



Private Palaces, Villas & Gardens of Venice and the Veneto

Sponsored by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

Arranged by Pamela Huntington Darling, Exclusive Cultural Travel Programs

Sunday, October 7 to Sunday, October 14, 2012

7 days and 7 nights



Venice and the Veneto's rich cultural heritage are unique in the world. Our exclusive program will take an intimate group of discerning travelers beyond the usual tourist sites to view the secret Venice and Veneto, known only to Venetian nobility and the privileged few. For seven luxurious days we will view the most important Palladian villas and *palazzi* to observe the development of Venetian art, décor and architecture guided by our expert lecturer, Countess Giuliana di Thiene. We will enjoy private visits, lunches, cocktail receptions and dinners in magnificent private villas and palazzi—rarely opened to the public—owned by Venetian nobility and esteemed members of the cultural and social worlds.

Our journey begins in Asolo, a picturesque medieval town whose gentle hills and stunning views inspired Titian and Giorgione. We will stay at the 4-star deluxe hotel Villa Cipriani. Once the home of poet Robert Browning, this luxurious, relaxing haven perched above Asolo is surrounded by stunning gardens and spectacular views.

Our last four nights will be spent at the newly renovated, 4-star luxury Starhotels Splendid Venice, near Piazza San Marco, offering comfortable rooms decorated in elegant Venetian style with marble bathrooms. Overlooking the sparkling facades of century-old *palazzi*, the hotel offers spacious lounge areas, a handsome courtyard dining room and a roof-terrace with spectacular views of Venice.

The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art and Pamela Huntington Darling, specializing in organizing inimitable cultural travel programs, welcome you to join us for this exclusive cultural program.

Tour Price: \$7,500 per person double occupancy; single-occupancy guests may choose between: (1) \$1,000 single supplement with Villa Cipriani & Starhotels Splendid Venice; or (2) \$700 single supplement with 3-star Hotel Duse & Starhotels Splendid Venice. Based on an exchange rate of \$1.35/1 Euro; minimum 15 participants (maximum 20 participants). A fully tax-deductible \$500 donation to ICAA is also required.

Rate includes: 7 days of private visits and receptions; 7 nights of hotel accommodations; 3 nights at the 4-star luxury hotel Villa Cipriani, Deluxe Rooms double occupancy; Superior Rooms single occupancy (or 3-star Hotel Duse: single occupancy) in Asolo www.villaciprianiasolo.com; www.hotelduse.com and 4 nights at the 4-star luxury boutique Starhotels Splendid Venice, Superior Rooms, <http://splendidvenice.starhotels.com/en/home.aspx>; 7 breakfasts; 7 lunches, cocktail receptions, and 5 dinners; transportation to and from events; all private visits and expert lecturer.

To assure availability, please reserve now. Reservations are confirmed according to registration date. Confirmed participants will receive a full itinerary and description. Members at the Contributor or Individual-Professional level or higher are welcome to attend ICA&CA tours. **For more information and to reserve, please call** Pamela Huntington Darling: Tel. (Paris, France) +33 1 45 67 62 81; or email: pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com

Private Palaces, Villas & Gardens of Venice and the Veneto

Tour Highlights

Sunday, October 7 to Wednesday, October 10: Private Villas & Gardens of the Veneto

Many of the remarkable 16th to 19th century villas in the region were built by Andrea Palladio for Venetian aristocrats, with noble forms and elaborately painted murals and ceilings by renowned artists. Palladio's urban buildings decisively influenced the development of architecture in Europe and North America and his palazzi and buildings in Vicenza, a UNESCO World Heritage site, give the town its stately appearance.

Sunday, October 7: Venice Marco Polo Airport to Asolo

A private coach will take us from Venice Marco Polo airport to Asolo. Participants traveling from the U.S. are encouraged to arrive a day ahead to acclimate before our tour. Special hotel rates are available for additional nights.

We begin our tour of the notable private villas of the Veneto in Asolo, a walled town with a significant cultural history, considered one of the most beautiful medieval villages of the region, with frescos, gothic buildings and a central fort.



Lunch: Villa Cipriani

Upon arrival from the airport, we will enjoy a relaxing lunch in the gardens of Villa Cipriani, offering breathtaking views and outstanding regional cuisine prepared with fresh produce from the local markets.

Afternoon: Relax or explore Asolo

Before our welcome dinner, guests can relax at Villa Cipriani, stroll through Asolo accompanied by our expert lecturer, Countess Giuliana di Thiene, or visit the monthly antiques market, boutiques and local artisan shops along romantic arcaded streets.



