



Buildings, monuments and urban spaces are juxtaposed against the blueprints of the city.  
 Photo: Riccardo De Cal from "Dream of Venice Architecture" (Bella Figura Publications, USA)

# Venice through the lens

Every corner of Venice is like a scene from a painting! But if you're undecided what shots to capture, here are some interesting ideas. BY ROMENA BRUGNEROTTO

**A**re you looking to capture the sights of Venice through the lens of a camera? Do you want to bring home remarkable images to remind you of this unforgettable experience? Venice is a photographer's paradise. You will find something interesting to point your camera at wherever you walk. Every twist and turn will lead you to a photo opportunity, letting you to choose the one best suited to your style, your requirements and your desire to explore.

## FROM ABOVE

In this short guide, we offer you insider advice to help you understand how the city is organized, and how to photograph Venice from above. The city's two bell towers, the one of St. Mark's and the other on the **Island of San Giorgio**, are a good start. The latter is particularly appealing because it also offers a bird's-eye view of St. Mark's Square. On clear days, in both summer and winter, the Veneto mountains or **Dolomites** might also be visible. If you're lucky enough, they'll serve as the perfect backdrop to a view of the square. You can also enjoy a breathtaking panorama from the terrace of the Hotel Hilton **Molino Stucky** on the Island of Giudecca. A great way to combine photography with a poolside drink! Another photographer's dream, especially at sunset, is the terrace of the **Fondaco dei Tedeschi** in Rialto (in order to access it, you'll need to book ahead, which you can do by registering online). Enjoy an aerial view of Venice from Scala Contarini del Bovolo, an architectural gem hidden behind Campo Manin in the heart of Venice.

**AUTHENTIC LIFE**

Are you interested in capturing real life scenes rather than monuments?

If so, wake up early and head to the **Rialto fish market**, where locals and restaurant owners purchase fresh fish. Browse the stalls (without getting in the way of the merchants) and allow yourself to be captivated by the fish and vendors hawking their wares. Look for the sculptures decorating the side capitals and columns; you'll find a number of maritime and symbolic decorations that are well worth photographing.

If all this fish has made you hungry, head to **Campo Santa Margherita** which is filled to overflowing with people at all hours of the day and night. Depending on the time of day, you'll see Venetians sitting at the outside tables having lunch, a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, surrounded by children running around or playing.

As evening approaches, a favourite haunt is the **Fondamenta della Misericordia** in Cannaregio, where you can enjoy an aperitivo on a boat.



**BREATHTAKING SUNSETS**

Early evening is a magical time of day in Venice. Gaze at the lights reflected on the water and the setting sun glowing on the buildings that line the canals. There are several special places offering amazing sunset shots. If you've just ended the day at the **Biennale's gardens**, linger and capture some spectacular sunset views between the **Island of San Giorgio** and the dome of **Santa Maria della Salute**. Both the Island of San Giorgio and the Giudecca offer

enthusiastic photographers some amazingly scenic sunset shots. In this instance you can opt for the unusual backdrop of the industrial area rather than that of the historic centre. If you happen to be visiting some of Venice's islands, on **Burano** and **Mazzorbo** you can capture the sun setting over the lagoon of Venice. Sunset is also the best time to photograph Venetian

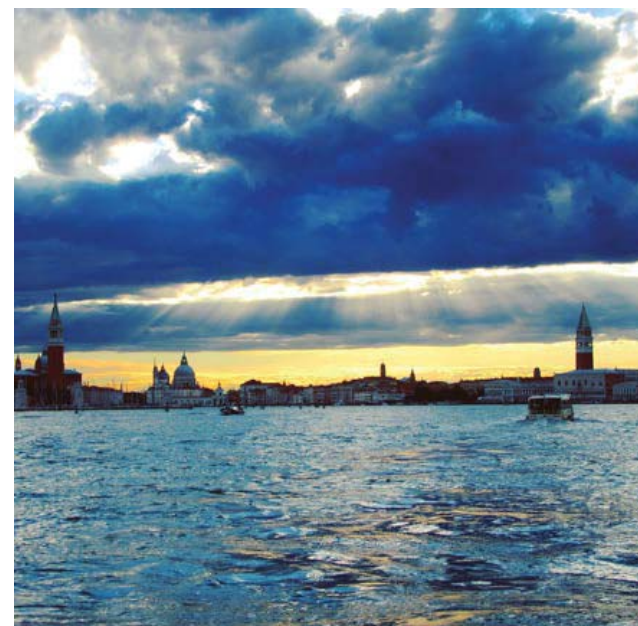
'palazzi', gondolas and bell towers reflected in the city's canals: for once, look down not up and try taking a few black and white shots. The results are bound to be interesting.

