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BACAROTOUR n° 2

From PIAZZALE ROMA TO RIALTO

Passing through the ex red distric of Venice





link for the interactive map: http://www.bacarotourvenezia.com/btve2182en

The tour start from Piazzale Roma.

For those who start from the **train station** you can join the tour at ' **all'Osteria Rivetta'** in *calle Sechera* (page 3)

We start from piazzale Roma and we leave behind us the noisy and the crowd of the street and get into the city of the Venice from the side, crossing the bridge on Rio Novo and giardini Papadopoli. (public gardens) Then we pass over a couple of arches and go up on the bridge that is in front of us, where we can see our first stop the mythical Bacareto da Lele that is on the corner of campo dei Tolentini, overlooking the canal. Since the first hours of the day there are a lot of workers. Students of the nearby university or other workers in their breaktime or better know as ' ombra break' (break with a glass of wine) this tavern is famous for its sandwiches filled with the fantasy of the owner Mr. Fabio (the bartender). After some sandwiches and glasses of wine we go up the steps of the nearby church of saint Nicola from Tolentino, or better know , 'church of the Tolenini', where on its facade we can find an astrian bomb dated 1849, it is a reminder of the reinassance when the General Radetzky, got angry becuase Venetian people refused to surrender and for this reason the General threw on Venice more that 30.000 bomb in a period of 24 days and the city that had already been weakened by a cholera disease had surrender and the austrian troops entered into the city. Passa una gondola : Della città: – Ehi! della gondola Qual novità? – Il morbo infuria... Il pan ci manca... Sul ponte sventola 6 AGOSTO 1849 Bandiera bianca! -(from a song ' Ultima ora di Venezia' written by Alberto Fusinato in 1849)

Then we leave the entrance of the church on the left side and we will be in a square, where you can see the entrance of IUAV, the faculty of architecture of Venice. The modern gate has been designed by one of the most important italian architect of the perid after the second war world, the Venetian Carlo Scarpa. If we find the entrance opened that we will get into the courtyard where we can admire an ancient stone door from Istria area, that was found during the restoration working of the university and it is part of the project of restoration.	<image/>
'Inside there is ' libreria Cluva' , (library) specialized in architecture books and magazine and some objects in tune with architecture as well, like shoppers and design notebooks.	
Then we turn right into <i>calle Amai</i> and go along this street up to the bridge that bring us in <i>calle de le</i> <i>Sechere</i> , where on the left side we can find a 'bacaro' Ai Do Scaini , where we can find a lot of tasty chichetti and the usal white 'ombra' (white glass of wine), it is a goods place for having a tasty break.	
Then we get into <i>Calle di Mezzo</i> , on the left side of the 'bacaro' and after few meters we go past a porch to reach a bridge , we will across the bridge and on the left side without any sign outside we can find the famous 'bacaro' Alla Rivetta , one of the most authentic bacaro of Venice. Mr. Franco and his mum Mrs. Lugina, are cheerful and kind people and among the conversation they serve sandwiches and the famous 'half eggs' or better know as 'mexi vovi'. Is for connoiseurse only: closed on Saturday and Sunday.	

Once get off the 'bacaro' in a pleasure tune with the rest of the world ,we get in the opposite street , *corte Canal*. We have to pass under a short porch and we are at *fondamenta Rio Marin or said as i Garzotti*, a corner of the city very impressive and quiet. Then we get the' fondamenta' just on the right side without crossing the bridge and after few meters we find the pastry's called **pasticceria Rio Marin**, an ideal place for a caffer and also for a sweet pastry.

We carry on along the fondamenta up to the next bridge and here in the corner, there is a famous 'bacaro' called **Enoteca Rio Marin**, a simply tavern with a wide choice of appetizers called' chicchetti' and an 'ombra'(glass of wine) at affordable price. If you want this tavern offers a standard menu' at lunch time at interesting price and it is often attended by the workers who work nearby.