Late Afternoon & Evening: Private Visit & Welcome Dinner, Castle-Villa Porto Colleoni Thiene

Countess Giuliana di Thiene will welcome us at her historic residence for cocktails in the garden and a private tour, followed by dinner. Historian Professor Ackerman emphasizes that, in order to appreciate Palladio's architectural inspiration and the evolution of Venetian villas, Villa-Castle Porto Colleoni Thiene must first be discovered.

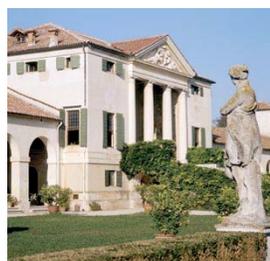


The Castle-Villa was built as a countryside residence and agricultural estate in the 1450s on the ruins of a medieval castle, and unites the gothic characteristics of a castle with those of a Venetian palazzo. Exceptional for its time, its structure is attributed to the great architect Domenico da Venezia, the "engineer" of Vicenza. We will admire the villa's remarkable vast courtyard and vast interior with frescoes, paintings, and antique décor, as well as the



extensive library—containing among its archives a first edition of Andrea Palladio's "Four Books of Architecture" (1570)—and the elegant stables in rare marble, considered an architectural masterpiece.

Monday, October 8: Morning at the Villa Emo at Fanzolo & Villa Cornaro



We begin our day at Villa Emo (1559-1565), in the village of Fanzolo, considered the central masterpiece of Palladian villa design. Like the Villa Barbaro, its *barchesse* (farm buildings) extend symmetrically from the central structure in the famous five-part profile familiar in later Palladio-inspired architecture, including the U.S. Capitol building. We will admire frescos by Giovanni Battista Zelotti and stuccos by Alessandro Vittoria.

Our tour continues at the Villa Cornaroto, in the village of Piombino Dese, where owners Carl and Sally Gable will personally guide us on a private visit. Built in the early 1550s for Venetian nobleman Giorgio Cornaro, the villa is a masterpiece of Palladio's middle period. We will view important statuary by Camillo, Mariani frescos by Mattia Bortoloni and stuccos by Bortolo Cagianca. The villa was included on *Town & Country's* list of ten of the world's most important buildings to visit

Private Lunch: Villa Marcello



Counts Vettor and Jacopo Marcello and Countess Marcello will welcome us for a special lunch prepared by the Countess herself, followed by a private visit of the family residence, an admirable 16th-century Palladian-style villa built for the powerful Marcello family, with 16th-century frescos by Giovanni Crosato Batiste. We will admire the Italian-style garden and statuary, and the vast park, dovecote and chapel.

Private Afternoon Visit: Villa Almerico Capra "La Rotonda"

Count Nicolo di Valmarana will greet us at his family residence on a day closed to the public. Villa La Rotonda, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was Palladio's famous villa and pleasure pavilion, whose central dome was inspired by the Pantheon. We will view frescos by Alessandro Maganza and Lodovico Dorigny, statues by Lorenzo Rubini and stuccos by Rubini, Ruggero Bascapa and Domenico Fontana.



Evening: Dinner, Leisure

Guests will enjoy dinner at their leisure at Villa Cipriani's excellent restaurant, with panoramic views over the vineyard-and-villa-dotted countryside, or at an atmospheric local restaurant.



Tuesday, October 9: Morning & Lunch: Villa Barbaro & Villa Godi Malinverni

Countess Diamente Barbaro will greet us at the Villa Barbaro, in the village of Maser. Villa Barbaro (1549-1558) is Palladio's premier farm villa, built for Daniele Barbaro, Patriarch of Aquileia, and his brother Marc'antonio Barbaro, ambassador of the Venetian Republic. We will view outstanding frescos by Veronese, statues by Vittoria and Barbaro, and stuccos by Vittoria.

Villa Godi Malinverni, Palladio's First Villa

Count Christian Malinverni will welcome us to his home for a private visit and lunch. Built in 1542 on the Lonedo hill overlooking the Astico River, Villa Godi Malinverni's interior is adorned with frescoes by Gianbattista Zelotti, Battista del Moro and Gualtiero Padovano, a remarkable synthesis of the art of the time. The villa was magnificently restored by the count's father in 1962. We will enjoy lunch with the Count, specially arranged in the Villa's "Four Seasons" room and prepared by his personal chef.



