Travel with The Met

The Pearls of the Po: From Venice to Parma
Aboard La Venezia
with Keith Christiansen
John Pope-Hennessy Chairman, Department of European Paintings

May 9–17, 2020
The Pearls of the Po: From Venice to Parma Aboard La Venezia

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

The magnificent Po River, which winds 400 miles from the Alps to the Adriatic, has nourished the people of Italy for thousands of years in both body and spirit. This spring, aboard the newly renovated and rechristened riverboat La Venezia, join me to cruise along this legendary waterway from Venice to Parma. On a rare river voyage this deep into the heart of Italy’s rustic “breadbasket,” we will enjoy full access to the region’s abundance of spectacular medieval and Renaissance art and architecture.

After a scenic tour of the lovely Venetian Lagoon, we will glide into the picturesque market town of Chioggia. In Padua, we will stop to see frescoes by Giotto and bronzes by Donatello — landmarks of European art. Next, we will call at Ferrara, the seat of the great Este court. Designed in the 16th century by Biagio Rossetti, it has earned a UNESCO designation. We will also visit its Jewish quarter, a haven for Jewish exiles throughout Europe for centuries. In glorious Parma, we will explore a Romanesque baptistery and cathedral, with its dome sublimely decorated by Correggio, and the Camera di San Paolo, decorated by Correggio for the remarkable abbess, Giovanna da Piacenza.

In splendid Mantua, home of the famed Gonzagas, we will visit Palazzo Ducale, with its celebrated frescoes by Mantegna and Pisanello, and the astonishing Palazzo Te, designed by Giulio Romano. The greatest assemblage of early-Christian mosaics await us in Ravenna, the 6th-century seat of the Byzantine governor of Italy. Upon returning to Venice, you may choose to take part in one of three behind-the-scenes tours to conclude your journey.

An optional prelude to Asolo and the Palladian Villas is also available. Extraordinary cuisine and luxurious accommodations make this trip a true delight for all the senses, and I hope to share this unique river journey with you.

Sincerely,

Keith Christiansen
John Pope-Hennessy Chairman of the Department of European Paintings
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Trip Highlights

— Enjoy one of three exclusive tours in Venice: explore the city's grand museum with an art historian; go behind the scenes at La Fenice, its famous opera house with beautiful gold interiors; or discover Peggy Guggenheim's personal collection of 20th-century art at her eponymous museum

— Tour the sumptuous castles and superb palaces of great Renaissance families, including Palazzo Ducale in Mantua, which houses Mantegna’s masterpiece Camera degli Sposi

— Explore the medieval and Renaissance city of Ferrara, innovatively designed as an “ideal city” by urban planner Biagio Rossetti. Enjoy a curator-led tour of its 15th-century Palazzo Schifanoia, featuring frescoes depicting the zodiac, and view medieval Estense Castle, with its storybook moat, drawbridges, and gorgeous towers

— Revel in the artistic splendors of Parma, where dazzling frescoes from Correggio and Parmigianino grace churches, and admire stunning 5th- and 6th-century mosaics in Ravenna

— Dine with an incomparable view of the Grand Canal and St. Mark’s Square aboard your exclusively chartered riverboat in Venice

Traveling with You

Keith Christiansen

Keith Christiansen is the John Pope-Hennessy Chairman of the Department of European Paintings at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. He began work at The Met in 1977 and has since organized numerous exhibitions, ranging in subject from Painting in Renaissance Siena, Andrea Mantegna, and The Renaissance Portrait to Giambattista Tiepolo, El Greco, The Age of Caravaggio, Giuseppe de Ribera, and Poussin and Nature. He has written widely on Italian painting and is the recipient of several awards. Dr. Christiansen has also taught at Columbia University and The Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. Raised in Seattle, Washington, and Concord, California, he attended the University of California campuses at Santa Cruz and Los Angeles and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.
Photos clockwise from top right: regional map, Ferrara, photo by Renzo Borgatti; City streets of Parma, photo by Adrian Scottow; Venice, photo by Hindol Bhattacharya; Doge’s Palace, Venice, photo by Aaron Logan; Teatro Regio, Parma. Front cover: Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute, Venice. Back cover: Ferrara city center (top); Mantua (bottom).
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An optional prelude to Asolo and the Palladian Villas is offered May 7–10, 2020.

