



Ladies' Getaway *in* VENICE

A Culinary & Cultural Adventure in Italy

SEPTEMBER 16-23, 2025

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️

EST 2014



The great maritime Republic of Venice was once the Italian capital of trading, art and finance, and today it's one of the world's most alluring destinations.

Prepare to be enchanted by the watery topography of Venice: the city is comprised of 117 islands floating in the Venetian Lagoon! We'll explore the legendary art and opulent architecture of the City of Bridges, traverse its canals, ride the Vaporetto (water bus), meet lots of friendly locals and eat plenty of delicious food. Onward has taken care to arrange plenty of special, exclusive experiences and has found the best local guides to make sure our group gets a real *behind the scenes* look at "The Queen of the Adriatic." Spending five nights sleeping in the heart of the city will leave you with lasting impressions of this ethereal place.

Then we'll make our way inland to the foothills of the Alps, just an hour's drive north of the city, to spend two nights at a gorgeous villa hotel in the heart of the Prosecco region, the epicenter of Italy's bubbly production. We'll enjoy a fine dining cooking class and also set out to sip some fizz at the wineries on the "Prosecco Road." The Veneto region is as beguiling and special as it sounds, and we invite you to experience it all as part of a fun and vibrant group of women traveling together.



IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Cooking (and eating!)
Venetian specialties.

Cruising the lagoon on
the last *bragozzo* sailboat
of its kind.

Tasting prosecco
from the source in the
foothills of the Alps.

Welcome to Venezia!

DAY 1: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16

- Take in the beauty of Venice from its canals and grand waterways
- Settle in at an elegant hotel in the heart of Venice

Benvenute! Upon arrival at Venice Marco Polo Airport this morning, hop on the Alilaguna water bus which will take you directly to the hotel (we'll send directions). Leave your bags and grab lunch nearby, we'll meet up in the early afternoon at the hotel for our first adventure together: a low-key rowing lesson, which is a great way to get our bodies moving, shake off the jet lag and get to know this fascinating place. A woman-owned and operated enterprise, Row Venice works to support the participation of women in the sport of *voga*, or Venetian rowing, and you'll learn much from them about the city itself as you row through the sleepy canals of the interesting Canareggio neighborhood - it's the perfect introduction to Venice!

By now it's time to check in at Hotel Al Ponte Mocenigo. Our home for the next five nights is this elegant and comfortable residence, with charming rooms decked out in opulent Venetian style. Tucked into a quiet neighborhood just far enough from the tourist center of Venice yet still in the heart of the city and convenient to everything we'll want to do, it's a treat to call this place home for our time in the city. After a little time for R&R we'll head to a nearby canalside wine bar for a casual dinner of antipasti, salumi, formaggi and gourmet panini, all accompanied by thoughtfully sourced and delicious wines. You'll sleep well in the heart of the Venetian lagoon tonight.

Meals Dinner

Venetian Immersion

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17

- See the must-see and surprise sights of Venice with a local guide
- Nosh on handheld *cicchetti* and local wine in *bacarao* bars

After a lovely breakfast, which is included each morning of the tour, we're headed out to spend the day exploring the city with a local guide. Our group will visit the famous must-see Venetian landmarks such as the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Square as well as less obvious but equally interesting sights which our fun and engaging guide will point out to us. As we make our way through the city we'll make short stops for a roaming lunch of *cicchetti*, or Venetian tapas, at various *bacarao* (Venetian wine bars) along our route. Enjoying a *cicchetto* and a glass of wine is one of the pleasures of a trip to Venice!

Our time with our local guide ends in the Dorsoduro section of the city where we'll be visiting Onward's favorite art museum in the world: The Peggy Guggenheim Collection. One the most important museums in Italy for European and American art of the 20th century, located in Peggy Guggenheim's former home, Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, on the Grand Canal. Ms. Guggenheim was a New York heiress, prominent art collector, and lover of the good life who spent the last 30 years of her life in Venice. Her collection is as one of a kind as she was and it will be a real treat to enjoy it on a private guided tour.

