Venice and the Veneto

Canals and Countryside by Private Barge

May 10 to 21, 2016

a program of the stanford alumni association
Venice. What single word conjures up more magic and mystery? From the lacy façades of San Marco sparkling in first light to gondoliers singing a capella on the misty lagoon, Venice dazzles the visitor. Immerse yourself in the surreal beauty of this floating city on a program packed with classic pleasures and special events. Then board our intimate private barge for a cruise through the Po Valley, visiting landmarks of the Veneto and Emilia-Romagna. Our rich itinerary includes opportunities to walk, bicycle and relax. Explore Mantova, Verona, Ferrara and Ravenna—towns rich in history and culinary delights—before returning to Venice in style, with a champagne toast as we sail past Piazza San Marco.

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

Highlights

VISIT a squero, one of the last workshops in Venice to construct and repair gondolas.

MARVEL at the work of Andrea Palladio, the Renaissance artist who inspired 500 years of architecture, including Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello.

EXPLORE rich culinary traditions, from seafood fresh from the Venetian lagoon to the prosciutto and artisanal cheeses of Emilia-Romagna.

RAISE a glass of prosecco with the owner of a private 17th-century Venetian palazzo.
"Jim Sheehan is among the best professors that we’ve ever had, if not the best. He rendered an extremely complex topic in such a way that we all left the cruise more knowledgeable than when we started."

**James Sheehan, ’58,** is the Dickason Professor in the Humanities and professor emeritus of history at Stanford University. His research focuses on 19th- and 20th-century European history, specifically on the relationship between ideas and social and economic conditions in modern Europe. His most recent book, *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone*, examines the decline of military institutions in Europe since 1945. He is now writing a book about the rise of European states in the modern era. About this program, Jim states, “This trip begins in Venice, a place that never fails to enchant us, then explores the natural beauty and artistic splendor of the Veneto. This is a rare opportunity to experience one of Europe’s most spectacular regions.”

— Professor emeritus, department of history, Stanford University
— Senior fellow, by courtesy, Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University
— Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University, 1993
— Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stanford University, 1993
— Guggenheim Fellow, 2000–2001
— Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

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**Hugh Foster, ’69, Opus Mediterraneo, 2014**

**STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY**

**SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?venice2016**

**OR BY PHONE:** (650) 725-1093

**Verona Arena**
**Itinerary**

**TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 & 11**

**DEPART U.S. / VENICE, ITALY**

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Venice. Upon arrival, transfer by water taxi through Venice’s picturesque canals to our five-star hotel near the Piazza San Marco. This evening, meet fellow travelers to enjoy a classic Bellini cocktail overlooking the Grand Canal before our welcome dinner. **HOTEL EUROPA & REGINA (D)**

**THURSDAY, MAY 12**

**VENICE**

Our introduction to Venice begins at its heart, the Piazza San Marco, which Napoleon called the “most elegant drawing room in Europe.” Visit Saint Mark’s Basilica, a Byzantine masterpiece begun in 830 C.E. to house the tomb of Saint Mark, whose relics were stolen from Egypt. Continue to the Doge’s Palace, its delicate architecture belying its role as the seat of power for this seafaring empire. This evening, visit a sumptuous 17th-century palazzo for a private reception, followed by dinner together in this historic neighborhood. **HOTEL EUROPA & REGINA (B,D)**

**FRIDAY, MAY 13**

**VENICE**

A scenic stroll along walkways that border quiet canals brings us to the Gallerie dell’Accademia, Venice’s fine art museum, exhibiting works of Venetian master painters from Titian to Tiepolo. From here, we have a unique opportunity to visit a squero, one of the last workshops to make and repair gondolas. After lunch, we become acquainted with one of Venice’s most celebrated residents, the late Peggy Guggenheim. In her elegant palazzo on the Grand Canal, this American-born heiress assembled one of the greatest modern art collections in Europe during the mid-1900s. **HOTEL EUROPA & REGINA (B)**

**SATURDAY, MAY 14**

**VENICE / VICENZA / MANTOVA EMBARKATION**

Bid farewell to Venice and begin a full-day journey through the Veneto region. Stop in Vicenza, home to several important works of Andrea Palladio, the Western world’s most influential architect. After a walking tour of the historic city center, enjoy a private lunch at lovely Villa Valmarana with time to explore the estate’s Tiepolo frescoes and gardens on our own. Later we make a brief stop to take in the iconic façade of Villa la Rotonda before continuing to Mantova for embarkation. **AVE MARIA (B,L,D)**

**SUNDAY, MAY 15**

**MANTOVA**

Today we visit Mantova, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most ancient cities on the Po Plain. Although the town first came to prominence in Roman times as the home of the poet Virgil, its grand monuments date from the 14th to 17th centuries, when the Gonzaga family reigned and the arts flourished. Some of the finest works of Raphael’s star pupil, Andrea Mantegna, can be seen here. Our walking tour includes the Duomo and the Basilica di Sant’Andrea, designed by Leon Battista Alberti. In the afternoon, explore independently or join us for an optional bike ride around the scenic lakes of Mantova. **AVE MARIA (B,D)**

**MONDAY, MAY 16**

**VERONA**

Call 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 Verona’s famous Arena. Conclude our morning at the House of Juliet, complete with balcony! Spend the afternoon at leisure wandering Verona’s rose-colored streets, admiring its palaces and churches and perhaps enjoying a Campari at an outdoor café. **AVE MARIA (B,D)**

