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ENTERTAINMENT

top picks

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Considering there are fewer than 62,000 permanent residents (and falling) in Venice, the offerings for nocturnal diversion are quite broad. There's a surprising range of bars for you to tinkle away in, from classic spots to sip *prosecco*, the Veneto's lightly bubbly white wine, to feistier places where students and locals of all ages seek a touch of glamour with their cocktails until (relatively) late into the night. You can take in some theatre or an opera, go to the movies or even lose a few euros at the roulette wheel. But this is not a big city, and Venice is no longer the licentious, hedonistic whirl it was in its twilight years before Napoleon and then the Austrians arrived. For the sports-oriented, you could get into the local version of rowing (*voga veneta*), or cheer on the local football side (they need all the help they can get).

For listings of shows, see the *Shows & Events* insert in the tourist office's bimonthly *La Rivista di Venezia*. Keep your eyes on the monthly *VeNews*, available at newsstands, as well as the freebie, intermittently distributed in many bars and restaurants, *VDV (Venezia da Vivere)*. *VeNews* and *VDV* also have bar listings.

DRINKING

Venetians have something of a reputation in Italy for being inveterate tippers. Locals can often be seen propping up bars in the morning for a heart starter, and the ever-popular *prosecco* pours freely throughout the day. Just as Brits might pop down to the local for a pint, Venetians will nip down to the nearest bar or *osteria* (restaurant-bar) for a quick *ombra* (small glass of wine) or *prosecco* and maybe a snack.

The colour of one's drink changes as the day progresses, and the early-evening *aperitivo* (apéritif) of choice is the *spritz*. This is one part sparkling white wine, one part soda water and one part bitter (Campari Bitter, Aperol, Amaro or Select), topped with a slice of lemon and, if you wish, an olive. The difference in taste between the bitters is not so great. The most commonly requested combo is with Aperol, which has a vaguely sweetish touch. Campari is next up in popularity and slightly drier.

It's said this drink dates from the days of the Austrian occupation in the 19th century. In warm weather the bright red and orange versions of this tinkle decorate the tables of outdoor terraces in Venice and across the Veneto. One of the good things about it is price. Being so common here, it hovers around €2 to €3.50 in most places, a damned sight better than most mixed drinks and cocktails, which start at around €5 to €6 and head higher depending on the location.

Where to Drink

There are four main poles of nocturnal interest. The Rialto markets area (Map pp84-5) has

become *the* place to be, its squares full to bursting mostly with locals spilling out joyously and noisily, glass in hand, from a half dozen bar-eateries (some of which appear in the Eating chapter).

The Rialto has drawn away some of the punters from Campo Santa Margherita in Dorsoduro (Map pp76-7), long the hub and still busy with a mix of locals, students and tourists. It remains the most varied scene of bars (with a few restaurants thrown in nearby for earlier in the evening).

A younger university crowd hangs out boisterously in a handful of bars along Calle dei Preti near Chiesa di San Pantalon (Map pp76-7). Further away from the centre of things, the area around Fondamenta della Misericordia and Fondamenta degli Ormesini (Map pp92-3) has a vaguely bohemian feel, attracting laid-back, often somewhat older students, artists and other creative types engaged in philosophical chat over a drink.

About the latest you can hope for these places to remain open is 2am. After that, it's slim pickings.

Opportunities for a nice cup of coffee and a pastry abound. Piazza San Marco (Map pp62-3) hosts some of the grandest old cafés in Europe, all of them worth at least one cuppa for that San Marco experience.

SESTIERE DI SAN MARCO

The San Marco area offers a disparate set of drinking options, from fine old taverns to UK-style pubs, and from trendy wine bars to slightly out-of-time piano bars. And, of course, there's Harry's.

AURORA Map pp62-3

Bar
% 041 528 64 05; www.aurora.it; Piazza San Marco 48-50; h 8pm-2am Wed-Sun; f Vallaresso/San Marco

Piazza San Marco's funkier bar, cunningly disguised as a typically historic café by day, is a slice of a bigger town right at the heart-beat of conventional Venice. A chilled lounge hosts local DJs who inject sparkle into the evening, nicely oiled with some of the best cocktails in town and comfy lounges.

B BAR Map pp62-3

Bar
% 041 240 68 19; Campo di San Moisè 1455; h 6.30pm-1am Wed-Sun; f Vallaresso/San Marco

Can't afford a night in the Bauer (p201)? Not to worry. Why not just nip into its hip, plush ground-floor bar for a cocktail. With a little luck you'll snare a spot overlooking the Grand Canal.

BACARO JAZZ Map pp62-3

Bar
% 041 528 52 49; Salizada del Fontego dei Tedeschi 5546; h 4pm-3am Thu-Tue, happy hr 2-8pm; f Rialto

The dark red interior and unabashedly brash feel, not to mention the location right on the main tourist thoroughfare, may not make it your favourite, but a drink's a drink in a town where bars open after 2am aren't exactly in surplus. You need to be inside by 2am to benefit from the last hour's drinking.

BACARO LOUNGE Map pp62-3

Bar
% 041 296 06 87; Salizada San Moisè 1348; h 9am-2am; f Vallaresso/San Marco

You feel like you've been transported to New York in this cool cocktail bar behind the Mondadori bookstore. It's best to sidle up to

the red-tiled oval bar, as the rear seating area lacks atmosphere. Or head up the glass stairway, lined with wine bottles waiting to be opened at the bar, to the restaurant above.

CENTRALE Map pp62-3

Bar
% 041 296 06 64; www.centrale-lounge.com; Piscina Frezzaria 1659b; cocktails €9-12; h 7pm-2am Wed-Mon; f Vallaresso/San Marco

Translucent, emerald-green lighting contrasts with swaths of black in this chilled-out lounge bar for well-dressed nocturnal types in search of a late-night tinkle. Take a high table for two or head deeper inside for a low lounge in what is a slice of Soho in San Marco. You can eat here, too. On Thursday night, bar snacks are free.

HARRY'S BAR Map pp62-3

Bar
% 041 528 57 77; Calle Vallaresso 1323; cocktails €10-16; h noon-11pm; f Vallaresso/San Marco

Although it's also a place to eat (see p171), Harry's is, of course, first and foremost a bar. Everyone who is anyone passing through Venice usually ends up in Harry's sooner or later. The Aga Khan lounged around here, and other characters as diverse as Orson Welles, Ernest Hemingway and Truman Capote have all sipped a cocktail or two at Harry's.

