

**The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries
Livery Committee
and The Worshipful Company of Barbers
invite you to a celebration**

Medicine and Music in Venice

Wednesday 18 to Monday 23 January 2023

in association with Millennium Tours



This guided tour of Venice will be arranged around the themes of medicine and music. The Venetian Republic was famous for its advanced healthcare system, and Apothecaries were an important element of this system, and traces of their activity can still be found around the city.

Several of the old pharmacies of Venice are preserved. The most famous of these is probably the *Farmacia ai Do San Marchi*, now at Ca' Rezzonico, but we will also visit other less well-known Apothecaries' sites in the city.

Venice is birthplace of Antonio Vivaldi, who was baptized in the church of San Giovanni in Bragora in 1678. He worked in the Church of La Pietà from 1703 to 1720, and later as a theatre manager in the Sant'Angelo Theatre where he

wrote his most famous works. Venice is also the home of the world-famous opera house, La Fenice, which is performing the ballet “La Dame aux Camelias” during our visit. We will tour the opera house and there will be the opportunity to visit a performance which you can book using La Fenice’s website.

We will be staying in adjacent centrally located hotels, Locanda Fiorita www.locandafiorita.com and Bloom B&B www.bloom-venice.com. These are adjacent charming buildings in San Marco, with a range of room rates and types. They are arranged on four floors, served by stairs (no lift). Bloom has a roof terrace with wonderful views over the rooftops of San Marco.

There will be an organised supper with wine each evening. On Sunday night, we will have a formal dinner at the Hotel Monaco on the Grand Canal. Breakfast is available in the hotels and is included in the room rate. Lunches (not included) can be taken in local restaurants in Venice, of which there are many. The cost will include all evening meals (Wednesday to Sunday), entrance to museums, the boat trip, guide, events (except La Fenice ballet which is to be booked by you online allowing choice of seats and cost, and Musica à Palazzo which can also be booked by you online).

The cost will be from £1145 per person (not including flights or airport transfers), please see Millennium Tours booking form, both pages.

Recommended flights are British Airways from Heathrow at a civilised time - Wednesday 18 January – Heathrow / Venice 13:15 / 16:25; Monday 23 January – Venice / Heathrow 17:35 / 19:10. However, if you wish to arrive early or extend your stay, or make other travel arrangements, this can be accommodated.

Our guide, Francesca de Stefani, is a qualified tourist guide of Venice and its Lagoon. An earphone radio system (whispers) will be used. The final itinerary of this fully guided visit is subject to change, but this is the current schedule.

Wednesday 18 January – recommended flight from Heathrow leaving 13.15pm, transfer from Marco Polo airport to arrive at the hotels (Locanda Fiorita and Bloom) around 18:00pm; 19:00pm introduction of our guide, Francesca de Stefani and presentation of the programme of the next 4 days; 20:00pm dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 1 - Thursday 19 January – breakfast in the hotels; 10.00am Guided tours “The Doge’s Palace and Secret Itineraries through the Doge’s Palace”; own lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon, tour of La Fenice opera house and optional visit to the Fortuny museum; 17.30pm - Early supper in a local

restaurant; 19.00pm (optional) ballet at La Fenice “La dame aux camèlias” (to be booked individually by each participant to allow your choice of seat position and cost, tickets on sale in September at teatrolafenice.it).

Day 2 - Friday 20 January - breakfast in the hotels; 10.00am Private boat trip to the lagoon and visit to the Lazzaretto Nuovo, the quarantine island, then continue by boat to the island of San Servolo; own lunch in a local restaurant. Followed by visit to the Museum of the Lunatic Asylum, the pharmacy, and the anatomy room. Return to Venice by vaporetto (water bus); Early (around 18.30pm) supper in a local restaurant; 20.00pm Private evening guided visit to St Mark’s Basilica.

Day 3 - Saturday 21 January: breakfast in the hotels; 10.00am Guided tour of the Church of La Pietà (Vivaldi’s church) and its museum; own lunch in a local restaurant. 14.00pm Guided tour of the Scuola Grande San Marco, its exhibition of surgical instruments and its pharmacy. 18.30pm supper in a local restaurant; 20.00 for 20.30pm (optional) Musica à Palazzo - an evening of opera set in a Venetian palace, most likely La Traviata, final programme awaited (please book your own tickets on line at <https://www.musicapalazzo.com/en/>).

Day 4 - Sunday 22 January: breakfast in the hotels; 10.00am Guided walking tour to visit early Venetian pharmacies and Apothecaries shops, and guided tour of Ca’ Rezzonico museum; own lunch in a local restaurant. 14.00pm - walking tour of the district of San Polo and guided tour of the Frari Church; 19.00 for 19.30pm Private dinner at Hotel Monaco on the Grand Canal.

Day 5 – Monday 23 January: breakfast in the hotels; in the morning, free time to explore Venice, taking lunch where you please. Afternoon transfer to Marco Polo for 17.35pm flight to Heathrow.

This visit will involve plenty of walking and climbing of steps. There are many bridges and some uneven footpaths. Please bear this in mind when considering whether you wish to enrol on the trip. We strongly recommend that you take out holiday insurance in case of cancellation or illness.

THE TRIP HAS A LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES AND IS ORGANISED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WSA LIVERY COMMITTEE’S AGENT TONY GIAMBRUNO OF MILLENNIUM TOURS tony@millenniumtours.co.uk

If you are interested in joining, please contact Tony by email and he will provide you with the relevant booking form and conditions. Booking will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

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