**Departure**
Saturday, May 9
Depart for Venice on an overnight flight.

**Venice, Italy / Embark**
Sunday, May 10
Arrive at Venice’s Marco Polo International Airport, where you will be transferred to the ship. Unpack, relax, and enjoy your first evening on the Venetian Lagoon. Alternatively, go out and explore La Serenissima at your leisure. D

**Venice / Chioggia**
Monday, May 11
Take a scenic cruise through the historic Venetian Lagoon to Chioggia, then choose among three options today. You may set out on a walking tour of Chioggia, a picturesque fishing village. Or you may choose to travel to Padua for a guided stroll through the Old Town, including visits to the Scrovegni Chapel, famous for its rich and elaborate frescoes by Giotto; the Church of the Eremitani; and the Basilica of St. Anthony, with its bronzes by Donatello. Finally, your third option is an excursion to the 1000-year-old Pomposa Abbey, a masterpiece of Romanesque art. Enjoy a special captain’s welcome reception and dinner this evening. B, L, R, D

**Ferrara**
Tuesday, May 12
Disembark this morning for an excursion to Ferrara, once a center for the arts ruled by the Este family. Meticulously designed by urban planner Biagio Rossetti, Ferrara was the first fully executed concept of an ideal city during the Renaissance. Explore its pioneering layout during guided walks around the city. Walk the cobbled streets of the UNESCO-designated city center, full of grand palaces including the Palazzo dei Diamanti, whose façade is studded with marble blocks carved to resemble diamonds. Stroll through the ancient Jewish quarter, whose community has lived here continuously since the Middle Ages. Admire the 12th-century cathedral, which combines Romanesque and Gothic styles in its three-tiered pink and white marble façade. Return to the ship in the afternoon. B, L, D

**Parma**
Wednesday, May 13
Today journey to Parma, which has existed since Roman times and is famous for producing two of Italy’s most iconic foods: Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese and prosciutto. In the historical center, see the Romanesque Cathedral whose cupola by Correggio is a masterpiece of perspective and the octagonal Baptistry, considered one of the finest medieval buildings in Italy. Explore the 13th-century San Giovanni Pharmacy, filled with apothecary bottles on ancient wooden shelves. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the famous Teatro Regio, one of the country’s most renowned opera houses, linked with great composers like Verdi and Rossini (pending confirmation). Stroll through vibrant Piazza Garibaldi, and step inside the Basilica di Santa Maria della Steccata to marvel at the work of Parmigianino. At the National Gallery of Parma, admire works by Parmigianino, Correggio, and Tintoretto. Return to the ship in the late afternoon. B, L, D

**Mantua**
Thursday, May 14
Step off the ship today to discover Mantua, called La Bella Addormentata, or Sleeping Beauty. We will visit the stunning Palazzo Ducale, created by the powerful Gonzaga family, the largest residence in Italy after the Vatican. With more than 500 rooms, a basilica, courtyards, and gardens, the palace contains precious tapestries based on cartoons by Raphael, spelling frescoes by Andrea Mantegna, and extraordinary murals by Pisanello. A short distance away, explore Giulio Romano’s awe-inspiring creation Palazzo Te, a fine example of mannerism in architecture. Inside, admire the painted “Hall of the Horses” and the “Chamber of the Giants.” Return to the ship in the late afternoon. B, L, D

**Ravenna**
Friday, May 15
Today get an in-depth look at the UNESCO-listed Byzantine and early Christian mosaics in Ravenna, the capital of Western Roman Empire from 402 to 476 A.D. Visit Sant’Apollinare in Classe, with its glorious 6th-century apse covered in brilliant mosaics. Then see the mausoleum of Galla Placidia and Theodoric the Great’s churches—San Vitale and Sant’Apollinare Nuovo—with their extraordinary mosaics. This evening, La Venezia sails from Chioggia to Venice along the shores dotted with picturesque fishing villages. B, L, D

**Venice / Return**
Sunday, May 17
Disembark in Venice this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home. B

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This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.
Program Rates

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La Venezia

The 126-passenger La Venezia, undergoing a complete design renovation that will be completed in early 2020, is filled with light and color. With design inspired by Venetian culture, La Venezia features six elegantly appointed suites; two dining venues, including an Italian kitchen on the upper deck; spa; library; lounge and bar.

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

La Venezia cabin preference (1) (2)

I wish to share a cabin with

Optional Prelude

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<td>Two beds</td>
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Form of Payment

|     | I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. |
| Debit card | Credit card |

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org

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