

# Sestiere di Castello

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Getting an insider's view during special events at the **Arsenale** (p139), the Venetian Republic's vast honeycomb of a shipyard and once the world's best-kept industrial secret.
- 2 Gawking at the sheer scale of **Zanipolo** (p141), a 14th-century church packed with master works of painting and sculpture.
- 3 Taking an early-morning stroll along **Riva degli Schiavoni** (p143), Castello's breathtaking waterfront promenade.
- 4 Taking a break from brick and marble amid the leafy byways of Napoleon's **Giardini Pubblici**. (p142)
- 5 Basking in the golden glow of Carpaccio's paintings in the **Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni** (p144).



## 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 packed from 9am to 9pm with day-trippers as cruises disgorge their madding 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 (p153)
- ▶ al Covo (p154)
- ▶ Osteria alla Staffa (p153)

For reviews, see p151 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ▶ La Serra (p154)
- ▶ Bar Terazza Danieli (p154)
- ▶ Bacaro Risorto (p154)

For reviews, see p154 ➔

### Best Places to Shop

- ▶ Sigfrido Cipolato (p155)
- ▶ Atelier Alessandro Merlin (p157)
- ▶ Al Campanil (p157)

For reviews, see p155 ➔

## Explore Sestiere di Castello

Stretching eastwards from San Marco, Castello is the city's most sprawling *sestiere* and exploring its entirety in one day will test walking shoes. Start with its most compelling sites – the masterfully grand Zanipolo church, Negroponte's rose-fringed Madonna in San Francesco della Vigna and Bellini's *Virgin Enthroned* in opulent San Zaccaria. All are within a stone's throw of San Marco and Rialto.

Moving east, you'll reach the engine of the city's seafaring might: the sprawling shipyards known simply as the Arsenale. While the Arsenale is only open for special events, the nearby Museo Storico Navale helps fill in the city's blockbuster maritime history. East of the Arsenale lie working-class neighbourhoods around Via Garibaldi and on the Isola di Sant'Elena. You're most likely to hear the Venetian dialect here, and it's a great place for an *aperitivo* (pre-dinner drink) or a local lunch.

The Napoleonic gardens, the pavilion-dotted Giardini Pubblici and the Parco Sant'Elena skirt the southern shore, the Giardini springing to life in summer months when Biennale events attract artists, architects and curators from around the world. In Castello's easternmost reaches visit Venice's first cathedral on the island of San Pietro del Castello before returning at sunset along the Riva dei Partigiani for sweeping views of San Giorgio Maggiore and the Bacino di San Marco.

## Local Life

▶ **Castello craftsmen** Away from the main tourist areas, Castello's artisans are freer to experiment. Don't miss 16th-century enamel work at Sigfrido Cipolato (p155), Alessandro Merlin's (p157) *sgraffito* ceramics and Giovanna Zanella's (p157) surreal shoes.

▶ **Backstreet bacaro** Locals drop in all day for *cicheti* at Bacaro Risorto (p154), Al Portego (p154) and El Rèfelo (p155); while *gondolieri* prefer their breakfast *cornetto* at Pasticceria Da Bonifacio (p151).

▶ **Outdoor living** *Nonne* (grandmothers) gather for afternoon gossip while their young charges kick balls across Campo di Bandiera e Mori, Campo Zanipolo and the Giardini Pubblici (p142).

## Getting There & Away

▶ **Vaporetto** Line 1 makes all stops along the Riva degli 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.