Tonight we're headed out together for a casual and fun dinner in a courtyard restaurant with great pizza, pasta and *fritto misto*.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



A Day On the Eolo

DAY 3: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18

- Dine on a gourmet slow food lunch aboard a historic sailboat
- Visit quiet islands like Sant'Erasmus and Lazzaretto Nuovo

We're setting out to spend a day on the water today on The Eolo, one of the lagoon's few remaining flat-bottomed *bragozzo* sailing fishing boats which achieved prominence during the glory days of the Venetian Republic over 1,000 years ago. The Eolo is owned by Mauro Stoppa, a gourmet chef and true bon vivant, who believes, "You need to take time and respect the rhythms of the Lagoon, which is timeless." He accompanies us today, creating a luxurious and exclusive experience for our group aboard his unique vessel.

Mauro describes the experience, featuring visits to islands far from the tourist trail and an absolutely gourmet, slow food lunch on board the boat, as "A unique chance to embark on a privileged journey through one of the greatest historical and cultural regions of Italy. Travelling with a specially adapted traditional boat, we experience the very best gastronomy and historical insight into the area, reflecting its true cultural essence. We finish by cruising the magical expanses and islands of the Venetian lagoon, the perfect end to a comprehensive tour which offers a peerless insight to the cultural and natural phenomenon known as the Venetian Lagoon." This experience will surely be a highlight of our wonderful week together!

Back at the hotel as night falls, the evening in Venice is yours to enjoy.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

MAURO IN THE KITCHEN ON THE EOLO



Culinary Arts on Lido Island

DAY 4: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19

- Pick out super fresh ingredients with a chef at Rialto Market
- Spend the day cooking in an atmospheric island villa kitchen

Our culinary exploration of the Venetian Islands continues today. This morning Marika, a local chef and sommelier, will meet us at the iconic Rialto Market to select fresh seafood and other ingredients. We'll have a few snacks together and then hop in a water taxi to go to her gorgeous villa on Lido Island, the famous Venetian beach destination, for an unforgettable cooking class experience. We'll spend the whole day cooking in the villa where you can expect to learn all about the local culinary tradition and then we'll enjoy a delightful, elegant sit down meal with thoughtful wine pairings.

After the class we'll head back to the city center on the vaporetto together. Tonight you have a free evening, though if you'd like to attend the ballet production of *Cinderella* at the legendary Venetian opera house Gran Teatro la Fenice we will arrange tickets for all group members who wish to attend.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Venice As You Like It

DAY 5: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20

- Spend a day exploring Venice on your own
- Enjoy a delicious, gourmet dinner at a tucked-away canalside osteria

Surely since arriving here the shops and small piazza cafes have been catching your eye. It's your last full day in Venice and whether that means shopping and spritzing, a trip out to the glass and lace islands of Murano and Burano or diving deeper into history at the city's fantastic network of museums and art galleries, the day is yours!

This evening we reconvene for a special dinner together at a restaurant where the talented, young husband and wife team of chef and front of house manager have become our friends and the food is a spectacular, creative ode to the Venetian tradition. Raise a glass to these beautiful days spent together in this special place. For tomorrow our journey continues north to the Prosecco hills...

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

To the Prosecco Hills

DAY 7: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21

- Visit an award-winning, family owned cheese factory
- Check in at a quirky, luxurious villa hotel in a tiny town

After breakfast we bid our Venetian hosts *arrivederci* and set out in a luxury minibus for the Prosecco region of Veneto, in the mountains north of Venice. On the way we have a special stop at a family-owned *latteria* whose cheese production has won many national awards. Let's take a tour of their facility and then enjoy a guided cheese tasting with some bubbles and a light lunch.

Then our journey continues on to a regal villa hotel with an onsite restaurant recognized by the Michelin guide. Less than an hour and a half from Venice, Hotel Villa Abbazia feels worlds away. It's time to relax and you'll love the quirky, country elegant furnishings at this charming hotel. Have a soak in the outdoor jacuzzi, or contact Onward to arrange a massage during your free time here. Half of our group will have a very special hands on cooking class with the chef at La Corte, the hotel's fine dining restaurant, this afternoon (tomorrow night we dine there). The other half of the group will set out to explore the "prosecco road," a string of wineries where the delicious fizzy white wine is produced. We'll visit two wineries to see how prosecco is produced, meet the makers, and of course enjoy some bubbly!

Tonight we're headed out all together to a restaurant in the village specializing in *spiedo*, a rustic Italian dish of meat cooked on a spit. This will be a fun, convivial and delicious evening. Cheers!

Meals Breakfast, Light Lunch, Dinner

AT HOTEL VILLA ABBAZIA



Prosecco, grazie!

