



## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Many of Venice's best restaurants, artisans' studios and *bacari* 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 (p113)
- ➔ Antiche Carampane (p114)
- ➔ Alaska Gelateria (p113)
- ➔ ProntoPesce (p113)
- ➔ Al Pesador (p115)

For reviews, see p113 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Al Prosecco (p115)
- ➔ Al Mercà (p116)
- ➔ Osteria da Filo (p116)
- ➔ Caffè Dei Frari (p116)
- ➔ Muro Vino e Cucina (p116)

For reviews, see p115 ➔



### Best Artisanal Finds

- ➔ Marbled-paper handbags at Cárte (p117)
- ➔ Pocket gondola kits at Gilberto Penzo (p118)
- ➔ Glass dragon goblets at Schantalle Vetri d'Arte (p118)
- ➔ Embossed San Marco lion sketchbooks at Cartavenezia (p118)

For reviews, see p117 ➔

## Explore Sestieri di San Polo & Santa Croce

Start the morning among masterpieces at Scuola Grande di San Rocco, then bask in the glow of Titian's *Madonna at I Frari*. Shop backstreet artisans' boutiques all the way to the Rialto Market, where glistening purple octopus and feathery red *radicchio treviso* (chicory) present culinary photo-ops. Stop at All'Arco for *cicheti* (Venetian tapas) before breezing through four centuries of avant-garde fashion at Fondazione Prada and Palazzo Mocenigo, then swing by Alaska to celebrate freedom from corsetry with adventurous gelato. Head to medieval San Giacomo dell'Orio for happy hour at Al Prosecco, and wander the maze of Venice's former red-light district to Antiche Carampane for dinner.

## Local Life

➔ **Shopping obsessions** Museum collections are built around Venetian shopping habits at Ca' Pesaro, Museo di Storia Naturale and Palazzo Mocenigo – and you can see how that might happen, with museum-quality works at local artisans' studios.

➔ **Hideouts** When Venetians shirk work, they bask in the sun at Campo San Giacomo dell'Orio, play board games at Osteria da Filo, take the kids to Museo di Storia Naturale or watch movie marathons at Casa del Cinema.

➔ **Cicheti central** Ringing the Rialto are authentic *bacari* (bars) offering inventive Venetian bites, best devoured standing with top-notch *ombre* (half-glasses of wine) at All'Arco, ProntoPesce, Dai Zemei, Al Mercà, Al Pesador and Muro.

➔ **Musical accompaniment** Listen to romantic music in an actual pleasure palace at Palazetto Bru Zane, opera among Tiepolos at Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista, live folk-rock acts around Campo San Giacomo dell'Orio, Gregorian chants at Scuola Grande di San Rocco and summertime concerts at the Summer Arena.

## 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.