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SLEEPING

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SLEEPING

There is nothing quite like sleeping in Venice. Instead of wheeled-traffic noise, the muted sounds of water lapping along canals and people walking and talking waft up into your centuries-old room. And Venice fairly swarms with accommodation choices.

More and more *palazzi* (mansions) with pedigree are being made over as hotels oozing charm and history. You could find yourself kicking back in a medieval mansion, or sitting by a window with canal views. The variations are endless.

B&Bs are booming. Try [Bed-and-Breakfast.it](http://www.bed-and-breakfast.it) (www.bed-and-breakfast.it), which has quite a few listings (although some of them are actually small hotels). The more traditional version is the *affittacamere* (room rental), basically the same deal in private houses but without the breakfast. [Guest in Italy](http://www.guestinitaly.com) (www.guestinitaly.com) lists a good number of B&Bs. The city's [APT tourist board](http://www.turismovenezia.it) (www.turismovenezia.it) has some 200 B&Bs and 250 *affittacamere* on the books, although again, the definition in both cases seems loose. Other online booking services include [Venice By](http://www.veniceby.com) (www.veniceby.com) and the [Venice Hoteliers Association](http://www.veneziasiti.it) (www.veneziasiti.it).

Hotels go by various names. An *albergo* is also a hotel. A *pensione* or *locanda* is generally a smaller, family-run establishment; frequently, there's little to distinguish them from lower-end hotels. Indeed, the word *locanda* has become one of the most popular in the Venetian hotel-trade dictionary.

Many hotels offer rooms with 'typical Venetian' furnishings and décor (sometimes genuine antiques, often modern remakes), evoking images of the Most Serene Republic.

Serious budget travellers have the choice of the youth hostel on Giudecca or a handful of other dormitory-style residences, some of them religious institutions and most of them home to students. Most open to tourists in summer only.

A good swath of the top hotels is in or near the San Marco area and along the Grand Canal, but it is also possible to find 'bargains' (the concept is, of course, relative) tucked away in tiny streets and on side canals in the heart of the city. The Dorsoduro area is tranquil and offers a nice smattering of interesting options, ranging from hip new design choices to cosy comfort stops. A growing crop of enticing spots in ancient *palazzi* are popping up in San Polo. A battalion of hotels, especially in the budget to midrange bracket, is marshalled near the train station, but most of them are fairly uninspiring. More choices are sprinkled further afield in Castello and the islands.

When business is slow, many hotels will offer more competitive deals – always ask. Mind you, Venice will never be cheap.

Travellers on their own are penalised. Most hotels have few, if any, single rooms. When they do, they are often poky. Either way, you generally pay two-thirds to three-quarters of the price two people would pay for a double.

'Low season' for the average Venetian hotelier means November, early December, and January to Easter (except for the New Year and Carnevale rushes). Low-ish season for some hotels comes in the hot July–August period. The price guide, [opposite](#), gives an average range in three categories. Prices in reviews indicate top prices (or a range if they change significantly from season to season). Where possible, the range indicates the upper rate you would pay in low and high season thus 's €40–60, d €80–130' means a single might cost €40 at most in low season and a double €130 at most in high season. Where this is not the case, assume the prices are high season maximums. In any case, prices here should be considered a guide. Some hotels offer discounts for booking online.

Rooms come with a private bathroom (which often means a shower and not a full bathtub) unless otherwise stated.

Hotels do not hold rooms indefinitely. Confirm your arrival time, especially if it's going to be late in the afternoon or evening. Generally there is no problem if you have paid a deposit or left a credit-card number.

Turning up in central Venice at night (anything from 10pm on) and searching for your hotel can be daunting. The city is dark and mostly quiet at night and the streets confusing to the newcomer. Depending on where you are staying, you may find no-one to ask for directions. Try not to arrive at night. If you have no choice, get hold of good directions and a detailed map before you leave for Venice.

RENTALS

For many (especially groups of three or more), renting an apartment is a more economical option. A flat with full kitchen facilities also gives you the freedom to cook your own meals. Generally, however, flats are let by the week.

Venetian Apartments (☎ 020-8878 1130; www.venice-rentals.com; 403 Parkway House, Sheen Lane, London SW14 8LS) arranges accommodation in flats, often of a luxurious nature. Two- to four-person apartments start at around UK£1000 per week.

Dimora Veneziana (☎ 041 241 16 97; www.dimora-veneziana.com) has more than 25 apartments of varying size and quality. Prices range from €720 for two people per week to €1600 for five per week.

Guest in Italy (www.guestinitaly.com) has apartments ranging from €100 to €350 a night. It also has B&Bs. **Interhome** (www.interhome.co.uk) has a selection of small flats (about 50 sq m) which sleep three to four (a little cramped) for around UK£520 a week. Want to rent a fabulous *palazzo*? Try **Bellini Travel** (www.bellini-travel.com). As well, **Apartmentsapart.com** (www.apartmentsapart.com) offers flats for rent by the day, starting at about €80.

Other sites:

Rentalinitaly (www.rentalinitaly.com)

Venice Apartment Rental (www.veniceapartment.com)

Bianco Holidays (www.apartmentinitaly.com)

BB Planet.it (www.bbplanet.it)

If you plan to stay for a month or more, you will want to seek out longer-term rental. Much goes by word of mouth. If you don't mind sharing with students, start with the **Università Ca' Foscari notice boards** (Map pp76–7; Calle Larga Foscari, San Polo). It's possible to get a room in a shared place for about €300 to €400 a month. To rent even just a studio for yourself, you are looking at €800 to €1500.

SESTIERE DI SAN MARCO

San Marco, especially along the Grand Canal, is home to some of the city's plush hotels. It is not so hot for good-value midrange or budget deals. A few exceptions prove the rule. There is a case to be made for opting for something of better quality in a less congested part of town anyway.

