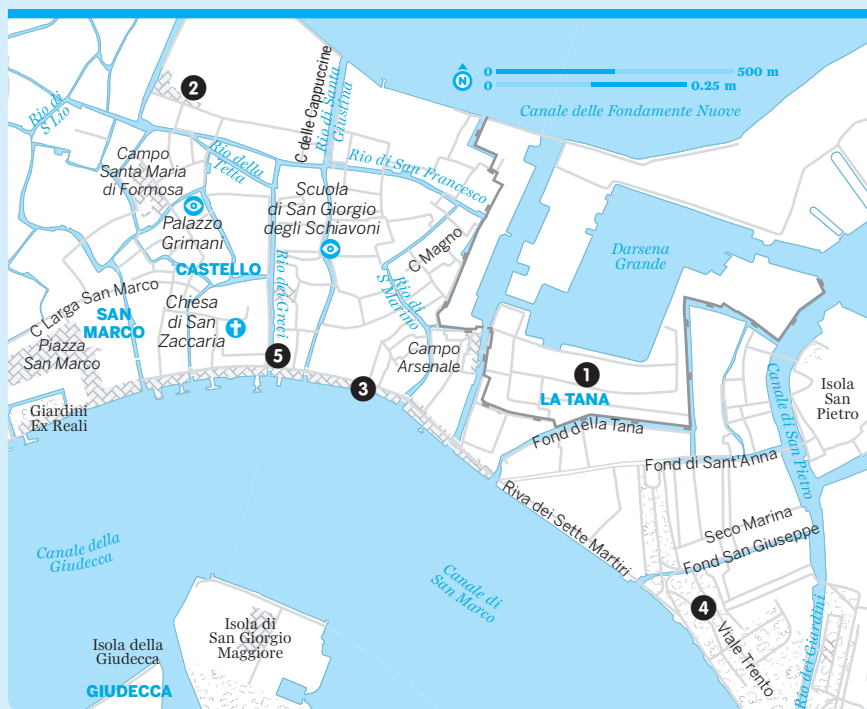


Sestiere di Castello

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Get an insider's view during special events at the **Arsenale** (p127), the Venetian Republic's vast honeycomb of a shipyard and once the world's best-kept industrial secret.
- 2 Gawk at the sheer scale of **Zanipolo** (p129), a 14th-century church packed with master works of painting and sculpture.
- 3 Take an early-morning stroll along **Riva degli Schiavoni** (p134), Castello's breathtaking waterfront promenade.
- 4 Take a break from brick and marble amid the leafy byways of Napoleon's **Giardini Pubblici** (p131).
- 5 Hear Vivaldi's music in acoustically tuned, frothily rococo **La Pietà** (p135), built in his honour.



Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Venice is always best early in the morning or after the crowds thin in the evening. This is especially true of the Riva degli Schiavoni, which is crowded from 9am to 9pm with day-trippers as cruises disgorge their maddening crowds. But if you can get yourself out of bed at sunrise, the seafront promenade makes for a magnificent and remarkably solitary morning constitutional – it's also a great chance to get people-free photos.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Trattoria Corte Sconta (p138)
- ➔ Met (p138)
- ➔ al Covo (p138) ➔
For reviews, see p138 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Enoteca Mascareta (p141)
- ➔ Bar Terazza Danieli (p142)
- ➔ L'olandese Volante (p142) ➔
For reviews, see p141 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Giovanna Zanella (p142)
- ➔ Sigfrido Cipolato (p143)
- ➔ Atelier Alessandro Merlini (p143) ➔
For reviews, see p142 ➔

Explore: Castello

Stretching from San Marco to the eastern edges of Venice, Castello is the city's most sprawling *sestiere* and exploring its entirety in one day will test walking shoes. Start with its most illustrious sites – the masterfully cavernous Zanipolo church, the golden glow of Carpaccio's paintings in the Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni and the light-filled galleries of Palazzo Grimani. All are within a stone's throw of San Marco and Rialto. Moving east, you'll reach the engine of the city's maritime might: the sprawling shipyards known simply as Arsenale. While the Arsenale is only open for special events, the nearby Museo Storico Navale helps fill in the city's watery history. East of the Arsenale lies a working-class stronghold where the phalanx of tourists thins dramatically. You're most likely to hear the Venetian dialect here, and it's good for a rough-and-ready *aperitivo* or hearty lunch. Continuing on, the leafy Giardini Pubblici is ground zero for Biennale events. Consider continuing on to the city's remotest reaches: Venice's cathedral on the island San Pietro del Castello and leafy, residential Isola di Sant'Elena – a kitsch, early-20th-century version of Venice itself. At sunset, head back along the Riva degli Schiavoni (perfect for a crowd-free early-morning jog), or climb aboard a *vaporetto* at one of the stops along the Riva. Or, consider staying on for dinner at the high-flying Met or rustically elegant Corte Sconta. Alternately, an *aperitivo* might lead naturally into a night of revelry – the bars lining Via Garibaldi will happily oblige.

Local Life

- ➔ **Drinking** Salt-of-the-earth Venetians mix promiscuously with their Bohemian neighbours in the bars along Via Garibaldi (p141).
- ➔ **Quick Eats** Locals drop in all day for *cicheti* at Bacaro Risorto (p140); *gondolieri* prefer their daily *spritz* (*prosecco* cocktail) at Pasticceria Da Bonifacio (p140).
- ➔ **Hangouts** *Nonne* (grandmothers) gather for afternoon gossip while their young charges kick balls across Campo di Bandiera e Mori, Campo Zanipolo and the Giardini Pubblici (p131).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Vaporetto** Line 1 makes all stops along the Riva Schiavoni, linking it with both Grand Canal stops and the Lido. Line 2 also heads up the Grand Canal. Lines 41, 42, 51 and 52 circle the outer perimeter of Venice, including stops along Riva degli Schiavoni and Giudecca.