

Sestiere di San Marco

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Joining the chorus of gasps rippling through the crowd as you enter the **Basilica di San Marco** (p58) and look up to discover angels dancing across 8500 sq m of glittering golden mosaics.

2 Shouting *Brava!* for encore performances at **La**

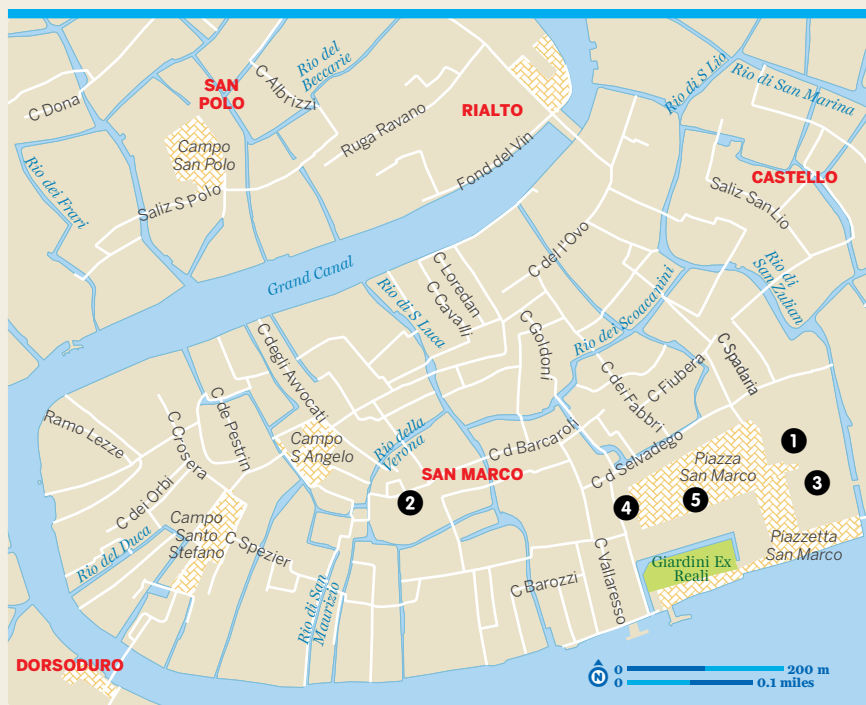
Fenice (p66), Venice's jewel-box opera house.

3 Discovering dark secrets lurking in the attic behind the rosy facade of **Palazzo Ducale** (p61).

4 Adopting a philosopher painted by Veronese, Titian or Tintoretto as your personal mentor at the Libreria

Marciana in **Museo Correr** (p73).

5 Tangoing across Piazza San Marco at sunset to the tune of the **Caffè Florian** (p76) orchestra.



Explore Sestiere di San Marco

Discover Venice's golden glories in the basilica and its dark secrets on the Palazzo Ducale Itinerari Segreti tour, then dive into backstreets to find artisan studios, contemporary art galleries and tasty *cicheti* (bar snacks). Detour for fashion and art shows at Museo Fortuny and sunset cocktails at Harry's Bar, but don't miss the overture at La Fenice. Return to moonlit Piazza San Marco for a tango across the square, and watch the Moors strike midnight atop Torre dell'Orologio, heralding another day in the life of San Marco's charmed existence.

Local Life

- ➔ **Cheap eats and fancy drinks** Skip sad congealed pizza slices around San Marco and trawl backstreets for bargain *cicheti* and top-notch Veneto wines at I Rusteghi (p76), Bacaro Da Fiore (p75) and Cavatappi (p76).
- ➔ **Musical stylings** Start on a high note at La Fenice (p66), go for baroque at Interpreti Veneziani (p78), tango at Caffè Florian (p76), tarantella at Caffè Lavena (p77) and hang on to your wine glass through soaring arias at Musica a Palazzo (p78).
- ➔ **Galleries** In the shadows of historic Santa Maria del Giglio and La Fenice are Venice's best contemporary art galleries, where international and Italian artists supply steady inspiration between Biennales.
- ➔ **Artisan finds** Mass-market designers line thoroughfares from the Rialto and Accademia to Piazza San Marco – but along the backstreets between, Venetian artisans still hand craft handbags, travel journals and glass jewellery.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Vaporetto** *Vaporetti* 1 and N stop along the Grand Canal at several points in San Marco, including Rialto, Sant'Angelo, San Samuele, Santa Maria del Giglio and San Marco.
- ➔ **Walking** Follow yellow-signed shortcuts from the Rialto, through shop-lined Marzarie, to Piazza San Marco.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

In San Marco, the price of a sit-down cappuccino seems more like rent. Take your coffee standing at a bar for just €1 to €2.50, spend a couple more euros for sunshine and people-watching at a *campo* table, or luxuriate in the baroque cafes of Piazza San Marco. There's usually a €6 music surcharge for outdoor seating in Piazza San Marco, so you may as well get your money's worth and tango.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ A Beccafico (p76)
- ➔ Enoteca al Volto (p75)
- ➔ Bacaro Da Fiore (p75)
- ➔ Gelateria Suso (p75)
- ➔ Cavatappi (p76)

For reviews, see p75 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ I Rusteghi (p76)
- ➔ Caffè Florian (p76)
- ➔ Caffè Lavena (p77)
- ➔ Harry's Bar (p77)
- ➔ Osteria all'Alba (p77)

For reviews, see p76 ➔

Best Interior Decor

- ➔ Museo Correr (p73)
- ➔ Palazzo Ducale (p61)
- ➔ Museo Fortuny (p67)
- ➔ Negozio Olivetti (p72)
- ➔ Palazzo Grassi (p67)

For reviews, see p67 ➔