DAY 8: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22

- Relax in the tranquility of small-town Follina
- Savor a fine dining farewell dinner at the elegant onsite restaurant

After a wonderful breakfast this morning you may enjoy walking the scenic country roads, a visit to the stunning 12th-century Follina Abbey right across from the hotel, or just sitting with a cup of tea and a good book in the hotel's lovely drawing room. In the afternoon we'll swap activities from the day before – that means you'll be heading into the kitchen with a fine-dining head chef, or popping bubbly on the Prosecco Road.

Tonight we'll reconvene for aperitivo and then we'll dine together at La Corte, the fine dining destination restaurant attached to our hotel. Get a little bit fancy and raise a toast to the wonderful women you've spent this week traveling with as you recount your adventures and enjoy the delightful creations of this highly skilled kitchen team.

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Arrivederci!

DAY 9: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23

Thank you for sharing this special week in Veneto! Transfers are available this morning for flights out of Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE) or to Venice Mestre Station if you'd like to continue your travels.

Meals Breakfast

THE PROSECCO HILLS, A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE



Trip Essentials

<p>BEGINS</p>	<p>Venice, Italy, on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 Take a boat directly from Venice Marco Polo Airport to the hotel (ticket included). The day's activities begin at 1pm.</p>
<p>ENDS</p>	<p>Follina, Italy on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 Transfer provided to Venice Marco Polo Airport or Venice Mestre Train Station. Please do not book a flight departing before 10:00am.</p>
<p>SUITABILITY & MOBILITY</p>	<p><u>This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones.</u> Travelers should be able to walk a mile at a comfortable pace. <u>In Venice, walking is often the only way to get from one place to another.</u> Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.</p>
<p>TOUR DATES & PRICE</p>	<p>September 16–23, 2025 Double Occupancy \$4,475 per traveler Single Supplement \$700 additional Contact Onward if you are interested in a room upgrade. <i>Note that air travel is not included and a current passport is required for travel to Italy. You are welcome to pay by credit card, please add a 3% surcharge.</i></p>
<p>LODGING</p>	<p>Unique, locally owned lodging with an Italian sense of place has been selected for <i>Ladies Getaway in Venice</i>. Hotel al Ponte Mocenigo 5 Nights Comfortable, elegant accommodations in a historic building at with an excellent location in Venice. Hotel Villa Abbazia 2 Nights A quirky, luxurious villa hotel at the foot of the Alps in the tiny, historic town of Follina.</p>

“If I were not the king of France, I would choose to be a citizen of Venice.” - Henry VIII

Air Travel

The tour will start in Venice and end with a transfer to Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE). Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a “go” before booking non-refundable airfare. Contact Onward Travel for assistance.

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities including a vaporetto pass.
- Five nights accommodations at Hotel al Ponte Mocenigo and two nights accommodations at Hotel Villa Abbazia.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, four lunches, and five dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Local guide services throughout the tour to truly understand Venice & the region.
- Activities, tastings, cooking classes, and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

Register Now!

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form.

\$1,500 deposit due upon booking, balance due by July 1, 2025.



The Onward Travel Tour Director for this trip is Barbara

Barbara Bandinelli is a tour guide in her home city of Florence and Onward has been working with her there for so many years we've lost count! Her fun and interesting Florence walking tours are always a highlight of our travelers' Tuscan experience.

Barbara considers herself a true Italian who loves “to talk, to chat, to eat, to drink” and she can't wait to enjoy life together in Italy with you!

Please take note of the following useful information, and view more at www.onwardtravel.co/letsgo



Once Onward Travel receives your registration form, we will send you an **invoice** with instructions to pay the **deposit**.



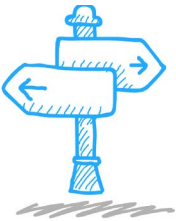
If you'd like to purchase **trip insurance**, we suggest Travelex. For more info, call them at 800-228-9792 or visit www.travelexinsurance.com and refer to location number 32-0704.



Four to six weeks before the tour **we will mail you a packet** with a packing list, traveler directory and other useful info.



Make sure you know where your **passport** is now! For travel to Italy it should be valid for six months beyond your return date.



Onward Travel's cancellation policy in a nutshell:

- \$250 of your initial deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 90 days and the full deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 60 days and 50% of total trip fee is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 30 days and the full trip fee is nonrefundable

See the full *Terms & Conditions* at www.onwardtravel.co/terms

Get in Touch!

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests:
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A CLASSIC SPREAD OF CICHETTI