

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2015

Sirmione Castle, Lake Garda © Manfred Heyde

Art Cities of the Veneto and Venice Biennale

VERONA – VICENZA – CASTELFRANCO – VENICE

with Lorraine Kypiotis
08–23 June 2015 (16 days)



Art Cities of the Veneto and Venice Biennale



TOUR LEADER

Lorraine Kypiotis
MA; BA; Dip.Ed.

Lorraine is passionate about art, life and travel. She is equally passionate about sharing her knowledge and is currently a lecturer in the Department of Art History at the National Art School in Sydney. She is also a frequent and popular guest lecturer at the AGNSW.

Lorraine holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Sydney in Renaissance Studies and is currently engaged in a Master of Philosophy in Fine Arts. She has travelled extensively throughout Europe and has led a number of art tours to Italy.

Stretching from the lagoon of Venice to Lake Garda, the Veneto region abounds in the best of Italy: its art and architecture, food and wine, history and heritage, and a variety of landscapes.

Staying in Verona, Vicenza, Castelfranco Veneto and Venice, explore the nearby smaller 'art cities' of Mantua, Padua and Treviso and go 'off the beaten track' to Asolo, Marostica, Bassano da Grappa, the 'prosecco route' and the villas of the Brenta Canal.

Throughout the region, there will be a special focus on the architecture of Palladio and his followers. The tour will conclude in La Serenissima, with ample time to explore the 2015 Venice Biennale.

At a glance

- Enjoy leisurely stays in Verona, Vicenza, Castelfranco Veneto and Venice.
- Explore the smaller 'art cities' and less visited towns and regions of the Veneto.
- Discover the rich heritage of Palladian architecture throughout.
- Finish with two days at the Venice Biennale.
- Experience the regional cuisines and wines of the Veneto, famed for its gastronomy.



Itinerary

Sun 07 June 2015

Depart Australia

Suggested departure from Australia on Qantas / Emirates via Dubai.

Mon 08 June

Arrive Verona

Early afternoon arrival at Venice International Airport. After immigration, luggage collection and customs transfer by coach to Verona (130 km, approx. 2 hr). Tour members arriving on earlier flights may join this transfer.

Afternoon at leisure before an evening welcome briefing, cocktails and light refreshments. **C**

Tue 09 June

Verona

Following a morning talk, begin your exploration of Verona with a visit to the Roman Arena and walk through the town centre via Piazza Erbe and Piazza Signori and the Arche Scagliere, the finest medieval tomb-complex in Italy. Continue to the church of Sant'Anastasia to view Pisanello's fresco of *St George and the Princess* (c. 1436). From the Porta Borsari walk via the 16th century palaces, Palazzo Canossa and Palazzo Bevilacqua.

After lunch walk to the Castelvecchio, which contains works by the great northern Italian painters Mantegna, Giovanni Bellini, Veronese, Lotto. Continue on to the great Romanesque church of San Zeno Maggiore, with Mantegna's masterpiece, the San Zeno Triptych (1457–59). Return to the hotel via the Duomo, which contains an altarpiece by Titian, and San Stefano which dates back to the early 12th century. **B L**

Wed 10 June

Verona (Mantua)

Full day excursion to Mantua. Visit the Ducal Palace, a vast sprawl which evolved during 300 years of more or less continuous building. The high point is the Camera degli Sposi, one of the foremost achievements of Renaissance illusionistic painting, featuring Mantegna's frescoes. Continue on to Sant'Andrea, Alberti's most ambitious and coherent building.

After a break on your own for lunch visit the Fondazione d'Arco, which is housed inside the former Renaissance home of the

aristocratic d'Arco family. Its impressive collection includes 18th century artwork, furniture and ceramics. Finish with Giulio Romano's Mannerist folly, the Palazzo del Te, the jewel of which is the Sala dei Giganti. The entire Palazzo reflects the Gonzaga's struggle for power and desire for love. **B**

Thu 11 June

Verona (Lake Garda)

Today's excursion takes you to Lake Garda and the pretty town of Sirmione located on the southern shore of the lake, perched on the end of a long promontory. Sirmione's beautiful setting was praised by the Roman poet Catullus. The town's narrow medieval streets bustle with colour and life, and its most striking feature is the moated castle, Rocca Scaligera. Enjoy a scenic cruise and visit to the Isola del Garda. Return to Verona in the afternoon. **B L**

Fri 12 June

Verona

Following a morning talk, the rest of the morning is at leisure to further explore Verona on your own.