PRICE GUIDE

The following is a guide to the pricing system in this chapter. Prices are the cost of a standard double room (remember that hotel rates fluctuate) per night:

€€€	above €280
€€	€120–280
€	up to €120

GRITTI PALACE Map pp62–3 Hotel €€€

☎ 041 79 46 11; www.hotelgrittivenice.com; Campo Tragheto 2467; d €500–2500; 🏠 Santa Maria del Giglio; 🚶 🚲

Fronting the Grand Canal, the Gritti is one of Venice's most famous hotels. Of the 90 rooms here, the most enticing look out over the Grand Canal. All are stuffed with antique furnishings and decorated in sumptuous Venetian period style. You may have a large marble bathroom or Oriental carpets.

BAUER Map pp62–3 Hotel €€€

☎ 041 520 70 22; www.bauervenezia.it; Campo di San Moisè 1459; d from €616; 🏠 Vallarosso/San Marco; 🚶 🚲

Despite the 1949 Soviet-style entrance, the canalside neo-Gothic frontage of this *palazzo* oozes elegance. From some rooms you have views across the Grand Canal. Rooms on the 2nd floor drip Carrara marble and Murano glass. Nonsmoking rooms are available. A few steps away is the boutique branch, the Bauer II Palazzo, with spectacular suites at equally eye-popping prices.

NOVECENTO Map pp62–3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 241 37 65; www.novecento.biz; Calle del Dose da Ponte 2683/84; d €260; 🏠 Santa Maria del Giglio; 🚶 🚲

In Venice East meets West and no more so than in this exuberant nine-room beauty near the Grand Canal. Its cosy public spaces ooze Oriental opulence and invite you to a sit-down by the fireplace. Rooms are a blend of the exotic (exquisite timber beds of a mixed Mediterranean and Far Eastern flavour) and modern comfort (wifi). Much of the décor, such as the hefty wall-hangings, are inspired by Spanish artist and eccentric, Mariano Fortuny, who spent his last years in Venice (see Palazzo Fortuny, p72).

LAST-MINUTE ARRIVALS

Turned up in Venice without a booking and worried about finding no room at the inns? The **Associazione Veneziana Albergatori** (☎ in Italy 199 173309, from abroad 39 041 522 22 64; www.veneziati.it; ☎ 8am-10pm Easter-Oct, 8am-9pm Nov-Easter) has booking offices at the train station (Map pp92-3), in Piazzale Roma (Map pp84-5) and at the Tronchetto car parks (Map pp84-5).

The **Consorzio Alberghi della Terraferma Veneziana** (Hotels' Association of Venice Mainland; Map p121; ☎ 041 93 01 33; www.venicemainland.com; ☎ 8am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, sometimes 10am-6pm Sun) is a separate organisation at Mestre train station (platform 1). If Venice is full, this might be your only option.

HOTEL FLORA

Map pp62-3 Hotel €€

☎ 041 520 58 44; www.hotelflora.it; Calle Bergamaschi 2283a; s/d €190/260; 🏠 San Marco/Vallaresso; 🚶 🚶

Tucked away in the warren of San Marco, the Flora boasts 43 rooms with 19th-century furnishings and giddy 18th-century décor. All are different – some are more spacious and attractive than others. The narrow leafy garden out the back is a peaceful nook.

CA' DEL CAMPO

Map pp62-3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 241 16 60; www.cadelcampo.it; Campo della Guerra 511; s/d €200/240; 🏠 Vallaresso/San Marco; 🚶 🚶

Located on a busy *campo* (square) 100m north of Piazza San Marco, this refurbished mansion offers tastefully presented and generous rooms. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes (some with classic *terrazzo alla Veneziana* – a mixture of finely fragmented marble chips and plaster – floors), are mostly sunny and look onto the square or a small courtyard. Don't bump your head on the beams in the attic rooms!

LOCANDA ORSEOLO

Map pp62-3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 520 48 77; www.locandaorseolo.com; Corte Zorzi 1083; s/d €180/230; 🏠 San Marco/Vallaresso; 🚶 🚶 🚶

Tucked away in a closed courtyard and with views from nine of its 15 rooms (over three floors) to the Bacino Orseolo – a kind of gondola terminal – this popular location

is a find. Jovial young staff go out of their way to make your stay in the painstakingly decorated (and Carnevale-themed) rooms (the deluxe rooms have extravagant bald-aquins) a joy. Take breakfast in a cosy room with red leather banquettes.

LOCANDA BARBARIGO

Map pp62-3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 241 36 39; www.locandabarbarigo.com; Fondamenta Barbarigo 2503a; s €60-160 d €75-180; 🏠 Santa Maria del Giglio; 🚶 🚶

Housed in the grand Palazzo Barbarigo, a noble Venetian family's house, this hotel has a handful of doubles – attractively decorated with typical Venetian 18th-century-style painted furnishings. Some have exposed timber beams and views over a side canal; a couple have a full bathroom, others have showers.

LOCANDA ANTICO FIORE

Map pp62-3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 522 79 41; www.anticofiore.com; Corte Lucatello 3486; s/d €125/145; 🏠 Sant'Angelo; 🚶 🚶

Located in an 18th-century *palazzo*, this hotel is a charmer. The front door is on a narrow canal just in from the Grand Canal, so you can arrive in style by water taxi. Inside you will find cosy lodgings over a couple of floors. All rooms are tastefully decorated (tapestries and timber furniture), each with a different colour scheme (rose, pale green or gold).

LOCANDA ART DECO

Map pp62-3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 277 05 58; www.locandaartdeco.com; Calle delle Botteghe 2966; d €79-149; 🏠 San Samuele; 🚶 🚶

Bright, whitewashed rooms with timber-beam ceilings in this cheerful and immaculately kept hotel are especially enticing. Iron bedsteads are attached to particularly comfy beds with orthopaedic mattresses – no chance of backache here!

HOTEL AI DO MORI

Map pp62-3 Hotel €€

☎ 041 520 48 17; www.hotelaidomori.com; Calle Larga San Marco 658; d with/without bathroom €140/95; 🏠 San Zaccaria; 🚶 🚶

Just off Piazza San Marco, this higgledy-piggledy hotel has 11 pleasant rooms, some of which offer close-up views of the basilica. Some rooms feature exposed

beams and all are different. The pick of the crop is the cosy double at the top with a private terrace.