TARNOWSKA'S Map pp62-3

Bar
% 041 520 83 33; Campo Santa Maria del Giglio 2497; h 4pm-1am; f Santa Maria del Giglio
Watch your step as you pop down a couple of steps into this elegant hotel bar (locals know it as La Contessa, the Countess), ideal for a cocktail or postprandial brandy. With its polished tile floors, it spreads into several separate spaces. Alongside those

THE COCKTAIL CIRCUIT

Back in the 1950s, behind the bar at Harry's, a new sensation was born. It was deceptively simple: mix *prosecco* with peach nectar, and you have a Bellini. Of course, they will tell you there is more to it than that – the quality of the ingredients and, more importantly, the proportions. Whatever – it is good.

You don't have to shell out the €12 for one at Harry's bar, as Bellinis and other cocktails are popular at *aperitivo* time (that loose early-evening, predinner period) all over town. Still, if you can afford a drink or two at Harry's, it's worth it, if only for the people-watching. Some days the bar may just fill with fellow tourists, on others, Elton John might wander in...

And apart from the Bellini, Harry's does some other mean mixes. These guys have been practising the art of the martini for as long as the place has been open.

Truman Capote called a good martini a Silver Bullet. What's in it? Good gin and a drop of Martini Dry. But of course the amount of the latter varies according to taste. For a strong, dry martini, 'rinse' the glass with Martini and then pour in freezing-cold gin. Hemingway, who set part of his book *Across the River and into the Trees* at Harry's, had his own recipe – pour freezing-cold gin into a glass dipped in ice and sit it next to a bottle of Martini for a moment before drinking!

having an animated chat over lovingly prepared tall drinks are other folks beavering away at computers, for this is one of those rare things in Venice, a wi-fi spot. The Russian Countess Maria Tarnowska, it is said, had one of her lovers assassinated in this very place.

TEAMO Map pp62–3 Bar
 % 347 366 50 16; www.teamo.it; Rio Terà della Mandola 3795; h 8am–10pm; f Sant'Angelo
 Every now and then you get the feeling that savvy new wind is blowing through Venice, bringing a modern, sophisticated buzz to some of its quiet corners. The high-back leather padding along the bench against the wall, the high stools, the hip choice of music, all make this a very un-Venetian little drink stopover. You can eat as well. But wouldn't it be marvellous if you could sip cocktails here at 2am?

TORINO@NOTTE Map pp62–3 Bar
 % 041 522 39 14; Campo San Luca 4592; h 8pm–1am Tue–Sat; f Rialto
 This unlikely looking spot (during the day) livens up at night as a young student set, combined with carefree and relaxed holidaying visitors, settles in for mixed drinks, music and the occasional live performance (jam sessions often take place on Wednesday).

VITAE Map pp62–3 Bar
 % 041 520 52 05; Calle Sant'Antonio 4118; h 9am–1am Mon–Fri, 9am–2am Sat; f Rialto
 When things around here start to look grim, people converge on this place. On a Friday or Saturday night it's a lively joint for a convivial drink – and one of the few seriously decent options in the San Marco area for a fun-loving, unpretentious crowd. Vitae is also busy by day – it's a popular brunch spot for local office workers – and it's packed for after-work drinks, too.

CAFFÈ FLORIAN Map pp62–3 Café
 % 041 520 56 41; www.caffeflorian.com; Piazza San Marco 56–59; h 10am–midnight Thu–Tue Apr–Oct, 10am–11pm Thu–Tue Nov–Mar; f Vallaresso/San Marco
 The plush interior of this eternal café has seen the likes of Lord Byron and Henry James taking breakfast (separately!) before they crossed the piazza to Caffè Quadri for lunch. Venetians started paying exorbitant sums for the pleasure of drinking here

in 1720. The French writer Stendhal read with irritation about the return of the king of France to Paris after the fall of Napoleon here, and indeed one of Italy's first newspapers, the *Gazzetta Veneta*, was born here in 1760. The café was originally known as Alla Venezia Trionfante (Triumphant Venice) but when Napoleon arrived in 1797, the founder's nephew, Valentino, quickly changed this to his uncle's name: Florian (which is how most Venetians had always known it anyway). He added a billiard room and made it the best known coffee house in Europe. His grandson sold it in 1858 and it was completely refurbished in the style that you see today. In latter years, everyone from Hemingway through Vittorio Gassman to former French president François Mitterrand would grace this place with their custom.

CAFFÈ QUADRI Map pp62–3 Café
 % 041 522 21 05; Piazza San Marco 120; meals €80–100; h 9am–midnight Tue–Sun; f Vallaresso/San Marco
 Quadri is in much the same league as Florian, and it's equally steeped in history. Indeed, it opened its doors well before its better known competitor, in 1683. In the days of the Austrian occupation, it was the Austrians' favourite hangout on the square (they weren't made to feel particularly welcome at Florian's). The 1st-floor dining area is a luxury trip, all dripping chandeliers, baroque mirrors and heavy wall hangings.

LAVENA Map pp62–3 Café
 % 041 522 40 70; Piazza San Marco 133; h 9.30am–12.30am daily Apr–Nov, 9.30am–10.30pm Wed–Mon Dec–Mar; f Vallaresso/San Marco
 Founded in 1750 and less renowned than its big brothers Florian and Quadri, Lavena is in the same vein. Wagner was among its more visible customers, but historically gondoliers and *codegas* (stout fellows who lighted the way home for people returning along the streets at night) also hung out here.

SESTIERE DI DORSODURO
 Campo Santa Margherita is one of nocturnal Venice's entertainment magnets. The extensive square is fronted on three sides by restaurants and bars, and it attracts a fun, eclectic crowd of students, hipsters, Biennale

bods, local residents (at least those of them who aren't complaining about the noise) and, while the sun's still out, groups of children playing. Nearby, a more strictly student crowd hangs out at a couple of popular bars along Calle dei Preti near the Chiesa di San Pantalon. A by-now legendary summer drinking option is El Chioschetto, bathed in sunshine on Le Zattere.

AI DO DRAGHI Map pp76–7 Bar
 % 041 528 97 31; Calle della Chiesa 3665; h 7.30am–2am Fri–Wed; f Ca' Rezzonico
 This tiny but historic *baccaro* (old-style bar) is an obligatory stop for an *ombra* or *spritz*. The place consists of three distinct spaces. First is the tiny cubicle of a bar itself, all aged timber and a perfect retreat in winter if you can get in. Out the back there's some more seating for the colder months, while the tables set out on the *campo* (square) are ideal in summer.

AL BOTTEGON (CANTINA DI VINI GIÀ SCHIAVI) Map pp76–7 Bar
 % 041 523 00 34; Fondamenta Maravegie 992; h 8.30am–8.30pm Mon–Sat; f Zattere
 Wander into this fusty wine bar across from the Chiesa di San Trovaso for a *prosecco* beneath the bar's low rafters and in the light provided by dodgy bulbs. Alternatively, buy a bottle of whatever takes your fancy and take it away. The place has been known to stay open longer than the advertised times,

and the *panini* (sandwiches) are great if your tummy's rumbling.

