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BACAROTOUR N° 1

TO GET LOST INTO 'SESTIERE DI CANNAREGIO'

Far away the more turistic squares, nearest to the most authentic Venice



link for the interactive map: <http://www.bacarotourvenezia.com/btve1181en>

This tour starts from **Piazzale Roma** or in alternative, from the **train station of Saint Lucia** (page 4).

We start from *piazzale Roma* and will leave behind us the noisy of the traffic huge that is quite common in this area and so we get in the city from the side, passing through the *Rio Novo Bridge* and the *Papadopoli gardens* (*public gardens*).



We pass through a couple of arches and we get over the bridge that is in front of us, where we can see, on the left side, our first stop: the myhtic '**Bacareto da Lele**' that is on the corner of *campo dei Tolentini* ,overlooking on the canal. Since the first hours of the mornig this 'bacaro' is full of workers, students of the nearby university, or some people who are in their break time for 'ombra' (glass of wine). This tavern is also well known for its sandwiches and the for its friendly owner, Mr. Mario (the bar – tender).



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

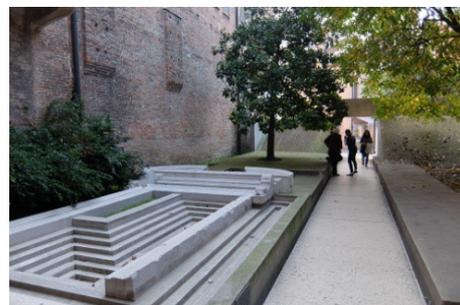
Bandiera bianca! –

(from '*Ultima ora* 'of Venice, song written by Arnaldo Fusinato, 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 period after the second world war, the Venetian Carlo Scarpa.

If we find the entrance opens we will get into the courtyard where we can admire an ancient stone door from the Istria area, that was found during the restoration work of the university and it is part of the project of restoration.



Inside there is '**libreria Cluva**', (library) specialized in architecture books and magazines and some objects in tune with architecture as well, like shoppers and design notebooks.



Then we pass over the *fondamenta dei Tolentini* that is along '*rio de la Cazziola*' where we can find a particular library: **Mare di Carta**, a library specialized in books dealing with Venetian Lagoon, nautical maps, some books for children and shoppers and pencilcases made of old canvas. Don't miss out them.



Now we will be little tired and it is the time for a fast break in the near **Hostaria Vecio Biavarol**, where we meet the owner whose nickname is Puppa. Friendly atmosphere and good appetizers are the features of this tavern.



Then we get into a low porch that goes into ' *campo de la lana*' and walking along this calle we will meet *calle Sechera* where we find the **Trevisan pastry shop**, a bakery's, pastry's and cafferia for a sweet break. During the Carnival period it produces tasty 'frittelle' (typical fried sweets) , in my opinion the best ones of the city.



Near here, towards the bridge, where we can find the most authentic 'bacaro' of Venice: **la Rivetta**.

Mr. Franco and his mum, Mrs. Luigina, serve 'ombre' (glasses of wine) and 'half eggs' (so calles "mexi ovi") but also typical tales of the city.

This is a friendly place, that makes this tavern an unforgettable place, more suitable for the travellers than the tourists.



Now we have to do a long walk, ideal for disposing the glasses of wine and so reach the train station area and after passing through *corte Canal*, we cross the *Rio Marin Bridge* and we turn left in *fondamenta Garzotti* (or rio Marin), then we cross again a metal bridge and turn right in *calle Bergami*, and turn right again along *calle Lunga* where we will cross the famous, *ponte degli Scalzi*, now we are at train station of Saint Lucia.



We are in the **train station** area, who arrives by train can start the tour from here. Let's have a look on floor, in the center we can find a **marble plate** that represents the main side of a church : this is to remind us that for building the train station, the **Church of Saint Lucia** has been destroyed along with its monastery (1861) and the relics of the Saint have been brought into the church of San Geremia, adding a chapel, now named 'Saints Geremia and Lucia... that we will see afterwards.



In front of the *Canal Grande* we can see '**chiesa di San Simeon piccolo**', where is quite evident the not correct proportion between the church and the oval dome. It is said that, as soon as, Napoleon saw it he said ' i have seen churches without dome, but this it is the first dome without church'.



Following the flux of tourists along' *rio terà Lista di Spagna*' where the name *terà*, means that in the past time this river was put underground at the time of austrian domination at the end of 17 th century.

Walking among trolley and fast- food, we will arrive in *campo san Geremia* where there is the **Church of Saints Geremia and Lucia**, inside we can find the relics of Saint Lucia who is said to be the ' eyes protector' .The legend said that the Saint gave her eyes , on a silver tray, to a young boy who had fallen in love with their splendour.



