

BLUELIST¹ (blu,list) v.
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SHOPPING

top picks

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SHOPPING

No one gets into their stride more in this walkers' city than shoppers. Rarely tempted to shoot about town on public transport, you will find yourself drawn to thousands of shop windows as you stroll by them along the endless string of labyrinthine lanes. From stylish stores purveying the finest textiles draped about as in a marquis' mansion, to dusty workshops where artisans beaver away at anything from leather to gold, Venice is bubbling with surprises.

And good things come in small packages. Along with motor traffic, teeming department stores are noticeable by their absence in Venice.

As a rule, heavy, cumbersome and fragile items (this especially means glass, ceramics and some antiques) need to be shipped home. Many stores will take care of this for you and include the costs of shipping in the price. Ask before you buy, as shipping it yourself can be a pain. If you do find yourself with something that you need to ship, head for the main post office (Map pp62–3).

For information on sales tax refunds for visitors who live outside the EU, see p256.

SHOPPING AREAS

Those with a fever for high fashion can skip west of Piazza San Marco to Calle Larga XXII Marzo, Calle Vallarosso and Frezzaria, as well as to Calle dei Fabbri, north of the piazza (Map pp62–3). If you can't make it to Milan, you'll find all the classic Italian names of sartorial elegance, from Armani to Zegna, clustered here.

For one-off local designers of anything from marvellous millinery to funky jewellery, hunt around the narrow streets between San Marco and Rialto, particularly Le Marzarie (or Mercerie in Italian) and Campo San Luca (Map pp62–3). Those looking for well crafted fashion, accessories and more will find that intriguing shops are scattered pretty much across the city. A hand-picked sprinkling of them appears in this chapter.

If you time your visit to coincide with the sales you could pick up some great fashion bargains. Winter sales run from early January to mid-February and summer sales from July to as late as early September. Look for the *saldi* signs.

Art lovers should make for Dorsoduro. The city's single biggest concentration of galleries is on the streets between the Gallerie dell'Accademia and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection (Map pp76–7). A few stragglers line Calle del Bastion on the approach to the former Chiesa di San Gregorio just east of the Guggenheim. The area around Campo San Fantin in San Marco is also replete with galleries, and another area to check out is Calle delle Carrozze, close to Palazzo Grassi (Map pp62–3). Good contemporary art galleries

are few and far between. The majority peddle more mainstream, classical pieces, appealing to a conservative home audience and perhaps less so to more adventurous foreign clientele. Some gems do shine out, however, and in among them are one-person shows, where the artist has his/her own work for sale.

Several shops produce high-quality prints and etchings, and plenty of street stalls churn out cheap material. These can be good, lightweight souvenirs or gifts.

Venice for many means Murano glass and showrooms bursting with showers of glittering glass abound. It is fun to head to the island itself, where you can often admire glassblowers at work at their torrid furnaces. Top names in fine artistic objects jostle for space with lesser known artisan families who have been fashioning glass objects of all kinds for centuries. If you miss Murano, the area between San Marco and Castello is chock-full of showrooms.

Lesser known but also with centuries of history in Venice is the production of lace on the pastel-coloured island of Burano, in the north of the lagoon. It is now something of a dying art. Several shops purveying the stuff cluster together on the island, and a few are scattered about Venice proper. A visit to the museum on Burano (p113) beforehand will give you an idea of the heights once reached by the island's lace-makers.

For arts and crafts, including Carnevale masks and costumes, ceramics and model gondolas, San Polo is the place to look. Quality masks make beautiful gifts. But beware: trash abounds. The genuine articles, sold in a handful of fine stores, are carefully crafted ob-

jects in *cartapesta* (papier-mâché) or leather. Some of the shops listed in this chapter double as costume purveyors where you can slip into 18th-century clobber, powdered wig and tricorn hat to join in the grand masked balls of Carnevale.

San Polo is a good area to trawl for mouth-watering goodies in speciality food and drink shops, too.

Venice is noted for its *carta marmorizzata* (marbled paper), often made to traditional and evocatively named designs. It is used for all sorts of things, from expensive giftwrap to book covers.

Some of us simply can't resist a little kitsch (gondoliers' hats, Campanile di San Marco pencil-sharpeners, cheap masks and so on). You'll find plenty of this all over the more frequented parts of town (such as Rio Terà Lista di Spagna on the way from the train station to Piazza San Marco, Map pp92–3).

OPENING HOURS

Most shops open around 9am to 1pm and 3.30pm to 7.30pm (or 4pm to 8pm) Monday to Saturday. They may remain closed on Monday morning or Wednesday and/or Saturday afternoon. Shopkeepers have a large degree of discretion and also open on Sunday, especially if their clientele are mostly tourists. Department stores such as Coin (the only one in Venice) are open 9.30am to 7.30pm Monday to Saturday. Coin also opens on Sunday. Some shops close for the holidays for all or part of August.

In the following reviews, opening hours are provided only if they differ considerably from these general hours.

SESTIERE DI SAN MARCO

This is the core of old Venice, where the highest class of city shopping is concentrated. You'll find high-end Italian fashion (all the names are there, from Armani to Zegna) in the area on and around Frezzaria, but also some wonderful local one-offs where you can order anything from frilly hats to tailor-made shirts, not to forget jewellery (from the frivolous to the frighteningly expensive). Sestiere di San Marco also offers a good sprinkling of art galleries, antique stores and the like, while souvenirs (such as marbled paper and

quality glass) jostle for space with book and music stores.

SHARY Map pp62–3 Accessories
% 041 522 42 45; Calle Cortesia 3720b; f Rialto
In a window dangles a row of large, wide ties in demanding primal and pastel colours, while in the other you'll find slinky scarves in the same kaleidoscopic array of colours.

ANTIQUUS Map pp62–3 Antiques
% 041 520 63 95; Calle Crosera 3131; f San Samuele

This inviting shop along the continuation of Calle delle Botteghe, where several antiques stores reside, boasts a solid collection of old masters, silver and antique jewellery. In among the few items of furniture sit grand tea sets and other aristocratic bric-a-brac. Just wandering around all this social history is a pleasure for the eyes.

