attombri, designer*

### **For a big night out: Lineadombra**

Maddeningly uneven in the quality of its service and food, Lineadombra is still worth a visit, thanks to its divine lagoon views and contemporary-chic ambiance. Have your concierge make the booking; members who had the concierge at the Cipriani, Bauers, etc. reserve had a better experience. *Dorsoduro 19; (39) 041-241-1881.*

### **For an al fresco lunch: La Rivisita**

The Ca' Pisani hotel's restaurant is a favorite with the owners of the Dorsoduro shops, who like its modern interiors and delicious salads. Tables are set on a street between the Accademia Bridge and Zattere. *Dorsoduro 979A, Rio Terà Foscarini; (39) 041-240-1425.*

### **For lunch on the lagoon: La Piscina**

If you are lucky enough to have a sunny day, head to the floating terrace of La Piscina, located off the promenade on the Giudecca Canal. *Dorsoduro 782; (39) 041-241-3889.*

### **For a local lunch or dinner: Pesador Riviera**

The location of this restaurant, facing the Giudecca Canal on the Dorsoduro, is very romantic. It's a short stroll from the Accademia. *Dorsoduro 1473, Zattere; (39) 041-522-7621.*

### **For a sweet snack: Gelateria Nico**

There are gelato shops on many corners, but this one has been a favorite for decades, in part because of its location on the quay by the Giudecca Canal. *Zattere 922; (39) 041-522-5293.*

### **SAN POLO/SANTA CROCE**

*Nearby sights: Santa Maria dei Frari, Scuola di San Rocco, Campo San Polo, Rialto Market.*

### **For an al fresco lunch: BIRRARIA LA CORTE**

With tables spilling onto scenic Campo San Marco, this local restaurant serves tasty pizzas and pasta dishes. If you can score one of the tables on the piazza, it's a perfect casual lunch spot when touring this area. *Campo San Polo 2168; (39) 041-275-6605.*

### **For an al fresco lunch or aperitifs: Bancogiro**

This lively wine bar was opened by one of the city's legendary foodies, Andrea Varisco. It's a traditional wine bar serving Venice's version of tapas, and out back are tables on a terrace facing the Grand Canal. The kitchen offers daily specials based on what is fresh. *San Polo 122, Campo San Giacometto; (39) 041 523-2061.*

### **For great pizza: Il Refolo**

Many are shocked by the lofty prices, but few are disappointed by the taste of the pizza here or by the location, by the canal on Campiello del Piovan. *Santa Croce 1459; (39) 041-524-0016.*

### **For a sweet treat: Gelateria Alaska**

Tucked deep in Santa Croce, this gelateria is worth seeking out for its delicious handmade creations, which come in such unusual flavors as ginger and celery, as well as Venice's creamiest pistachio, chocolate and banana. *Santa Croce 1159, Calle Larga dei Bari; (39) 041-715-211.*

---

## Home-Cooking, Venice-Style

Several of Venice's best restaurants belong to the **Buona Accoglienza**, an association dedicated to seasonal, regional cuisine. They include Indagare favorites: Al Covo, Alle Testiere, Antiche Carampane and Corte Sconta. For a complete list of these special, mostly family-run places, visit: [www.veneziaristoranti.it](http://www.veneziaristoranti.it).

# QUADRI



Clockwise, from top:  
Quadri in the 1950s;  
Lineadombra; a dish  
at Quadri; Acqua  
Pazza



## Indagare Favorites

These special restaurants are worth a water-taxi ride for dinner, as they embody all that's special, delicious and memorable about eating out in Venice.

### Big Night Out

#### Cip's Club

This restaurant, by the Hotel Cipriani, has hands-down the best view of Venice. From its al fresco terrace, you see a gorgeous panorama of the city. The menu is a mix of Venetian and regional specialties, all beautifully prepared. *Giudecca 10; (39) 041-520-7744.*

#### Da Fiore

Perhaps Venice's most famous restaurant is hidden on a tiny side street in San Polo (it's best reached via water taxi) and serves incredible seafood. Call ahead for a table in the wood-paneled dining room or the small balcony overlooking the canal. *2202 Calle del Scaletter; (39) 041-721-308.*

#### De Pisis

The location of the fine dining restaurant of Il Palazzo (see p. 30) can't be surpassed: on a sweeping terrace, on the Grand Canal, it offers all of the pleasures of eating on a boat with the convenience of being attached to one of the world's great hotels. *San Marco 1459; (39) 041-520-7022.*

### Local Scene

#### Antiche Carampane

This tiny San Polo trattoria is the kind of place that you will want to return to whenever you visit Venice. There's no menu because what's prepared depends on what looked best at the market that morning, but the emphasis is on fresh seafood. *San Polo 1911; (39) 041-524-0165.*

#### Naranzaria

With views of the Grand Canal, this is a great spot to go for aperitifs and then settle in for dinner. Considering the proximity to the Rialto market, the focus is ultrafresh seafood, including sushi. *San Polo 130; (39) 041-72-41-035.*

#### Alle Testiere

This longtime favorite is technically located in Castello but is within walking distance to Piazza San Marco. Part of the same restaurant group as Antiche Carampane, Alle Testiere focuses on seafood and has an ever-changing menu, depending on the catch of the day. *Castello 5801, Calle del Mondo Novo; (39) 041-522-7220.*



Ferrari-Borghese-Cavazza

## Lake Garda

With vistas of the Italian Alps and lush gardens of bougainvillea, Lake Garda is one of Italy's most scenic spots. Here are highlights of the region's best.