In *campo San Geremia*, in a corner of the church, we can admire the facade of **palace Labia**, in barocco style, now it is the headquarter of the regional direction of Rai (italian radio and tv service)'Labia' was an ancient and rich Venetian family that loved the luxury and the famous painter'Tiepolo' painted the building with the famous paintings inspired by Antonio and Cleopatra. They spent a lot of money in having parties, that become unforgettable.Then we continue over' *ponte delle Guglie*',so we can see the facade overlooking on the canal of *Cannaregio*, where it is said that the end of lavish banquets, served in gold plates , the onwer, for entertaining his guests was used to get off into the canal the gold dishes , inviting the guests to do the same, and telling the famous sentence to his guests as :' *le abia o non le abia sarò sempre Labia*".



ROAD DEVIATION

After the' *ponte delle Guglie*' its name comes for its decorated pinnacles, the big drinkers can do a road deviation , turning left for 20 mtr., along *canale di Cannaregio*, and on the right side we will find a nice tavern , **Casa Mattiazzi**, managed by a german woman and her husband, who is from Venice, here we can find a huge quantity of wine



If we go straight along *rio terà San Leonardo* we can do a pleasure stop in a nice 'bacaro' called ' **da Luca e Fred,**' where we can find a wide range of sandwiches and fried food as skewers of octopus,meatball or fishballs and vegetable, and the famous ' *dischi volanti*' (fried eggplant filled with morrarella cheese and tomato).



Go along 'strada nova' street, admiring the colorful landscapes of Venice, following the flux of tourists up to a crossing and on the right side we will see *rio terà del Cristo*, where a wooden barrel informs us that we have just arrived in front of **Do Colonne**, another 'bacaro' with a counter desk full of sandwiches filled with salami, ham and cheese, fried morrazella cheese, meatballs, fried sardine, pork with polenta and some hot plates from the kitchen.



ROAD DEVIATION

For those, who are looking for a sweet break, please go along the main street towards *campiello dell'Anconeta*, on the right side, at nr.1818, you will discover the **pasticceria Nobile**, a paradise for those who love pizza, in fact, its small pizza margherita are well known. There are not seats available, just only some stools.



In *campiello 'Anconeta'* we will find a special supermarket that most of us want to have near house, it is hold at **ex Italia Theatre**, and it was built in 1915 in ghotic lagoon style and inspired by Palazzo Ducale and Foscari Palace in Dorsoduro area. Inside you can admire, among tuna tins and a spahetti packets, the fresco on the ceiling painted by the venetian Alessandro Pomi and some paintings in liberty style.



Then we go along the calle on the opposite side, ' *rio terà Farsetti*, that is not on the main street and following it we will get into ' sestiere di Cannaregio'. After few meters on the left side we find out ' *calle Calesele*, that goes into the heart of the jewish Ghetto (*Ghetto Novo*) passing through also *Ghetto Novissimo*.

Instead of turning into *calle Calesele*, we can go straight for some few meters, along *rio terà Farsetti*, and we find the 'bacaro' **Cantina Aziende Agricole**, where many local people follow the rite to stop and drink a glass of wine and eat some of the appetizers available.



The **Jewish ghetto** was born in 1561 when the Republic of Venice decided to relegate the Jews in a single place. The Jews have always lived in Venice since 1152 and they arrived in Venice as it has always been very tolerant towards the various religions, and Venice has always done it for its own character not of economic purpose.

The presence of the Jews aroused discontent, both for the ancient dislike of the Christians towards them and for the envy towards their financial power as many Jews were bankers and usurious. In 1516, it was decided that they had to be relegated in a small island where in the past there were some foundries that threw the bombards. From this the name ghetto (from throw but in Italian language). Then the authorities used to underline generally the place where the Jews had to live. Here the buildings are taller than the standard used in the city (even eight floors) as they had to overbuild their houses to allow for the increasing numbers of inhabitants to live there. During the period of maximum expansion there were more than 5000 Jews. If we read the name of the ghettos, we can find the ancient ones:

Novo and the *Novissimo*. But please remind that the most ancient ghetto was the one placed in the area where there were the foundries, and the name comes from it.

The island was closed by gates that have been opened in the morning and closed at midnight and they were checked by Christian guards paid by the Jews.

Here we can find, on the top floors, the synagogues belonged to the different *scole*, some can be visited. Moreover you can visit the **Banco Rosso**, the oldest pawn shop of the ghetto, a business for which the Jews were famous.



Get out from the ghetto through the iron bridge over 'rio della Misericordia' and finally we reach *fondamenta dei Ormesini*.

Turning on the left side, we go down up to *fondamenta dei Ormesini*, where we can find a nice 'bacaro': **Al Timon**, with a dependence on a boat, berthed on the canal. This bacaro opens only at 6 pm so this area has become famous for its nightlife. Get note of the area so you can visit it also in appropriate times.