**TUESDAY, MAY 17**

**FERRARA**

This morning explore Ferrara, one of the foremost examples...
of the humanist concept in urban design. Spend some time in the Renaissance quarter, dominated by one of the city’s finest palaces, the Palazzo dei Diamanti. Lunch today is on our own, plus we have some free time to roam around independently. Later, we’ll visit a cheese producer to learn how Grana Padano is made and to taste this exquisite cheese. Reboard our barge in the late afternoon. **AVE MARIA (B,D)**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18**

**PO DELTA**

Today we spend some time in the delta region of Italy’s largest river, the Po, whose six branches flow into the Adriatic Sea, creating one of the largest wetlands in all of Europe. More than 400 species of birds nest in this beautiful delta, most of which is protected in a natural reserve. We’ll go on a special chartered boat excursion for a unique exploration of these wetlands, returning to the Ave Maria in the late afternoon. **AVE MARIA (B,L,D)**

**THURSDAY, MAY 19**

**CHIOGGIA / RAHENNA**

Spend the day in Ravenna, an incomparable treasure trove of Byzantine art. From the sixth to the eighth centuries, Ravenna flourished as a great center of culture and religion, deeply influenced by Constantinople. Today the town’s modest-looking churches house the most spectacular Byzantine mosaics to be found outside of Istanbul. At the Basilica di San Vitale (526 C.E.), view its gleaming mosaics of biblical scenes, and be awed by the elaborate mausoleum of Galla Placidia, a Roman princess who was consort to both a Barbarian chief and a Roman emperor. **AVE MARIA (B,D)**

**FRIDAY, MAY 20**

**CHIOGGIA / VENICE**

Rise early for an unusual treat: Chioggia’s lively fish market, where the day’s fresh catch is auctioned off to the highest bidder. Then, the cyclists in our group can embark on a 10-mile exploration of the barrier islands of Venice while the rest of us explore the Lido on foot. Later gather on our barge’s deck with a glass of Prosecco in hand as we sail past the Piazza San Marco, enjoying a spectacular view of La Serenissima en route to our final mooring at nearby La Certosa Island. **AVE MARIA (B,D)**

**SATURDAY, MAY 21**

**VENICE / DISEMBARKATION / U.S.**

Disembark our barge and transfer to the Venice airport for flights home, arriving in the U.S. the same day. **(B)**
Important Note: the Po River is subject to unpredictable water levels. In the event that water levels are too low for navigation during our cruise, our barge will be diverted from the Po River to the nearby Canal Bianco, permitting us to visit all the sites on our itinerary without disruption.

About the Ave Maria
For the first time in more than a decade, it is possible to cruise the Po Valley on a barge large enough and comfortable enough to be chartered exclusively for Stanford. Used primarily by European cycling groups, the barge is casual and intimate—not deluxe. Accommodating just 26 passengers with six crew members, the Ave Maria has a family atmosphere and services are basic. Meals are buffet and partially self-service. Dinner consists of a starter course, a single main course of meat or fish with a vegetable and dessert. Cabins are made up daily, and sheets/towels changed once during our week onboard. Laundry is not available. Wi-Fi is available free of charge, however, access is intermittent in some areas.

Program Cost*
Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy.

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<tr>
<td>STANDARD CABIN</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
<td>118 sq. ft., three fixed windows</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUPERIOR CABIN</td>
<td>$9,595</td>
<td>118 sq. ft., one fixed porthole and one that opens</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNIOR SINGLE CABIN**</td>
<td>$8,795</td>
<td>84 sq. ft., three fixed windows</td>
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<tr>
<td>STANDARD SINGLE CABIN**</td>
<td>$11,495</td>
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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited at these rates.
Information

**Dates**
May 10 to 21, 2016 (12 days)

**Size**
Limited to 26 participants

**Included**
3 nights of 5-star hotel accommodations in Venice • 7 nights aboard the comfort-class barge, Ave Maria • 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 9 dinners • Wine with group lunches and dinners • Gratuities to guides, drivers, restaurant and hotel/ship staff for all group activities • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival day; a single boat transfer to the Venice airport on departure day • 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; deviations from tour • 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 between San Francisco and Venice is approximately $1,500 as of May 2015 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

**What To Expect**
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous, designed for reasonably fit, active and healthy travelers. Almost all excursions will take place on foot, requiring walking on uneven surfaces for up to two hours in all weather conditions. Extensive walking is required throughout the program. There are also several biking opportunities of approximately 10 miles in length over level terrain. Our barge is basic, not deluxe, and is not appropriate for any traveler with limited mobility or major health issues. The lower deck (cabin area) and the sun deck are accessed by steep, 10-step staircases with handrails. 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. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/venice2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. 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.

**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. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within a specified window: 14 to 21 days of the date listed on the welcome letter, depending on your destination and state of residence.

**Eligibility**
We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for non-members is $300 more than the members’ price. Families and travel companions 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 ship arrangements 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. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that 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 in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in May 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

**Telephone** (650) 725-1093
**Email** travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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“The trip gave me a perspective of Venice and the Veneto both past and present in a thoroughly engaging series of experiences.”

WILLIAM GORTH, ’71, VENICE AND THE VENETO, 2014