**EXPLORING THE ISLANDS OF THE VENETIAN LAGOON**

Each boasting their own specific characteristics,

**LIKE A PAINTING**

Whether it's a question of a breathtaking sunset after a day's rain between the Island of San Giorgio and the dome of Santa Maria della Salute (right), a view of the city teeming with people (left, Campo Santa Margherita) or a picture of everyday life in Venice, like this image featuring Burano's rainbow-coloured houses... a trip to Venice offers myriad photo opportunities.



the islands of the Lagoon beg to be photographed. In **Murano**, don't miss an opportunity to photograph glass blowers at work at one of the island's many furnaces. Alternately, the Island of **Burano**, with its rainbow coloured houses, is an absolute stunner and extremely photogenic. It's impossible to leave this island without at least a dozen impressive shots to show back home. If you enjoy photographing nature, head to the **Island of Certosa** where, in its public park, amidst the boats of the Marina Resort, you'll find centuries old trees, lagoon flowers, a few hares and a scattering of goats. After exploring the area, take a boat heading in the direction of the **Lido of Venice**. From here you can access the **Alberoni**, where you can take some scenic shots of its beautiful beach or stop in the centre to admire the early 20th century Liberty villas for which the Lido is renowned worldwide.

**HIDDEN GARDENS**

Several breathtaking gardens are hidden amidst Venetian 'palazzi' (you just have to know where to look). The Island of Giudecca is home to the **Giardino di Ottilia**. Its abundant and wild beauty is the work of one woman; Ottilia. In addition to several rare flowering species, Ottilia cultivates 130 different species of roses based on the principles of biodynamics. While there be sure to visit the gardens of the



**Inspired by the city**



Why do we take photographs when we're travelling? Because we want to take home the images of the places we've visited but also recapture the emotions we felt during our stay. To ensure that you take home unforgettable memories of Venice, or if you'd like to give someone a special present expressing the mysterious allure of Venice, we recommend the purchase of two beautiful books of evocative photography, published by Bella Figura Publications: **Dream of Venice** and **Dream of Venice Architecture**.

In the first book, **Dream of Venice**, the reverential images captured by **Charles Christopher** are complemented by the intimate thoughts, memories, poems, and stories of notable contributors from the worlds of art, literature, design, cuisine, music, and filmmaking. Included are anecdotes and Venetian recollections from Woody Allen, Frances Mayes, Giampaolo Seguso, and Marcella Hazan, to mention but a few. In the second book, **Dream of Venice Architecture**, the photographs are by **Riccardo De Cal**, while the essays are written by several of the world's leading architects, including Tadao Ando, Michele de Lucchi, Mario Botta, Valeriano Pastor and Annabella Selldorf, who have built in Venice. The book also features impressions by other architects, designers and artists who have been inspired by the city.

The books are dedicated to the people of Venice and can either be purchased in Venice or online. The links to the sites where you can buy them are listed at <http://bellafigurapublications.com>. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to two non-profit associations which work towards supporting the city of Venice, Save Venice and the Fondazione Querini Stampalia.



Fondaco Terrace - photo bymatteo de fina @ dfs

Palladio and Cipriani Hotels. You'll be pleasantly surprised by their elegant green spaces and trees. In the sestiere of Cannaregio, the garden of the Hotel Dei Dogi deserves to be explored and photographed. The garden was created in the 17th century to host rare botanical collections and boasts a number of magnificent species that bloom year round.

On the Grand Canal, don't miss an opportunity to visit the garden of the Ca' Nigra Hotel: a romantic garden whose rose bowers overlook the water. Another notable example is the garden created by renowned architect Carlo Scarpa at the **Querini Stampalia Foundation**. Inspired by the theme of water, this eclectic garden fuses elements such as Byzantine-style mosaics and a Japanese pebble stream, creating an elegant space intended for rest and contemplation.

On the Island of Mazzorbo, an absolute must is a visit to the **garden of Venissa** that hosts one of the city's few remaining vineyards. The dishes served at its restaurant are exquisitely linked to the fertile territory where it's located, with much of what's on the plate hailing from the estate's vegetable garden. In summer, its garden hosts a beautiful exhibition of sculptures by American artist Carole Feuerman, a pioneer of hyperrealist sculpture. Take the shuttle from St. Mark's Square and head to the resort on the **Island of Roses**: breathtaking views, an abundance of roses and olive groves await you!

#### PHOTOGRAPHING ARTISANS

Like many other Italian cities, Venice is renowned for its age-old tradition of craftsmanship. Enter its 'botteghe' on tiptoe, ask permission to take photographs and encourage its artisans to tell you about their work. They will be happy to reveal the secrets of their trade (and in return,

#### » POINTS OF VIEW

**Above, a spectacular view of the Grand Canal seen from the terrace of the T Fondaco dei Tedeschi department store. Right, the Garden of Ottilia, a masterpiece of botanical art and one of the most beautiful green spaces on the Island of Giudecca.**



you can reward them by buying one of the items on sale). You'll have a field day taking photographs of artisans either making **Murano glass** beads known as 'perle a lume' or threading tiny beads to make exquisite Venetian jewelry. Pop into a **'squero'**, the Venetian word for a boatyard (you'll find one in San Trovaso), where gondolas are still made today and learn the secrets of this time-honored trade. The city still hosts a number of **'forcolai'**, the artisans who make the rowlocks or oarposts for boats and gondolas. They also make smaller versions which you can take home as a souvenir of your visit to Venice.