Lake Garda sits about a two-hour drive west of Venice. Once you are there, it is nice to have a car but not crucial.

### STAY

Set on eight acres on the edge of Lake Garda, **Villa Feltrinelli** was built in 1892 as an extravagant family palazzo. The history is dramatic: in the early years of the 20th century, the Feltrinelli family summered at its fanciful estate, but in 1943 the Germans confiscated the property. Nazi soldiers moved into the basement while Mussolini was installed in the upper floors as a captive ruler until his execution in 1945.

Although the family reclaimed the property after the war, the villa was not lovingly restored until the 1990s and finally transformed with another lavish restoration into a jewel of a hotel in 2001. The architect included such whimsical details as an octagonal turret, ornate parapets, star-shaped attic windows, ceiling murals, stained-glass windows, silks from Italy's finest mills and coffered ceilings. All of this beauty and behind-the-scenes finessing conjures an atmosphere that makes lingering over a drink by the lake before dinner particularly magical. The air

has the gentlest hint of Alpine crystal. The staff will appear with wine and disappear, so you're left with only the serene lake view extending all the way to the Italian Alps. **Room to get:** The Al Logo Suite is outfitted with antique furniture from the family's collection and boasts a stunning lake-view terrace. **Indagare Tip:** Channel your inner F. Scott Fitzgerald character, and play some croquet on the property's course.

### EAT

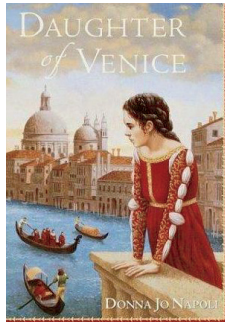
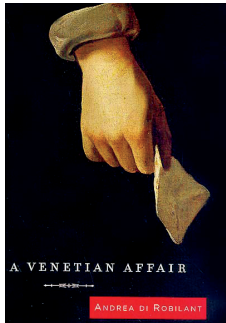
The chic **Osteria dell'Orologio** (*Via Butturini, Salò; 39-0365-290-158*) focuses on seafood and regional specialties. **La Tortuga** (*5 Via XXIV Maggio, Gargnano; 39 0365 71251*), a cozy family-run restaurant, serves excellent pasta.

### SEE/DO

Visit the stunning neo-Gothic villa **Ferrari-Borghese-Cavazza** on the spiritual Isola del Garda, once home to Saint Francis of Assisi. Book a spa treatment and take a day trip to the incredible lakeside **Villa Paradiso**, and ask your concierge to arrange for **sailing** or **windsurfing** lessons on the beautiful lake.

# What to Read & See

"If you read a lot, nothing is as great as you've imagined. Venice is — Venice is better." ~ *Fran Lebowitz*



## NONFICTION

***Venice is a Fish*, Tiziano Scarpa, 2008** — Written by a native Venetian poet and novelist, this love letter to the city is evocative, funny and deeply personal.

***The City of Falling Angels*, John Berendt, 2005** — The author does for Venice what he did in his bestselling nonfiction examination of Savannah, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

***Paradise of Cities: Venice in the 19th Century*, John Julius Norwich, 2003** — The author of the acclaimed *A History of Venice* turns his attention to a particularly fascinating period in the city's history.

***The Stones of Venice*, John Ruskin, 1853** — The eminent English Victorian discusses the art and architecture of the city to highlight principles addressed in his earlier work.

***Venetian Life*, William Dean Howells, 1866** — The author, critic, and American consul to Venice wrote a 2-volume examination of the city.

## FICTION

***Don't Look Now*, Daphne Du Maurier, 1970** — The story of a British couple who escape to Venice in the wake their young daughter's death. A psychologically chilling tale.

***A Venetian Affair*, Andrea di Robilati, 2003** — This beautifully evoked love story is written by the descendant of one of the 18th-century Venetian lovers.

***Death in Venice*, Thomas Mann, 1912** — A tragic novella about a middle-aged author's trip to Lido and his subsequent fatal obsession with a young boy during a cholera epidemic.

***Doctored Evidence*, Donna Leon, 2004** — An unusual crime novel in that even when the criminal is uncovered, justice often gets tangled in the local corruption and red tape.

***The Floating Book: A Novel of Venice*, Michelle Lovric, 2004** — Seductive and erudite story that takes place at the time of the Venetian Renaissance.

***The Merchant of Venice*, William Shakespeare, 1594-97** — In this "problem play," sometimes known as a comedy, a merchant becomes indebted to the moneylender.

