

Day 5 - 13th September

Onwards to Venice...

We allowed plenty of time to transit through Milan station, via a couple of escalators and discover our gate number to go through to the platform in the large station. Also travelling 1st class for the first time we realised that you have the advantage on arrival of usually being by the exit which means you can get a taxi if you wish easily, but when departing you need to walk the length of the platform as often at the front of the train!

It was flatter country as we left Milan, with the mountains in the distance, and lots of fields of maize. The mountains make wonderful overlapping misty outlines, with peaks appearing behind each other as we approach Brescia, and brief views of Lake Garda as we came into Verona, and via Padua to Venice.

Arrival in Venice

We arrive early for access to our apartment at 3.00pm so decide to take the long vaporetta trip around the outside of Venice on the 4.1 line with our cases, so we can see the cruise ships, Guidecca Canal and the Arsenale before our arrival at Fondamente Nove. It was a wonderful relaxing 1.5 hour trip in the brilliant sunshine and we could sit outside on the boat and admire the various streamlined ships moored in Venice and see St Mark's Square and the Doges Palace which are best viewed from the water.



Venice Grand Canal

Venice has many links with Milan, one being that Ca del Duca was sold in 1461 to the Duke Francesco Sforza on the Grand Canal, but he never completed the Palace.

Venetian Market



Markets

We shopped in Venetian markets for some salmon and fresh vegetables and cooked ourselves a nice meal in our apartment in the Cannaregio area, which is where Tintoretto lived. The area is named either from the Royal Canal or from Canne – as the reeds grew there. We explored the narrow streets in the early evening, visiting the marble church of San Maria dei Miracoli, and then on to see San Giovanni Grisostoma with an altar piece on the right which is the last work of Bellini. Ruskin considered this church as one of the more important.

We look out for Venetian specialties of zaletti (cornmeal biscuits with sultanas) and buy some almond croissants and cakes from Pasticceria da Bonifacio in Calle degli Albanesi for our pudding.



17th Century Pharmacy

Church and Pharmacy

The 18th century Jesuit Church Gesuiti, is spectacular with a Tintoretto, and a wonderful Sacristy with 21 Giovane works. The marble walls and pulpit, and a tall bright white front with decoration makes it a very impressive church and is very near where we are staying. We finished doing some shopping near a 17th century pharmacy Spezieria Antica Santa Fosca, which is worth a visit, and walk back by Scuola Grande della Misericordia, a tall brick building.

Back again!

We both love Venice and have visited a few times before so look forward to visiting more Venetian churches as there are many wonderful free ones to visit, rather than the main sights that we have already seen a couple of times, such as the Doges Palace and St Mark's Square attractions.

We enjoy the ambience of our apartment which has the thick beamed ceilings traditional in Venice, and overlooks a small garden at the back, and it is a very peaceful spot as you close the shutters for the night.