



Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Novecento (p217)
- Bauer Palladio Hotel & Spa (p224)
- Oltre il Giardino (p220)
- Domus Orsoni (p222)
- Palazzo Soderini (p223)
- Locanda Ca' del Console (p223)
- Ca' Angeli (p220)
- Locanda Barbarigo (p217)
- Palazzo Abadessa (p222)
- Charming House DD.724 (p218)

SLEEPING

Waking up in a *palazzo* (palace) to the sound of the lagoon gently lapping at the *fondamente* (canal banks) and a gondolier calling ‘Oooooeeeee!’ is an unforgettable experience, and more affordable than you might think. High-end hotels aren’t your only option for memorable stays in prime locations, as many Venetians have recently opened historic homes as *locande* (guest-houses), B&Bs, *affittacamere* (rooms for rent) and holiday rental apartments.

Whoever keeps circulating the rumour that Venice doesn’t have enough beds to go around and offers no rooms under €200 is about a decade out of date, and has yet to hear of an invention called the internet. Since only about a third of Venice’s visitors stay overnight, the odds are good that if you go online right now and check availability, you’ll be able to find accommodation in Venice proper – even on short notice, and sometimes for a special deal. Many more palaces have opened their doors to guests in the past decade, and coupled with a dip in tourism resulting from global recession, you may actually have your pick of memorable places to stay in Venice.

Mainland Mestre is a miles distant second-best to an enchanted evening in Venice, but with this book and a computer, you won’t have to settle for anything less than accommodation in central Venice. For more than 400 accommodation options in addition to the ones reviewed in this chapter see www.lonelyplanet.com. The [APT tourist board](http://www.turismovenetia.it) (www.turismovenetia.it) lists 200-plus B&Bs, 250-plus *affittacamere*, and 275-plus apartments to rent in Venice proper. For still more choices, try the websites of the [Associazione Veneziana Albergatori](http://www.veniceby.com) (Venice Hoteliers Association; www.veniceby.com, www.veneziasiti.it); ☎ in Italy 199 173309, from abroad 39-041 522 22 64; 🕒 8am–10pm Easter-Oct, 8am–9pm Nov–Easter). If you show up in Venice without a hotel reservation, don’t despair: Associazione Veneziana Albergatori has booking offices at the train station ([Map pp94–5](#)), in Piazzale Roma ([Map pp86–7](#)) and Tronchetto car parks ([Map p64](#)).

Hotels are also known as *albergo* or *locande*. Like a *pensione*, a *locanda* is usually a smaller family-run establishment somewhere between a B&B and lower-end hotel. Many hotels offer rooms with ‘Venetian-style’ furnishings, which might include antiques and Murano glass chandeliers, but usually means modern remakes of baroque furnishings, including lacquered bedsteads with gilt flourishes, bow-legged nightstands, and hulking armoires. Not all hotels in Venice are grand: some are cramped, drafty, and frayed around the edges, with lackadaisical service. Though we’ve excluded such undesirable properties from this chapter, you’ll find many in this category on the web, sometimes with glowing reviews – buyer beware. Budget and midrange places around the train station tend to be uninspiring, and not that well positioned for sightseeing. Dorsoduro and San Polo offer a good smattering of interesting hotel options, ranging from hip boutique hotels to *pensioni* straight out of a Venetian mystery novel. For luxury indulgence, there are beachside Lido resorts and historic San Marco hotels along the Grand Canal.

Unlike sprawling hotels, many Venetian B&Bs and room rentals (*affittacamere*) offer home-style hospitality that could be the highlight of your trip. But unless specifically mentioned in this chapter, don’t get your hopes up for eggs and bacon at breakfast. *Affittacamere* generally don’t offer breakfast, and Venetian laws have strict rules for dining establishments that prohibit most B&Bs serving much beyond packaged croissants. When in Venice, breakfast as Venetians do: stop by a bakery or coffee bar en route to your destination, and enjoy your pastry and cappuccino at the bar for a couple of euros. B&Bs in Castello and Cannaregio offer good value in authentic neighbourhoods, often surprisingly convenient to the sights of San Marco.

Hostels are also known as *foresterie*. Travellers who love a bargain should show up early to claim bunks with canal views at the youth hostel on Giudecca or private rooms at the palatial Palazzo Zenobio and frescoed Foresteria Valdese. University housing usually opens to tourists in summer only, though the Residenza Junghans in Giudecca offers year-round accommodation to all at student prices.