***Italian Hours*, Henry James, 1909** — A selection of essays by the famed author about cities across the country, though many chapters focus on Venice.

***The Aspern Papers and Other Stories*, Henry James, 1888** This novella, originally published in *The Atlantic Monthly*, is set in Venice.

***World of Venice*, Jan Morris, 1995** A veritable love letter to the city by one of the 20th century's great travel writers.

***Venice Observed*, Mary McCarthy, 1963** — Venice as seen by a young woman in the 1950s and 1960s.

## FILMS

***Don't Look Now*, Nicholas Roeg, 1973** — A classic, moody psychic thriller about a married couple (Donald Sutherland, Julie Christie) mourning their young daughter's drowning death in wintry Venice.

***Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, 1989** — Harrison Ford a.k.a. Indiana Jones hunts treasure again, with scenes set in Venice.

***Wings of the Dove*, 1997** — This romantic drama, based on the novel by Henry James, features two leading ladies: Helena Bonham Carter and the city of Venice.

***Italian for Beginners*, Lone Scherfig, 2000** — A charming Danish comedy about a group of loners who take an Italian class and eventually travel to Venice together.

***Casanova*, Lasse Hallstrom, 2005** A study Heath Ledger seduces as the Venetian philanderer who finally meets his match — a liberated Sienna Miller — in a lavish, buoyant production shot on location.

***The Merchant of Venice*, Michael Radford, 2004** — There are several productions, but the most recent one stars Al Pacino as the Jewish merchant, Shylock.

***Casino Royale*, Martin Campbell, 2006** — A major climax occurs in a sprawling Venice palazzo; needless to say, it's rubble, along with assorted villains, when Daniel Craig's James Bond finishes with it.



## Classic Venice

La Serenissima is a living museum and first-time visitors in particular are overwhelmed by its cultural offerings. Here's a short list of the city's top attractions.

### Get Your Bearings: Piazza San Marco

Vibrant, buzzing **Piazza San Marco** is Venice's uncontested heart. First timers have to start their exploring here, and many return visitors come to ride the elevator up **San Marco Basilica's** campanile ("clock tower"). Art aficionados stop by the **Correr Museum**, whose first floor is dedicated to sculptor Antonio Canova and whose other treasures include works by Bellini, Carpaccio and Lotto. The **Palazzo Ducale** (Doge's Palace) and **Biblioteca Marciana** complete this square's offerings. The beauti-

ful **Biblioteca Marciana's** main hall, decorated by Tintoretto and Schiavone, hosts important temporary exhibitions.

### Enjoy the Collections

Venice has a maddening variety of exhibition spaces, in crumbling palazzi, churches and galleries (see Venice: In-Depth, page 46). But the city's two heavy-hitting art museums are the **Gallerie dell'Accademia**, whose collection spans five centuries of Venetian painting, and the **Peggy Guggenheim Collection**, in a Grand

“

*When I'm in New York I miss the silence of Venice, where I'm woken up by people chatting in the street under my windows or the bells of one of the many beautiful churches nearby.”*—Antonia Miletto

Canal-facing palazzo that was the heiress's home until her death. On the contemporary art front, the city is ruled by collector extraordinaire François Pinault. **Palazzo Grassi** was the Frenchman's original Venice outpost; the **Punta della Dogana**, in a former customs house brilliantly reenvisioned by architect Tadao Ando, is his pièce de résistance. The collection, pulling highlights from Pinault's vault changes every other year, to coincide with the Venice Biennale.

### Get Religious

It's worth taking time to explore Andrea Palladio's **San Giorgio Maggiore** church, located on the Giudecca. Visitors take an elevator to the top of the clock tower for the city's best views (better even than from San Marco). Venice's second-most-important church (after Basilica San Marco) is **Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari**. Titian's magnificent Assumption is the crowd pleaser, but don't miss works by Donatello and Bellini and the crypt of composer Monteverdi.

### Get Scholarly

Across the Campo dei Frari from Frari is the **Scuola Grande di San Rocco**, the most famous of Venice's six *scuole grandi* (confraternity institutions). The exquisite ceiling was done by Tintoretto; the scuola also features paintings by Titian, Tiepolo, Bellini and Giorgione.

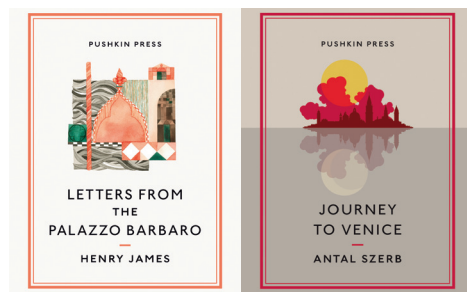
### Take to the Water

Hiring a **gondola** is very touristy, but if you're traveling with kids—and the timing is right—it can be a fun sightseeing break. A good gondolier will avoid the Grand Canal and cruise along smaller canals. Fares are fixed, so don't try negotiating. Of course, the **vaporetti** are the most efficient way to get around the city. To avoid constantly having to seek out the few Grand Canal bridges, learn where the useful **traghetto**

(larger gondolas) make their crossing. They are not part of the ACTV travel network, so pay the gondoliere in cash (€ .50 per crossing).