Then we across the bridge and we arrive in 'campiello del Cristo ' and take, in the corner, calle San Zuane that after a elbow shape bend gets in campiello de le Strope. Then we have to pass through a short porch that is on the left side and we are in 'corte dell'Anatomia'. Cross it and under the porch turn left on the bridge named as' ponte dell'Anatomia'. The name comes from the building placed in the front of the bridge that was, in the past time' the anatomical theatre', where following a rule dated 1368, the doctors could practice dissections on cadavers.At the beginning in Venice the doctors were subdivided into two colleges, one of the physical doctors (the real one) and the one of the surgeons. There was a strong antagonism between the two corporations that led to numerous controversies. In order to bring the peace the Republic of Venice decided to merge the two corporations in 1545 and after some changing, the headquarter was inside the 'anatomical theatre' that was built in 1671 in campo san Giovanni dell'Orio. Originally it had a large room with three elliptical stairs system for assisting to the dissections on cadavers, meanwhile on the first floor there was a rich library, an archive and a meeting room for the doctors. Unfortunately it was burned out by the great fire in 1800, afterwards there was the final transfer in the anatomic room of the civil hospital.







Campo San Giovanni dell'Orio it is one of the most lively campo in Venice, there are a lot of mums and old people that enjoy of the mild temperature sitting on the benches in the shadow of the trees, meanwhile the children run with their skates or play football in front of the ex anatomical theatre. This campo is a place for concerts and parties organized by the many associations of local people that normaly also grow vegetable in the public flower- bed. From this church left the pilgrims for Santiago de Compostela as we can see like the man with the shell placed on the bell tower. If we take the street on the right side on calle del Tentor (dyer) we can find a tavern called ' l'Osteria da Filo' (Fillippo is the name of the owner), where we can have a break. This tavern is attended by students and some usual customers and it represents a good alternative choice rather than the classical bar for turists If we get a look at the opposite building at nr 1582 we can see a nice entrance with an elegant garden that belongs to the beatiful Venetian palace by which we can step back in time. Then we go along campo San Giovanni dell'Orio, and the last palace on the right side, before entering in ' calle larga' is ' Penna Palace, that was built in 17 th century . This building is quite unusual as if we can look at it carefully we can notice that the main entrance door and some elements of the balcony that are not at 90 grades respect the facace but they are leaned on the left towards calle Larga. It is said that the owner, who had jewish origins, didn't like having an Chatolic church with its usual tower bell in front of his house, and for this reason he decided to add some architectural changes to his palace. On the building a plaque commemorates the venetian poet Mario Stefani, gay icon of the city whit a sweet and

sad history.

The we carrying on along *calle Larga*, up to the bridge, across the bridge and we reach ' *calle del Megio'*, *turn left in* ' calle of *Tentor' up to the end the street and we reach a ' salizada Caminati' where we can find a ' bacaro' named* ' **al Boresso'**, and here we have a pleasure break. This tavern has been opened recently by a young Venetian man that, beside coffe with pastries, he offers a nice display window with ' chicchetti' (typical appetizers) along with the usual 'ombra' (glass of wine).



Get off the 'bacaro'and turn left on the first ' calle' and then we follow the Rialto guide instructions . Walking along this' campiello of the spezier' (and also here we can find a public fontain on the left side) then we across over the bridge on the ' rio' and turn right where we walk along the church of ' *Santa Maria Mater Domini* ' to reach in the omonymous campo.

In this 'campo', at nr 2120, we find '**palazzetto Ca' Zane'** where we can notice above the main entrance, the erased traces of an engraving sculpture that reprents a lion. This engraving statue is dated to the time of the conspiracy of Bajamonte Tiepolo, in 1310, who planned to remove the authority of the Doge Pietro Gradenigo. The Serenissima Republic, after have discovered the conspiracy, and arrested the people involved, decided to engrave the statue of the Lion of Saint Marco on his house, as a penalty but afterwards the owner decided to cancell it.



At the ground floor of the same palace we can find **Vintage Bisnonni**, a nice shop of second-hand clothes also used griffed clothes.

You can find original jeans of 70s years with elephant foot shape, colourful hawai style shirts or original Vuitton bags.



Then we cross the 'campo' an go past the brige on 'rio' up to arrive a the end of the' calle'. In front of a green door we turn right and so leave behind us the chaotic flux of turists and immediately turn left into 'calle Bragadin al Cristo 'that gets us to 'campiello della Stua.' The name 'Stua' means 'stove' and it stands also for those shops similar to turkish bath with manicure and pedicure service and massagge.