LOCANDA CASA PETRARCA

Map pp62-3 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 520 04 30; www.casapetrarca.com; Calle delle Schiavine 4386; s/d €95/135, without bathroom €70/112; 🏠 Rialto; 🚶 🚶

A family-run place with six simple but sparkling rooms in an ancient apartment building, this is one of the nicest budget places in the San Marco area. The cheerful owner speaks English. From Campo San Luca follow Calle dei Fuseri, take the second left and turn right into Calle delle Schiavine.

SESTIERE DI DORSODURO

Dorsoduro is a haven for daring digs with designer dash. Plenty of more conventionally and quintessential Venetian places are sprinkled about here too.

CA' MARIA ADELE

Map pp76-7 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 041 520 30 78; www.camariaadele.it; Rio Terà Catecumeni 111; d from €600, internet rate €335; 🏠 Salute; 🚶 🚶

Lying virtually in the shadow of the majestic bulk of the Chiesa di Santa Maria della Salute is this veiled 16th-century pleasure dome of 14 rooms over four floors. Five are themed (ranging from the Doges room to the Oriental room, complete with little Buddha), while the rest are a carefully presented version of the Venetian theme, with splendid tapestries, dark chocolate timber ceilings, traditional Venetian floors and a host of other touches.

CA' PISANI HOTEL

Map pp76-7 Designer Hotel €€€

☎ 041 240 14 11; www.capisanihotel.it; Rio Terà Antonio Foscarini 979/a; d €250-480; 🏠 Accademia; 🚶 🚶

Named after the hero of the 1380 Battle of Chioggia, the centuries-old façade betrays little of the snazzy designer hotel inside, filled with 1930s and 1940s furnishings and specially made items. The sleek modern rooms, some with exposed beams, are

elegant, well equipped and full of pleasing decorative touches – nothing is left to chance.

DD.724

Map pp76-7 Designer Hotel €€

☎ 041 277 02 62; www.dd724.it; Ramo de Mula 724; d €260-300; 🏠 Accademia; 🚶 🚶

At DD.724 the owners have taken a centuries-old shell and lathered it with an ultramodern look and contemporary-art touches. The seven rooms and suites are individually tailored, with features such as home cinema and wi-fi. The predominant colours here are creams, beiges and browns.

PENSIONE ACCADEMIA VILLA

MARAVEGE Map pp76-7 Pensione/Locanda €€

☎ 041 521 01 88; www.pensioneaccademia.it; Fondamenta Bollani 1058; s/d €130/200; 🏠 Accademia; 🚶 🚶

Set in its own lovely gardens right by the Grand Canal and close to the Gallerie dell'Accademia, this 17th-century villa is understandably popular. Grand sitting and dining rooms, capped by splendid timber ceilings and oozing a past grandeur, will tempt you to just stay inside all day. Some of the simple, elegant rooms have four-poster beds and timber floors. Most look onto the gardens.

ALBERGO AGLI ALBORETTI

Map pp76-7 Hotel €€

☎ 041 523 00 58; www.aglialboretti.com; Rio Terà Antonio Foscarini 884; s/d €115/200; 🏠 Accademia; 🚶 🚶

This charming family hotel almost feels like an inviting mountain chalet when you step inside. The management is friendly, and the bright, white-painted rooms are tastefully if simply arranged and mostly of a good size. Three bright suites on the 4th floor can sleep up to four people and also have a terrace. The restaurant (once a favourite of Peggy Guggenheim) is of a high standard.

LA CALCINA

Map pp76-7 Hotel €€

☎ 041 520 64 66; www.lacalcina.com; Fondamenta delle Zattere ai Gesuati 780; s €86/106, d €151/201; 🏠 Zattere; 🚶 🚶

John Ruskin wrote *The Stones of Venice* here in 1876. The hotel has a smidgen of garden

and looks across to Giudecca. Its immaculate rooms, with parquet floors and timber furnishings, are sober but charming. Some have small terraces and others views over the Canale della Giudecca. One has views *and* a terrace.

PENSIONE SEGUSO

Map pp76–7 Pensione/Locanda €€

☎ 041 528 68 58; www.pensioneseguso.it; Fondamenta delle Zattere ai Gesuati 779; s/d €160/190, without bathroom €122/180; ☎ Mar-Nov; 🏠 Zattere

This russet red, typically Venetian, family-run *pensione* is in a lovely, quiet position facing the Canale della Giudecca. It has been in business since WWI. Rooms are furnished with timber pieces, and many enjoy canal views. You can dine here or relax in the reading room. Prices halve in low season.

CASA REZZONICO

Map pp76–7 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 277 06 53; www.casarezzonico.it; Fondamenta Gherardini 2813; d €150; 🏠 Ca' Rezzonico; ☎

This comfortable spot is well placed and offers attractive if simple whitewashed rooms with parquet floors and dark timber furniture. Some look over a quiet canal. You can relax over a drink in the garden and, in summer, take your breakfast there.

CA' SAN TROVASO

Map pp76–7 Pensione/Locanda €€

☎ 041 277 11 46; www.locandasantrovaso.com; Fondamenta delle Eremitte 1350; s/d €95/135; 🏠 Zattere

With its traditional *terrazzo alla Veneziana* floors and Venetian décor, this lodge is a pleasant surprise package set just a few steps from the Canale della Giudecca. The rooms are spacious and decorated with tapestries. Try for those with views and, in summer, sun yourself on the hotel's tiny *altana* (traditional Venetian roof terrace).

HOTEL GALLERIA

Map pp76–7 Pensione/Locanda €€

☎ 041 523 24 89; www.hotelgalleria.it; Campo della Carità 878/a; d up to €165, s/d without bathroom €80/120; 🏠 Accademia

The Hotel Galleria is the only one-star digs right on the Grand Canal, near the Ponte

dell'Accademia. Space is a little tight in this 17th-century mansion, but the 18th-century décor (tapestries and all) in the bright rooms is welcoming. If you snag one on the canal, how could you complain?

HOTEL ALLA SALUTE DA CICI

Map pp76–7 Hotel €€

☎ 041 523 54 04; www.hotelsalute.com; Fondamenta di Ca' Balà 222; s/d €115/150, without bathroom €80/120; 🏠 Salute

This is a comfortable old-style hotel in a well-kept 16th-century Venetian house on a quiet canal near the Chiesa di Santa Maria della Salute. Some rooms look onto the canal, and all are cosily decorated with rugs and timber furnishings.

