



## **Conference Guide**

## Conference Venue

Conference Location: Russott Hotel

Russott Hotel

Positioned in strategic position, Russott Hotel Venezia is the ideal solution for who wants to use his car to reach Venice thanks to its private free of charge parking. It is in the new San Giuliano Park, one of the largest in Europe, wich offers numerous leisure activities with trails to jogging, cycling and walking.



Address: Via Orlanda 4I, 30173 San Giuliano, Venezia

Tel: +39 0415310500

Fax: +39 0415312278

Email: [info@russotthotels.com](mailto:info@russotthotels.com)

URL: <http://www.russotthotels.com/en/>

## History of Venice

Venice is a city in northeastern Italy sited on a group of 118 small islands separated by canals and linked by bridges. It is located in the marshy Venetian Lagoon which stretches along the shoreline, between the mouths of the Po and the Piave Rivers. Venice is renowned for the beauty of its setting, its architecture and its artworks. The city in its entirety is listed as a World Heritage Site, along with its lagoon. Venice is the capital of the Veneto region. In 2009, there were 270,098 people residing in Venice's comune (the population estimate of 272,000 inhabitants includes the population of the whole Comune of Venezia; around 60,000 in the historic city of Venice (Centro storico); 176,000 in Terraferma (the Mainland), mostly in the large frazioni of Mestre and Marghera; 31,000 live on other islands in the lagoon). Together with Padua and Treviso, the city is included in the Padua-Treviso-Venice Metropolitan Area (PATREVE), with a total population of 1,600,000. PATREVE is only a statistical metropolitan area without any degree of autonomy.



The name is derived from the ancient Veneti people who inhabited the region by the 10th century BC. The city historically was the capital of the Republic of Venice. Venice has been known as the "La Dominante", "Serenissima", "Queen of the Adriatic", "City of Water", "City of Masks", "City of Bridges", "The Floating City", and "City of Canals". Luigi Barzini described it in The New York Times as "undoubtedly the most beautiful city built by man". Venice has also been described by the Times Online as being one of Europe's most romantic cities. The Republic of Venice was a major maritime power during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and a staging area for the Crusades and the Battle of Lepanto, as well as a very important center of commerce (especially silk, grain, and spice) and art in the 13th century up to the end of the 17th century. This made Venice a wealthy city throughout most of its history. It is also known for its several important artistic movements, especially the Renaissance period. Venice has played an important role in the history of symphonic and operatic music, and it is the birthplace of Antonio Vivaldi.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venice#History>

## How to get to Venice

### Air:

**Venice Marco Polo Airport (IATA: VCE)** is the closest airport to central Venice, while Treviso airport is 70 minutes by bus from Piazzale Roma (the main Venice road terminus), is used by most low-cost airlines.

### Visa:

Before you start planning your travel to Italy you should visit the Ministry of foreign affairs web page to see if you need to get a visa. Italy is a member of the Schengen Area, and applies the Schengen legislation in full. The entry formalities for Italy vary according to the country of origin. All visitors entering Italy must possess a valid passport, or a valid picture ID in some cases.

Citizens of the EU/EEA member states and of the following countries may travel to Italy without a visa: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Macao, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Salvador, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela.

For more details: <http://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/home/en>

#### **Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE)**

**Address:** Viale Galileo Galilei, 30/1, 30173  
Venezia VE, Italy

**Tel.:** +39 041 260 9260

**URL:** <http://www.veniceairport.it/en/>

#### **Lost & Found office**

**Tel.:** +39 041 2609226

**URL:** <http://www.veniceairport.it/en/at-the-airport/lost--baggage.html>

## **How to get from the Airport to the Hotel**

### **By Public Transportation:**

#### **By Train:**

Venice has two rail stations. The first station that all Venice-bound trains enter is the Venice-Mestre Rail Station. This station does not bring you to Venice, but rather Mestre, mainland Venice. The rail station is located in Piazzale Favretti 1 - 30170 Mestre.

Useful numbers:

Tel: +39 041 892021 (timetable - tickets booking and sale)

Tel: +39 041 784319 (helpdesk)

Fax: +39 041 784498

For customers with disabilities:

Tel: +39 041 785570

Tel: +39 041 929472

Fax: +39 041 785038

#### Venice Santa Lucia Station

The rail station is located on Fondamenta S. Lucia - 30100 Venice.

