

Castello

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Riva degli Schiavoni (p129) Taking an early-morning or evening stroll along Castello's picturesque waterfront promenade.

2 Zanipolo (p123) Gawking at the sheer scale of this 14th-century church and admiring the master works of painting and sculpture contained within.

3 Arsenale (p121) Getting an insider's view during special events held within the Venetian Republic's vast honeycomb of a shipyard, once the world's best-kept industrial secret.

4 Giardini Pubblici (p124) Finding respite from brick and marble amid the leafy

byways of Napoleon's formal gardens.

5 Scuola Dalmata di San Giorgio degli Schiavoni (p125) Basking in the golden glow of Carpaccio's paintings in the club rooms of the city's historic Dalmatian community.



For more detail of this area see Map p280, p281 and p282 →

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 spectacular sundowner spot.

Best Places to Eat

- CoVino (p131)
- Met (p132)
- Il Ridotto (p132)
- Al Covo (p132)
- Trattoria Corte Sconta (p132)

For reviews, see p130. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- Bar Dandolo (p133)
- Al Portego (p133)
- Bacaro Risorto (p133)
- Strani (p133)
- Bar Terrazza Danieli (p133)

For reviews, see p133. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- Atelier Alessandro Merlin (p134)
- Bragorà (p134)
- Ballarin (p135)
- Kalimala (p134)
- Banco Lotto 10 (p135)

For reviews, see p134. ➔

Explore: Castello

Stretching eastwards from San Marco, Castello is the city's most sprawling neighbourhood and exploring its entirety in one blast 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 the Rialto.

Moving east, you'll reach the engine of the city's seafaring might: the extensive shipyards known as the Arsenale. While most of the complex is only open for special events, the boats displayed in the Padiglione delle Navi give a taste of the city's 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).

Venice's glitzy waterfront promenade, the Riva degli Schiavoni, skirts the southern shore. It terminates in the Giardini Pubblici which springs to life during the Biennale. In Castello's easternmost reaches, visit Venice's first cathedral on the island of San Pietro del Castello before returning along the Riva dei Partigiani enjoying sweeping views of San Giorgio Maggiore.

Local Life

➤ **Artist studios** Away from the main tourist areas, Castello's artisans are free to experiment. Don't miss Atelier Alessandro Merlin (p134) homoerotic ceramics and the wood workshop of Paolo Brandolisio (p134).

➤ **Backstreet bars** Locals drop in all day for *cicheti* (bar snacks) at Bacaro Risorto (p133), Al Portego (p133) and Strani (p133).

➤ **Outdoor living** *Nonne* (grandmothers) gather for afternoon gossip while their young charges kick balls across Campo Bandiera e Moro, Campo Zanipolo and Parco delle Rimembranze (p124).

Getting There & Away

➤ **Vaporetto** Castello is encircled with *vaporetto* stops. Lines 4.1 and 4.2 service all stops as they loop around the eastern end of Venice; similarly 5.1 and 5.2 stop at all but Arsenale. Line 1 makes all the southern stops, linking them to the Grand Canal and the Lido. The busiest stop is San Zaccaria (also called San Marco San Zaccaria), with multiple jetties spread along the Riva degli Schiavoni.