FUJIYAMA B&B

Map pp76–7 B&B €€

☎ 041 724 10 42; www.bedandbreakfast-fujiyama.it; Calle Lunga San Barnaba 2727/a; s/d €120/140; 🏠 Ca' Rezzonico; ☎

This vaguely eccentric B&B and teahouse offers three delightful rooms upstairs from the charming tearoom (open 2pm to 8pm most days). Sit in the courtyard out the back and chat with the owners in anything from Spanish to Chinese. Room prices halve from December to February.

ANTICA LOCANDA MONTIN

Map pp76–7 Pensione/Locanda €€

☎ 041 522 71 51; www.locandamontin.com; Fondamenta di Borgo 1147; s €50-70, d with bathroom €110-150, d without bathroom €85-110; 🏠 Accademia; ☎

Ezra Pound and Modigliani favoured this small, comfortable place, located on a quiet back canal. It's been in business since the 1800s, and the cosy rooms look onto either the canal or the rear, pergola-covered garden. Some have parquet floors and others the typical Venetian *terrazzo*. The better doubles are surprisingly spacious.

ALBERGO ANTICO CAPON

Map pp76–7 Pensione/Locanda €€

☎ 041 528 52 92; www.anticocapon.com; Campo Santa Margherita 3004/b; d with/without bathroom €90/70; 🏠 Ca' Rezzonico

This place is right on the liveliest square in Dorsoduro and has seven quite varied rooms. The beds are wide and firm, the rooms in which they stand bright and airy. Those right on the square are noisy.

SESTIERI DI SAN POLO & SANTA CROCE (SANTA CROCE)

A few hotels cluster at the train-station end of the Sestiere di Santa Croce. Further away the pickings thin out, but a few modestly priced lodgings are scattered about, along with some Grand Canal classics, and stunning refurbished private houses and apartments, especially in San Polo.

LE SUITES DI GIULIETTA E ROMEO

Map pp84–5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 099 40 53; www.bertolioresort.com; Campo San Cassian, San Polo 1858; ste €250-700; 🏠 Rialto Mercato; ☎ 🏠

The grand 1st-floor salon boasts frescoes, but this is not just another Venetian palace boasting 18th-century elegance. It's something of a modern love nest (in admittedly garish colours that won't appeal to all). Back and bottom-lit double beds sprawl in rooms with ultramodern designer-chic décor (anything from glittering mosaics and chandeliers to fluorescent lighting). Lovers will love the Jacuzzis in the rooms. In low season they have been known to 'give away' rooms for €130.

OLTRE IL GIARDINO

Map pp84–5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 275 00 15; www.oltreilgiardino-venezia.com; Fondamenta Contarini, San Polo 2542; d €150-380; 🏠 San Tomà; ☎

Back in 1922, Alma Mahler (the composer Gustav's wife), who was then living with writer Franz Werfel, bought this magical house and garden for 100,000 lire. Today's owners have turned it into a beautifully relaxed home away from home, with timber floors, exquisitely chosen furniture and just six rooms, each different.

ANTICA LOCANDA STURION

Map pp84–5 Hotel €€

☎ 041 523 62 43; www.locandasturion.com; Calle Sturion, San Polo 679; s/d €190/260; 🏠 San Silvestro; ☎

This ancient lodge is two minutes from the Ponte di Rialto and has been a hotel on and off since the 13th century (when it was the Hospitium Sturionis). The best of its 11 rooms are the two generous suites overlooking the

canal. All are covered in a deep wine-red and gold floral patterned décor that might be a bit much, especially in the smaller rooms. One downside is the long stairway up.

LOCANDA ARCO ANTICO

Map pp84–5 Hotel €€

☎ 041 241 12 27; www.arcoanticovenice.com; Corte Petriana, San Polo 1451; s/d €120/170; 🏠 San Silvestro; ☎ 🏠

The best rooms are those on the higher floors of this 16th-century *palazzo*, especially the one looking over the medieval courtyard. Many features of the building, such as the mottled *terrazzo alla Veneziana* floors, have been retained.

CA' SAN GIORGIO

Map pp84–5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 275 91 77; www.casangiorgio.com; Salizada del Fontego dei Turchi, Santa Croce 1725; d €165; 🏠 San Stae; ☎

Even the owners of this restored medieval house aren't sure how old it is, but elements from the 14th century stand out. Half a dozen rooms have been beautifully carved out of the Gothic framework; the nicest is easily the top-floor suite with sloping timber ceiling and *altana* to sit on of a sunny morn.

CA' ANGELI

Map pp84–5 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 523 24 80; www.caangeli.it; Calle del Traghetto della Madonnetta, San Polo 1434; s €90-140, d €115-195; 🏠 San Silvestro; ☎

Well might angels opt to stay here. A variety of rooms, from a smallish double with its own roof terrace to a generous suite overlooking the Grand Canal, makes this meticulously run establishment attractive. Antique furniture and genuine Murano lamps are to be found throughout, and you might never want to leave the sun-filled reading room looking onto the Grand Canal.

ALLOGGI AL MERCANTE

Map pp84–5 Pensione/Locanda €€

☎ 041 275 01 58; www.alloggialmartante.com; Calle del Campaniel, San Polo 1770; s/d €90/140; 🏠 San Stae; ☎ ☎ 🏠

On a quiet lane around the corner from the one-time oil docks and close to the Rialto fish markets lurks this unassuming but spruce guesthouse. Set out over three levels, the six rooms have parquet floors and functional furniture.

GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM

Venice is surrounded by water, and yet virtually all the city's visitors remain firmly attached to dry land. The UK company **Connoisseur Holidays Afloat** (☎ 087-0160 5648; www.connoisseurafloat.com; The Port House, Port Solent, Portsmouth PO6 4TH) operates a fleet of cruise motorboats out of two mainland locations not far from Venice. You can hire these for a week of cruising along the River Sile (see Treviso, p236), the lagoon and the Po delta to the south of Venice. You need to have some boating experience and can choose from a range of craft for between UK£800 and UK£1200 a week. Mooring costs and the like are extra.