In the afternoon, visit two private villas in the environs of Verona. First visit the spectacular gardens of the Palazzo Giusti, developed in the sixteenth century on the hill of on the model of the Tuscan Renaissance gardens. Continue to the Villa Allegri Arvedi, a typical Venetian villa dating back to the 16th century. The villa, standing on a turfed terrace, looks out onto a parterre – the only one of its kind in Italy – characterised by elegant double-fan-shaped drawings in century-old box hedges. **B**

Sat 13 June

Verona – Vicenza

Morning transfer from Verona to Vicenza.

Following a panoramic view of the Vicenza region from the Piazza della Vittoria, enjoy an afternoon walking tour of the historic city centre, a showcase of Palladian architecture. Highlights include Palladio's Olympic Theatre, the Basilica Palladiana, the Palazzo Chiericati (housing the Civic Art Gallery) and the Palladio Museum at Palazzo Barbarano. **B D**



Sun 14 June

Vicenza

Spend a full day in the environs of Vicenza exploring a selection of villas designed by or inspired by Palladio. Begin on the outskirts of Vicenza with the Villa Rotonda, arguably Palladio's finest legacy to the architectural world. Continue to the Villa Valmarana ai Nani featuring frescoes by the 18th century master Tiepolo.

Lunch at leisure before heading north to the Thiene Castle, considered the most notable 15th-century Gothic building in the Vicenza area. It is an extraordinary example of a pre-Palladio villa, the only one of its kind and a benchmark in the evolution of the Veneto villa. **B D**

Mon 15 June

Vicenza

After a morning at leisure enjoy an afternoon tour to Bassano del Grappa, a pretty medieval town on the Brenta River in the foothills of the Dolomites. On the way, stop in Marostica, famous for its living chess event and cherry grappa. **B D**

Tue 16 June

Vicenza – (Padua) – Castelfranco Veneto

Morning departure from Vicenza for Padua where you will spend the day.

Start with a visit to the Arena Chapel (Capella Scrovegni) to see Giotto's great cycle of frescoes. Continue to the nearby Chiesa degli Eremitani to see the remnants of Mantegna's frescoes that barely survived bombing in World War II.

After a break for lunch visit the Byzantine-style Basilica of Sant'Antonio, containing great works by Donatello and Altichiero, and the Chapel of Sant'Antonio by Tullio Lombardo. The adjoining Beato Luca Chapel contains remarkable frescoes by Giusto de Menabuoi, while the Scuola del Santo houses early masterpieces by Titian. Continue to the Palazzo della Ragione, Duomo and Baptistery containing more frescoes by Giusto de Menabuoi.

Late afternoon transfer to Castelfranco Veneto, a small historic walled town, the birthplace of artist Giorgione. **B D**



Villa La Rotonda, Vicenza ©Marco Bagarella

Wed 17 June

Castelfranco Veneto (Treviso)

Following a morning talk, explore the nearby historic town of Treviso, surrounded by a city wall and crossed by three canals. Begin at the Piazza dei Signori, dominated by the Gothic Palazzo dei Trecento. Continue to the majestic Cathedral of San Pietro of Treviso with its seven domes. In the 15th and 16th century the neoclassical cathedral was built here in place of an old Romanesque church. Despite the monumental neo-classical design of the cathedral it houses inside a beautiful Romanesque crypt and a number of works by Italian masters. The altar painting 'The Annunciation' by Titian (1517) is one of his finest works. The frescoes in the Cappella Malchiostro are by Pordenone and were inspired by Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. In the Cappella del Sacramento there are beautiful sculptures by Pietro Lombardo from 1484.

Afternoon at leisure to further explore Treviso on your own before returning to Castelfranco Veneto. **B L**

Thu 18 June

Castelfranco Veneto

Enjoy a day in the picturesque hills and villages to the north of Castelfranco Veneto. This region is renowned for its wineries and, in particular, the production of *prosecco*, the delicious Italian sparkling wine.