BUGNO ART GALLERY Map pp62–3 Art Gallery
% 041 523 13 05; www.bugnoartgallery.it; Campo San Fantin 1996a; f Santa Maria del Giglio
This gallery has some works by contemporary artists on permanent display, although money is the object. While you might not be able to afford a Miró or De Chirico, there's plenty of other material for the modern-art collector.

GALLERIA TRAGHETTO Art Gallery
Map pp62–3
% 041 522 11 88; www.galleriatraghetto.it, in Italian; Calle di Piovani 2543; f Santa Maria del Giglio
A stalwart on the Venetian art scene since the 1970s, this is one of the most respected of the few Venetian galleries dealing in contemporary art, most of it Italian but open to international flavours. Exhibitions are in continual flux.

LA GALLERIA VAN DER KOELEN Art Gallery
Map pp62–3
% 041 520 74 15; www.galerie.vanderkoelen.de, in German; Ramo Primo dei Calegheri 2566; f Santa Maria del Giglio
Long established in Germany, this branch of the van der Koelen gallery brings a note of contemporary vigour to the somewhat staid Venetian art scene. The gallery frequently stages fine exhibitions of internationally known artists, well worth seeing whether you're a buyer or not.

MARGERIE Map pp62–3 **Bags & Accessories**
 % 041 523 63 93; www.margerie.it; Campiello della Feltrina 2511b; f Santa Maria del Giglio
 Big silver studs wind their way over the smooth, stout leather in sky-blue or blood-red handbags. Some are shaped like fish or hearts, others are cuddly soft, still more are draped in great golden ribbons. Flower motifs abound. A key note is the almost childlike happy feeling they exude and much the same can be said of the chunky necklaces (again often with big, bright flowers, or even pompoms) and stuffed felt pins with sequins.

MONDADORI Map pp62–3 **Books**
 % 041 522 50 68; Salizada San Moisè 1346; h 10am–8pm Mon–Sat, 11am–7.30pm Sun; f Vallaresso/San Marco
 Spread over a couple of floors and planted in the heart of chic San Marco shopping, this is one of the country's leading book chains. After browsing, have a drink in the hip **Bacaro Lounge** (p187), separated from the books by just a pane of glass.

LIVIO DE MARCHI Map pp62–3 **Crafts**
 % 041 528 56 94; www.liviodemarchi.com; Salizada San Samuele 3157a; f San Samuele
 This place, featuring wooden sculptures of underpants, socks and shirts, is rather strange but somewhat endearing all the same. Just how you might incorporate a fine carving of an unironed shirt into your living room's décor is another question.

BEVILACQUA Map pp62–3 **Fabrics**
 % 041 528 75 81; www.bevilacquatessuti.com; Fondamenta Canonica 337b; h 10am–7pm Mon–Sat, 10am–5pm Sun; f San Zaccaria
 Since the mid-19th century, the Bevilacqua clan has produced top-quality brocades, tapestries and damasks. If you think of your lounge room as worthy of a little noble treatment, if your sofa has distinction, this could be the place to order your cushions. Materials are still done by hand, partly in their other historic shop at **Campo di Santa Maria del Giglio, San Marco 2520** (Map pp62–3).

ARABA FENICE Map pp62–3 **Fashion**
 % 041 522 06 64; Calle dei Barcaroli 1822; f Rialto
 This is a stylish local alternative to the big names nearby for elegant women's

suits, usually cut from wool or linen. Or the long dresses with matching nifty vests might catch your eye. A few steps west, at the bridge, is the house where 15-year-old Mozart stayed with friends and had a whale of a time during Carnevale in 1771.

CAMICERIA SAN MARCO Map pp62–3 **Fashion**
 % 041 522 14 32; Calle Vallaresso 1340; f Vallaresso/San Marco
 Have quality shirts tailor-made in San Marco! If you can wait 10 or so days, choose from numerous models the kind that suits you best and then pick the material, anything from cotton to silk. Dressing gowns and silk pyjamas are options too. Wander in and inspect the limitless bolts of material waiting to be turned into your clothes.

FABIO GATTO Map pp62–3 **Fashion**
 % 041 241 16 11; Calle della Mandola 3804; f Sant'Angelo
 One side of this delectable double store offers smart skirts and shirts and crisp jackets, while the other side leans towards elegant evening wear, all long, slimline dresses with few frills (no sequins here).

FIGIELLA GALLERY Map pp62–3 **Fashion**
 % 041 520 92 28; www.fiorellagallery.com; Campo Santo Stefano 2806; f Accademia
 All sorts of odd, billowing and fantastical clothing items adorn the transvestite doge mannequins scattered about the inside and in the windows of this unique store. High fashion it ain't, but it's definitely a spur to curiosity. Swastika-decorated underpants may not do it for you, but shock tactics are part of the gallery's stock in trade. Partly aimed at a very out gay scene (check out the short, shimmery and multicoloured bathrobes), Fiorella Gallery attracts above all an uninhibited clientele of all persuasions.

GODI FIORENZA Map pp62–3 **Fashion**
 % 041 241 08 66; Campo San Luca 4261; f Rialto
 In this beautiful vaulted brick cave, jammed into a street corner, rest breezy women's fashion items cooked up by a two-sister team that learned much of the trade in London. Simple summer dresses or richly embroidered camisoles wait to be snapped up.

STORE Map pp62–3 **Fashion**
 % 041 523 84 57; Campo San Luca 4260b; f Rialto
 In this one, tight shop an eclectic range of class brands imported from Barcelona, Paris, London and beyond are on offer. You might encounter anything from golfing trousers through Barbour coats to Argentine polo players' clobber. Pick up a pair of braces or choose from the array of accessories.

CARRARO Map pp62–3 **Glasses**
 % 041 520 42 58; www.otticacarraro.it; Calle della Mandola 3706; f Rialto
 Stylish frames for glasses almost leap out at you in their colourful splendour and variety from this shop window. This is one of the best central stores for fashionable glasses with a bit of a difference.

L'ISOLA Map pp62–3 **Glassware**
 % 041 523 19 73; www.lisola.com; Salizada San Moisè 1468; f Vallaresso/San Marco
 L'Isola stocks glass objects designed by Carlo Moretti, one of the leading names in high-end glassware. His style switches radically from sober black and transparent bowls and vases to primal colour glassware, from twirling but understated champagne flutes to monochrome dishes.