The corporation of ' stueri' was coupled with the surgeons one because both were linked with the cure of the feet, but sometimes also with not official medical treatment. Altought it is reported in many books of the time that in these places the prostitution was widespread.

The red zone with the highest concentration of 'vices' was located in 'Rivo alto' nowadays better known as Rialto Bridge area.

Here there was the market and business heart of the city, meanwhile in Saint Marco square there were the administrative headquarters.

All the ' calli' nearby, up to Rialto bridge were part of the 'red distric', this become one of the most famous aspect of Venice during the 12th /13 th century.

Then we get out from the arches and turn right so we can find the symbolic place of prostitution in Venice ,

'ponte de le Tette', (bridge of the breasts) and the name itself is self-explanatory.

In 1340 in Venice the prostitutes were around 11.654 over a population of 120.000 citizens. These prostitutes were quite well tolerated as they are thought as a necessary bad in order to preserve the male from the adultery and sodomy. In 1360 was decided to joyn them in a limited area checked by official authorities and 'the *Castelletto*' was this area that was near to Rialto bridge, but nowadays didn't exist anymore as it was distroyed. Inside the ' castelletto' there were some spacial nickels better known as ' volte' where the sexual relations were consumed and the prostitues had the right to exit only on Saturday morning, otherwise they were whipped and had to pay a fine of 10 Lire. This was a sign of the liberal and permissive point of view of the Serenissima Repubblica.

Then we go past the bridge and turn left go down through '*rio Terà de le Carampane'* that with the nearby ' calli' was the new red distric of Veniche in 14 th century In Fact the previous experiment to have joyned togheter all the prostitutes into ' castelleto' had bad result and over the time they moved into this new suburb known as' San Cassian', into the houses belonged to the famous family of' Rampani' so this houses were called in Venetian slang ' ca' Rampane or Carampane ' and from this the word ' Carampana'that in italian language means a sloppy abd vulgar woman and most of the time also







very old, in Fact when the prostitues were free to move into the city, the oldest or so called' the historical ones' decided to stay here.

Moreover please take note also that the courtesans were subdivided into two tipology : those of low rank the so called' courtesans of candlelight' whose social behaviour was controlled on timetables, places and acquaitances and they were punished by fine and public whipping. Then there were the courtesans of high rank who were normally very rich and they had beatiful clothes and a good literary and musical knowledge. These courtesans of high rank stood out because of their elegant and showy clothes made of precious fabric with lace and jewels with gold and precious stones.

In order to reduce this phenomenon, in 1543 Venice decided to ban the use of jewels in gold or silvery and silk clothes. In 1706 the government of Venice imposed to noble women to wear only black and long dresses.

So the dark colour in public area became sign of social elegance and distiction between the nobles and the poor people , for them the black colour was forbidden.

There was also a printed catalogue of the most honored courtesans of Venice along with their address,type of service and price.

Famous for her beauty and cleverness was **Veronica Franco** who had a gallant meeting with the son of 'Caterina de' Medici' who was 22 years old . This young man stopped in Venice before being crowned king of France with the name of 'Henri III de Valois' and he got married with 'Louis de Lorainne' just two days after.

The turn left in *calle Albrizzi* and we can admire the enchanting **Albrizzi Palace** and the square takes its name from the palace and then we go down on the left side in the 'campiello ' with the same name up to *calle del Tamossi* till ' rio' of ' Beccarie'.

The bridge on the left side is called Ponte Storto or

(crooked bridge) and the palace on the oppsite side is the palace of the noble family of ' Cappello' that was the place where was born **Bianca Cappello**.

Her story is quite peculiar as it is said the beside being rich, she was also beatiful, refined and clever. Her mother, who belonged to 'Contarini family' died when Bianca was only three years old and her father, then got married with Lucrezia Grimani, a supercilious woman who was also the nephew of the Antonio Grimani, and she was very proud of this kinship. The young Bianca ,who didn't stand this stepmother, met Pietro Bonaventura, a young man who worked as accountant in the nearby Bank Salviati, a subsidiary of the Tuscany bank, he told to the people that he was an heir of Salviati family and also he reported that in Florence we would have been a rich and famous noble man.