Another website offering virtually the same thing is www.boatingholidays.com.

PENSIONE GUERRATO

Map pp84–5 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 528 59 27; www.pensioneguerrato.it; Ruga due Mori, San Polo 240a; s/d €100/140, without bathroom €70/95; 🏠 Rialto Mercato; 🚿

Amid the Rialto markets, this *pensione* is a one-star place that has spacious, light rooms (some with glimpses of the Grand Canal) and market views. In some rooms parts of wall and ceiling frescoes have been preserved. It is housed in a former convent, which before (so they say) had served as a hostel for knights heading off on the Third Crusade.

ALBERGO CASA PERON

Map pp84–5 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 71 00 21; www.casaperon.com; Salizada San Pantalon, Santa Croce 84; s/d €85/95, s/d with shower €50/60; 🏠 San Tomà; 🚿

This is a small but characterful place that's family run and with immaculately maintained rooms tucked around corners and up stairs. It's well placed, not too far from the train station and close to the Frari church. You will be greeted by the resident parrot on the way in. Rooms with shower but without own toilet cost €50 to €80.

HOTEL DALLA MORA

Map pp84–5 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 71 07 03; www.hoteldallamora.it; Salizada San Pantalon, Santa Croce 42a; s/d €65/95;

🏠 Ferrovia; 🚿
Located on a small canal just off Salizada San Pantalon, this hotel has clean, airy

rooms, some with lovely canal views, and a terrace. Some rooms are equipped with shower and sink. It's a popular choice, and there are some cheaper rooms with shared bathrooms in the hall.

HOTEL ALEX

Map pp84–5 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 523 13 41; www.hotelalexinvenice.com; Rio Terà, San Polo 2603; s/d €48/76; 🏠 San Tomà; 🚿

A great little deal, this straightforward spot has 19 reasonably sized (and space is at a premium in this town) if Spartan rooms at unbeatable prices in a great location.

SESTIERE DI CANNAREGIO

This is the world of cheap and sometimes cheerful accommodation just a few steps from the train station. You'll find more enticing choices in the side *calli* (streets) and further away from the station.

PALAZZO ABADESSA

Map pp92–3 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 041 241 37 84; www.abadessa.com; Calle Priuli 4011; d €295; 🏠 Ca' d'Oro; 📧 🚿 🏠
Each magnificent room in this opulent late-16th-century residence bears its own distinguishing marks, from wine-red décor to magnificent timber floors. All are exquisitely furnished with antiques. Many rooms boast original ceiling frescoes. Several paintings from the Tintoretto workshop are also scattered about. Out the back is a magnificent Venetian garden with centuries-old trees, where breakfast is served in summer. Rooms have wi-fi.

LOCANDA AI SANTI APOSTOLI

Map pp92–3 Hotel €€

☎ 041 521 26 12; www.locandasantiapostoli.com; Campo dei Santi Apostoli 4391a; s/d from €130/260; 🏠 Ca' d'Oro; 🚿

Through a quiet gated garden you come to this charmer. Colour codes change from room to room (11 in total), most have *terrazzo alla Veneziana* floors and some the cosy feel of heavy exposed timber ceiling beams. There are a few rooms looking back over the Grand Canal too. The top room for four, under the timber roof, has loads of space.

HOTEL ABBAZIA

Map pp92–3 Hotel €€

☎ 041 71 73 33; www.alberghi-venezia.abbaziahotel.com; Calle Priuli detta Cavalletti 68; s/d €225/250; 🏠 Ferrovia; 🚿

In a restored former abbey just a few minutes' walk from the train station, 50 lovely rooms are spread across this seemingly endless, rambling hotel. Some face onto a blooming central garden where you can take breakfast. The better ones all have a different primary-colour scheme, with yellows, reds and blues dominating.

CA' POZZO

Map pp92–3 Designer Hotel €€

☎ 041 524 05 04; www.capozzovenice.com; Sotoportego Ca' Pozzo 1279; s/d €155/210;

🏠 Guglie; 🚿 🏠
A small-scale haunt of designer touches you'd expect of grander hotels (eg flat-screen TVs and safes), this modern guest-house is buried deep down a blind alley. Fear not, and plunge to the end to find this welcoming haven. It offers tastefully designed rooms, each with modern artworks but quite individual. In some you'll find exposed ceiling beams, in others tiled floors.

LOCANDA LEON BIANCO

Map pp92–3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 523 35 72; www.leonbianco.it; Corte Leon Bianco 5629; d from €200; 🏠 Ca' d'Oro; 🚿

To find this old *locanda*, cross Rio dei Santi Apostoli (towards San Marco) and turn right. Pass the high staircase on your left and head to the dead-end courtyard. Go up two flights of stairs and you are there. The best three rooms (of eight) look onto the Grand Canal. The undulating *terrazzo alla Veneziana* floors and heavy timber doors lend the rooms medieval charm. Breakfast is served in your room. Next door is the 12th-century Ca' da Mosto, which from the 16th to the 18th century housed Venice's first and most famed hotel, Del Leon Bianco.

DOMUS ORSONI

Map pp92–3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 275 95 38; www.domusorsoni.it; Corte Vedei 1045; d €120-160; 🏠 Tre Archi; 🚿 🏠

Five exquisite rooms are spread over the *piano nobile* (main floor) of this low Venetian house in a tranquil back lane. Out the back in the garden (where breakfast is served in summer) are the Orsoni mosaic works, in business here since 1885. Mosaic

fantasies decorate the bathrooms, bed-heads and some other furniture in the rooms, all spacious (the biggest look over the street) and with dark parquet floors.

RESIDENZA CA' RICCIO

Map pp92–3 Boutique Hotel €

☎ 041 528 23 34; www.cariccio.com; Rio Terà dei Birri 5394a; s/d €83/99; 🏠 Fondamente Nuove; 🚿 🏠

This 14th-century residence (identified by the doorbell) has exposed brick and stonework, timber ceiling beams and burnt red, polished floor tiles. There is a pleasing simplicity about the rooms, with their graceful metal bedsteads, white linen, blue curtains and nice touches such as fresh flowers.