ANTICA MODISTERIA GIULIANA LONGO Map pp62–3 **Hats**
 % 041 522 64 54; www.giulianalongo.com; Calle del Lovo 4813; f Rialto
 Want some fancy headgear? This is *the* millinery stop. From gondoliers' caps to the most extravagant ladies' hats and a range of imported fashion for the head, you'll find it all here. In the window and inside, all manner of extravagant ear coverings are displayed at jaunty angles.

CODOGNATO Map pp62–3 **Jewellery**
 % 041 522 50 42; Calle Seconda dell'Ascensione 1295; f Vallaresso/San Marco
 Possibly the city's best-known jeweller, Codognato sells classic, antique and contemporary pieces that have attracted the likes of Jackie Onassis in their time. Whether she bought any of the pieces with the skulls motifs is unknown. Attilio Codognato continues the tradition of his ancestors, who opened the store in 1866.

CLOTHING SIZES

Women's clothing

Aus/UK	8	10	12	14	16	18
Europe	36	38	40	42	44	46
Japan	5	7	9	11	13	15
USA	6	8	10	12	14	16

Women's shoes

Aus/USA	5	6	7	8	9	10
Europe	35	36	37	38	39	40
France only	35	36	38	39	40	42
Japan	22	23	24	25	26	27
UK	3½	4½	5½	6½	7½	8½

Men's clothing

Aus	92	96	100	104	108	112
Europe	46	48	50	52	54	56
Japan	S	M	M	L		
UK/USA	35	36	37	38	39	40

Men's shirts (collar sizes)

Aus/Japan	38	39	40	41	42	43
Europe	38	39	40	41	42	43
UK/USA	15	15½	16	16½	17	17½

Men's shoes

Aus/UK	7	8	9	10	11	12
Europe	41	42	43	44½	46	47
Japan	26	27	27½	28	29	30
USA	7½	8½	9½	10½	11½	12½

Measurements approximate only, try before you buy

PERLE E DINTORNI Map pp62–3 **Jewellery**
 % 041 520 50 68; Calle della Mandola 3740; f Rialto
 Pick up handfuls of multicoloured glass beads from the basket loads in the window and at the counter to make your own cheerful and affordable costume jewellery or, if you prefer, have them craft something for you. There is also ready-made stuff at this light-hearted store. The making of these beads has a centuries-long history in Venice.

VERGOMBELLO Map pp62–3 **Jewellery**
 % 041 523 78 21; Ramo Secondo Corte Contarina 1565a; f Vallaresso/San Marco
 This is a dark den of all that glistens, including rings, pendants and pins, some with minuscule moving parts. But you'd never know it was a high-end purveyor of jewellery because it's also a workshop, with Bunsen burners, all sorts of microscopic jewellery tools and an inspired confusion.

top picks

IN CRAFTWORK

- Ca' Macana (opposite)
- Murano Collezione (p166)
- Atelier Pietro Longhi (p161)
- Jesurum Outlet (p163)
- El Fero Novo (p164)

IL PAPIRO Map pp62-3 **Marbled Paper & Stationery**
% 041 522 30 55; Calle del Piovan 2764; h Mon-Sun; f Santa Maria del Giglio

A bright, spacious stationer's, the Florentine chain store Il Papiro (with three branches in Venice) doesn't pretend to compete with the handful of traditional marbled-paper shops around town. But it does offer everything from elegant envelopes to letter openers and quills.

LEGATORIA PIAZZESI

Map pp62-3 **Marbled Paper**
% 041 522 12 02; www.legatoriapiazzesi.it; Campiello della Feltrina 2551c; f Santa Maria del Giglio
At the Legatoria Piazzesi, the oldest purveyor of quality paper products in Venice (and they claim in all Italy), time-honoured methods are employed to turn out high-class items. The store is a dark but tempting treasure trove, with shelves of paper stacked to the timber-beamed roof. Products range from parchments and quality wrapping paper to unique book covers.

VALESE Map pp62-3 **Metalwork Crafts**
% 041 522 72 82; Calle Fiubera 793; f Vallarosso/San Marco

Since 1918, the Valesse family has cast figures in bronze, copper and other metals here. Its reputation is unequalled in the city. Some items, such as the ornamental horses that adorn the flanks of the city's gondolas, suggest themselves more readily as souvenirs than others.

VIVALDI STORE Map pp62-3 **Music**

% 041 522 13 43; Salizada del Fontego dei Tedeschi 5537; h 9.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm Sun; f Rialto

Can't get the sounds of Vivaldi out of your mind? If you need a CD of music related to Venice, pop by here. Cristiano Nalesso spe-

cialises in all things Venetian, ranging from the Renaissance through to baroque and including recordings by some of the better baroque groups that perform in Venice, notably Rondó Veneziano.

DANIELA GHEZZO Map pp62-3 **Shoes**

% 041 522 21 15; www.segalin.it; Calle dei Fuseri 4365; f Rialto
'Now this is class,' a group of admiring French tourists sighed as they peered in the shop window. Once run by the legendary Segalin family of cobblers and now in the hands of one of their acolytes, Daniela Ghezzo, this is a top spot for having footwear (for men and women) made to measure.

SESTIERE DI DORSODURO

Art is the word to sum up shopping in Dorsoduro. You can visit the many galleries on and around the short route separating Peggy Guggenheim's collection from the Gallerie dell'Accademia. Can't afford the real thing? You'll find good print shops too. But there's more to this extensive neighbourhood – you'll stumble across everything from leather workshops to Carnevale masks and antiques.

ANTICHITÀ CLAUDIA ZAGGIA

Map pp76-7 **Antiques & Jewellery**
% 041 522 31 59; Calle della Toletta 1195; f Accademia
Nadia Viani runs this little Aladdin's Cave of, well, just about anything. Depending on the day, you might discover an Art Nouveau necklace, preloved pearls, old glassware, or rosy-faced ceramic dolls from another era.