Then we turn left into a narrow *calle del Forno*, that will bring us up to *rio della Sensa*, from here we go into *calle Loredan* till the next bridge and we will be at '*fondamenta della Madonna dell'Orto*'. Nearby we find out **corte Cavallo**. The name of this courtyard comes from the fact that here there was the foundry where was melted the equestrian statue of Bartolomeo Colleoni that we find in '*campo SS. Giovanni e Paolo*'. The statue made of wax was designed by Andrea Verrochio from Florence, master of Leonardo da Vinci, who died before the statue was completed. The merger was entrusted to Alessandro Leopardi who lived in the yard at nr.3494 and he was named afterwards Alessandro da Cavallo (Alessandro from the Horse) and also the yard took the same name.



Go down 'fondamenta' to arrive at the church **Madonna dell'Orto**, inside there are ten paintings of Jacopo Robusti, better known as Tintoretto, a famous painter and his name comes from the job of his father who was a dyer of fabrics. The most famous painting is 'the presentation of Maria to the temple' where is told that was portrayed the daughter of the artist 'Marietta' with her mother 'among the figures at the bottom of the painting. Then his daughter followed the job of his father and she became an affirmed painter into his father's shop. The grave of both of them is inside the church.



From the bridge opposite the church we can admire **palazzo Mastelli** or better known as **del Cammello (palace of the camel)**, due to the decorations on the facade of the building.

There are two legends about it : the first is more romantic is regarding an oriental merchant who fall in love with a woman but she did not reciprocate his love. He left his country for arriving in Venice where he decided to engrave the image of a camel with his driver, saying to his lover that if one day she wanted to find him, she would ask about the house with the camel... but he died without she had looked for him.

The second legend, more reliable, is regarding a building that belonged to the brothers named Mastelli, rich greek merchants of silk and spices. They came from Morea (Peloponnese-Greece) They were so rich that they had many basins full of gold and silver coins (from this the name of the family 'Mastelli' that in Italian is as for 'basin').

But these three brothers: Rioba, Santi and Afani, were also so selfish that one day a widow arrived for buying some fabrics that her husband had left to her. These brothers thought to cheat her and suggested to the widow some fabrics with very low quality but asking for high price, but the woman understood the hoax and invoked the God's help and, when the merchants gave the money, they were transformed in statues that were placed on the facades of the building.

Crossing over the bridge we arrive at 'campo dei Mori' where, on the left side, we can see the statues of the brothers of Mastelli family, in the corner we can find the statue of 'sior Rioba' that has a red nose, made of iron, and it is said to touch it in order to get fortune.



Turn left along '*fondamenta dei Mori*', and near here we can find Tintoretto 's house at nr. 3399.

It is said that his daughter 'Marietta' had been approached by the devil that had been trasformed into a old woman. At that time 'Marietta' had just done the first communion and the old woman asked her to get ten holy particles promising that she would have made her beautiful like Madonna. Therefore the girls started to keep some holy particles, hiding them in a small box near the watering place for the animals. But happened that , after some time, the animals started to behave stangely,kneeling in front of the watering place. Marietta was scared and told the history to his father ,who guessed what had happened,and reccomended to his daughter to allow to enter the old woman in case she would have apperead in order to give her the holy particles. One day the old woman arrived, she entered into the house where the father, with a heavy club, began to beat the woman who was transformed into a cat. But the father, who was very angry, beat also the cat that gave an inhuman cry and was transformed again into a cloud of black smoke, that left the house passing through the wall, and left a hole in it.

In order to cover the hole and also to protect the house, Tintoretto placed in front of the hole the statue of 'Hercules with the club ' symbol of strenght and masculinity .



Near here at nr 3400, we can seen Tintoretto's shop, a laboratory full of presses and tools recovered from old venetian print shops. In this laboratory, nowadays a group of artists and enthusiasts, makes incisions, woodcuts and lithographs with ancient techniques and modern suggestions.



We go a the end of '*fondamenta dei Mori*', turn left and then turn right into '*calle Muti*', and we reach the bridge from where we can admire the old '**squero Dal Mistro**'.Now it is decommissioned but at least some original work tools have been saved, they were used to heat the wood or to obtain the boards from the wooden logs.

Then we go up to next bridge, crossing it and go into '*calle Trevisan*' to reach again '*fondamenta Misericordia*'.



ROAD DEVIATION

On the left side we can find an historical tavern for the local young people from the 70s, called ' **Paradiso Perduto** '. Time ago it was a bulwark of jazz and nowadays, although more commercial, it stands out for originality and anti- conformism.