HOTEL ROSSI

Map pp92–3 Hotel €

☎ 041 71 51 64; www.hotelrossi.net; Calle delle Procuratie 262; s/d €69/92; 🏠 Ferrovia; 🚿

Set in a tiny lane off the Rio Terà Lista di Spagna, this hotel's rooms are pleasant enough, some with wood panelling and others whitewashed. There are cheaper rooms without bathroom and prices drop 20% in low season. The location is quiet and handy for the train station.

ALLOGGI GEROTTO CALDERAN

Map pp92–3 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 71 53 61; www.casagerottocalderan.com; Campo San Geremia 283; dm/s/d/tr/q €25/50/90/105/120; 🏠 Ferrovia

For a budget deal this place has several advantages. It offers a whole range of rooms with a commensurately bewildering battery of prices depending on size, views and whether there is a private bathroom. Most rooms have pleasing views over the square.

SESTIERE DI CASTELLO

Tacked on to San Marco, Castello is a quieter area offering a broad palette on the accommodation front.

HOTEL DANIELI

Map pp100–1 Hotel €€€

☎ 041 522 64 80; www.starwoodhotels.com/luxury; Riva degli Schiavoni 4196; d €370-880; 🏠 San Zaccaria; 🚿

Most of the rooms in this Venetian classic look across the water towards the Chiesa di Santa Maria della Salute and the Chiesa di San Giorgio Maggiore. The establishment

opened as a hotel in 1822 in the 14th-century Palazzo Dandolo. Just wandering into the grand foyer – all arches, sweeping staircases and balconies – is a trip through centuries of splendour. Stop for a drink in its Bar Dandolo (see [p193](#)). Dining in the Terrazza Danieli rooftop restaurant (see the boxed text, [p175](#)) is a treat.

ALBERGO PAGANELLI

Map pp100–1 Hotel €€

☎ 041 522 43 24; www.hotelpaganelli.com; Riva degli Schiavoni 4687; s/d €170/210; 📍 San Zaccaria; 🚻

Guests have been staying here since the mid-19th century. Aim for one of the three spacious waterfront rooms with sweeping views across the lagoon through grand picture windows. Other rooms, which look onto Campo San Zaccaria or a small garden, can be almost half the price and are quieter.

CA' LA CORTE

Map pp100–1 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 241 13 00; www.locandalacorte.it; Calle Bressana 6317; s €142, d €180-210; 📍 Fondamente Nuove; 🚻 📺

This 16th-century house gathers around a pleasant inner *corte* (courtyard, hence the name) with its own private well. Inside, spacious rooms (some featuring original *terrazzo alla Veneziana* floors) with exposed ceiling beams are decorated in luxurious Venetian style. One door from the breakfast room leads right onto the Rio di San Marina...perhaps you could hail a passing gondola.

STUDENT DIGS

In summer only, **Esu** (☎ 041 72 10 25; www.esu.venezia.it), the city's student administration agency, opens its residences to students and academics visiting town. Singles, doubles and triples are available and guests also get access to university refectories (*mense*). Of the five locations, Residenza Junghans ([p211](#)) has rooms available year-round. The others are: **Residenza Maria Ausiliatrice** (Map pp100–1; Fondamenta San Gioacchin, Castello 454), **Residenza Abazia** (Map pp92–3; Fondamenta Misericordia, Cannaregio 3547), **Residenza Jan Palach** (Map p109; Giudecca 186) and **Residenza San Tomà** (Map pp84–5; Campo San Tomà, San Polo 2846). Prices hover around €30/50 for singles/doubles. They open from mid-July to mid-September.

PALAZZO SODERINI

Map pp100–1 Hotel €€

☎ 041 296 08 23; www.palazzosoderini.it; Campo Bandiera e Moro 3611; d €150-200; 📍 Arsenale; 🚻 Those detergent ads singing 'whiter than white' spring to mind. For behind the walls of this grand *palazzo* lie modern, white (or cream) rooms with minimalist décor. This strict neutrality is offset by a lovely garden and rare splashes of colour in furniture and bed covers.

LA RESIDENZA

Map pp100–1 Hotel €€

☎ 041 528 53 15; www.venicelaresidenza.com; Campo Bandiera e Moro 3608; s/d €100/180; 📍 Arsenale; 🚻

This delightful 15th-century Gothic mansion, aka Palazzo Gritti-Badoer, is named after two of the families who have owned it. The main hall upstairs makes an impression with its candelabras and elaborate décor. Rooms are more restrained but mostly spacious, some with timber floors, others softly carpeted, and all with a standard touch of Venetian-style furniture. The narrow street that wraps around the *palazzo* from the left side, Calle de la Morte (Street of Death), is so named because the Consiglio dei Dieci regularly had people considered a nuisance to the Republic executed here.

LOCANDA CA' DEL CONSOLE

Map pp100–1 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 523 31 64; www.locandacadelconsole.com; Calle Trevisana 6217; s/d €110/160; 📍 Rialto; 🚻 📺

Ambling down this narrow side lane you would never guess that the Austrian consul lived here in the early 19th century. The front door of the building tells you little of what lies inside: an elegant hall that leads to eight tastefully restored rooms with period furniture from the consul's days, exposed beams, stucco and frescoes. Two look onto a canal.

ALLOGGI BARBARIA

Map pp100–1 Pensione/Locanda €€

☎ 041 522 27 50; www.alloggiabarbaria.it; Calle delle Cappuccine 6573; s/d €120/150; 📍 Ospedale The six rooms in this cheerful *pensione* are white, bright and roomy, with tiled floors and attractive, functional furniture. It's a little out of the way up near the Fondamente

Nuove, but that is part of its charm. Take breakfast on the little balcony. Prices rarely hit the quoted maximums.

LOCANDA SANT'ANNA

Map pp100–1 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 528 64 66; www.locandasantanna.com; Corte del Bianco 269; d €120, s/d without bathroom €60/80; 📍 San Pietro; 🚻 📺

Hidden away in the east of Castello, you can't get much further from the heart of Venice and still be there! This is a real residential quarter and may appeal to some for that reason alone. Rooms are modest but comfortable, with dark timber furnishings and parquet floors. The top-floor room has a terrace.

