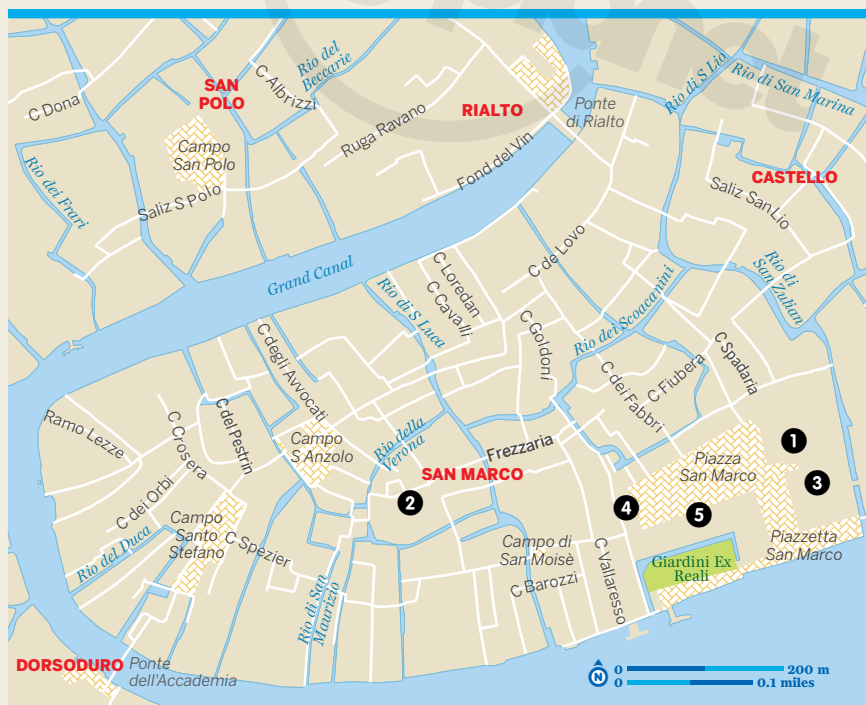


## Neighbourhood Top Five

② Shouting *brava!* for encore performances at La

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

**5** Tangoing across Piazza San Marco at sunset to the tune of the **Caffè Florian** (p65) orchestra.



For more detail of this area see Map p268 and p269 

## Explore San Marco

The neighbourhood of San Marco is Venice's oldest and most famous. Everything started here when Doge Partecipazio built his rosy palace overlooking the lagoon and commissioned Venice's fairytale golden basilica to house the bones of St Mark the Evangelist.

With the palace, prisons, government offices, mint and library crowding around the basilica, Piazza San Marco was the fulcrum of Venetian power and it still attracts throngs of visitors today. You could spend days here, so start early and choose one big sight a day before striking out east towards the Accademia bridge. Just as in the past, your path from Campo San Moisè to Campo Santo Stefano is lined with purveyors of dazzling luxury goods and fevered shoppers. The throngs only thin out when narrow *calli* (lanes) disgorge them, blinking, into sunny *campi* (squares) faced by the lavishly decorated churches of Santa Maria del Giglio, San Maurizio and Santo Stefano. The latter is ringed with cafes and is a perfect pitstop.

In the evening, the red carpets and gilt boxes of La Fenice and Teatro Goldoni beckon music and theatre enthusiasts for high-brow operas, intimate classical music concerts, ballet and low-brow *opera buffa*. Alternatively, take a pew on the Gritti terrace for sunset views over Salute or dive down canyon-like *calli* near the Rialto for cheap eats, welcoming *trattorias* and endless glasses of *vino*.

## Local Life

♦ **Drinks with character** Some things are worth a splurge and Venetians prefer to splash their cash at Harry's Bar (p66), Bar Longhi (p65) and Caffè Florian (p65).

♦ **Music and theatre** Start on a high note at La Fenice (p58), go for baroque at Interpreti Veneziani (p67) and laugh along to *opera buffa* at Teatro Goldoni (p67).

♦ **Artisan finds** Global marques can't compete with the workmanship of Venice's finest artisans: Sigfrido Cipolatto (p67), Carlo Moretti at L'Isola (p68), Venetia Studium (p69), Le Burle Veneziane (p68) and Chiarastella Cattana (p67).

## 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 Marzaria del Capitello, Marzaria San Zulian and Marzaria Orologio 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 €1.50 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

- ♦ Trattoria e Bacaro Da Fiore (p65)
- ♦ Trattoria Vini da Arturo (p65)
- ♦ Ai Mercanti (p64)
- ♦ Bistrot de Venise (p65)
- ♦ Gelateria Suso (p63)

For reviews, see p63. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ♦ Caffè Florian (p65)
- ♦ Bar Longhi (p65)
- ♦ Harry's Bar (p66)
- ♦ DOK Dall'Ava LP26 (p64)
- ♦ Osteria all'Alba (p67)

For reviews, see p65. ➔

### Best Interior Decor

- ♦ Museo Correr (p57)
- ♦ Palazzo Ducale (p53)
- ♦ Museo Fortuny (p59)
- ♦ Negozio Olivetti (p58)
- ♦ Palazzo Grassi (p63)

For reviews, see p50. ➔