L'ANGOLO Map pp76-7 **Bags**

% 041 277 78 95; Calle Lunga San Barnaba 2755; f Ca' Rezzonico
Handbags drip off the walls in this pleasingly cluttered shop. Voluminous handbags come in printed velvet, practical bags abound, plus there's a range of odd little wrist bags.

LEGNO E DINTORNI Map pp76-7 **Crafts**

% 041 522 63 67; Fondamenta Gherardini 2840; f Ca' Rezzonico
Wonderful little wooden models of various monuments and façades, akin to simple 3D puzzles, are sold here. They make rather

refined gifts for kids but wouldn't go amiss with many an adult.

LE FORCOLE DI SAVERIO PASTOR

Map pp76-7 **Forcole & Oars**
% 041 522 56 99; www.forcole.com; Fondamenta Soranzo detta Fornace 341; f Salute
In need of an oar or, more importantly, a *forcola* (wooden support for gondolier's oar) to sit it on? These unique timber contraptions could make a quirky decorative item, or you might want one of the handful of souvenir items Saverio makes on the side.

IL GRIFONE Map pp76-7 **Leather**

% 041 522 94 52; Fondamenta del Gaffaro 3516; f Ferrovia
A virtually décor-free shopfront disguises this one-man leather workshop where you can get to grips with quality handmade bags, belts, wallets and other leather objects for quite reasonable prices.

IL PAVONE Map pp76-7 **Marbled Paper**

% 041 523 45 17; Fondamenta Venier dai Leoni 721; f Accademia
The dominant colours (blues, reds and yellows) and motifs (floral shapes, cherubs) at Il Pavone change from one day to another. The templates are applied to hand-printed paper as well as ties and T-shirts.

CA' MACANA Map pp76-7 **Masks & Costumes**

% 041 522 97 49; www.camacana.com; Calle delle Botteghe 3172; h 10am-6.30pm Sun-Fri, 10am-8pm Sat; f Ca' Rezzonico
Wander in and watch the artists at work on the raw papier-mâché of future masks. Apparently Stanley Kubrick was impressed – he placed a rather large order for his last picture, *Eyes Wide Shut*. Along black walls the finished products gaze down at you, beckoning to be donned.

MONDONOVO MASCHERE

Map pp76-7 **Masks**
% 041 528 73 44; www.mondonovomaschere.it, in Italian; Rio Terà Canal 3063; f Ca' Rezzonico
One of Venice's master mask-makers, Guerino Lovato runs this higgledy-piggledy store, producing fine facial disguises for all and sundry, including, as he is not too bashful to point out, some of the models used by the late Stanley Kubrick for his last movie, *Eyes Wide Shut*.

BAC ART STUDIO Map pp76-7 **Prints & Posters**
% 041 522 81 71; Piscina Forner 862; f Accademia

This studio has paintings, aquatints and engravings signed by two local artists, Cadore and Paolo Baruffaldi, that make fine gifts. Cadore concentrates his commercial efforts on Venetian scenes, while Baruffaldi depicts masked people. Other artists are also thrown into the mix.

GALLERIA FERRUZZI

Map pp76-7 **Prints & Posters**
% 041 520 59 96; Fondamenta Ospedaletto 523; h 10am-6.30pm Wed-Mon; f Accademia
Roberto Ferruzzi's images of Venice are an engaging, almost naive version of what we see. With fat brushstrokes and primary colours, the artist creates a kind of children's gingerbread Venice. On sale are screen prints, paintings and postcards.

TOLIN Map pp76-7 **Shoes**

% 041 524 40 90; Ponte dei Vinanti 3773; h 3-7.30pm Mon, 8.30am-1pm & 3-7.30pm Tue-Fri, 8.30am-1pm Sat f San Tomà
A master repairman of all things in leather, Signor Tolin also makes shoes and boots to measure of all descriptions, including orthopaedic ones. Shoes are piled up any old how in the shop window. Two-toned numbers, girl's boots, classic shoes – you name it, Signor Tolin can probably do it!

GUALTI Map pp76-7 **Shoes & Accessories**

% 041 520 17 31; www.gualti.it; Campo Santa Margherita 3111; f San Tomà
The searing white interior of this fashion oddity houses two quite unrelated collections: a set of daring ladies' satin shoes and strangely luminous brooches, pins and similar accessories.

SESTIERI DI SAN POLO & SANTA CROCE (SANTA CROSE)

These *sestieri* seem somehow more labyrinthine than the rest. In many of their almost maddening nooks and crannies lurk all sorts of surprises, from speciality food stores to a series of quality mask and costume workshops. There is no single dominating theme here, and

THE BOAT MAN

Long before there were palaces in Venice, there were boats. Gilberto Penzo doesn't tire of telling anyone who will listen that Venice began on the water. Nowadays he is known to many Venetians for his painstaking replicas of boats. But he doesn't just make nice models. His life's passion has been to painstakingly gather all the material he can on Venetian vessels past and present. An engineer from Chioggia, Penzo comes from a shipbuilding family. His grandfather and earlier forebears built the classic Chioggia vessel, the *bragozzo*. Penzo's best modelling efforts wind up in museums. As the last of the great gondola-builders disappear (the death of master Nedis Tramontin in 2005, three years after Giovanni Giuonni's death in 2002, caused a commotion in Venice), Penzo is fast becoming the last living repository of information on Venice's maritime traditions.

the more you snoop around the more gems you'll dig up. Don't expect to find Italy-wide or international brand names, though, think more family-run fashion boutiques or glove shops.

VALERIA BELLINASO Map pp84-5 Accessories

‰ 041 522 33 51; www.valeriabellinaso.com; Campo Sant'Aponal, San Polo 1226; f San Silvestro

With her experience in the Milan fashion circuits, Bellinaso has brought an inimitable touch of class to her pert little Venice boutique. Velours and silks, many of them in subtle denominations of carmine, burgundy and vermilion, are used to produce anything from scarfs to hats and gloves.

ARCA Map pp84-5 Ceramics

‰ 041 71 04 27; Calle del Tentor, Santa Croce 1811; f San Stae

The designs in this eye-catching shop are powerful and, for some, the colours can be a little strong. Teresa della Valentina paints her tiles and other ceramic objects in bold, bright, deep colours, with reds dominant.