FORESTERIA VALDESE

Map pp100–1 Religious Institution €

☎ 041 528 67 97; www.diaconivaldesi.org/venezia; Palazzo Cavagnis 5170; dm €21-24, d €60-93; 📍 Ospedale

This is in a rambling 17th-century-old mansion (slowly being restored since 1994!) near Campo Santa Maria Formosa. Head east from the square on Calle Lunga Santa Maria Formosa, cross the small bridge and the Foresteria is in front of you. The rates of doubles depend on the room.

AROUND THE LAGOON

From the luxury villas of the Lido and Giudecca's Cipriani to a Burano *pensione* and a rural hideaway on little-visited Sant'Erasmus, there are plenty of options outside Venice. Most Lido hotels close from December to April.

A DOGEY DEATH

When Doge Vitale Michiel returned to Venice with the sorry remains of his fleet in May 1172, he must have known things weren't going to go well for him. He had set off in the previous September with a fleet of 120 vessels to avenge assaults on the Venetian community in Constantinople. Unfortunately, he agreed to talks.

While his negotiators got bogged down in fruitless chitchat, his idle fleet at the island of Chios collapsed as plague broke out. Michiel had little alternative but to go home – taking the plague with him.

Sensing the mounting anger as he gave his sorry report in the Palazzo Ducale, he realised he would have to flee. He didn't get far. Scampering east along the Riva degli Schiavoni, he was met by the mob and killed. (A conflicting version of events says Michiel was on his way to the Chiesa di San Zaccaria for Mass when he was struck down.)

When things had settled, the city's leaders searched for, tried and executed the assassin. If anyone was going to do the killing around here, it was the State. The man's house was found to be at Calle delle Rasse, near the spot where Michiel met his end, and was flattened. It was decreed that no building of stone should be raised on the site.

The decree was respected until 1948. When it was finally repealed, the silent vacuum of reproach was filled with the rather Mussolini-esque expansion of the Hotel Danieli, an ugly sister that sits uncomfortably beside Palazzo Dandolo, the hotel's magnificent main home.

HOTEL CIPRIANI

Map p109 Hotel €€€

☎ 041 520 77 44; www.hotelpcpriani.it; Giudecca 10; s/d from €755/850; 📍 Zitelle; 🚻 📺 📺

Occupying virtually the whole eastern chunk of the island, this deluxe place is set in the one-time villa of the Mocenigo family (see From Bellinis to Manhattan, [p183](#)). It's surrounded by lavish grounds and pools, and has unbeatable lagoon views. Rooms and suites are spread out across several grand *palazzi*, some with gardens, others directly on the Canale della Giudecca. Prices vary enormously depending on room and season.

ALBERGO QUATTRO FONTANE

Map p116 Hotel €€€

☎ 041 526 02 27; www.quattrofontane.com; Via Quattro Fontane 16, Lido; s/d €280/450; 🗓 Apr-Nov; 📍 Lido; 🚻 📺

With some of the feel of an Alpine chalet, this grand country house set in luxuriant gardens is a wonderful place to call home. This hotel's rooms, of varying types and sizes, are graced with iron bedsteads and in some cases balconies. You can dine indoors or in the gardens, which also house a tennis court. Prices can easily drop 50% in April and May and after the film festival is over.

SAN CLEMENTE PALACE

Map p116 Hotel €€€

☎ 041 244 50 01; www.sanclemente.thi.it; Isola di San Clemente; s/d €370/410; 🚻 📺 📺

The rose-coloured buildings of the restored one-time monastery and madhouse

of San Clemente make a unique setting. The hotel has 205 rooms and suites, two swimming pools, tennis courts, a golf course, conference space and wonderful gardens. The views out over the lagoon towards southern Venice and the Lido are truly romantic. There's a private shuttle boat that runs to the hotel from the Alilaguna airport boat stop at San Zaccaria (Map pp62–3).

VILLA MABAPA Map p116 Hotel €€

☎ 041 526 05 90; www.villamabapa.com; Riviera San Nicolò 16, Lido; s €127, d €168-339; 🏠 Lido; 🚿 🚿

A grand old residence dating from the 1930s with a couple of annexes, the villa is well worth making an effort for. Rooms in the main building are elegantly appointed in Art Nouveau period furniture and look back across the lagoon to Venice. You can dine well in the garden.

ALBERGO BELVEDERE

Map p116 Hotel €€

☎ 041 526 01 15; www.belvedere-venezia.com; Piazzale Santa Maria Elisabetta 4, Lido; s/d €183/261; 🏠 Lido; 🚿

People have been staying here since 1857. Rooms are comfortable, if a little standard, but most have views across the lagoon to Venice, and you couldn't be closer to the vaporetto stop. The hotel has a private stretch of beach. Prices collapse out of season.

HOTEL VILLA CIPRO

Map p116 Hotel €€

☎ 041 73 15 38; www.hotelvillacipro.com; Via Zara 2, Lido; s/d €160/180; 🏠 Lido; 🚿

A charming villa set in lush gardens only a short walk from the vaporetto stop, the Villa Cipriani offers spacious, elegantly decorated rooms, some with balconies that overlook the charming grounds. A highlight is taking breakfast in the leafy courtyard.

LOCANDA CIPRIANI

Map p114 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 041 73 01 50; www.locandacipriani.com; Piazza Santa Fosca 29, Torcello; r per person €130, half-board €180; 🚫 closed Jan; 🏠 Torcello

Feel like following in Papa's footsteps (see the All in the Family boxed text on opposite)? Sleep in his very bed in one

of the six spacious, tranquil rooms (no TV) at this country-lagoon getaway that found favour with Hemingway (and other celebs). The restaurant (open for lunch daily except Tuesday and for dinner Friday and Saturday) is excellent, so half-board is recommended. Rooms at Hotel Villa Cipriani have high ceilings and feel more like rustic studio apartments.