CAFÈ NOIR Map pp76–7 Bar
 % 041 71 09 25; Calle dei Preti 3805; h 7am–2am Mon–Sat; f San Tomà
 You can start the day with breakfast or hang out into the night with a mixed crowd of Italian students and foreigners. The place has a laid-back, underground feel about it. Cocktails, among the better ones in town, cost around €6 to €8.

CAFFÈ BLUE Map pp76–7 Bar
 % 041 71 02 27; www.cafe-blue.com, in Italian; Calle dei Preti 3778; h 8am–2pm & 5pm–2am Mon–Sat; f San Tomà
 At this coolish student bar you may encounter live music, but it's more likely to be a DJ (Wednesday is a good night). If the DJ is good, the place packs to the rafters and punters spill out onto the street. It can be quiet on midweek evenings, which could be a good time to pop by with your laptop, as they have wi-fi for customers. On Thursday night there's a cocktail happy hour from 9pm to 11pm. It has a good stock of whiskies, too.

CORNER PUB Map pp76–7 Bar
 % 329 917 65 61; Calle della Chiesa 684; h 10am–12.30am Wed–Mon; f Accademia
 As the name suggests, this cosy alehouse sits on a corner. Cram inside for a McEwan's

THE BIG STING

People keep doing it and keep complaining about it: that outrageously expensive cup of coffee taken at one of the big pavement cafés on Piazza San Marco is for some visitors the single most unforgettable (and unpleasant) Venetian experience. So, before you sit down for a *cuppa* (or any other drink or food) at the terraces, consider the following.

An espresso at a regular bar costs €0.80 to €1. It costs €5 at Caffè Florian and more still if you sit outside. At Caffè Quadri prices are similar. In addition, you pay for the privilege of listening to the quartets playing outside these cafés (except in the colder months) – a €5 surcharge (but only on the first *cuppa*). Thus the infamous US\$10 (more like US\$15 nowadays) cup of coffee on Piazza San Marco. An Irish coffee can cost €13 (plus music surcharge). Of the big three on Piazza San Marco, only Lavena offers standard prices for your espresso at the bar.

Even so, if you're only going to do it once, why not let your hair down? Spend a languid hour or so over your coffee at an outdoor table at Florian, Quadri or Lavena, soak up the atmosphere and relax. After all, there is nowhere else like this in the world! And plenty of cafés in Paris, London and New York will charge you more for less.

The quartets (the idea seems to go back to the days of the Austrian occupation) compete with one another for attention, one striking up stirring Vivaldi and the other countering with, say, a little jazz. Usually they have the courtesy to play in turns, but if you stand in the middle of the square when they aren't being so gentlemanly, the effect can be more cacophonous than melodious.

As a rule, drinking at outdoor terraces always costs more than at the bar, because of the comfort, views and waiter service. How much varies greatly from one place to another.

or Bulldog Red, or in summer order at the hatch that gives onto the street.

EL CHIOSCHETTO Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 348 396 84 66; Fondamenta Zattere al Ponte Lungo 1406a; h 7.30am-5pm Nov-Mar, 7.30am-1am Apr-Oct; f San Basilio
DJs spin tracks here on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday nights in the warmer months. Tables sprawl out around a tiny bar in the kind of kiosk where you'd normally expect to buy the paper. Sitting right in front of one of the Università di Ca' Foscari's faculty buildings, it attracts a mix of students and other locals in search of a little outdoor nightlife. In summer (mid-May to mid-September) it organises boat parties on the Canale della Giudecca.

IL CAFFÈ Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 041 528 79 98; Campo Santa Margherita 2693; h 7am-1am Mon-Sat; f Ca' Rezzonico
A lively student bar with snacks, this place is known to locals affectionately as the *caffè rosso* because of the red sign. It is something of a classic, and on warmer nights the animated bustle at the outside tables is hard to pass up.

IMAGINA CAFÉ Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 041 241 06 25; www.imaginafe.it; Rio Terà Canal 3126; h 8am-2am Tue-Sun; f Ca' Rezzonico
A cheerful bar with high-backed red chairs and bright lights, Imagina Café is a bar with artistic pretensions. The walls are always hung with regularly changing paintings and/or photography, lending some visual interest to a *prosecco* stop.

IMPRONTACAFÉ Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 041 275 03 86; Calle Crosera, Dorsoduro 3815; h 7am-2am Mon-Sat; f San Tomà
A snazzy snack bar and restaurant by day, this place comes into its own as a be-seen-in wine bar with food in the evening. Sidle up to the bar for a goblet of fine Italian wine by the glass (€2.50 to €4) or opt for a light sit-down meal and order a bottle!

MARGARET DUCHAMP Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 041 528 62 55; Campo Santa Margherita 3019; h 10am-2am Wed-Mon; f Ca' Rezzonico
This is a highly popular spot for a *spritz* and chat until the early hours. It attracts a hip

mix of young wannabes and Biennale types with shades – you can't blame them, as you get the afternoon sun shining straight through your cocktail glass.

ORANGE Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 041 523 47 40; www.orangevenice.com; Campo Santa Margherita 3054a; h 8am-2am; f Ca' Rezzonico
Huge sheet-glass windows dominate the southern end of the *campo*. The colour of an Aperol *spritz* inside, the bar appeals to fashionistas and other narcissists. In summer, skip the lurid bar and head out back to the pleasant garden or the ringside terrace upstairs.

OSTERIA DA CODROMA Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 041 524 67 89; Fondamenta Briati 2540; h 9am-1am Mon-Sat; f San Basilio
Popular with students, Codroma has been a favoured meeting place of workers, artists, musicians and just about everyone else in this part of town for more than 100 years. It's a knockabout spot, where people crowd in at timber benches and tables for an *ombra* and snacks.

SUZIECAFÉ Map pp76-7 Bar

☎ 041 522 75 02; Campo San Beseio 1527a; h 7am-7pm Mon-Thu, 7am-1am Fri & concerts; f San Basilio
This happy student bar picks up in buzz in the summer months as punters crowd the outdoor tables on the square hidden back a short stumble from the waterfront. Together with the nearby *El Chioschetto* (left), it creates a lively summertime corner in Dorsoduro. From May to June it organises occasional concerts of anything from blues to ska.

SESTIERI DI SAN POLO & SANTA CROCE (SANTA CROSE)

The Rialto markets area has become the Venetians' favourite timpling zone. A half dozen places fill up most nights with locals who converge from all over town. Curiously, few foreign stragglers seem to join in what is easily the most joyously authentic drinking scene in town. Further away, various isolated oases for elbow exercise shine out: a handful of bars around Campo San Giacomo dell'Orto and a rave on Fondamenta Rio Manin.