Useful numbers:

Tel: +39 041 892021 (timetables)

Tel: +39 041 785670 (helpdesk)

Fax: +39 041 785038

For customers with disabilities:

Tel: +39 041 785570

Tel: +39 041 785038

For more information on train timetables: <http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>

#### **By Bus**

ACTV - The Azienda del Consorzio Trasporti Veneziano is the municipal public transport company that operates within the Municipality of Venice. It also runs the urban public transport services within the territory of the Municipality of Chioggia and the suburban lines in the province of Venice.

#### Urban bus lines

If you are on the Venetian mainland you can easily get around on one of the many ACTV buses that are in regular service from 05:00AM to 01:00AM. During the night hours some circular lines operate in connection with the night navigation service. Two urban circular lines link the city centre with the Ospedale dell'Angelo hospital. Some high frequency lines connect Mestre with Venice (Piazzale Roma and Tronchetto).

Bear in mind that certain lines that cover sections beyond the borders of the Municipality of Venice are subject to a suburban fare. These differ from the classic suburban lines both for the type of bus employed and for the urban line stops.

Standard urban bus stop sign:

- With a white background urban lines,
- with a blue background suburban lines,
- with a white and blue background, lines subject
- to either an urban or suburban fare and
- with a red background the T1 tram line with an urban fare

Lido and Pellestrina urban service:

four different lines serve the island of Lido di Venezia (Giralido) while another mixed land-water line connects Lido to the Island of Pellestrina and to the city of Chioggia, by means of a ferry boat that takes over in the points where the connection is possible only by sea. During the summer months the Lido urban service is increased.

### **By Waterbuses**

(Vaporetti) and road buses (which operate in Mestre on the mainland, and on the Lido) are run by ACTV. There are two main waterbus routes: from Santa Lucia station and Piazzale Roma road terminus, you can either head down the Grand Canal to Rialto and San Marco on the scenic lines 1 or 2, or loop around the main “island” of Venice to the north or south on the 4.1/4.2 or 5.1/5.2 lines. If you are heading for the Lido, the quickest routes are the 6 or (from San Marco only) the 10. For Murano, take the 4.2 (4.1 in the other direction). For the islands of the northern lagoon, take the 12 at Fondamente Nove on Venice’s northern shore; change to the 9 at Burano for Torcello.

Waterbus fare:

- Single - 7,00 € (valid for 60 minutes)
- 24 hours - 20,00 €
- Weekly - 50,00 €

## Water taxis

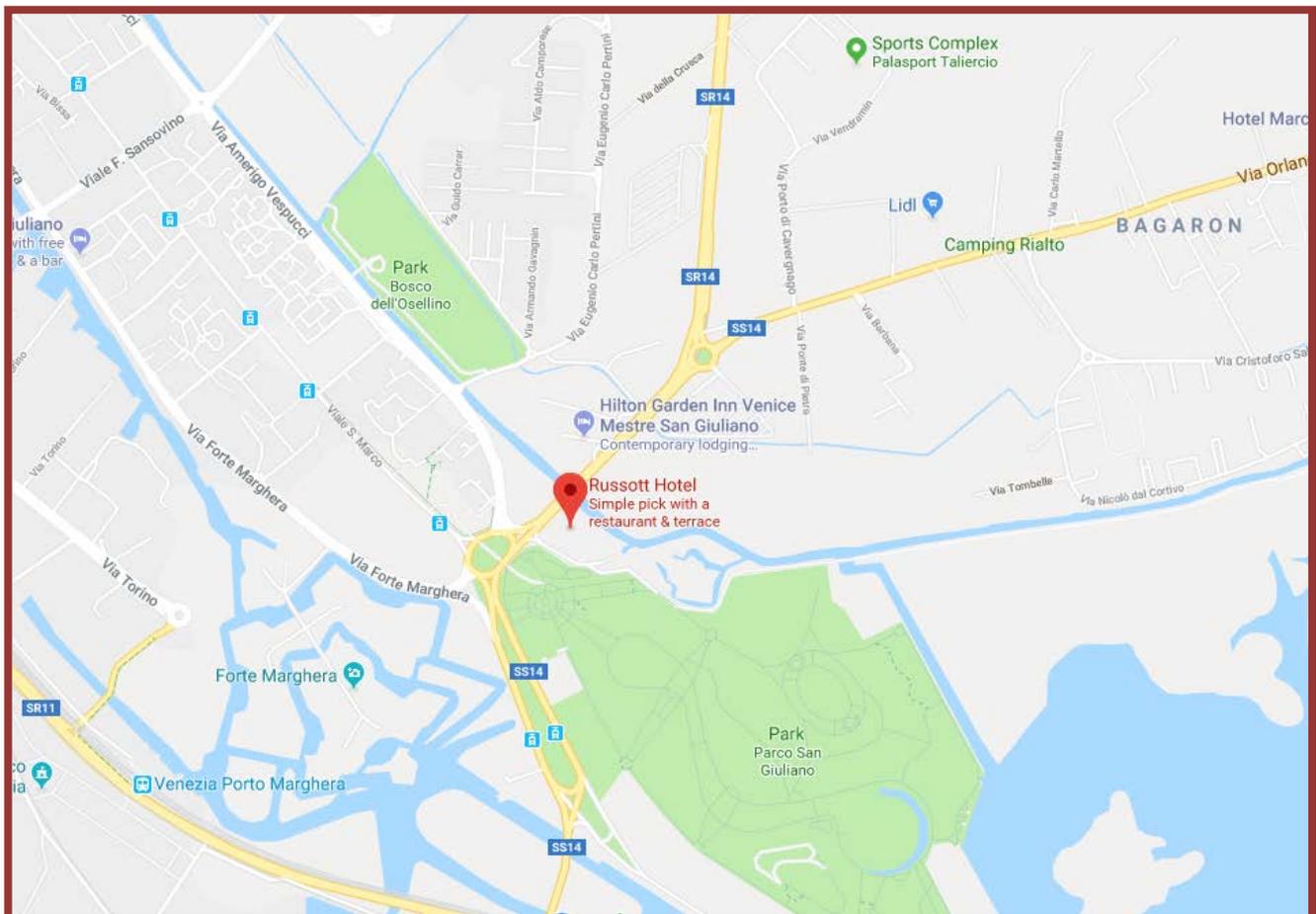
These sleek motorboats are a stylish and speedy way of getting around, but they are not cheap.