KIRIKÙ Map pp84-5 Children's Clothes

‰ 041 296 06 19; Calle della Madonnetta, San Polo 1463; f San Silvestro

It is easy to feel badly dressed in Venice (or just about anywhere else in Italy). If your kids are in the same boat, this is the place to stock up on some stylish threads for small people, from fresh-born babies to simply adolescents.

GILBERTO PENZO Map pp84-5 Crafts

‰ 041 71 93 72; www.veniceboats.com; Calle 2 dei Saoneri, San Polo 2681; f San Tomà

Here you can buy exquisite, hand-built wooden models of various Venetian vessels. Mr Penzo also takes in old ones for restoration. For the kids, you can fork out €25 for gondola model kits or buy them ready-made and painted. Round the corner you can have a peek at Penzo's workshop; see the boxed text, left.

HIBISCUS Map pp84-5 Fashion

‰ 041 520 89 89; Ruga Ravano, San Polo 1061; f San Silvestro

Anything but a classic women's fashion store, Hibiscus presents an imaginative array of stylish threads. Everything is hand-made by young designers: flowing dresses with unabashedly bright colours or a more washed-out, hippy touch lead the way. Classic high-end Italian fashion this is not. There's a selection of chunky jewellery too.

ALIANI Map pp84-5 Food & Drink

‰ 041 522 49 13; Ruga Vecchia San Giovanni, San Polo 654; f San Silvestro

For its outstanding collection of cheeses and other delicatessen products, Aliani has long been a favoured gastronomic stop in the Rialto area. Wander in and savour the aromas, casting your eyes over the seemingly limitless range of edibles.

DROGHERIA MASCARI Map pp84-5 Food & Drink

‰ 041 522 97 62; Ruga degli Spezieri, San Polo 381; f San Silvestro

Let your mouth water over a range of cheeses, local cold meats and all sorts of other goodies (truffles, spices, teas and jams). There is a good range of sweets, including slabs of chocolate and nougat (especially around Christmas). To top it all off is a limited selection of fine Italian Veneto wines. Bliss.

VIZIOVIRTÙ Map pp84-5 Food & Drink

‰ 041 275 01 49; www.viziovirtu.com; Calle del Campaniel 2898a; f Ca' Rezzonico

If death by chocolate is your idea of Death in Venice, you may have found paradise. 'Vice-Virtue' offers a palate-boggling array of hand-crafted chocolates, each a minor pleasure bomb.

FANNY Map pp84-5 Gloves & Accessories

‰ 041 522 82 66; Calle dei Saoneri, San Polo 2723; f San Tomà

Decided on an off-season trip to Venice in the quiet depths of winter and find that your hands are freezing off? Drop by here for an extensive range of his and hers gloves in fine leather and a rainbow variety of colours.

MONICA DANIELE Map pp84-5 Hats & Capes

‰ 041 529 62 42; Calle del Scaleter, San Polo 2235; f San Stae

Ms Daniele is a hatter with a hint of mad-ness. Hats pile up in crooked towers on the counter, behind the windows and in boxes on shelves. There's no room to swing a cat for all the hats: straw hats, floppy hats, fluffy hats, sun hats, berets and bonnets! And just to unnerve you a little, there hangs the odd example of the heavy woolen Venetian cape (that few Venetians wear anymore) known as the *tabarro*.

ATTOMBRI Map pp84-5 Jewellery

‰ 041 521 25 24; www.attombri.com; Sotoportego Oresi, San Polo 74; f Rialto

The long gallery that runs along the Palazzo dei Dieci Savi in Rialto has for years served as a quiet fast lane for hurried Venetians anxious not to be caught up in the tidal wave of tourists hovering around the adjacent produce and tourist-tat markets. For centuries it glistened with the wares of the *oresi* (goldsmiths). Nowadays, about half a dozen gold and jewellery shops eke out a living here. Attombri is the exception. The inventive Byzantine-style jewellery constitutes a captivating and original collection, and not just in gold.

LABERINTO Map pp84-5 Jewellery

‰ 041 71 00 17; Calle del Scaleter, San Polo 2236; f San Stae

Necklaces made of little slabs of glass melted in such a way as to create all sorts of appealing mottled effects, above all in a range of blues and sea greens, are one star item here. Rings and earrings abound, inlaid with turquoise and opals.

MAZZON LE BORSE Map pp84-5 Leather

‰ 041 520 34 21; Campiello San Tomà, San Polo 2807; f San Tomà

A modest workshop with none of the frippery of fashion lairs, Mazzon le Borse

is frequented by canny Venetian women on the lookout for top-class, handmade leather bags and accessories.

LEGATORIA POLLIERO

Map pp84-5 Marbled Paper

‰ 041 528 51 30; Campo dei Frari, San Polo 2995; f San Tomà

Here is a traditional exponent of the art of Venetian bookbinding with (and without) marbled paper. You barely have room to stand when you penetrate this den, with reams of leather-bound books, paper-bound folders and all sorts of other stationery piled haphazardly to the rafters.

ATELIER PIETRO LONGHI

Map pp84-5 Masks & Costumes

‰ 041 71 44 78; www.pietrolonghi.com; Rio Terà, San Polo 2604/b; f San Tomà

Fancy a helmet and sword to go with your tailor-made Carnevale costume? Or indeed, just about any kind of costume item, from a Harlequin outfit through to 18th-century gala wear? The shop provides costumes for opera companies and offers accessories ranging from 17th-century wigs to antique English pistols.

L'ARLECCHINO Map pp84-5 Masks & Costumes

‰ 041 520 82 20; www.arlecchinomasks.com, in Italian; Ruga Ravano, San Polo 789; f San Silvestro

The folks at L'Arlecchino claim the masks are made only with papier-mâché to their own designs. To prove it you can inspect the workshop. The quality of masks, which hang at all levels in this cramped shop and together form what could be the outlandish spectators in a tightly packed dream-world theatre, is unquestionable.

TRAGICOMICA Map pp84-5 Masks & Costumes

‰ 041 72 11 02; www.tragicomica.it; Calle dei Nomboli, San Polo 2800; f San Tomà

This is one of the city's bigger mask and costume merchants, and is quite overwhelming at first sight. Enter what to all intents is an enchanted forest of mesmerising masks. Faces loom out at you from all directions as you pick your way through the shop.