AI POSTALI Map pp84-5 Bar

☎ 041 71 51 76; Fondamenta Rio Marin, San Polo 821; h 6pm-2am Mon-Sat; f Ferrovia
This is a buzzy locals' bar along the Rio Marin. In years gone by this spot served as an early opener for dawn posties but nowadays is an enticing spot where jazz hums in the background. On warmer nights a seat by the canal is ideal for a *spritz* or two and on Fridays and Saturdays there's a good chance you'll still find it open at 3am.

AL MARCÀ Map pp84-5 Bar

☎ 393 992 47 81; Campo Bella Vienna, San Polo 212-213; h 9am-3pm & 6-9pm Mon-Sat; f Rialto
This hole in the wall is *the* place to kick off the evening in the market square with fine wine by the glass (€1.50 to €3.50), *cicheti* (snacks) or just a beer. A market workers' fave by day and popular with a bohemian set of Venetians by night, you are well placed to kick on afterwards.

AL PROSECCO Map pp84-5 Bar

☎ 041 524 02 22; Campo San Giacomo dell'Orto, Santa Croce 1503; h 8am-10pm; f Ferrovia
Pop into this pleasant little watering hole to taste a few wines from around the world, accompanied by a few bar snacks, in particular an aromatic selection of cheeses.

top picks

DRINKING VENUES

- **Aurora (p187)** Making Piazza San Marco hop.
- **Sacro e Profano (right)** A conspiratorial den a short stumble from the noisy Rialto action.
- **Centrale (p187)** A chilled touch of Soho.
- **Taverna da Baffo (right)** Rambling old tavern inside, pretty summertime terrace outside.
- **Margaret Duchamp (opposite)** A hip place to hang out on *the square*.
- **Muro Vino e Cucina (right)** The liveliest of the Rialto bar scene.
- **Mojito Bar (p193)** Taste of the tropics on the Lido.
- **Caffè Florian (p188)** Venice's best known café.
- **Caffè Quadri (p188)** Older than Florian and with an excellent restaurant.
- **Lavena (p188)** Perfect for a winter cuppa.

ANTICA OSTERIA RUGA RIALTO Map pp84-5 Bar

☎ 041 521 12 43; Ruga Rialto, San Polo 692; h 11am-3pm & 6pm-midnight; f Rialto
Although *cicheti* and light meals are served here, we have included this *osteria* as a drinking establishment. Revellers often spill out into the street and on some evenings it stages live music.

BAGOLO Map pp84-5 Bar

☎ 041 71 75 84; Campo San Giacomo dell'Orto, Santa Croce 1584; h 7am-midnight Sep-Apr, 7am-2am May-Aug; f Riva de Biasio
This place, with its timber floors and low lighting inside and candlelit tables outside on the *campo*, adds some nocturnal adrenalin to this pretty square, aided and abetted by a couple of busy spots around the corner on Calle del Tentor.

MURO VINO E CUCINA Map pp84-5 Bar

☎ 041 523 47 40; Campo Cesare Battisti, San Polo 222; h 4pm-2am Mon-Sat; f Rialto
A metropolitan touch to Venice's bar scene, this place has brought some boisterous nightlife joy to the market squares of Rialto. Spread over two storeys looking over the markets, the downstairs level is a bustling designer bar, while upstairs you can eat reasonably well. Folks spread out into the square with their tipples.

SACRO E PROFANO Map pp84-5 Bar

☎ 041 523 79 24; Ramo Terzo del Parangon, San Polo 502; h lunch & 7pm-1am Thu-Tue; f Rialto
Known as Da Valerio to regulars and hidden beneath the porticoes of what was once the goldsmiths' district, this tiny cubicle of a bar is another good spot to continue a Rialto night out. Try the *cicheti* and more substantial dishes (like the lasagne) or just sip wine and cocktails to the chilled ambient music. It's something of a hang-out for artists and bohemians.

TAVERNA DA BAFFO Map pp84-5 Bar

☎ 041 520 88 62; Campiello Sant'Agostin 2346; h 7.30am-2am Mon-Fri, 5pm-2am Sat-Sun; f San Tomà
Named after Casanova's licentious poet pal Giorgio Baffo and lined with his rhymes in praise of 'the round arse' and other parts of the female body, this bar has a young, chirpy

feel. In summer the tables outside are an especially pleasant spot to sip a *spritz* or two, and the imported beers are good as well.

CAFFÈ DEI FRARI O TOPPO

Map pp84–5 Café

☎ 041 524 18 77; Fondamenta dei Frari, San Polo 2564; 11 8am–9pm; 12 San Tomà
With more than a century of history, this is a leap back in time. On a cold winter's day especially, there's nothing better than sinking into a cushioned bench behind a tiny round table and hugging a hot cuppa, an afternoon *spritz* or wine and the paper.

CAFFÈ DEL DOGE

Map pp84–5 Café

☎ 041 522 77 87; www.caffedeldoge.com, in Italian; Calle dei Cinque, San Polo 608; 11 8.30am–8pm Mon–Sat, 9am–1pm Sun; 12 San Silvestro
Long a coffee-roasting workshop, this is now a gourmet coffee-tasting spot. The creamy décor and sometimes-loud music might not appeal, but the brew is sublime. Italian coffee is good but here at Caffè del Doge it goes one better. Have a Guatemala Huehuetenango espresso (€1.70) and taste the difference.

SESTIERE DI CANNAREGIO

There are some noisy bar-restaurants on the main drag leading away from the train station that fill with day-trippers tanking up on beakers of amber fluid after a hard day's sightseeing. Head instead to a more pleasant local scene around Fondamenta della Misericordia.

ALGIUBAGIÒ

Map pp92–3 Bar

☎ 041 523 60 84; Fondamente Nuove 5039; 11 7am–midnight; 12 Fondamente Nuove
There's nowhere better for a coffee on the way to or from Murano and the northern lagoon islands. Late in the day, you may be tempted to skip the caffeine hit and switch to a generous *spritz*, a fine sunset option on the *fondamenta*. The only problem is that, since it expanded its rather pretentious and expensive restaurant, the outside tables are set up for diners too early for comfort.

DOGADO

Map pp92–3 Bar

☎ 041 520 85 44; Strada Nova 3660a; 11 11am–1.30am; 12 Ca d'Oro
The best part of this elegant bar-restaurant is swinging in the garden chairs on the

summer roof terrace with a cocktail (€9) or one of an unending variety of imported beers in hand. The dark, modern timber furnishings and candle light inside are just as tempting in the colder months.