Types of Tickets:

- 60,00 € for up to five passengers (including luggage) to travel from the train station to Rialto or St Mark's
- 100,00 € up to five passengers (including luggage) from the airport to Venice or the Lido. Additional passengers pay 10,00 € (each), plus 5,00 € for luggage.

Tel: +39 041 5222303 (reservation)

For more details: <https://www.motoscafivenezia.it/eng/>



## PLACES TO VISIT

### Piazza San Marco

Piazza San Marco is the main square of Venice surrounded by chic sidewalk cafes and fancy shops. While it's a great place to enjoy the scenery and people, you will definitely pay top price to sit at an outdoor table. In the evening, you can listen to live music, too. Walking in the piazza and taking photos is, of course, free. The Basilica of San Marco overlooks one of the most beautiful squares in the world, a real marble salon, the city center for centuries. Next to both the Basilica and the Doge's Palace, all the most important religious and civil ceremonies have always been held there and now the Piazza San Marco is considered the city's main symbol and tourist attraction. This great square overlooking the water is a mixture of spaces, volumes and styles: the Procurator's residence, the bell tower, the Doge's Palace and the Sansoviniana Bookshop. On Ascension day, the Doge and the city's most important members got on board and sailed out to the Adriatic, to the Lido port.

### Saint Mark's Basilica

The mightiest of Venetian monuments, the one that really shows the greatness of Venice is undoubtedly the Basilica of San Marco. It was built over several centuries, frequently transformed and enriched with precious treasures, often from the Far East. Its architecture, a mixture of Byzantine, Roman and Venetian, is the work of artists and craftsmen coming from all over. It can be considered a real laboratory, a living organism, developing and transforming over the centuries. The story goes that Mark, one the four Evangelists together with Luke, Mathew and John, was given the task of writing his Gospel by Peter himself and did so in Rome. The Venetians chose him as their patron saint because of his ties with Rome thus declaring their independence of the Byzantine Church. The church facade is a gothic masterpiece, a rich composition of columns, arches, spires and reliefs that as in all medieval churches often represent characters, crafts or scenes from daily life. It even shows an old man biting his hand: legend has it that this is the church architect, removed from his position when he said that he could have built an even more beautiful one. The Church structure is enormous: five great arches support five gigantic domes. Yet all this architecture seems just to dissolve into the golden gleam of the mosaics, the most extraordinary, engaging sight.