Afternoon: Palladio's Vicenza



A UNESCO World Heritage site and capital of the province of Veneto, Vicenza is unique for its extraordinary palazzi and monuments designed by Andrea Palladio.

Countess Giuliana di Thiene and Dr. Wilma Barbieri, expert Palladian lecturer, will guide us through Palladio's Teatro Olimpico, designed just before his death in 1580, and a walking tour of Palladio's historic Vicenza area to observe the architecture of the most celebrated palazzi, including Palladio's Palazzo Barbaran da Porto, the Basilica Palladiana and Loggia del Capitaniato and Palazzo Thiene.

Evening: Private Visit, Cocktails & Dinner at the Villa Valmarana ai Nani

Count Adalberto Cremonese and Countess Maria Carolina di Valmarana will greet us at their majestic country residence, Villa Valmarana ai Nani, where will enjoy cocktails in the stunning gardens followed by dinner at the Villa surrounded by awe-inspiring frescos by the Tiepolo's, father and son. This is a memorable way to end our special tour of the Veneto.



Wednesday, October 10 to Sunday, October 14: Private Palaces & Gardens of Venice

After breakfast, a private luxury coach will take us from Asolo to Venice, where the director of the 4-star deluxe Starhotels Splendid Venice will welcome us.

Lunch: Palazzo Lezze

Marie Bagnasco will welcome us for lunch at her 15th-century palazzo on the Grand Canal, with splendid views of Venice and a secret garden. The residence is beautifully decorated in the Empire style, a rarity in Venice, with superb antiques and murals by her daughter, Evelyn Bagnasco, whose work has been widely featured in magazines such as *AD* and *Town and Country*.



Afternoon: A Historic Palazzo

We will enjoy a privileged private visit and refreshments with the owners of one of the most remarkable and important early Renaissance palaces of Venice. Designed by Giovanni Buora, it is one of the very few Venetian palaces with two *piano nobili*. The remarkable décor includes two friezes by Domenico Tiepolo and stupendous stuccoes. Princess Winnaretta de Polignac (daughter of Isaac Singer, inventor of the sewing machine) held salons here with renowned avant-garde artists, such as Gabriel Fauré.

Evening: Welcome Cocktails & Dinner at the Palazzo Corner Gheltoff Alvera

For our first evening in Venice, Countess Caterina Alvera will welcome us for cocktails and dinner at her historic Venetian residence, Palazzo Corner Gheltoff Alvera, an impressive 16th-17th-century palace in the Gothic style situated on the Grand Canal, with an elegant décor and artworks. We will enjoy cocktails and spectacular views of Venice on the rooftop terrace followed by dinner.

Thursday, October 11, Morning: Private Visit to Bevilacqua, Makers of Luxurious Venetian Fabrics

By special arrangement, Alberto Bevilacqua will welcome us for a private visit to this world-renowned, family-run institution, not open to the public. Founded in 1499, it is the only company in the world still producing—on 18th-century looms—brocades, damasks and velvets of the incomparable quality that made Venice famous.

Private Visit: Palazzo Pisani-Moretta

The noble owners of Palazzo Pisani-Moretta invite us for a private visit of the Palazzo's splendid apartments and unique art collection. Overlooking the Grand Canal, the 15th-century palazzo is a magnificent example of late Gothic architecture. Several 18th-century expansions and restorations show the hand of outstanding Venetian artists of the time, including Giambattista Tiepolo, Jacopo Guarana and Gaspare Diziani.



Lunch: Antiche Carampane Located just steps from the Rialto bridge, Antiche Carampane is a favorite among politicians, celebrities and locals. Its warm trattoria ambience, superb regional cuisine and welcoming staff make for a wonderful dining experience.



Afternoon: Palazzo Albrizzi

Baron Lorenzo Rubin de Cervin Albrizzi will welcome us for a private reception at his residence, Palazzo Albrizzi, one of Venice's most luxurious Baroque palaces and a private home owned by the same family for nearly 500 years. The Albrizzi family purchased the palace in 1648 and spent 50 years sumptuously decorating the residence. Our host will relate the history of the palazzo and its preservation. We will be served refreshments and visit the secret garden.

Evening: Cocktails at the Palazzo Bernardo

Our hosts will welcome us at their stunning residence brilliantly restored by classical architects Joseph Achkar and Michel Charrière. Situated on the *piano nobile* of the majestic 15th-century Palazzo Bernardo—once home to Richard Wagner—it overlooks the Grand Canal with spectacular views of Venice. The owner creates fine glassworks at her Murano atelier, sought by leading interior designers and private collectors.