FIDDLER'S ELBOW

Map pp92–3 Bar

☎ 041 523 99 30; Corte dei Pali 3847; 11 5pm–1am Thu–Tue; 12 Ca d'Oro
This place is representative of the Venetian Irish-pub genre. It's warm and cosy, and in summer tables are set up on the street. For all its supposed Irishness, it seems equally popular with locals as with strangers in need of a Guinness.

IL SANTO BEVITORE

Map pp92–3 Bar

☎ 041 71 75 60; Calle Zancani 2393a; 11 7.30am–midnight Mon–Sat; 12 Ca d'Oro
A straightforward canal-side corner bar, the 'Holy Drinker' attracts beer-lovers and those in search of the occasional bit of live music, which usually takes place on Monday evening. Internet access is available here too.

OSTERIA AGLI ORMESINI

Map pp92–3 Bar

☎ 041 71 58 34; Fondamenta degli Ormesini 2710; 11 10.30am–4pm & 5.30pm–2am Mon–Sat; 12 Madonna dell'Orto
Oodles of wine and 120 types of bottled beer in one knockabout little place? Perhaps you should get along to this *osteria*. It's something of a student haunt, and tipplers spill out onto the *fondamenta* to enjoy their grog.

PARADISO PERDUTO

Map pp92–3 Bar

☎ 041 72 05 81; Fondamenta della Misericordia 2640; 11 11am–3pm & 6pm–2am Tue–Sun; 12 Madonna dell'Orto
Paradise Lost remains a classic place to hang out for a beer or simple wines at the long benches with a little live music to boot. The food is so-so but the Sunday night blues and jazz jam sessions (9pm to 11pm) will put rhythm in your shoes. There's usually live music on Friday, too.

PUB TORTUGA

Map pp92–3 Bar

☎ 041 277 01 30; Calle delle Cadene 4888; 11 9am–2am; 12 Fondamente Nuove
During the day this is a fairly standard café-bar, where you can pop by for a cof-

CONFUSED OVER COFFEE

Coffee in Italy is complex. An espresso is a small cup of strong black coffee. A *doppio espresso* is a double. A *caffè lungo* is more watery, and an approximation of bland filter coffee is a *caffè americano* (which most locals wouldn't be seen dead drinking, and with reason).

Enter the milk. A *caffè latte* is coffee with milk. *Cappuccino* is a frothy version. Both are breakfast drinks to Italians. *Caffè macchiato* (literally coffee 'stained' with milk; just ask for 'un macchiato') is an espresso with a dash of frothy milk. The Venetians have discovered that sometimes a *macchiato* is too little and a *cappuccino* too much. Enter the *macchiatone* (big *macchiato*), which is halfway between the two. You will often be asked if you want any of the milk versions *freddo* or *caldo* (cold or hot). This refers to the milk. This author likes it *caldo*. A further nuance that leaves some outsiders flabbergasted is the *cappuccino* or *macchiato senza schiuma* (without froth). In other words, having added the characteristic *cappuccino* froth, they then scrape it off. What's the point you ask? We give up!

After lunch and dinner, the most common options are an espresso or a *macchiato*. Venetian waiters are well used to the address of foreigners, but if you ask for a *cappuccino* you may still get that 'Are-you-really-sure?' look.

In summer, many locals opt for a *caffè freddo*, a long glass of cold coffee with ice cubes. Good on winter afternoons is a *corretto* – an espresso 'corrected' with grappa or other hard liquor. Actually, it's good any time and not a few Venetians have one as an early morning heart-starter.

fee, a beer and perhaps a bruschetta. At night it livens up as local punters slip in to sample the various imported beers on tap and, occasionally, a little live music. It's a warm little island in this lonely Cannaregio corner.

SESTIERE DI CASTELLO

Not a helluva lot goes on in Castello at night, but there are a couple of watering holes you can head for, all of them quite different, from five-star chic through pseudo-English to canal-side apéritif.

BAR DANDOLO

Map pp100–1 Bar

☎ 041 522 64 80; Riva degli Schiavoni 4196; 11 9.30am–12.30am; 12 San Zaccaria

You may never be able to stay in Venice's grand old dame of hotels, but you can sip a *spritz* (€10) or cocktail (€18 to €22) in this plush piano bar on the ground floor. Waiters will serve up some nibbles with your tipples and then you sit back in absorb the whimsical décor and keep you eye out for the occasional celeb.

INISHARK

Map pp100–1 Bar

☎ 041 523 53 00; Calle Mondo Novo 5787; 11 5pm–1.30am Tue–Sun; 12 Rialto
This is a good, old, slightly gloomy Anglo-style pub in the heart of Castello, fine for pints of Guinness (and a selection of hearty ales) and football (on Sunday). A few bar snacks and a variety of *panini* are available, too.

L'OLANDESE VOLANTE

Map pp100–1 Bar

☎ 041 528 93 49; Campo San Lio 5658; 11 11am–12.30am Mon–Sat, 5pm–12.30am Sun; 12 Rialto
The Flying Dutchman is a UK-style pub that attracts a curious mix of local students out for a beery night and tourists feeling a little nostalgic for... a beery night. The terrace gets vaguely rowdy on summer evenings.

ZANZIBAR

Map pp100–1 Bar

☎ 339 200 68 31; Fondamenta Santa Maria Formosa 5840; 11 9am–1am; 12 Rialto
This crooked kiosk that looks set to crumble into the canal provides some great life-theatre entertainment. Pull up a seat on the square and settle in for a few people-watching drinks to the thumping music emanating from the bar.

AROUND THE LAGOON

If you hang back after a day at the beach at the Lido, there are several watering holes around. One in particular is good if you want to hang out later into the night.

MOJITO BAR

Map p116 Bar

Piazzale del Casinò, Lido; 11 9am–3am mid-Apr–late Oct; 12 Lido
A tiny slice of Caribbean on the Lido, run by traveller-friendly twin brothers Andrea and Giovanni, this place (known affectionately as *il baretto*, the little bar) is the happening bar in the summer months. When nothing else is going on in, say, October, this is the place to be for beers, cocktails with fresh fruit (€4.50) and Latin sounds.

NIGHTLIFE CLUBBING

The club and dancing scene (locals call a club a *discoteca*) in Venice is virtually zero.

Things look up in summer, when a handful of places open on the Lido, but the real action is out at Jesolo (p241), about an hour's drive northeast of Venice, where there are more than half a dozen places to choose from. Azienda Trasporti Veneto Orientale (ATVO) bus 10a from Piazzale Roma takes about 70 minutes and costs €3.70 (€6.50 return). The problem is getting back – buses don't run particularly late. If you find a taxi, you are looking at €80 or more, depending on traffic. You will also need a local taxi to get around some of the clubs set back away from the town and beach.