### Visit the Islands

Famous **Murano** and **Burano** and lesser-known **Torcello** can all be visited in one afternoon. Murano is touristy, but it's fun to stroll along Fondamenta dei Vetrai and peek into the workshops. Stop for lunch at lovely **Acquastanca** (*Fondamenta Manin 48*), which is family run. Burano is famous for its colorful houses, and a good lunch spot is **Il Gatto Nero** (*Via Giudecca 88*). Torcello, a 45-minute vaporetto ride from central Venice, contains the city's oldest cathedral, **Santa Maria dell'Assunta**.



## Book Review: Venice

*Pushkin Press has brought out a six-volume box set titled In Search of Venice. The volumes, exquisitely designed by contemporary artists, include letters from Henry James, musings by Régis Debray, a memoir from Paul Morand and a novella about Casanova by Arthur Schnitzler. As the foreword so eloquently puts it, the authors' words "set us dreaming of the beautifully preserved city, its Grand Canal, the bridges and footways, and the ghosts that now exist only in old documents as Venice, on its treacherous sea, is translated into enduring literature."*



## Cruising the Adriatic

After a visit to Venice, you might be inspired to take to the seas to channel the city's explorers and merchants of centuries past while cruising along the Croatian coast.

**T**he rugged coastline, historic ports and medieval towns of Croatia have long attracted visitors, and the best way to experience its geography and seaside culture is by private charter. Our favorite itinerary starts in **Kotor** and travels north towards **Dubrovnik**. Known as the “Pearl of the Adriatic,” this walled town features many Venetian-inspired architectural touches.

After exploring the city—a UNESCO World Heritage site—you will cruise towards **Mljet**, a charming island beloved for its calm waters and easy-going natural environs. Next, you'll head towards **Korcula**, a densely forested island known for having some of the region's most

fascinating legends (it was also allegedly the birthplace of Marco Polo).

En route to **Hvar**, your next stop, you can anchor and go for a swim in the beautiful **Sveti Klement**. Hvar is well known for its lush agriculture including fields of lavender and olive groves. You will then motor towards **Sibenik**, a port city known for the majestic Fortress of St. Michael. Your final day will begin with a visit to **Skradin**, an inland village reachable by the Krka River. See travertine waterfalls and natural pools before spending the night in **Trovir**.

---

To inquire about booking a similar trip, contact us at [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com) or 212-988-2611.

# Spotlight: Venice Biennale 2013

This important event has celebrated world art and innovation for over a century. **Amelia Osborne** spoke to this year's curator about the highlights.

Every other year, the art world's movers and shakers descend upon Venice. The historic cityscape acts as a backdrop for cutting-edge displays, offering a compelling dialogue between old and new. While artworks are generally kept behind closed doors until opening week (May 29, 2013), we spoke to curator Massimiliano Gioni, rounding up some tips on how to navigate the wealth of the Biennale.

## What has been the most exciting/challenging parts about organizing the Biennale?

What makes Venice so beautiful (water) is also what makes the organization a challenge. But I had the honor of hanging a few pictures that had been shown in Venice in the 1940s and 50s, and when you see the little Biennale stickers on the back of the painting, you know that work has become history.

## Why is this such an important cultural event?

Its history and its legacy are absolutely unique. It's the only place where the art world has returned over and over again every two years

for the past 110 years. Going through the list of artists who have exhibited here is mindblowing. I don't think you can really explain what it means for an artist to exhibit in the same rooms as where Gustav Klimt was showing in 1905.

## What additions or innovations to this year's show are you most looking forward to?

The national pavilions keep expanding, which I think is exciting. This year there will be a Nigerian pavilion and I am very curious about that. In my section of the exhibition, I tried to include many unusual works made by non-professional artists, and so I am very curious and a little nervous to see what people will think.

## What are your favorite Venice secrets?

I love walking around behind the Giardini: it feels like a different planet there. And I like the Gallerie dell'Accademia, with its Carlo Scarpa's insertions. The Guggenheim foundation is still a very special place. And Gino Rossi was a great painter from Venice who ended up in a mental hospital: it's always great to see his paintings.



**When:** June 1-Nov. 24, 2013

**Where:** 30 individual pavilions are scattered throughout the Giardini, a park in Castello. The structures were built in the past century and designed by their host countries. The Arsenale, a former shipyard normally closed to the public, is home to the main exhibitions.

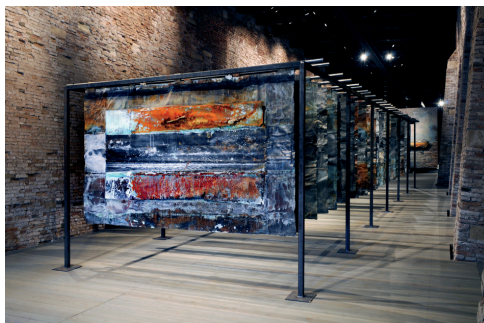
**Names to Know:** Paolo Baratta, president of the Biennale; Massimiliano Gioni, 2013 curator and art-world impresario.