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Bianca, who was fall in love with him, decided also to entrust to him her jewels and during the night on 28/29th november 1563, when she was only 15 years old, she escaped with him and so she left secretly the paternal house. The escape became famous in Venice and a size was place on Mr Bonaventura and through the ambassadors, was requested the return of the daughter. The young couple was called in front of the 'Duke' but he didn't take any penalty may be we was persuaded by the good portrait of the couple and maybe by the exactness how Bianca managed to defend herself. The life in Florence was very different from the refined life that she had supposed, in fact she lived a poor and misery life but suddently his husband was killed by the relatives of a vidow who was compromised by him.Bianca started to attend the cout of 'Medici' where she met the Duke Francesco and became her lover and after some years, in which she was a concubine, she got married with him as soon as he become widov of his first wife Giovanna d'Austria, a dull and sick woman. After 10 years they was found poisoned and the suspects fell on his brother Francesco, the cardinal De Medici, who had never stood Bianca and he refused to buried her with due honour and he decided also to remove her crests from public places.	
Then we go down on the bridge and get ' rio terà San Aponal'and at a cross we turn right and go straight up to a ' campiello del sol' where we can read a sign that reminds the palace of Bianca Cappello. The we go along 'calle de l'Ogio o de la Rugheta del Ravano', where we can find a famous' bacaro' full of good foods and then we have a break here . The name of the bacaro is l' Osteria dai Zemei' Here we can find a wide choice of appetizers filled with goods ingredients and a good ' ombra of the house , (glass of wine).	OSTARIA DAI ZEME
The we get out of ' bacaro' and turn left towards Rialto Bridge, and after few meters we find ' pasticceria Targa' (targa's pastries shop) where we can have a sweet break. Only here you will find the original <i>Mamaluchi</i> , a sweet invented by mistake and become a venetian must.	Anna Carna

ROAD DEVIATION

If we go along Ruga Rialto for 20 mtr, we will find, in a corner of' calle del Sturion', the ancient ' bacaro' called ' l'Antica Osteria Ruga Rialto', a hidden tavern but spacious with a large counter desk where Mr. Marco and Giorgio, the owners, offer good appetizers ' chicchetti' and good ombra (glass of wine) at affordable price.

If you would like to drink a good caffe you have to go on the main street and turn right into' calle Cinque' where you can find ' Caffè del Doge (doge's caffetteria) with a wide choice of mix coming worldwide as coffe from Guatemala to Etiopia one and the lovers of coffe can tast the velvet coffe called ' Jamaica Blu Montain'.

The we go along the main street and after two calli, at nr. 789 we turn left into ' Calle de la Donzela' (the name as - young girl street) and the name of this calle derives from the name of an ancient tavern dated around 16th century, on the right side of the street at nr.700 we can see an nice example of hanging door, one of the **most crooked door** in the city.

Talking about curios doors, we can go along the main street and then we turn right into 'Ramo de la Donzela', afterwards we turn right passing through a brick arch and we go past 'calle dell'Arco' where, on the left side, at nr 456 we can find the ' the porta della botte' (the barrel door) where the botton stone holders have been wided and shaped to allow the barrels of wine to enter in the palace, also in the past time the priorities were very strange.

In 'campo Rialto Novo' we will see the engraving with the simbol of 'Boteri' (people that work with barrels of wine) that at the time of the Serenissma Republic they was an important confraternity that was obliged to repair the barrels of the Doge free of charge.









If we go straight along the calle we can fin a 'bacaro' whose name is '**all'Arco'.** It is on the left side at nr. 436. Here we can discover a wide range of appetizers made with fresh ingredients, but there is not the usual glass of wine of the house ('ombra') but only bottled wine . This taver is higly attended by local people who go to Rialto to do shopping.

This area is full of 'bacari' one more beatiful and tasty than the other ones.

The best thing to do is to make a list of selected ' bacari' based on own drinking capacity or we can chose among the less crowded or why not try to tast everyone...

Few mtr. From the main street in 'in *calle dei* **Do Mori** ' we can find a ' bacaro' with the same name of the street that is well known also the in guidebooks. This tavern has rustic forniture but with an impressive effect . The local people, unlike the turists, normally enter from ' calle Galeazza' where you will be served with wine of the house, ideal to drink with the many tasty specialities as the ' francobollo'(the stamp), a special sandwich made with black bread.