Mestre and a couple of small towns on the mainland also have a handful of clubs. With your own transport they are all accessible. If you have the patience for night buses from Mestre, a couple are also possible. Otherwise it's a taxi.

Expect to pay anything from €5 to €20 to get into a club. This may include the first drink.

PICCOLO MONDO Map pp76–7

☎ 041 520 03 71; Calle Corfu, Dorsoduro 1506a; admission €10 incl a drink; h 11pm–4am Tue–Sun; f Accademia

This teeny disco and bar is a bit of a throwback but perfectly all right in its own fashion. It pulls a strangely mixed crowd of foreigners and locals in search of that late

LAPPING IT UP

For a city that in its twilight years was considered by many a European to be one great pleasure dome of the senses, modern Venice is remarkably conservative. The few attempts to set up sex shops have failed miserably, and the city's red-light district (except for the streets around the mainland Mestre train station) can be summed up in one address. A dim red light indeed indicates you have arrived at the coyly named *Piccolo Teatro delle Melodie Veneziane* (Little Theatre of Venetian Melodies; Map pp100–1; ☎ 041 523 14 03; Campo San Lorenzo, Castello 5063; h 11pm–4am Wed–Sun). There's nothing very Venetian about the melodies, and the entertainment consists of half-hearted striptease and a little louche lap-dancing. Casanova and Byron would have been mortified!

night frisson. Many Venetians would deny ever setting foot in the place, but wander by late at night and you'll find a handful. Otherwise, it's anything from loud young North American students to late-night loungers on the pull. Drinks cost €10.

AURORA BEACH Map p116

☎ 335 527 73 31; Lido di Venezia; h 9am–2am, May–mid-Sep; f Lido

The hot summer spot on the Lido beach, Aurora Beach (connected to Aurora in San Marco, p187) brings some of the sunny club scene of Ibiza to the Old Lady of the Lagoon. Stylish, perma-tanned folks sip cocktails and let rip to club sounds on the beach until late into the night (especially Friday and Saturday).

PACHUKA off Map p116

☎ 041 242 00 20; Spiaggia San Nicolò, Lido; admission free; h 9am–4am Wed–Mon Oct–May, 9am–4am daily Jun–Sep; f Lido, then taxi or shuttle
The most reliable of the Lido's summertime dance spots, this place right on the beach works year-round as a snack bar and pizzeria, but summer weekend nights it cranks up as a bit of a beachside dance club, too. A shuttle bus operates from midnight to 4am every 20 minutes between the club and the Lido vaporetto stop.

IL MURETTO

☎ 393 410 11 20; www.ilmuretto.net, in Italian; Via Roma Destra 120d, Lido di Jesolo; admission up to €25; h 10pm–5am Sat; bus 10a, taxi
An army of DJs spins mostly house in this, one of the hippest summer dance locales set inland from Jesolo and the beach (you need a car or taxi to get here). Flyers can be seen floating around as far away as bars in Padua. A couple of other spots are located on the same road.

MARINA CLUB

☎ 0421 37 06 45; www.marinacclubjesolo.com, in Italian; Via Roma Destra 120b, Lido di Jesolo; admission free; h 10pm–5am Fri–Sat; bus 10a, taxi
It's nowhere near a marina and just down the road from Il Muretto. A sprawling place catering for folk of mixed ages, it boasts various open-air and semi-open air spaces, lounges, tall tables, plenty of greenery, gazebos, restaurants and sometimes live bands. People come to see and be seen, but there's not much dancing.

Entry is free but the bouncers get tough from midnight.

TERRAZZAMARE

☎ 0421 37 00 12; www.terrazzamore.com, in Italian; Vicolo Faro 1, Lido di Jesolo; admission €15; h 10.30pm–4am Tue–Sat Apr–Sep; bus 10a, taxi
Sitting on a beach at the southern end of Lido di Jesolo (near the lighthouse) is this classic self-described 'theatre-bar'. Music thumps into the night, and punters often groove in the sand. Theme nights dot the summer calendar.

METRÒ VENEZIA Map p121

☎ 041 538 42 99; www.metroclub.it; Via Cappuccina 82b, Mestre; admission €15; h 2pm–2am; train, night bus N2

This is basically a gay sauna, with various sauna and massage rooms but also a bar. Rather than a dark room it has a dark labyrinth! There's a deal for free entry into the Flexo Bar (see Gay & Lesbian Options, right) in Padua after your sauna here.

CASINOS

People aged under 18 are not allowed into the following gambling dens.

CASINÒ DI VENEZIA Map pp92–3

☎ 041 529 71 11; www.casinovenezia.it; Palazzo Vendramin-Calergi, Cannaregio 2040; admission €5 (or €10 incl €10 gambling token & discounted parking at Piazzale Roma); h 2.45pm–2.30am Sun–Thu, 2.45pm–3am Fri–Sat; f San Marcuola
It feels quite distinguished to step off a water taxi at the Grand Canal entrance to this mansion and go in for a night on the tables. This is old-world class – the jacket-and-tie dress code is no surprise. A free shuttle ferry runs every 10 or so minutes between the Casinò di Venezia and a stop on the Grand Canal, located near Piazzale Roma.

VENICE CASINO off map p60

☎ 041 529 71 11; www.casinovenezia.it; Ca' Noghera, Via Triestina 222, Tessera; admission €5 (or €10 incl €10 gambling token); h 11am–2.30am Sun–Thu, 11am–3am Fri–Sat
If you feel that quantity is more important than ambience, then this might be the casino for you. It's Italy's premier mainland gambling house and is near the airport. The dress code is casual.

GAY & LESBIAN OPTIONS

Virtually nothing is done to cater specifically for gays and lesbians in Venice, and the only thing for it is to head for a handful of places in Mestre and Padua. The big news is the gay sauna club in Mestre, *Metrò Venezia* (left), with several sauna and massage rooms. In Padua half a dozen bars cater to the gay scene, including the busy *Flexo Bar* (off Map p224; ☎ 049 807 47 07; www.flexoclub.it; Via Turazza 19; h 9pm–2am Wed–Thu, 9pm–5am Fri–Sun), with a dark room, glory holes and porn. It's 100m off Piazzale Stanga, about a 10 minute walk from the train station. There are also a few gay clubs, including *Love Discotheque* (off Map p224; ☎ 333 906 04 34; www.lovedisco.net, in Italian; Via Bernina 18; h 10.30pm–4am Sat).

THE ARTS MUSIC

Musical ensembles dressed in billowing 18th-century costume regularly perform concerts of baroque and light classical music (especially from about Easter to September). These shows are clearly aimed at tourists and can be cheesy, but the musical quality is not necessarily bad. Serious music lovers, however, are likely to be disappointed. More high-brow concert programmes are sometimes staged in churches, including on occasion the Basilica di San Marco. Keep your eye on the listings publications noted at the start of this chapter.

