

Explore: San Polo & Santa Croce

Start the morning among masterpieces at Scuola Grande di San Rocco, then bask in the glow of Titian's *Madonna di I Frari*. Shop backstreet boutiques all the way to the Rialto Market, where glistening purple octopi and feathery red *radicchio treviso* (chicory) present tantalising culinary photo-ops. Stop at All'Arco for *cicheti* (bar snacks), museum-hop from Ca' Pesaro to Palazzo Mocenigo, and take a breather in the Fondaco di Turchi garden or along the Grand Canal on sunny Riva di Biasio. Swing by Alaska for gelato en route to medieval San Giacomo dell'Orio, then wander the maze of Venice's former red-light district to Antiche Carampane for dinner. Classic movies at Casa del Cinema, opera at Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista or drinks at Al Muro provide suitably grand finales.

Local Life

- ➔ **Shopping obsessions** Museum collections are built around Venetian shopping habits at Ca' Pesaro (p101) and Palazzo Mocenigo (p101), and you can see how that might happen with museum-quality works at local artisans' studios (p110).
- ➔ **Hideouts** When Venetians shirk work, they bask in the sun at Campo San Giacomo dell'Orio, read novels along the canal at Tearoom Caffè Orientale (p106), play board games at Hosteria alla Poppa (p109), watch movie marathons at Casa del Cinema (p110), or daydream on the Grand Canal docks by Rialto Market (p102).
- ➔ **Cicheti central** Ringing the Rialto are authentic *bacari* (bars) offering inventive Venetian bites, best devoured standing with top-notch *ombre* (glasses of wine) at All'Arco (p104), Pronto Pesce Pronto (p106), Dai Zemei (p106), Al Mercà (p108), Al Pesador (p104) and Cantina Do Spade (p108).
- ➔ **Musical accompaniment** Look for upcoming opera in Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista (p110), live folk-rock acts around Campo San Giacomo dell'Orio (p109), Gregorian chants at Scuola Grande di San Rocco (p98) and summertime concerts in Summer Arena (p110) – or wait for jazz to spontaneously combust at Ai Postali (p109).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Vaporetto** Most *vaporetti* call at Piazzale Roma or Ferrovia at the northwest corner of Santa Croce. In San Polo, the Rialto stop is serviced by lines 1, 4 and N. Line 1 also calls at Riva de Biasio, San Stae (the N stops here too), San Silvestro and San Tomà (the N stops here as well). The Rialto-Mercato stop (line 1) is in use during the day only.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Many of the 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 place to get lost in, so allow extra time if you have dinner reservations. If totally lost, follow 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 (p104)
- ➔ Al Pesador (p104)
- ➔ Alaska Gelateria (p106)
- ➔ Pronto Pesce Pronto (p106)
- ➔ Antiche Carampane (p106)

For reviews, see p104 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Al Prosecco (p108)
- ➔ Al Mercà (p108)
- ➔ Cantina Do Spade (p108)
- ➔ Caffè Dei Frari (p109)
- ➔ Muro Vino E Cucina (p109)

For reviews, see p108 ➔

Best Artisan Finds

- ➔ Marbled-paper handbags at Cartè (p110)
- ➔ Pocket-sized, seaworthy gondolas at Gilberto Penzo (p110)
- ➔ Glass groceries at I Vetri a Lume di Amadi (p110)
- ➔ Embossed San Marco lion sketchbooks at Cartavenezia (p110)
- ➔ Furlane shoes at Pied à Terre (p111)