ARTISTICA FERRO Map pp84-5 Metalwork Crafts

041 520 04 90; Calle Lunga, Santa Croce 2137; f San Stae

Want a perfect replica *fero de prova* (the iron piece that graces the prow of the gondola and represents the six *sestieri* of Venice)? This is your place.

MILLE E UNA NOTA

Map pp84–5 **Musical Instruments**
% 041 523 18 22; Calle di Mezzo, San Polo 1235;
f San Silvestro

In urgent need of strings for your guitar? Would you like to acquire some new pan-pipes, a shiny new mouth organ or perhaps even a harp? This is the place, also for sheet music.

MANUELA CALZATURE

Map pp84–5 **Shoes**
% 041 522 66 52; Calle del Galizzi, San Polo 1046;
f San Silvestro

This is a small family business with a broad if somewhat conservative range of shoes, including more expensive footwear that the family makes under its own name. Don't judge it by the cheap junk outside, and dare to penetrate inside this musty, narrow store.

BAMBOLANDIA

Map pp84–5 **Toys**
% 041 520 75 02; www.rialto.com/beatrice; Calle della Madonnetta, San Polo 1462; f San Silvestro
A delightful world of old-fashioned toys and handmade dolls of all descriptions awaits here. If you can't convince the kids of the merits of these items over PlayStations, perhaps you'll be captivated yourself and pick something up as decorative nostalgia.

IL BAULE BLU

Map pp76–7 **Toys**
% 041 71 94 48; Campo San Tomà 2916a; f San Tomà
Cuddly teddy bears, old dolls, ancient toys – this is the place to come for a nostalgic look around. The owners actively seek out old items, so what's on display and for sale continually changes.

SESTIERE DI CANNAREGIO

The shopping around here is nothing to get the blood rushing, but a few interesting exceptions stand out. The only serious fashion department store is here, as well as Venice's main toy store. You'll also find a great coffee vendor and the principal outlet for Burano lace.

SHOPPING IN THE GHETTO

The Ghetto's tiny Jewish community is still busy, and you'll discover a few curious shops around Ghetto Nuovo and along Calle del Ghetto Vecchio. They generally sell an odd mixture of Jewish art, souvenirs, books on Venice's ghetto and religious stuff.

Arte Ebraica (Map pp92–3; % 041 72 00 92; www.shalomvenice.com; Calle del Ghetto Vecchio 1218-1219) Purveys all sorts of handmade objects in bronze, filigree silver, pewter, crystal and ceramics (such as mezuzahs, or parchment cases). It also deals in rare books and manuscripts.

Studio in Venice (Map pp92–3; % 041 520 89 97; www.thestudioinoldjaffa.com; Campiello delle Scuole 1150) Alon Baker runs this Venice branch of the original store in Old Jaffa, Israel. It produces all sorts of bright handmade artwork, from parts of the Torah to imaginative paintings, all taking their inspiration from Jewish tradition.

GIUNTI AL PUNTO

Map pp92–3 **Books**
% 041 275 01 52; Campo San Geremia 282;
h 9am-8pm Mon-Wed, 9am-10pm Thu, 9am-midnight Fri & Sat, 10am-10pm Sun; f Guglie
A limited range of paperbacks in several languages and some material on Venice, ranging from maps to cuisine guides, are sold in this handy store, a kind of book supermarket that keeps uncommonly long hours. They have a couple of other branches around town.

LIBRERIA INTERNAZIONALE MARCO POLO

Map pp92–3 **Books**
% 348 569 11 25; Calle del Teatro Malibràn 5886a;
h 10am-8pm Mon-Sat, 3-8pm Sun; f Rialto
Hunt for anything from preloved novels in various languages to new books on variegated subjects. If you are interested in the way guidebooks used to be, this is the place to rummage for antique volumes on various locations in Italy and beyond. And if it's contemporary guidebooks you want, head over to the sister store, **Libreria San Marco** (Map pp100–1; % 041 522 63 43; Salizada San Lio, Castello 5469; h 9.30am-8pm Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm Sun; f Rialto).

COIN

Map pp92–3 **Department Store**
% 041 520 35 81; Salizada San Giovanni Grisotomo 5790; h 9.30am-7.30 Mon-Sat, 11am-7.30pm Sun; f Rialto

This is a rarity in Venice. Although not gargantuan, Coin brings a bit of modest department-store action to canalside shoppers, with this branch specialising in affordable men's and women's clothes and accessories. Another branch on **Campo San Luca** (Map pp62–3) specialises in beauty products and accessories.

CAFFÈ COSTARICA

Map pp92–3 **Food & Drink**
% 041 71 63 71; Rio Terà San Leonardo 1337;
f San Marcuola
Since 1930 the Marchi family has been importing coffee from Costa Rica and other coffee-producing countries, and roasting it up daily for your delectation. If you don't want to take any away, sip on your favourite mix at the bar.

JESURUM OUTLET

Map pp92–3 **Lace**
% 041 524 25 40; www.jesurum.it; Fondamenta della Sensa 3219; h Tue-Sat f Sant'Alvise
Jesurum is one of the traditional names in Venetian lace, in business since the late 19th century. Set back from the *fondamenta* (canalside street) is a huge warehouse and workshop where you can buy ready-made items (from pillow cases to doilies) or you can ask for made-to-measure items.

GIANNI BASSO

Map pp92–3 **Printer**
% 041 523 46 81; Calle del Fumo 5306; f Fondamente Nuove
Time has stood still at Mr Basso's printing shop, where requests arrive from around the world to print up business cards, menus and the like using good old

printing craftsmanship, something that has been lost in the age of laser printers. You can *feel* the quality of the printing in the cards. Mr Basso is very relaxed and you may not always find him open.

MORI & BOZZI

Map pp92–3 **Shoes**
% 041 71 52 61; Rio Terà della Madonna 2367;
f San Marcuola
These pumps aren't for frumps. Ladies, pop in here for fun footwear. Sandals to high heels, platforms to flats, you'll find all sorts of designs to wiggle your toes in.