**Address:** San Marco, 328, Venezia, Italy

**Opening hours:** Monday-Saturday 9:45AM-5PM  
Sunday 2-5 PM



## Doge's Palace

Palazzo Ducale, also on St. Mark's Square, is the most impressive building in Venice and well worth a tour. It was the political and judicial hub of Venetian government until the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797. The palace was connected to its prisons by the famous "Bridge of Sighs". The Palace is the most representative symbol of Venice's culture, which, together with the Basilica of San Marco at the back and the Piazzetta in the forefront, forms of the most famous sceneries in the world. For centuries the Doge's Palace had three fundamental roles: as the Doge residence, the seat of government and as the palace of justice. This was where some of the most important decisions for Venice's, and even Europe's destiny were taken.

**Address:** San Marco, 1, 30124 Venezia, Italy

**Opening hours:** Monday-Sunday 8:30AM–7PM

## Galleria del'Accademia

The monumental estate of the Accademia Galleries is located in the prestigious centre of the Scuola Grande of Santa Maria della Carità, one of the most ancient lay fraternal orders of the city. The homonymous church of Santa Maria and the monastery of the Canonici Lateranensi, built by Andrea Palladio, are integral parts of the Accademia. A very rich collection of Venetian paintings from Veneto as well, from the Bizantine and Gothic fourteenth century to the artists of the Renaissance, Bellini, Carpaccio, Giorgione, Veronese, Tintoretto and Tiziano until Gianbattista Tiepolo and the Vedutisti of the eighteenth century, Canaletto, Guardi, Bellotto, Longhi. These artists will influence the whole history of European painting.

**Address:** Campo della Carita, 1050, 30123 Venezia, Italy

**Phone:** +39 041 520 0345

For more details you can visit the official site:

**URL:** <http://www.gallerieaccademia.org/the-museum/?lang=en>



## Murano Island

Murano is a series of islands linked by bridges in the Venetian Lagoon, northern Italy. It lies about 1.5 kilometres (0.9 miles) north of Venice and measures about 1.5 km (0.9 mi) across with a population of just over 5,000 (2004 figures). It is famous for its glass making. It was once an independent commune, but is now a fraction of the commune of Venice. Murano was initially settled by the Romans and from the sixth century by people from Altinum and Oderzo. At first, the island prospered as a fishing port and through its production of salt. It was also a centre for trade through the port it controlled on Sant'Erasmus. From the eleventh century, it began to decline as islanders moved to Dorsoduro. It had a Grand Council, like that of Venice, but from the thirteenth century, Murano was ultimately governed by a podestà from Venice. Unlike the other islands in the Lagoon, Murano minted its own coins. Early in the second millennium hermits of the Camaldolese Order occupied one of the islands, seeking a place of solitude for their way of life. There they founded the Monastery of St. Michael. This monastery became a great center of learning and printing. The famous cartographer, Fra Mauro, whose maps were crucial to the European exploration of the world, was a monk of this community. The monastery was suppressed in 1810 by French forces under Napoleon, in the course of their conquest of the Italian peninsula, and the monks were expelled in 1814. The grounds then became Venice's major cemetery. In 1291, all the glassmakers in Venice were forced to move to Murano due to the risk of fires. In the following century, exports began, and the island became famous, initially for glass beads and mirrors. Aventurine glass was invented on the island, and for a while Murano was the main producer of glass in Europe. The island later became known for chandeliers. Although decline set in during the eighteenth century, glassmaking is still the island's main industry. In the fifteenth century, the island became popular as a resort for Venetians, and palaces were built, but this later declined. The countryside of the island was known for its orchards and vegetable gardens until the nineteenth century, when more housing was built. Attractions on the island include the Church of Santa Maria e San Donato (known for its twelfth-century Byzantine mosaic pavement and said to house the bones of the dragon slain by Saint Donatus in the 4th century), the church of San Pietro Martire with the chapel of the Ballarin family built in 1506 and artworks by Giovanni Bellini, and the Palazzo da Mula. Glass-related attractions include the many glassworks, some Mediaeval and most open to the public, and the Murano Glass Museum, housed in the large Palazzo Giustinian.