We go along ' fondamenta', on the left side up to meet a nice building made of white stone: **palazzo Lezze**. The name comes from the owner's name, Giovanni da Lezze, whose family was from Lecce and they are involved in trades and shipbuilding. Giovanni was soldier and then became an important politician in Venice (Procurator of S. Marco) and in 1611 he began to building the palace that afterwards was completed by the architect Baldassarre Longhena. This Architect had Jewish origins and also he had a good knowledge of Cabala and was keen on with esoteric and alchemical studies. He designed the palace and also put some decorations with alchemical meaning. The Alchemy was a doctrine whose followers can find out an equilibrium between brain and heart, culture and moral qualities, penitence and humility and only following this doctrine a man could become a true philosopher. The alchemy foresees one 'spiritual' aspect and a 'laboratory' one, that had to join together in the practice. Unfortunately, beside the popular authentic alchemists there were also many charlatans that threatened the reputation.

The most popular magic used by the alchemists with laboratory skills, was the transformation of impure materials into gold and silver. The impostors used a hoax with their customers, in fact they used a wooden box with a hidden bottom where they put some pieces of gold, at the time of the so called ' transformation' they simply pulled out the gold hidden in the box. In order to limit the hoaxes, in 1530 the authorities imposed the death penalty for each alchemist.

Starting from that moment the spiritual alchemists had to hide themselves and began to widespread a symbolic language that was understood only by the followers.

Among the marble or stone inlays, the most visible and representative is placed in a corner behind the facade of this building. There is a king with a flaming crown with two men at his side and over them are placed two pelicans.

On this figures there are the sun and the moon that in



the alchemical language the sun represents the phisophical gold and the solar knowledge, the side figures under the sun and the moon are repectively the Mercury and the salt, materials that transform, meanwhile the pellican is another alchemical picture. The philosopher and the alchemist "Fulcanelli" called this palace' the phisophical palace of Venice'.

Then we go along **campo della Misericordia**, where we notice immediately the bridge and just before it, there is a stone basement stangely larger that the normal river sides in Venice. It is, in fact, a stone frame that had to adorn the main facade of the palace nearby but then it was reused and you can admire it better from a boat in the water or leaning out from the bridge. During the springe time it is an ideal place for a relaxing break.



We across the bridge and opposite we can find the "Ponte Chiodo" the last bridge in Venice without balaustrades. Some time ago many bridges weren't without protections as well as was quite usual that the 'campi' weren't covered by stone (trachite stone from the Euganei hills.) but they were covered by grass or bricks.



Then we across over the bridge and we get under the acades to get under porches to reach calle de la Racheta. Then turn right. Accrossing over the bridge Priuli and go along calle Priuli. Here we can notice on the right side a wooden barrel that means we have just reached **Antica Adelaide**: a bacaro with kitchen service that is far away the turistic paths. As listed afterwards, in this area there are a lot of 'bacari' so we have to chose among the cheapest ones in base of our drinking pleasure.



Here we are near *Strada Nova*, a busy street full of shops, but instead to follow it, we go into 'calle del Pistor' that gets us into an ancient and historical tavern of Venice, **Cà d'oro** or better known as **Alla Vedova**, famous for its meatballs and with an old furniture but please keep in mind that the service at the counter deask closes when the kitchen service starts.



Then we go along *Strada Nova* and turn left and after few meters when can find ,on the right, *campo Santa Sofia*, with a goldola – ferry service and on the left side the' *Ramo dell'Oca*' we find an artisal typical shop of Venice : **Il Forcolaio Matto**,where *Mr. Piero Dri* carries on creating oars and forcoles (that are the holders of the oars) but you can also find earrings and necklaces in wooden or wooden tray for you kitchen.



ROAD DEVIATION

If you want, from *campo di santa Sofia*, on the weekdays, you can take the **gondola ferry**, and paying only two euro, you can across the 'canal grande' with this mithic mean of water transport and reach the market *Rialto*, among a lot of stalls full of fresh fish, fruits and vegetalbe.



Carrying on along *Strada Nova* we can have a sweet break and a coffe break inside **pasticceria Martini** that is on the left side. The pastries are served here by nice waitress and with truly venetian behaviour.



After this sweet break , we can turn on the left side and go along *calle del Duca* and then along *calle dell'Oca*. In this labirintyne narrow streets we can find the tavern ' **ai Promessi Sposi** ', where beside the kitchen service we can find a lot of traditional 'cicchetti' along with a pleasure music.



At the end of this calle, we are in *campo SS. Apostoli*, where our tour finishes . In this ' campo' benches are provided, where you can have a rest and look at the lively everyday life of the local people.



Now we are at the end of the rout but keep yourself trained 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 repairing the typical boat with oars in Venice.

Ombra: glass of wine

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

Bàcaro: 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'

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