MOLIN GIOCATTOLE

Map pp92–3 **Toys**
% 041 523 52 85; Salizada San Canciano 5899;
f Rialto
Nestled up along the bridge locally known as Ponte dei Giocattoli – or Toys Bridge, this shop will attract kids with a yearning for something more titillating than Tintoretto. Pick up some glue along with your model Ferrari, B52 bomber or vaporetto, and little ones could be kept busy for hours.

SESTIERE DI CASTELLO

As you head east away from San Marco into this area, things quickly quieten down into about the closest one comes to Venetian suburbia – fascinating to wander around in but a little short on retail stimulation. The trick here is to do a little gold prospecting, for there are some original nuggets. One of the city's top shoemakers is here, along with a fascinating old bookshop full of rare volumes on the city, an artistic iron-monger and more.

FILL 'ER UP

Wine is as important to life for Venetians as water and a fine take-home tradition persists in Venice for tipplers unable or unwilling to spend on big labels. These wine-stores are crammed with huge glass *damigiane* (demijohns). From these monsters, each containing a sea of modest Veneto table wine, you make a choice and have it poured into whatever you bring – used wine or mineral-water bottles, it's up to you. You will be charged, on average, €2 per litre.

A chain called Nave de Oro has several branches in Venice and one each on the Lido and Murano, and a handful of other places along the same lines can also be found (see the list following). None opens on Sunday and most shut on Wednesday afternoon. Typical hours are 8.30am to 1pm and 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

Al Canton del Vin (Map pp100–1; Ramo San Francesco, Castello 3156)

Cantina del Canton (Map pp92–3; Fondamenta degli Ormesini, Cannaregio 2678)

Nave de Oro Cannaregio 1370 (Map pp92–3; Rio Terà San Leonardo); Cannaregio 4657 (Map pp92–3; Rio Terà dei SS Apostoli); Castello 5786b (Map pp100–1; Calle Mondo Novo); Castello 5179 (Map pp100–1; Calle Santa Maria Formosa); Dorsoduro 3664 (Map pp76–7; Campo Santa Margherita)

TO MARKET, TO MARKET

Venetians turn out in force to the city's produce markets, searching for the perfect artichoke (much prized in Venice) or halibut. The markets of Rialto remain, after 700 years, the main ones.

At the **Pescaria** (Fish Market; [Map pp84–5](#); 𐞂 Mon–Sat), underneath the neo-Gothic roof built at the beginning of the 20th century, housewives and restaurateurs search out ingredients for the day's menu. Much seafood now comes from far away but the provenance of Adriatic and lagoon fish is indicated in arcane code that only the stand-holders and the initiated understand. Other produce markets take place in **Cannaregio** ([Map pp92–3](#); Rio Terà San Leonardo; 𐞂 Mon–Sat) and in **Dorsoduro** ([Map pp76–7](#); Campo Santa Margherita; 𐞂 daily).

The following is a list of other occasional markets to watch out for:

Bochaleri in Campo (☎ 041 523 97 11; [www.bochaleri.it](#), in Italian) Held around the last weekend of April on Campo Bandiera e Moro ([Map pp100–1](#)), this pottery market attracts ceramicists with their variegated handmade plates, pots, jewellery, jars and more from all over the Veneto.

Mercatino dei Miracoli (☎ 041 274 73 15; Cannaregio/Castello) On the second or third weekend of each month, a fun bric-a-brac fair is held either in the Campo San Canciano and the adjacent Campo Santa Maria Nova ([Map pp92–3](#)) or along Via Giuseppe Garibaldi ([Map pp100–1](#)).

Mercatino dell'Antiquariato ([Map pp62–3](#); ☎ 041 45 41 76; Campo San Maurizio, San Marco) Three times a year this antiques market sets up, to the delight of collectors far and wide. It's hard to plan a visit around it as dates shift and it happens so infrequently (generally in April, September and December).

Another antiques and odds and sods market is held four times a year for about a week in Campo Santa Margherita ([Map pp76–7](#)) It takes place more or less in early May, July, September and around December, but the dates aren't fixed).

EDITORE FILIPPI [Map pp100–1](#) **Books**
☎ 041 523 56 35; Calle del Paradiso 5763; 𐞂 San Zaccaria

For more than a century the Filippi family have printed all manner of books on Venice and stocked plenty more. They remain the point of reference for academics and aficionados alike. Another branch of the family runs a smaller store a stone's throw away (Calle Casselleria 5784).

LIBRAIRIE FRANÇAISE [Map pp100–1](#) **Books**
☎ 041 522 96 59; Barbaria delle Tole 6358; 𐞂 Ospedale Civile

Voulez-vous vos livres en français? Here you will find everything from the latest best-sellers of Gallic literature to tomes on most subjects Venetian – all of it in French.

CA' DEL SOLE [Map pp100–1](#) **Masks & Costumes**
☎ 041 528 55 49; Fondamenta dell'Osmarin 4964; 𐞂 San Zaccaria

Although much of what is on sale here is aimed at the theatre business, anyone can purchase a fantasy in this House of the Sun. The masks are of a high standard.

EL FERRO NOVO [Map pp100–1](#) **Metalwork Crafts**
☎ 041 528 94 22; [www.elferrovono.com](#); Calle della Fava 5567; 𐞂 Rialto

A highly original enterprise is this workshop run by Primo Bollani, who churns out all sorts of fanciful sculptures in iron, from dreamlike monuments such as bridges and towers to odd-looking gondolas.

GIOVANNA ZANELLA [Map pp100–1](#) **Shoes**
☎ 041 523 55 00; Calle Carminati 5641; 𐞂 Rialto

Freaky shoes are the business in this singular little boutique. It's not just the sometimes-surprising colours or the beyond-fashion approach. Some of the footwear is just plain wacky. Try the gold-coloured feet-shaped shoes for size, or the ones that look like gondolas.

AROUND THE LAGOON

Two islands stand out for their historic specialities. Murano has for centuries been the centre of Venetian glass production. Further away, the art of lace-making is associated with the pastel-hued islet of Burano. You can of course shop for glass and lace in Venice itself, but there is something more 'real' about coming to the source. Prices are generally more reasonable and, with luck, you'll see people making the stuff.