**Book Early:** 2011's exhibition drew approximately 300,000 people.

**Tip:** Have an al fresco lunch at La Corte Sconta (Castello 3886), near the Arsenale. It's one of the best places to find truly excellent seafood in Venice.

## In-Depth Venice

When you've checked off the city's heavy-hitters, it's a delight to seek out the immense treasures in *palazzi*, churches and museums that are off the beaten path.



Clockwise from top left: Fondazione Vedova; Grand Canal; Ca d'Oro

The best way to explore Venice is to get away from the crowds and lose yourself in the back alleys. There are many treasures along the way. *Contact Indagare's Bookings Team for suggestions on what special excursions and activities can be arranged: 212-988-2611 or [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com).*

### Discover Cannaregio

Neglected by many visitors, this *sestiere* is home to the old ghetto: in the 16th century, a government edict confined Venice's Jews to this neighborhood, and the many Renaissance and Baroque buildings that were constructed to accommodate the quarter's growing population created dense and incredibly picturesque cityscapes. The peaceful **Campo del Ghetto Nuova** is the main piazza from which to start exploring. Head to **Madonna dell'Orto** church,

which houses Tintoretto's colossal paintings *The Adoration of the Golden Calf* and *The Last Judgment*. Strolling back toward San Marco, seek out the workshop of master glassmaker **Vittorio Costantini** (*Cannaregio 5311, Calle del Fumo*) and nearby **Gianni Basso** (*5306 Cannaregio, Calle del Fumo*), purveyor of bookplates, business cards and stationery printed on antique printing presses. End with a delicious homey lunch at serene **Vini Da Gigio** (*Cannaregio 3628; 39-041-528-5140*).

### Head to the Museums

Four to consider for insider exploration: **Museo Fortuny** is housed in one of the palaces of the Pesaro family (patrons of Bellini and Titian) and showcases the rich textiles of Mariano Fortuny. **Fondazione Vedova**, housed in a warehouse space brilliantly re-envisioned by architect

“

*I love walking around behind the Giardini: it feels like a different planet there.” - Massimiliano Gioni, curator of the 2013 Biennale*

Renzo Piano, is a cool museum mostly devoted to the works of Italian painter Emilio Vedova (a native Venetian). **Palazzo Grimani** hosts temporary exhibitions in a restored palazzo that reopened to the public in 2008. **Ca’ Rezzonico**, the so-called Frick of Venice, is dedicated to 18th-century art and antiques.

### Research the Art Scene

Venice has a marketing problem. Some of the most stunning art exhibitions and events are barely advertised, so unless you have a super-motivated concierge, it is easy to miss things. A great Web site on which to research what’s happening is **Venezia News** ([www.venezianews.it](http://www.venezianews.it)), where you can search by date to learn about even the most obscure shows, which are often the ones to catch in this art-filled city.

### See a Performance

Who has not wanted to pull up to a theater for an evening entertainment in a gondola? **La Fenice** hosts opera and music performances throughout the year. Ask your concierge to

book the tickets, and read *The City of Falling Angels* to prepare; this nonfiction book by John Berendt tells of the intrigue and scandal surrounding the fire that destroyed the historic opera house in 1996.

### Explore Hidden Gems

The **Fondazione Giorgio Cini**, housed in a former Benedictine convent, has a remarkable replica of Veronese’s *Nozze di Cana*. The original, brought to France by Napoléon in 1797, hangs in the Louvre and is one of the museum’s largest canvases. The **Palazzo Mocenigo**, has a wonderful collection of costumes and textiles, making it particularly fun if you’re traveling with children.

### Walk Along the Beach

Facing the Adriatic Sea, the **Lido** is Venice’s historic seaside resort and home to the Venice Film Festival. It’s best explored by bike, which you can rent at **Venice Bike Rental** (*Gran Viale Santa Maria Elisabetta 79/A*). For the most privacy, go to **Alberoni Beach**.



## Venice for Families

Venice is great for older children; there’s lots of walking and the layout is not stroller friendly, making it more difficult for families with toddlers. The food is kid-friendly, and the city offers many fun activities, ranging from jewelry making to cooking classes. Take the Clock Tower tour at San Marco, explore the Rialto Market, and take a trip to the Lido beaches. Before your visit, read *The Thief Lord*, by Cornelia Funke (think Harry Potter set in Venice). Contact Indagare’s Bookings Team for help crafting the perfect itinerary for your next Venice trip. Indagare has designed itineraries for so many members traveling to Venice (and benefited from their feedback) that we have created a **Mapped Out: Venice**, an essential three-day itinerary. The series also includes guides on Rome, Paris, London and Vienna. You can purchase Mapped Out guides (single guide: \$12.95; box set: \$55) at [www.indagare.com/souk](http://www.indagare.com/souk).



## WHERE TO SHOP

For centuries Venice sat at the crossroads where merchants from the East met wealthy buyers from the West, which meant that it served as the ultimate shopping destination for the world's most discerning buyers.

