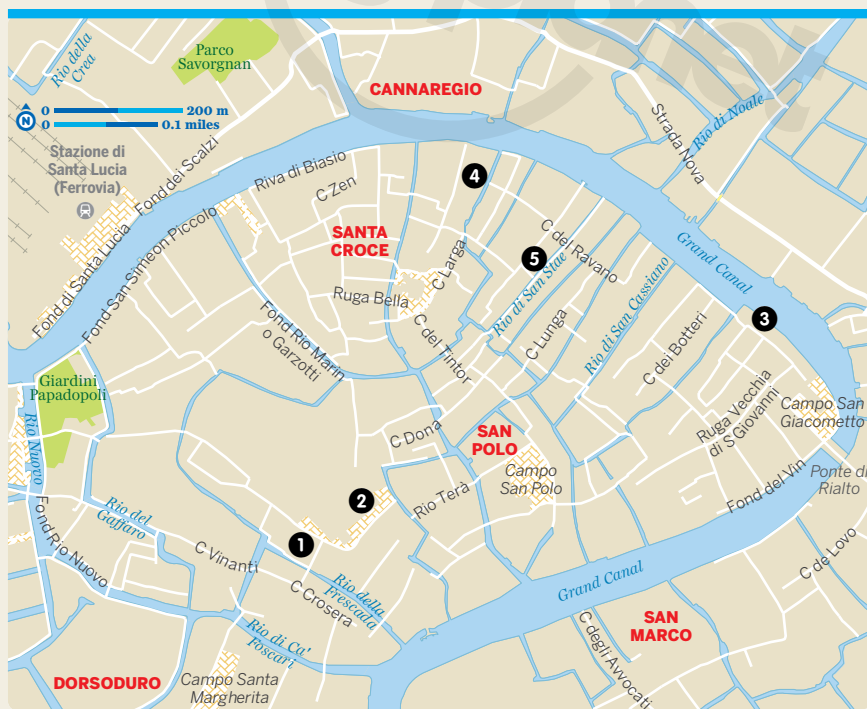


# San Polo & Santa Croce

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Seeing lightning strike indoors at the lavish **Scuola Grande di San Croce** (p86), where Tintoretto's streaky brushwork illuminates hope in a time of plague, death and despair.
- 2 Watching Titian's red-hot Madonna light up the room inside Gothic glory **I Frari** (p88).
- 3 Working up a serious appetite over lagoon surf and turf at gut-rumbling, produce-bursting **Rialto Market** (p89).
- 4 Following the trail of intrepid Venetian explorers through a world of natural wonders and oddities at the **Museo di Storia Naturale di Venezia** (p91).
- 5 Posing like a Venetian at très-chic **Palazzo Mocenigo** (p91), an aristocratic pad turned ode to centuries of fashion, furnishings and exotic fragrances.



For more detail of this area see Map p274 and p275 →

## Explore San Polo & Santa Croce

Start the morning among masterpieces at Scuola Grande di San Rocco, then bask in the glow of Titian's *Madonna and I Frari*. Shop backstreet galleries and artisan studios all the way to the Rialto Market, where glistening purple octopus and feathery red *radicchio treviso* (chicory) present Technicolor photo-ops.

Stop at All'Arco for *cicheti* (bar snacks) before breezing through elegant salons of fashion, art and scents at vainglorious Palazzo Mocenigo. Alternatively, zip through millennia of natural history at the epic Museo di Storia Naturale di Venezia.

Next, swing by Alaska for some of the city's best gelato, or head straight to medieval San Giacomo dell'Orto for happy hour at Al Prosecco. Appetite-piqued and buzzing, wander the maze of Venice's former red-light district to celebrated Antiche Carampane for dinner.

### Local Life

➔ **Market mornings** Gently elbow fastidious chefs and *nonne* (grandmothers) on your quest for the morning's finest produce at Rialto Market (p89). Bag vegetables freshly pulled from Sant'Erasmus soil and shrimp caught in local waters, or detour to Casa del Parmigiano (p104) for picnic-friendly cheese and olives.

➔ **Bacaro-hopping** Ringing the Rialto are authentic, pocket-sized *bacari* (bars) offering inventive Venetian bites, best devoured standing with top-notch *ombre* (half-glasses of wine) at All'Arco (p95), Dai Zemei (p95), Al Mercà (p98) and Do Mori (p98).

➔ **Artisan studios** Despite skyrocketing rents and the inundation of foreign-made 'Venetian' souvenirs, local artisans continue to design, carve, sew and print in their studios and workshops, among them Gilberto Penzo (p100), VeneziaStampa (p102), Laberintho (p103) and Gmeiner (p102).

➔ **Musical accompaniment** Take in lesser-known compositions inside a frescoed pleasure palace at Palazetto Bru Zane (p100), opera among Tiepolos at Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista (p100), or a baroque sonata at the ever-elegant Scuola Grande di San Rocco (p86).

### Getting There & Away

➔ **Vaporetto** Most *vaporetti* call at Piazzale Roma or Ferrovia at the northwest corner of Santa Croce. In San Polo, lines 1 and N service Rialto-Mercato, as well as Rialto (on the San Marco side of the Rialto Bridge). Both lines also stop at Riva de Biasio, San Stae, San Silvestro and San Tomà.

### Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Many of Venice's best restaurants, artisan studios and *bacari* (bars) 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 (p95)
- ➔ Antiche Carampane (p97)
- ➔ Osteria Trefanti (p97)
- ➔ Dai Zemei (p95)

For reviews, see p95. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Al Prosecco (p98)
- ➔ Al Mercà (p98)
- ➔ Bacareto Da Lele (p99)
- ➔ Cantina Do Spade (p99)

For reviews, see p98. ➔

### Best Artisanal Finds

- ➔ Cárte (p100)
- ➔ Gilberto Penzo (p100)
- ➔ VeneziaStampa (p102)
- ➔ VizioVirtù (p101)

For reviews, see p100. ➔