On Murano, the bulk of the glass-sellers are congregated, as they should be, along and

THE NOBLE ART OF GLASS-BLOWING

Sparks fly off the glowing orange ball of flame inside the furnace. Twisted and twirled on the end of a long iron pole, the glob of glass is heated and shaped, heated and shaped. Sweat drains off the glowing brow of the taciturn Murano glass-worker, repository of centuries of tradition. That articles of such delicacy can emerge from such toil-toughened hands is a source of wonder.

Glassware come in all conceivable shapes and sizes, from elegant tableware to the most outlandish glass statuary – the sky is the limit in terms of price, size, imagination and... taste. Indeed, oceans of glass kitsch, often not even made on Murano, are lamentably the rule rather than the exception. The **Consorzio Promovetro** ([www.promovetro.com](#)) has campaigned since the mid-1990s to increase customer awareness to distinguish between the genuine article and cheap imitations. Also, where possible, it is always preferable to buy direct from the craftsman, rather than from the shops in Venice (whose mark-ups can be considerable). If nothing else, at least you know your money goes to the guy who made your purchase and not to middle men.

Centuries of Blowing Hot & Cold

The ancient Phoenicians first discovered that exposing sand to extreme temperatures caused it to melt and form a glassy paste, a useful and malleable substance for making household items. The blowpipe used for glass-blowing came into use in Palestine in the 1st century BC. The Romans later picked up the trade and one of the first centres of glass production in Roman Italy seems to have been Aquileia, northeast of Venice. In later centuries Venetian glass-makers learned the art from Aquileian refugees and colleagues in the East.

By 1291, all Venetian glass-making kilns had been moved to Murano for safety reasons (fires were common), but possibly also to better preserve the secrets of the glass-makers. Their work had achieved Europe-wide renown and was a valuable export product. It was long considered treason for a glass-worker to leave Venice. Most didn't try, and some of the great glass dynasties that began in the Middle Ages are still at work today.

Venetian artisans moved away from strictly utilitarian wares to more artistic objects in the course of the 15th century. Enamels were increasingly used to decorate the glass. Venetian crystal, obtained by using soda ash in the melting stage, became increasingly popular. The following century saw the development of diamond-edge engraving of clear glass. Floral motifs dominated. Only towards the end of that century did enamel decoration, by now more sophisticated, come back into vogue.

Things started to go downhill in the 17th century. Competition from France and later Bohemia made itself felt, and some lagoon glass-workers emigrated. One Murano product, heavy framed glass mirrors, remained a hit in Europe through the 18th century. Today, the business is alive and well, largely thanks to tourism (at the lower end) and the rise of glass as an art form.

near Fondamenta dei Vetrai. Ever since the *vetrai* (glass-makers) were transferred to the island at the close of the 13th century, this is where they have practised their art. You can see glass being blown in workrooms attached to some of the glass shops: look for the sign '*fornace*' (furnace).

On Burano, local ladies can occasionally be seen hunched on the stoop or sitting in the shade near the vaporetto stop, patiently plucking away at some new lace creation. The island's main drag, Via Galuppi, is, ahem, laced with lace shops. Inspect the wares closely – the stuff you'll see on sale is sometimes of uneven quality and/or cheap imported stuff from Asia. Of course, it's not always easy to tell, especially for those of us without an expert eye. To get an idea of just how good this stuff can be, a visit to the Burano lace museum is not a bad beginning.

BERENGO [Map p113](#) **Glassware**

☎ 041 527 63 64; [www.berengo.com](#); Fondamenta dei Vetrai 109a, Murano; 𐞂 Colonna
Here is a purveyor of glass that has long abandoned any pretence of functionality in its products. This is glass for art's sake and the company's master glass-makers work to designs by contemporary artists, such as Turin-born Riccardo Licata, long a lagoon resident.

MARCO POLO [Map p113](#) **Glassware**

☎ 041 73 99 04; Fondamenta Manin 1, Murano; 𐞂 9am–6pm Mon–Sat; 𐞂 Colonna
One of the handful of larger reliable glass merchants in Murano, Marco Polo offers you the opportunity to see the masters at work, a large display of traditional glassware, the possibility of having objects tailor-made and sent to your country and,

SAVED BY LACE

Perhaps it helped stave off boredom when their men were out fishing. Burano's business of lace-making goes back at least to the 14th century, when Duchess Morosina Morosini, wife of Doge Morosini, set up a lace workshop on the island employing 130 people. The workshop closed at her death, but a habit had been formed and Venetian lace was already winning a name for itself.

By the 16th century it was in big demand throughout the courts of Europe and produced in various locations around the lagoon, including Burano and Pellestrina. They say the Sun King of France, Louis XIV, wore a black collar of Burano lace that had taken two years to make. The French eventually enticed some Burano lace-workers to Paris, and by the end of the 17th century France was producing it on an industrial scale. It was, however, Napoleon's march into Venice and the collapse of the Republic in 1797 that finally killed off the industry.

The rebirth of lace-making on Burano came, it appears, when the Countess Adriana Marcello opened a lace-making school there in 1872. Conflicting stories on who resuscitated the tradition abound, but all agree that the idea came in part to relieve the extreme hardship in which Burano's fishing families lived. By the end of the 19th century, Burano lace had again attained its worldwide reputation. The school was closed in 1970, and the number of island women who still practise this delicate but painstaking art is dwindling fast.

upstairs, a quasi-museum of contemporary art in glass by local master Andres Pagnes and international names such as Tony Cragg and Costas Varotsos.

MURANO COLLEZIONI [Map p113](#) [Glassware](#)
 ☎ 041 73 62 72; Fondamenta Manin 1CD, Murano;
 🕒 10.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat; 📍 Colonna
 In one elegantly presented showroom you can view an assortment of fine glassware

by three of the most prestigious of Murano's creators, Barovier & Toso, Venini and Carlo Moretti. The accent is on objects you can use at home rather than florid artistic pieces. Prices are restrained but you pay for what you get and a champagne flute can still set you back €200. If you only make one glass-shopping stop in Venice and want to be sure of quality, this should probably be it.

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