Sadly, with globalization's rise, the demand for handmade goods has virtually disappeared, and the craft traditions are dying out. The majority of shops you will pass now are either well-known international brands or sell poorly made souvenirs. However, the special finds remain those made by artisans who have devoted years to their craft—whether they create cheese and chocolates, exquisite hand-blown glass or fashion and fabrics, all made the old-fashioned way. Seek them out.

### SAN MARCO

Start in the small piazza between the Campo Gritti and Campo San Maurizio, where Venice's oldest paper shop, **Antica Legatoria Piazzesi** (*San Marco 2511C*) is located. At adjacent Campo della Feltrina, check out the sweet hand-crafted accessories at **Margerie** (*San Marco*

*2511B*) before crossing to Campo San Maria del Giglio and heading to iconic **Bevilacqua** (*San Marco 2520*), whose fabrics you will see in the city's top hotels. Continue along Calle delle Streghe and drop by **Venetia Studium** (*San Marco 2425*), which carries fabrics and lamps. For something truly special, make an appointment at **Sete-Cento** (*Calle del Ridotto 1388*), the fashion label founded by Alessandro Possati, whose family owns the Bauer hotels. San Marco itself contains mostly international brands at this point but also venerable jeweler **Nardi** (*Piazza San Marco 69*). If you walk toward the Rialto Bridge, stop by **Pot-Pourri** (*San Marco 1810/1811*) for fashion and housewares, as well as **JB Guanti** (*Mercerie 737*) for soft leather gloves. **L'Ottico Fabbricatore** (*San Marco 4773*) is a seriously stylish accessories boutique whose assortment of sunglasses, bags and sumptuous fashion accents is very *chic-italiano*.

### DORSODURO

The best shopping in Dorsoduro is around pretty Campo San Barnaba, where you'll find **Signor Blum** (*Dorsoduro 2840*), which carries



From far left: Bevilacqua; Venetia Studium; Piazza San Marco; Viziovirtù Cioccolateria



great handmade toys (on the same campo is Gelateria Grom, where you could stop for a sweet treat). Continue toward Ca' Foscari, and look at the masks at **MondoNovo** (*Dorsoduro 3063*), which are works of art (Stanley Kubrick used Lovato's work in the film *Eyes Wide Shut*). Another must is **L'Angolo del Passato** (*Dorsoduro 3276*), whose owner stocks a beautifully edited selection of the city's best glassware, including Marie Brandolini's line of Laguna B. Glass connoisseurs will also want to seek out **Massimo Micheluzzi** (*Dorsoduro 1071*) for a contemporary twist on this centuries-old tradition.

## SAN POLO/SANTA CROCE

If you visit only two stores in this *sestiere*, make them food purveyors: **Casa del Parmigiano** (*San Polo 214, Erberia Rialto*) is considered the city's best cheese shop, while the handcrafted chocolate confections at **VizioVirtù** (*San Polo 2898A, Calle del Campaniel*) are unbeatable. The area holds some whimsical fashion boutiques as well: **Hibiscus** (*San Polo 1060/61*) and **Serena Vianello** (*San Polo 1226, Campo S. Aponal*) are the ones to hit.

## Francesca's Favorites



The owner and CEO of the illustrious Bauer hotels collection, Francesca Bortolotto Possati is considered one of Venice's most stylish leading ladies. Here she shares some insider recommendations about her home.

### Hidden boutiques

**Gianni Basso:** An old-world printing shop that makes custom engraved stationery. Cannaregio 5306; 39-041-5234681.

**La Perla:** The old fisherman's island is famous for its lace. The Bon family runs these shops, which sell handmade tablecloths, bedspreads and tapestries. Via Galuppi, Burano; 39-041-730009.

**Attilio Codognato:** This historic jewelry house continues to make original designs, such as snake bracelets that coil around your wrist. Calle Dell'Ascensione; 39 041 5225042.

**Schiavon Massimiliano Art Team:** The Art Team includes two unequalled glass blowers that match their different but complementary skills to create unique pieces every day. Calle Bertolini 29, Murano; 39 041 8224116.

**Manuela Zanvettori:** Handmade Murano glass necklaces. Fondamenta Vetrai 8, 39 041 5274296.

### Treasure Hunting

**Antiquus:** Oreste Caniato has eminently collectable silverware, paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries and furniture in styles ranging from Empire to Biedermeier. Accademia 873; 39 041 2413725.

**Gallerie dell'Accademia:** See Giorgione's *The Tempest*, Bellini's *San Giobbe Altarpiece*, Titian's *Pieta* and portraits by Rosalba Carrera, one of the rare female artists from the late Baroque period. Campo della Carità, 1050; 39-041-5200345.

**Scuola Grande di San Rocco:** The 16th century school is home to works by Tintoretto, Giorgione, Titian and Tiepolo. San Polo; 39-041-5234864.

### Walk in a Garden

**BAUER's Palladio Hotel** and **Villa F:** The gardens between these properties stretch across three acres and include the oldest magnolia tree in the city. The garden is open to visitors who can go for a stroll, perhaps while enjoying an aperitif.