Begin with a visit to the Canova Museum in Possagno, the birthplace and home of the great neo-classical sculptor Antonio Canova. Continue to Andrea Palladio's famous Villa Maser ('Villa Barbaro') for a visit, wine tasting and lunch. Return to Castelfranco Veneto via the medieval town of Asolo known as 'The City of a Hundred Horizons' for its mountain settings. **B L**

Fri 19 June

Castelfranco Veneto – Venice

Depart Castelfranco Veneto for Venice. On the way, spend the day visiting a selection of villas along the Brenta Canal, built in the 16th century to connect Venice with her inland empire. Following the establishment of the canal, numerous villas sprouted along its course, many designed by Palladio.

Late afternoon arrival in Venice. **B D**



Bassano del Grappa ©Museshare

Sat 20 June

Venice

On a morning walking tour of the Santa Croce district, you will visit three of the great cultural treasures of Venice: the Frari Basilica decorated by the great Venetian artists Giovanni Bellini and Tiziano; the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, housing Tintoretto's great pictorial cycle; and the Scuola Grande del Carmine featuring some of Tiepolo's most delightful ceiling frescoes.

Finish the morning with a typical light Venetian tapas-style lunch of *cicchietti* at a bacaro.

This afternoon pay your first visit to the Venice Biennale, widely regarded as the most important and prestigious event on the international contemporary arts calendar. Founded in 1895, it is the oldest and largest established biennale in the world. This afternoon you will visit the Biennale Gardens, dedicated to the individual national pavilions. The 2015 Venice Biennale will see the opening of the new Australian Pavilion, designed by Denton Corker Marshall, which will replace the first pavilion, a temporary structure designed by Philip Cox, which was built in 1988. The sole artist to represent Australia at the Venice Biennale 2015 is Fiona Hall AO. **B L**

Sun 21 June

Venice

This morning visit the Arsenale exhibition of the Venice Biennale, which will be curated by the Nigerian-born, German-based curator and museum director Okwui Enwezor. Enwezor was the curator of Documenta 11 in Kassel (2002), has organised biennials from Seville to South Korea and has been the director of Munich's Haus der Kunst since 2011.

Afternoon at leisure. **B**

Mon 22 June

Venice

Take a leisurely morning stroll to the Ca' Pesaro, A Baroque marble palazzo on the grand canal designed by Baldassare Longhena and now the museum of Modern Art.

Afternoon at leisure to explore, or re-explore Venice. You may wish to revisit the Biennale or any of the great art museums of Venice including the Accademia, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, the Museo Correr or the Ca'Rezzonico.



You might also like to explore the Piazza San Marco including the Byzantine Basilica di San Marco, the Palazzo Ducale and the Biblioteca Marciana, the library designed by Jacopo Sansovino.

Late afternoon, transfer to the Giudecca for a visit to some of the Biennale events in smaller private galleries and spaces, followed by a farewell dinner overlooking Venice. **B D**

Tue 23 June

Depart Venice

Tour arrangements conclude with a transfer to Venice International Airport for suggested afternoon departure on Emirates / Qantas flights, via Dubai. Tour members departing on later flights may also join this transfer. **B**





Kiss of Judas, Cappella Scrovegni (Arena Chapel), Padova



Canova Museum, Passagno © visittreviso.it



Prosecco region, Treviso

Tour Prices

Per person twin-share	AUD 8,950
Single supplement*	AUD 1,950
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	08 April 2015

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AGI508

Fitness level Moderate

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Suggested airline Emirates/Qantas

Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation in centrally located 4 and 5-star hotels with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner, C=Cocktails) including welcome and farewell meals. Wines with meals.
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on suggested flights.
- Lectures and talks by your tour leader throughout
- Comfortable air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares
- Transfers on arrival and departure if not travelling on suggested flights
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone, laundry, minibar etc.)
- Travel insurance

Your hotels★★★★

Verona – Grand Hotel Verona

Vicenza – Villa Michelangelo

Castelfranco Veneto – Hotel Alla Torre

Venice – Hotel Palazzo Giovanelli

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Terms & Conditions

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Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