ROAD DEVIATION

If after this huge quantity of appetizers and glass of wined you won't be satisfied then you can get into '*Do Spade*' a nice ' bacaro ' in the street, that has the same name, in a young enviroment, where is possible to stay until far in the night.

Please keep note that we are in the area , where time ago was built the ' Castelletto' for joying together all the Venetian prostitutes.



Then we get off the bacaro and turn left on the main street and then immediately wa have to turn righ into' in *Ramo Do Mori' up to the cross with ' Ruga dei Spezieri' (street)*. Here we can notice a corner pillar, where are engraved two peaches linked together that represent the confraternity of **'persicata'** ('confraternity of the peaches'). Persicata sia a gelee jam based on peaches (called persichi in local slang) the has been widesped since the renaissance. A venetian sweet very similar to this jam is made with ' cotogne apples' and you can find it during the celebration in occasion of Saint Martin day.

The street is entitled to 'Spezieri' (a sort of grocers) that at the beginning they were reunited by the same confraternity but afterwards they were subdivided into two branches: ' the spezieri' of medicines and the

' spezieri' who dealt with spices and also they were different from the classic grocer, or those who dealt with sugar. Moreover these ' Spezieri' used to make special sweets covered by sugar and honey and made by many ingredients, some of these were almonds, cider and pears along with tasty jam.

Then we go along ' *ruga dei Spezieri* ' towards Rialto and then we turn left to have a look at the market of vegetable and fruits (the market is hold only in the morning). This market is placed in '*campo Cesare Battisti already named Bella Vienna*.'if you look at the women who do shopping you will become part of the local life.

In the market square there is also a tavern called ' **Al Mercà**' a tavern mainly attendend b young people who love spritz-aperol (aperitiv).

The we pass through the porch that is next to ' campo San Giacomo' or better known as' San Giacometto', some time ago this was the original place of the market of Rialto area where there were a lot of traders and it was known as one of the most chaotic place of the city by nowadays is well known by its evening aperitiv..

Have a look to' **Gobbo di Rialto'**, a marble stair used for reading the public rules or proclamations of the Serenissima Repubblica.It was also the meeting point for those who were convicted, who began their walk from Saint Mark Square and in the meantime they were whipping during their path up to the above mentioned marble stair that the guilty man had to kiss. Over the time these kisses ruined this stair so then was prohibited to kiss it anymore so the final step was moved to the arch called '*del Bancogiro'*, where is engraved a cross and on it there is a bas- relief of Saint Mark ' lion , to underline that Venetian rule was over the other rules even the religious one. Then the lion has been erased recently.









We go along '*Ruga dei Orosei*' to reach **Rialto Bridge** and on the left side we can admire the **Palace of Camerlenghi**, that was the headquarter of economic administration of the Serenissima Republica.

If you look at the palace carefully you can notice some stone decorations and among them some trivial engravings. We can notice a man with his non proportionate viril member and a female figure who is sitting on a fire that burns her sex.

These engravings are dated to the building of the Rialto Bridge that was made in wood and many time it was destroyed by the wet climate and burned in great fire then in 1507 it was built in stone but the discussion over the financial rules and the project carried on for long time. The citizens of this ' Sestiere', mainly small traders and prostitutes began to laugh this project by repeting some trivial sonnets as the men said ' (the bridge will be finished when the cock has a fingernail) and the women said (when the bridge will be finished my sex will be burned out)

The local people at that time put a lot of sexual references in the jokes as nowadays the local people say ' *Ghe sboro*'.

In 1588 the construction of the bridge started and it was finished within three years, the authorities decided to keep this goliardic habit and so they decided also to put these trivial engravings in their palace in front of the bridge.

For the project of the new **Rialto Bridge** (rivo alto) was asked to present the project to the most important architects of that time, and among these there was also Andrea Palladio but at the end the bridge was built by an unknown artist named Antonio da Ponte (the surname seems to be a guarantee).