## Lake Como

The famous lake manages to embrace dichotomies with grace: it's both natural and civilized, decadent and low-key, enormous and intimate.

Lake Como, the third biggest lake in Italy, is surrounded by the pre-Alps, which plunge from an altitude of five thousand feet into the water. The lake is so deep (1,300 feet) that it has an air of the unknowable; the surrounding cliffs are so steep that the vast majority of development is in the form of small towns that sprout along the foothills close to the shore. The towns are connected by footpaths, including a long stretch called the Greenway, which runs from Colonno to Cadenabbia. Como sits about a three-hour drive west of Venice.

**+** **STAY: Most Indulgent**  
**Villa d'Este**, Villa d'Este, on the southwestern edge of the lake, is the region's uncontested grande dame property. Beloved by Italians and foreigners alike for its excellent service, divine views and sumptuous accommodations, the hotel is synonymous with understated glamour. Built in the 16th century for a private family, the twenty-five-acre property features gardens as gorgeous—and historic—as the public spaces. A full afternoon could be spent wandering the grounds amid jasmine and azalea bushes. Meals at Villa d'Este's Verandah are princely affairs;

the more relaxed Grill is a particular favorite among guests, thanks to its alfresco setting on the lake. **Room to Get:** Some prefer a room in the Queens Pavilion to one in the main building, because it is more serene and the staff gives you more focused attention. Book a room with a private garden, particularly lovely for taking coffee in the morning. Another favorite is the Cardinal's Suite, which has two bedrooms and is set on the water. *Read Indagare's review.*

**+** **STAY: Luxury**  
Stepping into the **Grand Hotel Tremezzo**, on the western shore of Lake Como, you are enveloped in a fanciful atmosphere of soaring ceilings, golden brocades, gilt-framed paintings and herringbone hardwood floors. The spectacular view of the vast lake and mountains is everything here and all the public spaces make the most of it. You might have breakfast at La Terrazza, with a wall of windows overlooking the sparkling silver water, then lunch alfresco on the terrace under bright orange awnings, then spend your afternoon in the outdoor pool, which floats in the lake, so it feels like you are swimming in it. With just 88 rooms and 10 suites,

Tremezzo feels very personal and intimate. It has been family owned and run for several generations, and there is a wonderful warmth to the service. For such a small property, the amenities are excellent. There's a spa, three pools (including an indoor infinity lap pool), and a strong focus on food, with a good formal restaurant, a wood-fired pizza oven in the garden, and a fun and cozy fondue and wine bar downstairs.

*Read Indagare's review.*

## EAT

**Il Gatto Nero** (*Cernobbio; 39-031-514-042*), located on a hilltop in Cernobbio, is George Clooney's favorite restaurant, and reservations are a must. **Al Veluu** (*Tremezzo, 39-034-440-510*), in a lovely bucolic setting on a hillside in Tremezzo, is a nice spot for alfresco dining. Casual **Crotto dei Platani** (*73 Via Regina, Brienno; 39-031-814-038*), right on the water,

serves fantastic food; the fish is caught that day, and the presentations are lovely. Finally, reserve a table at **Locanda dell'Isola Comacina** (*Ossuccio; 39-034-45-755*), the only restaurant on the lake's sole island. It has served the same set multicourse menu since 1947, and each dish has a meaning, explained along with the history of the island. A public water taxi goes to the island—the pickup spot is a quick walk from Villa d'Este.

## SEE/DO

Book a boat ride to see the lake and its majestic villas, including **Villa Carlotta** ([www.villacarlotta.it](http://www.villacarlotta.it)) and **Villa del Balbianello** ([www.villabalbianello.com](http://www.villabalbianello.com)), a former monastery. There are some stunning gardens that are open to visitors, including those at **Villa Melzi d'Eril** (*39-031-950-318*) and **Villa Monastero** (*2 Via Polvani; 39-0341-830-129*).



## Q&A with Antonia Miletto

With a degree in architecture and a penchant for travel, Venetian jewelry designer Antonia Miletto shares her insider tips in Venice and beyond.



Sometime between buying gemstones in South America, picking up antique woods in Florence, and finding the perfect goldsmith, Antonia Miletto's calling as a jewelry designer all came together. One of her two homes (she splits her time between Italy and New York), Venice not only personifies her spirit but also acts as inspiration. Here she shares her insider tips.

### How does Venice, one of your two homes, contribute to your aesthetic?

Venice is pure aesthetics, the architecture blends with the reflecting water and the light enhances the magic. You can't be untouched by all this beauty no matter what you do in life.

### How do you define your design philosophy?

Putting together different elements I try to create harmony and aesthetic among materials that weren't meant to be united, respecting the boldness of the woods and the fragility of the gold parts and the gems.

### When in New York what do you miss most about Venice?

The silence of Venice, to be woken up by people chatting in the street under my windows or the bells of one of the many churches nearby.