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Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

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60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

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force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

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All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

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TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

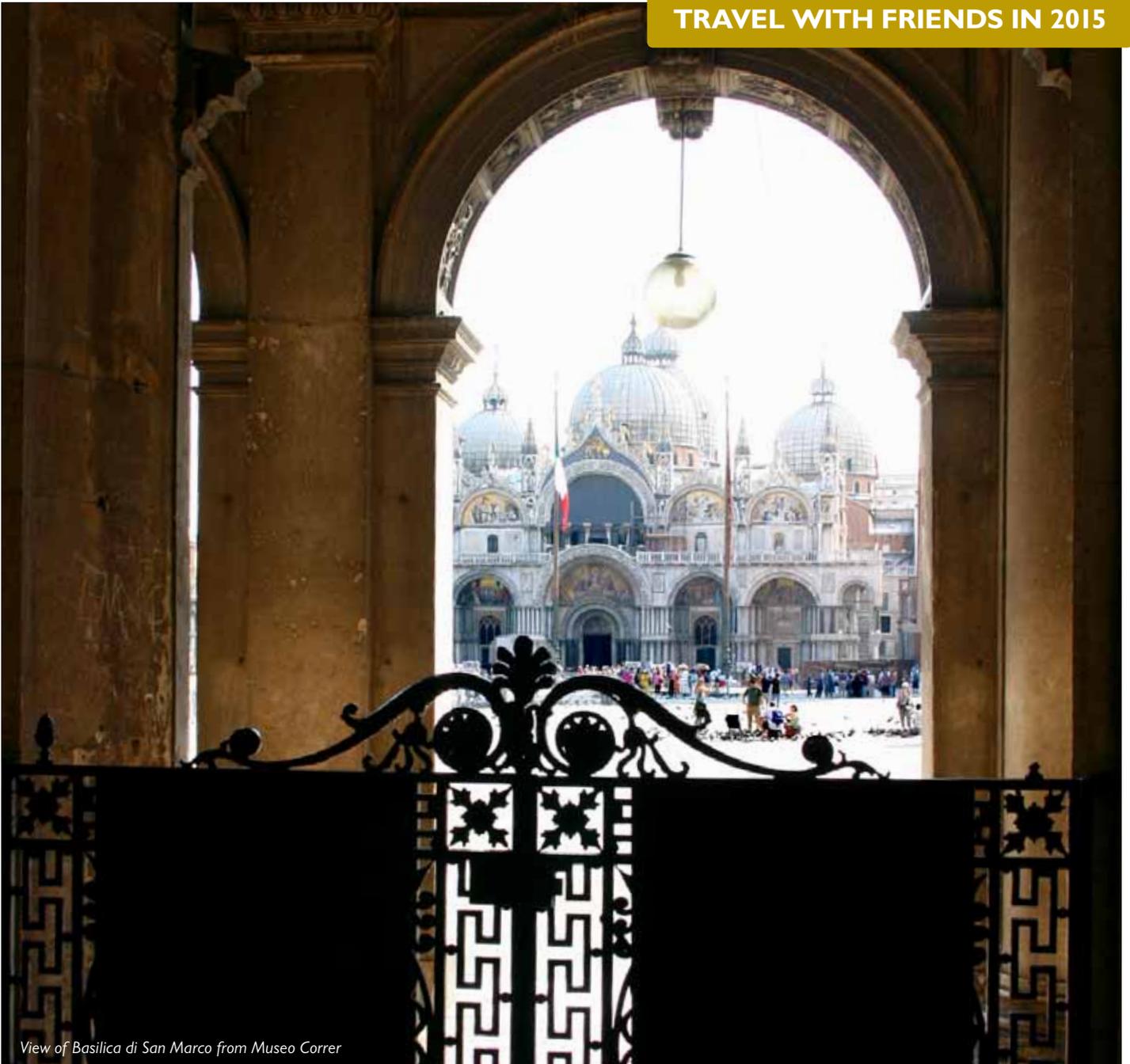
In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Grand Canal, Venice



View of Basilica di San Marco from Museo Correr

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Renaissance
Tours

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