Dinner & Leisure: restaurants will be recommended for your choice



Friday, October 12: Morning Private Visit to the Gran Teatro La Fenice

Guests of Jerome-François Zieseniss, President of the Circolo La Fenice, we will enjoy a private behind-the-scenes visit with Luciano Arrici, VIP Relations Director of La Fenice, one of the oldest and most celebrated opera houses in Europe, where legendary composers and artists have performed, including Rossini, Donizetti and Verdi. The director will engage us with anecdotes of the renowned international opera singers and patrons through the theater's history.

Private Visit: Napoleonic Wing of the Royal Palace of Venice

Jerome-François Zieseniss, also President of the Comité Français pour la Sauvegarde de Venise, will personally guide us on a private visit of the Napoleonic wing of Venice's Royal Palace. We will discover the outstanding and extensive restoration work of the Napoleonic rooms, including those of Empress Elisabeth of Austria, with neoclassical interiors by Giuseppe Borsato, disciple of Percier and Fontaine. This awe-inspiring edifice is the last intact neoclassical Royal Palace in Italy.



Lunch: Ristorante Acqua Pazza An elegant establishment specializing in the flavors of the Amalfi coast, with a private terrace on Campo Sant' Angelo—one of the most enchanting squares in Venice—where we will dine, weather permitting.



Afternoon, Private Visit: Residence of Opera Director Pier-Luigi Pizzi

Schedule permitting, Pier-Luigi Pizzi will personally greet us in his superb historic residence, with a stunning décor and museum-quality European and Neapolitan artwork. Former atelier of the Renaissance artist Titian, near the Frari in San Polo, the soaring three-story gallery houses an unparalleled collection of Northern paintings, antiques, statuary and ancient Venetian glassworks. A unique visit that even highly distinguished visitors to Venice are rarely offered.

Evening, Cocktails & Dinner: Palazzo Balbi Mocenigo

Jérôme-François Zieseniss and Matteo Corvino, an interior designer and organizer of prestigious private galas in Venice, Rome and Paris, welcome us for cocktails and dinner at their superbly restored residence decorated with elegance and warmth by our hosts.

Saturday, October 13: Palazzo Grimani & Palazzo Cappello Malipiero Barnabo

Dottore Roberto Fontanari will welcome us and lead us on a private visit of Palazzo Grimani, Venice's only palace built on the plan of a Roman villa. The state purchased the palace in 1981, and a total restoration was completed in 2008. Unique among Venetian palazzi, the palace incorporates Roman and Tuscan architectural and decorative elements and features superb marble and leaded glass doors streaming light from the open cortile and the *rio*.



Private Visit: Palazzo Cappello Malipiero Barnabo

Countess Anna Barnabo will welcome us on a private visit to her historic residence with an 18th-century décor, notable artworks and one of the largest private gardens on the Grand Canal. The palazzo was built over three centuries: the 12th century, Renaissance, and the 17th century, when it was restored in the Baroque style. We will enjoy refreshments in the majestic living room with splendid views over the Grand Canal.

Lunch: Palazzo Grassi At Palazzo Grassi, just next door, we will be treated to a light lunch and a quick view of the museum overlooking the Grand Canal. Palazzo Grassi presents major temporary exhibitions and outstanding works from the François Pinault Collection.

Afternoon: Delegates may shop or visit nearby sites, including the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

Evening, Cocktails & Farewell Dinner: Palazzo Tiepolo Passi

Countess Lelia Passi will prepare a special gourmet dinner for us at her beautiful historic residence on the Grand Canal with marvelous views of Venice. The 16th-century Palazzo Tiepolo Passi possesses one of the few frescoed façades, traces of which can still be seen. Guardi ornaments embellish the ground floor of the palace. The admirable décor includes well-preserved ceilings and valuable stuccoes portraying mythological scenes. *A wonderful close to our exclusive and memorable program!*

Sunday, October 14: Breakfast

After breakfast, we will bid guests “*A presto!*” with the hope you will join us for another exclusive cultural travel program in Europe and beyond. We are pleased to assist guests who wish to prolong their stay in Venice.

A detailed itinerary will be sent to confirmed participants. Due to the exceptional nature of our private visits and receptions, a private visit or reception date may change or be replaced in the coming months by an equally exceptional invitation, in which case confirmed participants will be notified.