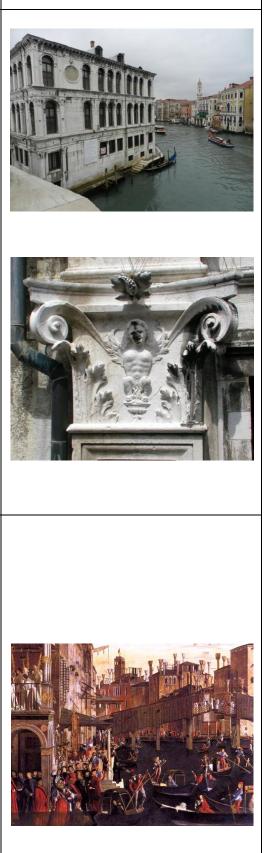
A legend said that the devil by person ,had asked to his architet an offer for the Bridge, or better to say that he had asked the soul of the first human being that would have acrossed the bridge ; if this desire had not been fulfilled he would have stopped forever the bulding of the bridge, thus he would have discredited the architect.

Antonio da Ponte accepted the challenge but he found out the idea that the bridge will be acrossed by a cock..

The devil discovered the joke and got angry as nobody could pull his leg so he decided the architect had to be punished.

For this reason he met, under fake clothes, the Architect's wife, who was pregnant, and he told her that her husband was waiting for her to the other side of the rialto bridge: the poor lady thought that it was true and looked for her husband.

The legend also said that the soul of her child, who was born already dead, went around on the bridge for a long time untill he managed to gain the heaven thanks to the help of a *gondoloiere* (the driver of the gondola boat)



Looking down on the bridge on the left side , toward Saint Mark square, we can see a small port just next to the *Fondaco dei Tedeschi* (nowadays a luxury shop). It was the place where the famous – ferry of the hole- (in venetian slang: traghetto del buso)stopped , a boat service used for crossing the canal and go to the prostitutes in San Polo area.

The word -hole-(in venetian slang -buso) means the feminine sexual organ but also the type of coin (with a hole in the middle) used to pay the boat service.

Once get out from the bridge we are in *salisada Pio X*, in a mess of stools and souvenir with low quality , but we can notice, looking up on the left side, above the display windows, a gold head. This statue was made in bronze and the gold only covers the surface, it was the sign of the ancient grocery 's named '**the golden head**'.

This head also enriched by a laurel crown may also represents Andromaco, Nerone's doctor and the message was for the not cultured people to indicate them that in this place they would have found the wisdom and the knowledge of precious things like the gold.

On the back wall we can notice the traces of an ancient message "teriachia andromachi" to underline that here the famous Theriaca was produced. This Theriaca was a powerful medicine produced in Venice that was able to cure all illness, thanks to its knowledge coming from the east along with its traders that supplied the row materials.

The other chemistries' were able to produce this medicine just one time a year, the chemistry's called the' golden head' was allowed to produce it every four months.

After that also Venice had lost its freedom in 1797, the' golden head' was the only chemistry's that carried on in producing this medicine called Teriacha up to some decades ago, but already in 1940, was denied to add the opium in this medice, as its relaxing benefit had increased the fame of this recipe.

Then we reach *campo san Bartolomio*, a famous cross loved by the local people that also like meeting here under the **statue of ' Carlo Goldoni'**: a famous playwriter aslo considered the father of the moder comedy like some of his most famous comedies as *'bottega del caffè, le Baruffe chiozzotte, i Rusteghi* and many other all written in Venetian slang.







If we arrive at suitable time we can finish the tour going up on the terrace next to the **Fondaco dei Tedeschi**. This was and ancient warehouse and a meeting place for the deutch merchants and recently has been the headquarter of Italian official mail service but afterwards it has been sold the Benetton Group and it has been converted into a luxury shop, where you can find mainly french goods.

Asking to the reception, is possible to get in the terrace free of charge, from here you can admire Venice from an unique and faschinating view.

The tour is finished but keep fit for the next one.....





Some useful words:

campo: a typical and small square in Venice

calle and callette: narrow typical street in venice

fondamenta: it is part of the street that is along a canal or a 'rio' (venetian word for canal)

squero: a typica docking area for reparing the typical boat with oars in Venice.

Ombra: glass of wine

Chichetti: typical appetizers that you can find in tavern or better know as 'bacaro'

Bacaro: typical tavern in Venice that also plays an important role in Venetian local people life

Sestiere: one of the six parts in which Venice was subdivided at the time of ' Serenissima'

