VENICE AND THE VENETO

CANALS AND COUNTRYSIDE

APRIL 5 TO 14, 2014

a program of the stanford alumni association
Venice is one of those destinations that seems to have emerged from a dream: spectacular sunsets casting fiery hues upon the white façade of Saint Mark’s Basilica; the sound of water gently lapping against marble-lined canals; gondoliers singing “O Sole Mio” as they navigate the waters of an age-old lagoon—okay, so gondoliers don’t really sing, but you will still feel the ambient romance. Our program focuses on the highlights and hidden treasures of Venice, which thoroughly immerses us in the surreal setting of this floating city. Our itinerary is complemented by visits to the surrounding Veneto region to allow you to explore its architecture and culture. Make the dream a reality and join us in 2014.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

ENJOY a rare visit to a squero that’s one of the last workshops in Venice to construct and repair gondolas.

CELEBRATE la dolce vita at a reception in a 17th-century Venetian palazzo with the owner, a descendant of the original noble family.

MARVEL at Palladio’s spectacular Villa la Rotonda, whose design inspired 500 years of architecture, including Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello.

COVER: PIAZZA SAN MARCO, VENICE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 5 & 6
DEPART U.S. / VENICE, ITALY
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Venice. Upon arrival on Sunday, transfer by water taxi through picturesque canals to our five-star hotel near Piazza San Marco. This evening, meet fellow travelers to enjoy a prosecco or classic Bellini cocktail before our welcome dinner.

HOTEL EUROPA & REGINA (D)

MONDAY, APRIL 7
VENICE
Our walking tour of this magical city begins at its heart, Piazza San Marco, which Napoleon called the “most elegant drawing room in Europe.” Start at the Basilica of San Marco, a Byzantine masterpiece begun in 830 C.E. to house the tomb of Saint Mark, whose relics were stolen from Egypt. The interior is filled with gleaming mosaics and priceless art treasures, including the famous gold altarpiece, the Palla d’Oro. This afternoon, we become acquainted with one of Venice’s most celebrated residents, the late Peggy Guggenheim. In her elegant palazzo on the Grand Canal, this early-20th-century doyenne assembled one of the greatest modern art collections in Europe. This evening, another special event awaits us. Call at the sumptuous 17th-century Palazzo Albrizzi, for a private reception and tour hosted by the owner. Later dine together at a top restaurant in this historic neighborhood.

HOTEL EUROPA & REGINA (B,D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 8
VENICE
A scenic stroll along quiet canals brings us to the Gallerie dell’Accademia, Venice’s fine art museum exhibiting works of the Venetian master painters, from Titian to Tiepolo. Later, we have a unique opportunity to visit a squero, one of the last workshops in Venice to make and repair gondolas. This afternoon, we become acquainted with one of Venice’s most celebrated residents, the late Peggy Guggenheim. In her elegant palazzo on the Grand Canal, this early-20th-century doyenne assembled one of the greatest modern art collections in Europe. This evening, another special event awaits us. Call at the sumptuous 17th-century Palazzo Albrizzi, for a private reception and tour hosted by the owner. Later dine together at a top restaurant in this historic neighborhood.

HOTEL EUROPA & REGINA (B,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
VENICE
Board our private vaporetto for a visit to three outlying islands of the Venetian lagoon. Just to the north is Murano, home to the most renowned of the Venetian glassmakers, including Salviati, the company that produced the glass mosaics for Stanford’s Memorial Church. Watch as local craftsmen make masterpieces of glass and share tips of their trade with us. Next, delight in Burano’s brightly painted fishermen’s houses and watch fine lacemakers at work. Continue to the serene island of Torcello, one of the first islands to be inhabited by the Veneti, who fled the mainland to take shelter from recurring Barbarian invasions. The island is home to an ancient Byzantine basilica and has just a handful of inhabitants. In this peaceful setting, enjoy lunch at one of Venice’s most celebrated restaurants, a favorite of both Queen Elizabeth II and Ernest Hemingway.