LOCANDA CONTERIE

Map p113 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 527 50 03; www.locandaconterie.com; Calle Conterie 12, Murano; s/d €100/110; 🏠 Museo; 🚿

A bright, renovated two-storey house in a narrow lane running inland from Campo San Donato could make the perfect hide-away if you crave the peace of a lagoon island that pretty much empties of tourists at night. Rose and white Venetian décor dominates the crisp, pleasant rooms at this *pensione*.

HOTEL AL SOFFIADOR

Map p113 Hotel €

☎ 041 73 94 30; www.venicehotel.it; Calle Bressaglio 10, Murano; s €40-60, d €60-98; 🏠 Faro; 🚿

A simple hotel connected to a bar, this spot offers straightforward rooms a breath away from several glass factories in the busier part of the island. There's a little garden out the back.

LOCANDA AL RASPO DE UA

Map p114 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 73 00 95; www.alraspodeua.it; Via Galuppi 560, Burano; s/d €45/85; 🏠 Burano; 🚿

This modest *locanda* on Burano's main drag is the only hotel on the island and could make your Venetian visit a quite different experience. After the last day-trippers head back to Venice at night, it's just you and the locals on this pretty pastel islet. Rooms with parquet are simple but cheerful.

PENSIONE LA PERGOLA

Map p116 Pensione/Locanda €

☎ 041 526 07 84; Via Cipriani 15, Lido; s/d without bathroom €45/65, d €85; 🏠 Lido; 🚿

This homy *pensione*, just off Gran Viale Santa Maria Elisabetta, is an excellent budget deal if you want to base yourself near the beach and make the trip into Venice when it suits you. The rooms are basic but pleasant enough.

RESIDENZA JUNGHANS

Map p109 Hostel €

☎ 041 521 08 01; www.residenzajunghans.com, in Italian; Terzo Ramo della Palada 394, Giudecca; s/d €40/70; 🏠 Palanca

A Spartan but spotless student residence with room for more than 90 people in singles and doubles, the Junghans is conveniently located midway along the island of Giudecca. The site was once occupied by factories and warehouses.

IL LATO AZZURRO

Map p60 Hotel €

☎ 041 244 49 00; www.latoazzurro.it; Via Forti 13, Sant'Erasmo; dm/s/d €30/52/78; 🏠 Sant'Erasmo Capannone

This is a unique and rather un-Venetian experience: sleep on the island that was traditionally Venice's market garden, Sant'Erasmo. Pleasant, spacious rooms give onto a veranda. If you choose to eat here, you will be presented with a largely

vegetarian menu of home-grown products. Bring mosquito repellent.

OSTELLO VENEZIA Map p109 Hostel €

☎ 041 523 82 11; venezia@ostellonline.it; Fondamenta della Croce 86, Giudecca; dm incl breakfast €20; 🚿 check-in 1.30-11.30pm; 🏠 Zitelle

This Hostelling International (HI) property is open to members only, but you can become a member here. Evening meals are available for €9.50, and there are family rooms. The hostel is a good place to meet other budget travellers.

THE MAINLAND

Only 10 to 15 minutes away on city buses 2 and 7 (the former passes Mestre train station) or by train, Mestre is a drab, if sometimes necessary, alternative to staying in Venice. There are a number of good hotels, as well as plenty of cafés and places to eat around the main square.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Son of film-maker Tinto Brass (see p53) and grandson of Giuseppe Cipriani, Bonifacio Brass is a rare breed. A Venetian born in Rome, with a successful career as a photographer, he opted instead to take over the family's rustic jewel, the Locanda Cipriani on Torcello, a year after Giuseppe's death in 1980 (for more on the Cipriani clan, see p183). He has run it ever since.

Isn't it a pain commuting to and fro between Venice and Torcello?

In London, I was getting up at 7.30 every morning to do 50 minutes in the Tube. In Rome, it takes an hour and a half fighting traffic to get to our house. Here, with the vaporetto, it's much more pleasant! You read, sleep, work on the computer (but I prefer not to stress too much with the computer). And in Venice you can't be in too much of a hurry. That's something you learn quickly.

Among the many photos on the wall, are postcards from Hemingway in Cuba for Christmas.

My grandfather told me that Hemingway fell in love with the place when he brought him here. And so he kept it open just for Hemingway through the winter of 1948. He would go hunting... and he was a great drinker. But then that's no secret.

You've seen a lot of VIPs come through...

I was especially touched by Prince Charles and Lady Diana. She was still very young. The day they came for lunch we had a wedding party. Obviously we can't just cancel such an event. They were fine with this and we set them up in a separate room. They even greeted the wedding party on their way out.

Any problems with paparazzi?

No. We know each other and I was a photographer too, so I know how these things work. They respect the rules. This is my place and no-one comes in without my consent.

How did you end up taking over the locanda?

My parents didn't want me to. I was doing well as a photographer and I still work with my father on films now and then. I like the cinema, but I have a passion for this place.

Do you feel Venetian or Roman?

Neither. I think of myself more as a citizen of the world. Let's say that Venice is a nice city but it can't be compared with Rome. And in that way I am probably more critical of certain aspects of Venice. And Rome is a beautiful city.

Some say Venice will disappear one day.

I am an optimist. I don't want Venice to disappear. I don't want anything to disappear. I dive a lot in the Maldives and I don't want them to disappear either!

HOTEL VIVIT

Map p121

Hotel €

☎ 041 95 13 85; www.hotelvivit.com; Piazza Ferretto 75; s/d €93/118; bus 2 & 7; 🅇 🅈

In the heart of Mestre's central, lively pedestrianised square, this hotel is housed in a cumbersome-looking *palazzo* dating to the early 1900s. Comfortable rooms with parquet floors and crisp, clean bathrooms are pleasant enough, and the buffet breakfast isn't bad. If you have to be in Mestre,

this is about as atmospheric a spot as you will find.

HOTEL MONTE PIANA Map p121 Hotel €

☎ 041 92 62 42; www.hotelmontepiana.it, in Italian; Via Monte San Michele 17; d €90; train

This is a quiet, family-run hotel in a residential street only a few hundred metres from the station. For what you pay, the 20 rooms are surprisingly sparkling and spacious. Breakfast is extra (€7).

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