

San Polo & Santa Croce

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Scuola Grande di San Rocco (p90) Seeing lightning strike indoors at this lavish museum, where Tintoretto's streaky brushwork illuminated hope in a time of plague, death and despair.

2 I Frari (p92) Watching Titian's red-hot Madonna

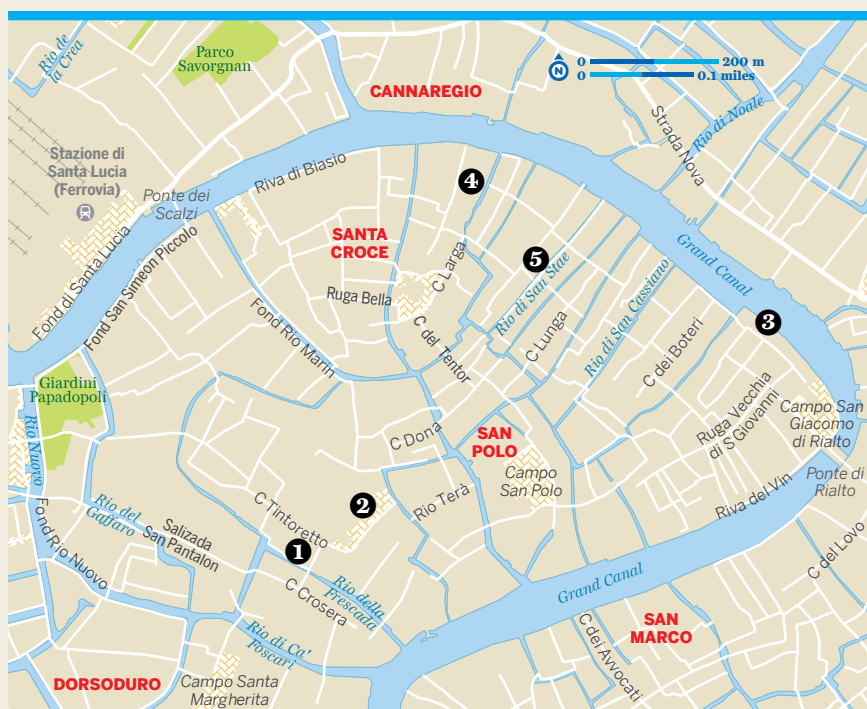
light up the room inside Gothic glory.

3 Rialto Market (p93) Working up a serious appetite over lagoon surf and turf at this gut-rumbling, produce-bursting market.

4 Museo di Storia Naturale di Venezia (p95) Following the trail of intrepid

Venetian explorers through a world of natural wonders and oddities.

5 Palazzo Mocenigo (p94) Posing like a Venetian at this tres-chic aristocratic pad turned ode to centuries of fashion, furnishings and exotic fragrances.



For more detail of this area see Map p270 and p273 →

Explore: San Polo & Santa Croce

So this is how Venice lives when it's not busy entertaining. These twin *sestieri* (districts) are a warren of winding lanes, in which you can easily lose yourself for hours browsing artisan studios and neighbourhood churches, before emerging in sunny *campi* (squares) where kids tear round on tricycles and adults sip *prosecco* (sparkling white wine) at ring-side bars.

Start the morning among masterpieces at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, then bask in the glow of Titian's Madonna at I Frari. Shop backstreet galleries and artisan studios all the way to the Rialto Market. Stop at All'Arco for *cicheti* (Venetian tapas) before breezing through elegant salons of fashion and scents at Palazzo Mocenigo. Alternatively, zip through millennia of natural history at the epic Museo di Storia Naturale di Venezia.

Next, swing by medieval San Giacomo dell'Orio for happy hour at Al Prosecco. Appetite-piqued, wander Venice's former red-light district to celebrated Antiche Carampane for dinner.

Local Life

- ➔ **Market mornings** Gently elbow fastidious chefs and *nonne* (grandmothers) on your quest for the morning's finest produce at the Rialto Market (p93).
- ➔ **Bacaro-hopping** Ringing the Rialto are *bacari* (bars) offering inventive Venetian bites with top-notch *ombre* (half-glasses of wine) at All'Arco (p96), Osteria alla Ciurma (p101), Al Mercà (p99) and Do Mori (p99).
- ➔ **Artisan studios** Despite skyrocketing rents, local artisans continue to design handmade treasures at Gilberto Penzo (p105), Veneziastampa (p103), Bottega Orafa ABC (p105) and Paperowl (p102).
- ➔ **Musical accompaniment** Take in lesser-known compositions inside a frescoed pleasure palace at Palazetto Bru Zane (p102), opera at the Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista (p102), or a sonata at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco (p90).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Vaporetto** Most *vaporetti* call at Piazzale Roma or Ferrovia at the northwestern corner of Santa Croce. For Santa Croce sights, San Stae, served by lines 1 and N (night), is most convenient. Lines 1 and N also service Rialto-Mercato and San Tomà, which is handy for I Frari and the Scuola Grande di San Rocco.
- ➔ **Traghetto** The San Tomà *traghetto* (ferry) nips across the Grand Canal to San Marco.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Many of Venice's best restaurants, artisan studios and *bacari* (bars) are in the backstreets of San Polo and Santa Croce – if you can find them. This is the easiest area in which to get lost, so allow extra time if you have dinner reservations or a powerful thirst. If totally lost, follow the flow of foot traffic toward yellow Rialto or Ferrovia signs or red-and-white Scuola Grande di San Rocco signs, or head to central Campo San Polo.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ All'Arco (p96)
- ➔ Antiche Carampane (p98)
- ➔ Osteria Trefanti (p97)
- ➔ Ristorante Glam (p99)
- ➔ Osteria La Zucca (p98)

For reviews, see p96. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Al Prosecco (p99)
- ➔ Al Mercà (p99)
- ➔ Bacareto Da Lele (p101)
- ➔ Cantina Do Spade (p99)
- ➔ Vineria all'Amarone (p99)

For reviews, see p99. ➔

Best Artisan Finds

- ➔ Paperowl (p102)
- ➔ Oh My Blue (p102)
- ➔ Pied à Terre (p102)
- ➔ Veneziastampa (p103)
- ➔ Gmeiner (p102)

For reviews, see p102. ➔