HOTEL EUROPA & REGINA (B,L)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
VENICE / PADUA / VERONA
Bid farewell to “La Serenissima” and begin our journey through
Adriatic Sea

Asolo

Verona

Padua

Torcello

Murano

Venice

ITALY

VENETO

Burano

Piazza San Marco

Guggenheim Accademia

VENICE

Gra and Canal

the Veneto region. Stop in Padua to see the world’s first anatomy theatre, where Galileo once taught. Tour the 14th-century Arena Chapel to view Giotto’s towering fresco cycle of the Virgin Mary, a defining masterpiece that ushered in the transition to Renaissance Art. After time at leisure in Padua, take a scenic drive to explore La Rotonda, one of the most spectacular of the Palladian villas, whose unique design inspired architecture for the next 500 years, including Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello. Arrive in Verona in the late afternoon. HOTEL DUE TORRI (B,L)

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
VERONA
Awaken this morning in Verona, city of pink-hued marble and the setting for Shakespeare’s story of two star-crossed lovers, Romeo and Juliet. Our walking tour includes the lively Piazza delle Erbe and the extraordinarily well-preserved 1st-century Roman amphitheater, now the famous Arena of Verona. Finish at the House of Juliet, complete with balcony. Spend the afternoon at leisure to wander Verona’s rose-colored streets, admiring the palaces and churches, and perhaps enjoying a Campari in an outdoor café. HOTEL DUE TORRI (B,L)

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
VERONA / ASOLO
A morning drive through beautiful countryside brings us to Bassano del Grappa, where we savor a delightful lunch and grappa-tasting. Continue to the elegant town of Asolo, known for its delightful gardens, palatial villas and beautiful Renaissance palaces. Asolo’s spectacular views of the surrounding countryside have inspired writers and artists for centuries, including Robert Browning and Eleanora Duse. HOTEL VILLA CIPRIANI (B,L)

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
ASOLO
Our walking tour highlights several of Asolo’s more romantic and interesting places, including the Piazza Maggiore with its beautiful Renaissance fountain, the Via Roberto Browning with its long arcades and 15th-century wall frescoes, and the cathedral of Santa Maria di Breda, which is built on the foundations of a Roman bath complex. The afternoon is at leisure. Celebrate our journey at this evening’s elegant farewell dinner. HOTEL VILLA CIPRIANI (B,D)

MONDAY, APRIL 14
ASOLO / U.S.
Join our group transfer from Asolo to the Venice Airport for independent return flights to the U.S. (B)
Trip Information

**DATES:**
April 5 to 14, 2014 (10 days)

**SIZE**
Limited to 32 participants

**COST**
- $7,795 per person, double occupancy
- $9,195 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person

**INCLUDED**
- 8 nights of 4- and 5-star hotel accommodations
- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners (incl. welcome/farewell dinners)
- Wine with group lunches and dinners
- Bottled water on motor coaches
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, restaurant and hotel staff for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**NOT INCLUDED**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for non-group services

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Venice is approximately $1,200 as of June 2013 and is subject to change without notice.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous. All excursions in Venice will take place on foot, requiring walking on uneven surfaces for up to two hours in all weather conditions. We will also make use of sometimes-crowded vaparetos (public water buses), boarded from floating docks. In the Veneto, many historic centers are closed to traffic, requiring walking tours of one to two miles and lasting over two hours. Travelers must be able to negotiate potentially slippery steps where handrails may not be available. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000 per-person deposit is required to hold your space on this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you to subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in July 2013 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
Faculty Leader

EDWARD STEIDLE joined the Stanford faculty in 1984. He has taught in the Western Culture Program and in the literature and the arts track of the English department. He has also taught for the Graduate Humanities Program and for the Continuing Studies Program. His area of study is comparative literature, particularly that of Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. He also lectures on comparative religion and on the ancient cultures of the Middle East, Asia and Central America. He is currently offering a series of classes on the Renaissance and its impact on European global expansion in the 15th through 18th centuries. When asked about the importance of the Veneto in world history, Ed Steidle remarks, “Venice stands high among the legendary cities of Italy. Its cultural, mercantile and artistic connection with the great Byzantine Empire allowed not only for its political rise in the eastern Mediterranean but also for the enormous impact of Byzantine art and culture in Italy. The Veneto’s role as a gateway to the treasures of the East is also legendary. All these events and many more can be deservedly attributed to “La Serenissima’s” enormous impact on the western world for a millennium.”

—BA, English and Eastern philosophy, Franklin and Marshall College
—MA, comparative literature, Johns Hopkins and UC-Berkeley
—PhD, Medieval comparative literature, UC-Berkeley

Lynn Lowenson Marks, ‘57, Normandy and Brittany Walk, 2010

“Ed is indeed one of our favorites! His subject matter is pertinent in every way to the itinerary and he is able to readjust his lectures to be relevant to particular places or events.”

Reservation Form
Venice and the Veneto

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE CELL / WORK / HOME

EMAIL ADDRESS

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

☐ OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Here is my deposit of $_______ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s).

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

☐ Charge my deposit to my:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD #

EXPIRATION DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE		DATE

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?venice2014. Submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
"First-class in every way. Outstanding arrangements and access allow you to experience the destination in a way that would be impossible on your own."

TIM WILLIAMS, ’89, FOCUS ON FLORENCE, 2011