Venice is also well-known for its **printing tradition**. In the sestiere of Cannaregio, you'll find print shops that still make exquisite images of the city. If you're feeling inspired, you can create a themed composition.

#### VISITING THE BIENNALE

This summer, you'll have an opportunity to take photos that are part of history. The installations, visible from May to the end of November, scattered across the city as part of the Venice Art Biennale's official program, make for good subject matter.

In front of the Ca' Sagredo Hotel on the Grand Canal, you'll find the huge **'Support' sculpture** by renowned artist Lorenzo Quinn.

In **Campo San Vio**, a twenty-meter golden tower by the artist James Lee Byars dominates the scene, while in the **Arsenale/Giardini** area you'll find a rhinoceros. Finally, at the **Giardini Marinaressa**, in Riva dei Sette Martiri, you'll have a unique opportunity to photograph a series of ten stunning hyperrealistic sculptures of swimmers by **Carole Feuerman**.

## Michael Kors, Venice in style



For lovers of fashion, San Marco 1461 is the go-to address for an exclusive shopping experience in Venice. A space where elegance and simplicity meet the style of the collections signed by Michael Kors. At this unique space, located just steps from St. Mark's Square, elegance and simplicity are part of the style of the collections signed by Michael Kors. At the brand's boutique, you can satisfy your interest about the latest trends by previewing the brand's collections for summer 2017, featuring the key styles of the latest iteration of *Michael Kors The Walk* (MichaelKors.com/TheWalk). This season, the campaign moved to California, where influencers, including American model and actress Kelly Rohrbach, were captured sporting Michael Kors goods on the streets of Los Angeles. Rohrbach was lensed carrying the Mercer Flora Patchwork" tote bag (see photo). Crafted from a mix of suede, smooth and pebbled leather, the Mercer floral patchwork crossbody is the perfect accessory for those in search of a contemporary, sought-after look.



#### Michael Kors Boutique

San Marco, 1461 (Campo San Moisè)

T: 041 2960312

[www.michaelkors.com](http://www.michaelkors.com)

[www.michaelkors.it](http://www.michaelkors.it)

# GIFT GUIDE

With the arrival of summer, spending a little time in search of a new accessory, a jewel or a special gift, becomes even more pleasurable. Take advantage of a stroll through the picturesque 'calli' of Venice to treat yourself to some alluring detail of style. Where\* guarantees that you won't leave empty-handed!



▲ **MAX MARA**  
These eye-catching drop earrings with a clip fastening are enhanced by metal geometric elements and inset resin details.  
[it.maxmara.com](http://it.maxmara.com)



◀ **RENÉ CAOVIlla**  
Multi-coloured Karung leather sandal, decorated with three pastel-coloured rhinestone bows. Its low heel is covered in blue Karung leather.  
[www.renecaovilla.com](http://www.renecaovilla.com)

◀◀ FOR HER



▶ **ROLEX**  
Available for the first time in 904L steel, the new 'Lady Datejust 28' from the Oyster Perpetual collection features a redesigned, larger 28 mm case and a new-generation mechanical movement, caliber 2236.  
[www.rolex.com](http://www.rolex.com)



◀ **LA PERLA**  
Featuring a macro print referencing the map of Bologna, these mid-rise bikini briefs pay tribute to the city that gave life to the brand in 1954. A youthful, bright creation made from soft Lycra®.  
[www.laperla.com](http://www.laperla.com)



▲ **CHANEL**  
Hydrating, brilliant and as melt-away as a balm, Chanel's 'Rouge Coco Shine' becomes fluid on contact with the lips. Available in a palette of semi-transparent or deeper shades.  
[www.chanel.com](http://www.chanel.com)

▶▶ FOR HIM

▶ **FRATELLI ROSSETTI**  
Platform derby made from soft braided barrel dyed calfskin with personalized rubber sole.  
[www.fratellirossetti.com](http://www.fratellirossetti.com)



◀ **IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN**  
With its linear dial, this 'Da Vinci Automatic' watch is the ideal accessory for connoisseurs of simple elegance. Available with an ardoise dial and a steel strap or an argenté dial with a black leather alligator strap.  
[www.iwc.com](http://www.iwc.com)

▶ **DOLCE&GABBANA**  
Launched in 2007, Light Blue is updated in the 'Light Blue Eau Intense pour Homme' version. Today, it continues to tell the story with its signature contrast of freshness and masculinity.  
[www.dolcegabbana.com](http://www.dolcegabbana.com)



▶ **ETRO**  
Featuring the brand's iconic motif in dark shades of blue, turquoise and black, the mid-length fit of these swim shorts makes them a stylish choice for the beach.  
[www.etro.com](http://www.etro.com)



▲ **BOGGI MILANO**  
Custom-fit linen and cotton shirt with a Korean collar. Made from an ultra-light stretch fabric for added comfort, its contemporary light cut adds a touch of chic to the wardrobes of stylish, fashion-conscious gents.  
[www.boggi.com](http://www.boggi.com)