

Castello

Neighbourhood Top Five

① Getting an insider's view during special events at the **Arsenale** (p119), 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** (p121), a 14th-century church packed

with master works of painting and sculpture.

③ Taking an early-morning stroll along **Riva degli Schiavoni** (p128), Castello's breathtaking waterfront promenade.

④ Taking a break from brick and marble amid the leafy byways of Napoleon's **Giardini Pubblici** (p122).

⑤ Basking in the golden glow of Carpaccio's paintings in the **Scuola di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni** (p123).



For more detail of this area see Map p280 and p281 ➔

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 11am to 7pm with day-trippers as cruises disgorge their madding crowds. But if you can get yourself out of bed, the seafront promenade is a magnificent and remarkably solitary spot for a morning constitutional. At the other end of the day, it is a stunning sundowner spot for views across the lagoon and back to San Marco.

Best Places to Eat

- ▶ Trattoria Corte Sconta (p132)
- ▶ Alle Testiere (p132)
- ▶ Osteria Ruga di Jaffa (p130)
- ▶ CoVino (p131)

For reviews, see p130. ➡

Best Places to Drink

- ▶ La Serra dei Giardini (p132)
- ▶ Bar Terazza Danieli (p133)
- ▶ Enoteca Mascareta (p133)
- ▶ STRANI (p132)

For reviews, see p132. ➡

Best Places to Shop

- ▶ Atelier Alessandro Merlin (p134)
- ▶ Fabricharte (p134)
- ▶ Bragorà (p133)
- ▶ Al Campanil (p134)

For reviews, see p133. ➡

Explore Castello

Stretching eastwards from San Marco, Castello is the city's most sprawling neighbourhood and exploring its entirety in one day will test your walking shoes. Start with its most compelling sites – the masterfully grand Zanipolo church, Negroponte's rose-fringed Madonna in Chiesa di San Francesco della Vigna and Bellini's *Virgin Enthroned* in opulent Chiesa di 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. You're most likely to hear the Venetian dialect here, and it's a great place for an *aperitivo* (pre-dinner drink).

The Napoleonic gardens, the pavilion-dotted Giardini Pubblici and the Parco delle Rimembranze skirt the island's southern shore. The Giardini springs to life in summer months when Biennale events attract the global art 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

- ▶ **Artist Studios** Away from the main tourist areas, Castello's artisans are free to experiment. Don't miss Alessandro Merlin's (p134) *sgraffito* ceramics, Paolo Brandolisio's (p134) wood workshop and visits to artists' studios (p130) to discuss their work.
- ▶ **Backstreet bacaro** Locals drop in all day for *cicheti* (bar snacks) at Bacaro Risorto (p133), Al Portego (p133) and STRANI (p132); while *gondolieri* prefer their breakfast *cornetto* (croissant) at Pasticceria Da Bonifacio (p131).
- ▶ **Outdoor living** *Nonne* (grandmothers) gather for afternoon gossip while their young charges kick balls across Campo di Bandiera e Moro, Campo Zanipolo, the Giardini Pubblici (p122) and the Parco delle Rimembranze (p122) on Sant'Elena.

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 4.1, 4.2, 5.1 and 5.2 circle the outer perimeter of Venice, including stops along Riva degli Schiavoni and Giudecca.