### How has Venice changed?

In the last twenty years, Venice has changed a lot. Last year saw over 200 million tourists, which has a strong impact on its 50,000 residents. Luckily this influx of tourism has resulted in much of the city being restored. We have also seen the opening of new museums such as the Fondazione Prada, Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana. The quality of hospitality has also improved with better hotels and restaurants.

### What are some of your top addresses?

In the summer, I recommend spending one day in the salt-water swimming pool at the **Hotel Cipriani**. In winter I like the spa of the **Molino Stucky Hilton Hotel**. For a chic lunch, I love **Antiche Carampane**; it is hugely popular with locals. For an aperitif, head to **Al Botteggon** (also known as Cantina di Vini già Schiavi), which serves homemade *cicchetti* and is a typical hang out for Venetians. For a big night out, **Cip's** has the best view of Venice and **Caffè Quadri** is the only restaurant in town with *Michelin* stars. After dinner, the **Palazzina Grassi** is the perfect spot for a drink and to listen to live music.

### What is your favorite Venice secret?

I suggest renting a "topa" boat and adventuring into the lagoon to discover not only the surrounding islands but also the nature of its marshy water. I love Torcello, (where I'll have a meal at Locanda Cipriani), and, of course, San Michele, the cemetery island where Venetians and famed ex-pats have been laid to rest.

### What should no visitor to Venice miss?

The Chiesa Santa Maria dei Miracoli always reminds me of a small and perfect piece of jewelry.

Read interviews with many more Venice insiders, at [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com).



THE GRITTI PALACE  
A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL

Venice



## CLUB DEL DOGE RESTAURANT

Facing the majestic Santa Maria della Salute Basilica and steps from St. Mark's Square and La Fenice Theatre, The Gritti Palace, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Venice has reopened after a 15-month handcrafted restoration. One of the world's most prestigious hotels, The Gritti Palace is a place where generations of global travelers and influencers gather to experience discreet residential luxury and unparalleled service at the heart of Venice's social and cultural scenes.

Heading its famous Club del Doge Restaurant, Executive Chef Daniele Turco celebrates Venetian traditional cuisine and local ingredients in a refined setting overhanging the Grand Canal. The atmosphere is casual chic by day and a more formal affair by night: fresh crudité and seafood platters from the local market feature at lunch, followed by the finest Venetian flavours and the best risotto at dinner.

The Gritti Epicurean School, the hotel's iconic culinary school, has been reintroduced. A Venetian open kitchen frequented by the social elite since 1975, the school is a place to learn, taste, and celebrate, offering a journey into indigenous home cooking experiences with wine tastings, culinary workshops and chef tables.

The splendid Bar Longhi and its panoramic Grand Canal Terrace are the bustling hub of social interaction in Venice. Its signature cocktails and the Venetian Cicchetti Experience offer a selection of culinary delights from which to choose, complemented by an outstanding soufflé menu making it the perfect stop for a dessert and a nightcap as well.

CLUB DEL DOGE RESTAURANT  
CAMPO S. MARIA DEL GIGLIO 2247  
30124 VENICE, ITALY  
39 041 794611 telephone

restaurant.clubdeldoge@starwoodhotels.com  
clubdeldoge.com  
thegrittiepicureanschool.com

“It is the city of mirrors, the city of mirages, at once solid and liquid, at once air and stone.” ~Erica Jong

Venice ... “A splendour of miscellaneous spirits.” ~John Ruskin

Streets flooded. Please advise.  
~Robert Benchley, telegram from Venice to his editor

“It is held by some that this word VENETIA signifies VENI ETIAM, that is, come again, and again, for however oft you come, you will always see new things, and new beauties.” ~ Sansovino

“To build a city where it is impossible to build a city is madness in itself, but to build there one of the most elegant and grandest of cities is the madness of genius.”  
~Alexander Herze

“Getting lost is the only place worth going to.” ~Tiziano Scarpa

“I gaze at the palazzo façade in the light. I move toward the light, and my heart shifts its weight when I pass into it, into the clear light— I feel myself in Venice to be at home in the amoral grandiloquence of the light.”  
~Harold Brodkey

“There is much wry humour in Venice and very little pretence. There is no syrup either, nothing cloying or gluey; the gondolier’s taut erect pose sets the pattern. Where Naples is operatic, Venice is chamber music or, if you wish, Mozartian opera...” ~Mary McCarthy

“Harry’s Bar may be Venice’s most successful invention since Venice itself.”  
~Gore Vidal

“Asked what may be the leading colour in the Venetian concert, we should inveterately say Pink, and yet without remembering after all that this elegant hue occurs very often. It is a faint, shimmering, airy, watery pink; the bright sea-light seems to flush with it and the pale whiteish-green of lagoon and canal to drink it in.” ~Henry James

To purchase back issues of the Indagare Magazine (\$10 apiece), send an email to [info@indagare.com](mailto:info@indagare.com) or call 212-988-2611.

Copyright © 2013 Indagare Travel, Inc. All rights reserved. Quotation, reproduction or transmission by any means is strictly prohibited without written permission from the publisher.