## Burano Island

Burano is an island in the Venetian Lagoon, northern Italy; like Venice itself, it could more correctly be called an archipelago of four islands linked by bridges. It is situated near Torcello at the northern end of the Lagoon, and is known for its lace work and brightly coloured homes. The primary economy today is tourism as visitors arrive for sightseeing and to purchase lace goods. The island was probably settled by the Romans, and in the 6th century was occupied by people from Altino, who named it for one of the gates of their former city. Two stories are attributed to how the city obtained its name. One is that it was initially founded by the Buriana family, and another is that the first settlers of Burano came from the small island of Buranello, about 8 kilometres (5 miles) to the south. Although the island soon became a thriving settlement, it was administered from Torcello and had none of the privileges of that island or of Murano. It rose in importance only in the 16th century, when women on the island began making lace with needles, being introduced to such a trade via Venetian-ruled Cyprus. When Leonardo da Vinci visited in 1481, he visited the small town of Lefkara and purchased a cloth for the main altar of the Duomo di Milano. The lace was soon exported across Europe, but trade began to decline in the 18th century and the industry did not revive until 1872, when a school of lacemaking was opened. Lacemaking on the island boomed again, but few now make lace in the traditional manner as it is extremely time-consuming and therefore expensive.



## BRIDGES

### **The Bridge of Sighs**

The Bridge of Sighs (Italian: Ponte dei Sospiri) is a bridge located in Venice, northern Italy. The enclosed bridge is made of white limestone and has windows with stone bars. It passes over the Rio di Palazzo and connects the New Prison to the interrogation rooms in the Doge's Palace. It was designed by Antoni Contino (whose uncle Antonio da Ponte had designed the Rialto Bridge) and was built in 1602.

### **Rialto Bridge (Ponte di Rialto)**

The main bridge crossing the Grand Canal in the heart of Venice, is over 400 years old. Nearby is the Rialto Market, an interesting and lively food market with lots of little shops.



## GONDOLAS

These days, gondolas are mostly used for scenic purposes instead of actual transport from point A to point B. There are many stops dotted around the areas frequented by tourists and they are readily obvious, even when the gondolieri dress in something warmer than straw boaters and striped tops. (Daytime) Prices start at around 80 EUR for 30 minutes and gondolas comfortably take 4 people, with a maximum of 6. Seated only, with some seats facing backwards. Special arrangements can be made to serve your interests (special routes, photo shoots, etc.). The traghetto is the cheapest way to cross the Grand Canal without using the bridges. These are public shared gondolas operated by two gondolieri and are a lot cheaper than paying €80 for a private one. It costs only 2 Euros per person (cash only, preferably coins!) for tourists (70 cents for locals) - you can then say you went in a gondola, even if it was only for a couple of minutes! There are 7 piers for traghetti along the canal. Simply look for straight lines across the canal in the map, or follow the "traghetto" signs. Bear in mind that you are expected to stand, especially when it's crowded and that luggage is usually not taken on.



## DINNING IN VENICE

### **Osteria Da Fiore**

Prestigious and exclusive premises welcome you offering high quality cuisine served in elegant and refined rooms. Once an old Venetian tavern, da Fiore has become, thanks to Mara and Maurizio Martin, one of the most famous restaurants of the city. Its high class service and its delicious gastronomic dishes have consolidated its fame up to now.

**Cuisine:** Italian

**Cost:** Moderate

**Address:** San Polo Calle del Scaleter, Venice, Italy

**Tel:** +39 041 721 308

### **Osteria Alle Testiere**

**Cuisine:** Italian

**Cost:** Moderate

**Address:** Calle del Mondo Novo, 5801, 30122 Venezia, Italy

**Tel:** +39 041 522 7220

**URL:** <http://www.osterialetestiere.it/>



## **MET Restaurant (Hotel Metropole)**

A brave choice, the new Tra'Contemporary concept, unique in the world, introduced into Venetian cuisine in rapid evolution. A Michelin star, because the uniqueness of this cuisine has amazed even the most discerning palates. A great success, because courage pays off and because there's no need to visit distant lands to find great cuisine. The backdrop is a setting which, just like the cuisine it represents, brings together tradition and modernity, combined with a taste for the beautiful and antiques.

**Address:** Riva Degli Schiavoni 4149, 30122 Venice, Italy

**Tel:** +39 041 5240034

**E-mail:** [met@hotelmetropole.com](mailto:met@hotelmetropole.com)

**URL:** <http://www.hotelmetropole.com/>

## **Il Ridotto**

Imaginative, seafood-oriented cuisine in an intimate restaurant with just 9 tables.

**Opening Hours:** Open 11:00-24:00, Wed, Thu, Fri 11:00-02:00, Sun 11:00-22:00

**Address:** Campo SS. Filippo e Giacomo, 4509, 30122 Sestiere di Castello, Venezia VE, Italy

**Tel:** +39 041 520 8280

**URL:** [http://www.ilridotto.com/02\\_homepage\\_ENG.htm](http://www.ilridotto.com/02_homepage_ENG.htm)



**Sources:**

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