



Featured in

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Fergus Fung, WOM Guide publisher

Best Holiday Location: Venice, Italy

"Venezia! I love Venice for the canals and the architecture around them, the friendly people, the wonder-

ful shops (there are so many artisan shops dotted around the city), the water transport (I love boats), the art (especially during the art biennales), the museums, the galleries, the little churches all over the city, and the food and wines of that region (I adore Amarone wines).

"I stay at this quaint little hotel with only six rooms—Oltre il Giardino in San Polo (www.oltreilgiardino-venezia.com) not just for its convenience and comfort, but because the owner's son Lorenzo puts me in touch with the people who run his own favorite eateries and other local shops. Like Antiche Carampane (041 524 0165)—a small restaurant that's extremely hard to find even with good directions, but they have excellent cassopipa (spaghetti with shellfish sauce), delectable fried fish of all sorts, and a mean monkfish baked

in foil with a crust of parmesan cheese. Cantinone del Vino gia Schiavi (041 523 0034) is a casual no-seater, where diners all stand by the bar counter ordering the day's selection of cicheti (the Venetian version of tapas) and choosing from a large selection of wines served by the glass. Al Covo (041 522 3812) boasts the freshest fish in town, where the owner of this small and stylish restaurant lovingly describes the fish caught in the harbor. Just a short walk from the hotel, Da Fiore (041 721 308) is the only Michelin-starred restaurant in the area, with a rather art-deco dim interior and fantastic fish risottos. Choose to sit outside on the small balcony (which can accommodate just one table of two) overlooking the canal. Alle Testiere (041 522 7220) has fresh seafood with excellent Venetian use of ingredients such as caparossoli clams sautéed with a hint of ginger and gnocchi with cinnamon-perfumed baby squid.

How to get there: Cathay Pacific flies to Venice via Frankfurt or Amsterdam. Fares start at \$13,100. Book at www.cathaypacific.com.