A handful of eateries and bars intermittently put on live music, usually jazz, blues and mild pop. They include *Paradiso Perduto* (p192), *Iguana* (p180), *Caffè Blue* (p189), *El Chioschetto* (p190), *Torino@notte* (p188), *Tarnowska's* (p187), *Il Santo Bevitore* (p192), *Antica Osteria Ruga Rialto* (p191) and *Osteria da Codroma* (p190). It is all a bit problematic, as the local constabulary frequently comes down hard on bars that burst through a fairly low decibel ceiling. And concerts in most bars are supposed to end, by law, at 11pm!

In summer occasional concerts are organised in Jesolo – watch the local press. A big rock event is *Jesolo Beach Bum* (the Italian rendering of the English 'boom'), usually held over a weekend at the beginning of July. In Mestre's Forte Marghera area the big annual event is *Marghera Estate Village* (www.villageestate.it, in Italian), a programme of nightly live music, from rock to world music, that runs from mid-June right through the summer.

Tickets & Reservations

Tickets for the classical and baroque music performances staged by several groups in various churches and *scuole* (religious confraternities) around Venice can generally be purchased on the spot from touts around town (they're not hard to miss, as they generally dress in 18th-century kit) or from travel agents such as *Agenzia Kele & Teo* (Map pp62-3; % 041 520 87 22; www.keleteo.com; Ponte dei Baratteri, San Marco 4930). For jazz and other live-music gigs you generally pay at the door. Bigger concerts tend to be held at the PalaGalileo concert hall (Map p116) behind the Palazzo della Mostra del Cinema on the Lido.

COLLEGIUM DUCALE

Map pp100-1 Classical & Baroque

% 041 98 42 52; www.collegiumducale.com, in Italian; Palazzo delle Prigioni & Chiesa di Santa Maria Formosa; adult/student & senior €25/20; h 9pm; f San Zaccaria
The first thing you will notice about this ensemble, which plays alternately in the Palazzo delle Prigioni and the Chiesa di Santa Maria Formosa, is the absence of period costume. It carries out a series of concerts, covering old chocolate-box favourites from Vivaldi, Albinoni and a few rank outsiders like Mozart and Mendelssohn. They alternate with nights of jazz.

INTERPRETI VENEZIANI

Map pp62-3 Classical & Baroque

% 041 277 05 61; www.interpretiveneziani.com; Chiesa di San Vidal, San Marco 2862b; adult/student €23/18; f Accademia
Since the mid-1980s this group has been presenting concerts of, above all, Venetian music, in the Chiesa di San Vidal. Vivaldi, of course, heads the list, but the musicians handle other Italian masters and the occasional interloper such as Bach. Other than when the group is away on tour, the concert season lasts year-round. Performances generally start around 8.30pm.

AL VAPORE

Map p121 Live Music

% 041 93 07 96; Via Fratelli Bandiera 8, Marghera; admission varies; h 6pm-1am Tue-Thu, 6pm-2am Fri-Sat; train, bus 6, 6b, 66 & N2
The single best place for a consistent programme of jazz, blues and other music is this spot in Marghera, on the mainland. Concerts start at 9.30pm and finish at mid-

night, generally on Friday and Saturday. On other nights you're as likely to hear ethno-chill-lounge DJ mixes.

LABORATORIO OCCUPATO MORION

Map pp100-1 Live Music

% 041 520 84 37; Calle di Morion 2951; h 9pm-1am Wed, 9pm-2am Fri-Sat; f Celestia
Want to dive into a little counter-culture? This oversized squat and social centre organises occasional concerts featuring bands from around the Veneto. Watch out for the posters around town to see what's coming up.

VENICE JAZZ CLUB

Map pp76-7 Live Music

% 041 523 20 56 or 340 1504985; www.venicejazzclub.com; Fondamenta dello Squero, Dorsoduro 3102; admission €15 (incl a drink); h concerts 6-9pm Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat; bar 6pm-2am; f Ca' Rezzonico
For years known as Round Midnight and the place to dance and drink until the wee hours, this little bar has morphed into a tamer jazz club. The VJC Jazz Quartet, along with local and international acts, puts on a wide variety of tunes, from Bossa Nova to Cool Jazz.

THEATRE, OPERA & DANCE

Fine opera comes to Venice, home to the Teatro la Fenice, one of the world's great opera houses. Dramatic theatre and, less often ballet and modern dance, can also be seen on the city's stages. A smattering of fringe theatre surfaces from time to time. The Festival Internazionale di Danza Contemporanea usually takes place for two weeks in June, with performances at the Biennale's theatre spaces in the Arsenal and around town (check out the Biennale website, www.labienale.org).

Tickets & Reservations

Tickets are available directly from the theatre concerned, usually one hour before the show. To book you can call or go online as indicated under individual entries.

You can purchase tickets for the majority of events in Venice at *HelloVenezia* (% 041 24 24; www.hellovenezia.com in Italian), which is part of the Azienda Consorzio Trasporti Veneziano (ACTV). *HelloVenezia* has kiosks out the front of the Stazione di Santa Lucia (Ferovia; Map pp92-3), on Piazzale Roma (Map pp84-5) and the Infopoint at the Venice Pavilion (Map pp62-3).

A handy website for checking what's on in which theatre is www.culturaspettacolovenezia.it (in Italian). Also have a look at www.veneziaspettacoli.it (in Italian) and www.agendavenezia.org. A good central site for theatre information is at the city council (www.comune.venezia.it); click on *Cultura*. Tickets to many Venice theatres can be acquired online at www.vivaticket.it.

MUSICA A PALAZZO

Map pp62-3 Opera

% 340 971 72 72; www.musicapalazzo.com; Fondamenta Barbarigo o Duodo, San Marco 2504; tickets €40; h 8.30pm; f Santa Maria del Giglio
Welcome to the 19th century. Climb the stairs to this noble mansion (Palazzo Barbarigo-Minotto) on the Grand Canal for a unique night at the opera. Take up a seat in the salon and later the master bedroom for operatic duos and delicious excerpts of light classical music. On some evenings they present *La Traviata*, moving from one room to another. Rarely can one experience opera in so intimate a fashion, and in such a setting, a grand Venetian mansion laden with stucco and original frescoes by Giambattista Tiepolo.

TEATRO LA FENICE

Map pp62-3 Opera

% 041 42 42; www.teatrolafenice.it; Campo San Fantin, San Marco 1977; tickets from €20; f Santa Maria del Giglio
The grand opera theatre of Venice is back in action (see p71), providing an experience music lovers will not want to miss. First-night spots can cost several thousand euros. Some of the operas are staged at the charming 17th-century *Teatro Malibran* (Map pp92-3; Calle del Teatro, Cannaregio 5870; tickets €10-95; f Rialto), with a capacity of 900, instead.

TEATRO GOLDONI

Map pp62-3 Theatre

% 041 240 20 14; www.teatrostabileveneto.it, in Italian; Calle Teatro Goldoni, San Marco 4650b; tickets €7-30; h box office 10am-1pm & 3-7pm Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat when there is a performance, 10am-1pm Thu f Rialto
Named after Venice's greatest playwright (see p53), this is the city's main drama theatre. It's not unusual for Goldoni's plays to be performed here – after all, what better location? You might also see anything from Shaw's *Pygmalion* done by a Calabrian theatre company to contemporary Italian drama. All sorts of other events, including concerts, take place here too.

TEATRO JUNGHANS

Map p109 Theatre

% 041 241 19 74; www.teatrojungans.it, in Italian; Giudecca 494a; tickets €5-20; f Palanca
Locals call it the Teatro Formaggino (Little Cheese Theatre) because it looks like a wedge of cheese. With seating for 150 and a unique three-sided stage, it was inaugurated in early 2005 and is part of an urban-regeneration project in the formerly run-down factory zone of the island.

TEATRO TONIOLO

Map p121 Theatre

% 041 97 16 66; www.culturaspettacolovenezia.it/toniolo, in Italian; Piazza Battisti 1, Mestre; admission €15-35; train, bus 1
This busy forum in Mestre, in business since 1912 (and renovated in 2004), runs programmes ranging from Shakespeare to local drama, occasionally in dialect. Concert cycles and children's theatre are also a feature.

TEATRO FONDAMENTA NUOVE

Map pp92-3 Theatre & Dance

% 041 522 44 98; Fondamente Nuove 5013; f Fondamente Nuove
Expect the unexpected. Here you might see a modern adaptation of a classic by Carlo Goldoni, Sardinian folk dancing or world-music performances. A €20 season pass gives discounts on all performances.

CINEMA

Venice doesn't have an English-language cinema. The time to see foreign cinema in the original language is during the Mostra del Cinema di Venezia (Venice International Film Festival; p18) in September. During this festival local residents go screen-happy, subjecting themselves to days on end of cinema happenings and so squeezing a year's viewing into a few weeks. If you are in Venice during the Mostra, the tourist offices can help with programmes for the general public and can also provide information on how to obtain tickets. Otherwise, foreign movies are dubbed into Italian.

CINEMA DANTE D'ESSAI

Map p121

% 041 538 16 55; Via Sernaglia 12, Mestre; adult/student €7/4.50; train, bus 1
This is the best bet in Mestre for good flicks, a balanced mix of mainstream cinema and some quirkier stuff from the non-Hollywood circuits.

CINEMA GIORGIONE MOVIE D'ESSAI

Map pp92-3

☎ 041 522 62 98; Rio Terà di Franceschi, Can-naregio 4612; adult/student €7/5; ƒ Fondamente Nuove

This modern cinema frequently presents quality movies, not just the big-name Hollywood schlock. There are two screens (one tiny) and as many as three screenings a day (roughly 5pm, 7.30pm and 10pm).

MULTISALA ASTRA Map p116

☎ 041 526 57 36; Via Corfù 9; adult/student €7/5; ƒ Lido

A broad range of art-house movies and mainstream releases, much along the lines of the programme at the Giorgione.

SUMMER ARENA Map pp84-5

Campo San Polo; 1 Jul-Aug; ƒ San Silvestro

Set up under the stars in Campo San Polo in the hot months of summer, this outdoor cinema allows residents to see the movies from their windows! Again, it's all dubbed, and sound quality is poor.

VIDEOTECA PASINETTI Map pp84-5

☎ 041 524 13 20; Palazzo Carminati, Santa Croce 1882; annual member's pass €25; ƒ San Stae

This film archive and research centre occasionally puts on film nights featuring classics. You'll need a member's pass.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES**ROWING & SAILING**

Rowing is a local passion, although clubs complain of declining interest. Nine rowing associations dot Venice, Mestre and the lagoon, and locals compete in frequent regattas all year round. *Voga alla veneta* (Venetian-style rowing, ie standing up) is the local style, but Venice has produced world champions of *voga all'inglese* (the English seated version). *Voga alla vallesana* is a rowing style where one person uses two oars.

Venetians like sailing, too. *Vela al terzo* involves traditional, shallow-hulled lagoon vessels rigged up with vaguely triangular main sails. Yachting is virtually impossible in the treacherous lagoon.

ASSOCIAZIONE CANOTTIERI

GIUDECCA Map p109

☎ 041 528 74 09; www.canottierigiudecca.com, in Italian; Fondamenta a Fianco del Ponte Lungo, Giudecca 259; 1 office 4-6pm Tue & Thu; ƒ Redentore

Established in 1981 by a mixed group of rowers living on Giudecca, the club has become one of the most active and competitive in Venice. When expert rowers are available, outsiders can sign up for lessons in *voga alla veneta* for €6 an hour.

REALE SOCIETÀ CANOTTIERI

BUCINTORO Map pp76-7

☎ 041 523 79 33, 335 6673851; www.bucintoro.org; Punta della Dogana, Dorsoduro 15; ƒ Salute

The oldest rowing club in Venice was established in 1882. Inspired by the Oxbridge rowing clubs, it went on to furnish Italy with Olympic champions (the entire gold medal team at the 1952 Olympics were Bucintoro members). You can sign up for lessons in *voga alla veneta*; for pricing and lesson times, write to elmar@bucintoro.org or call. *Vela al terzo* classes are sometimes offered.

FOOTBALL

Venice's uniqueness makes for some interesting logistics when **AC Venezia** (☎ 041 520 68 99; www.venezia calcio.it, in Italian) plays at home. The team plays at the Stadio Penzo, on Isola di Sant'Elena, at the far eastern end of the lagoon city (one day, a new stadium will be built on the mainland). Special ferry services are laid on between the Tronchetto car parks and Sant'Elena. All buses arriving in Venice on a match day are diverted first to Tronchetto to disgorge their loads of fans before reaching Piazzale Roma.

As with residents elsewhere in the country, *il calcio* (football) reigns in the hearts of many Venetians. Venezia, or the *arancioneroverde* (orange, black and greens), is a middling team that for years has hovered at the bottom of Serie B (2nd division) or, as at the moment, in Serie C (3rd division). Since it was founded in 1907, it has rarely played in the top division.

Match tickets are available at Stadio Penzo and from HelloVenezia outlets (see p196). They can cost around €15 to €20 depending on the seat. Getting a ticket on the day is rarely a problem.

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