



Private Palaces, Villas, and Gardens of Venice and the Veneto

Sponsored by

Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

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Arranged by

Pamela Huntington Darling, Exclusive Cultural Travel Programs

Sunday, October 9 to Sunday, October 16, 2011

7 days and 7 nights



Fascinating Venice and Veneto, priding a rich heritage of art, architecture, and décor, are ultimately unique. Beyond the usual tourist ventures, there is a secret Venice and Veneto, known to Venetians of nobility and the privileged few.

As a participant of this exclusive program, you will have the opportunity to join an intimate group of discerning travelers and be invited by members of the esteemed cultural and social world of the Veneto and Venice to private visits, luncheons, cocktail receptions, and dinners in magnificent villas and *palazzzi* of Venetian nobility, rarely opened to outside visitors, accompanied by a historian of the Venetian community.

Following the 500th anniversary of the birth of the great Italian classical architect Andrea Palladio, we will enjoy seven days of private visits and receptions in the most important Palladian villas in the Veneto and in *palazzzi* in Venice, with their proprietors, specially organized for you.

We will observe the development of Venetian art, décor and architecture through its beginnings to the emergence of the Renaissance and the peak of Venetian heritage in the 16th and the 18th centuries.

Countess Giuliana di Thiene, expert lecturer and member of Venetian nobility, will guide us throughout this unique cultural travel program to the Veneto region and to Venice.

For the first three nights, we will stay in the picturesque, medieval town of Asolo, “city of a thousand landscapes”, set on gentle hills that inspired Titian and Giorgione, offering stunning views of the countryside. We will reside at the 4-star luxury hotel Villa Cipriani, originally built during the Palladian period, once home to the famous poet Robert Browning, perched above Asolo, surrounded by stunning gardens, offering a peaceful setting with spectacular views and warm hospitality, providing access to the villas of the Veneto region.

For the remaining four nights in Venice, we will reside at the 4-star luxury Starhotels Splendid Venice, recently handsomely renovated, situated near Piazza San Marco, rated by “Trip Advisor” as the top 18th hotel out of 450 in Venice. The welcoming and attentive staff will make our stay even more memorable.

The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art and Pamela Huntington Darling, specializing in organizing inimitable cultural travel programs, welcome you to join us for this exclusive cultural program.

For more information or to register, please email pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com or call +33 1 45 67 62 81.

Private Palaces, Villas, and Gardens of Venice and the Veneto

Travel Program



Sunday, October 9 to Wednesday, October 12: “Private Villas and Gardens of the Veneto”

Among the remarkable villas in the region, many were built by Andrea Palladio, designed with noble forms and elaborately painted with murals and ceilings by renowned artists, destined to fascinate the world! Palladio’s urban buildings and villas, based on a detailed study of classical Roman architecture, decisively influenced the development of architecture in Europe and North America, including the famous home of Thomas Jefferson, Monticello. Palladio’s *palazzi* and buildings in Vicenza, a UNESCO World Heritage site, give the town its unique appearance. The villas in the region, built between the 16th and 19th centuries for Venetian aristocrats, deserve a voyage in itself.

Sunday, October 9

Morning – Transfer from the Venice Marco Polo Airport to Asolo

We will meet at noon at Venice Marco Polo Airport for private coach transfer to Asolo.

For our exclusive discovery of the notable private villas of the Veneto, we will stay in Asolo, “city of a thousand landscapes”, set on gentle hills that inspired Titian and Giorgione, offering stunning views of the countryside. Asolo prides one of the most beautiful medieval villages of the region, a walled town with a significant cultural history, small gothic buildings with frescos and a fort dominating its center.



Guests will reside for three nights at the 4-star luxury hotel Villa Cipriani, originally built during the Palladian period, once the home of famous poet Robert Browning, perched above Asolo and surrounded by gardens, offering a peaceful setting with spectacular views and warm hospitality. Guests will be welcomed by the director and accompanied to their rooms. www.villaciprianiasolo.com



Single-occupancy guests may also choose to stay at the 3-star Hotel Duse, a 5-minute walk from Villa Cipriana, located on Asolo’s central square across from the cathedral in an ancient building entirely restored, offering a comfortable rooms furnished in charming style and warm hospitality. www.hotelduse.com

Luncheon – Villa Cipriani

We will enjoy a relaxing and delicious luncheon in the gardens of Villa Cipriani offering breathtaking views and outstanding cuisine of regional specialties prepared with fresh produce from the local markets, and perfect service.



Afternoon

Before our welcoming dinner at Castle-Villa Porto Colleoni Thiene, guests may relax at Villa Cipriani, take advantage of Cipriani’s Wellness Spa, or, accompanied by our expert lecturer, Countess Giuliana di Thiene, stroll through Asolo, visit its monthly antique market, and the boutiques and local artisan shops that dot the romantic arcaded streets.

Evening – Private Visit and Welcome Dinner – Castle-Villa Porto Colleoni Thiene

Count Clemente and Countess Giuliana di Thiene will offer us a warm welcome to their historic, unique residence, Villa-Castle Porto Colleoni Thiene, for cocktails in the garden followed by a private visit and dinner. Palladio

historians Professor Ackerman and Dr. Wilma Barbieri emphasize that, in order to understand Palladian architecture and the evolution of Venetian villas, Villa-Castle Porto Colleoni Thiene must first be discovered.



The Castle-Villa Porto-Colleoni-Thiene, erected in the 1450's on the ruins of a medieval castle, was originally a countryside residence and agricultural estate. This unique ensemble unites gothic characteristics of a castle with that of a Venetian *palazzo*. Its structure, exceptional for the time, is attributed to the great architect Domenico da Venezia, the "engineer" of Vicenza. In the vast courtyard, we will admire the remarkable architectural ensemble, each element portraying its history. The frescoes, paintings, décor and archives are inimitable. The elegant stables are an architectural masterpiece. This will be a memorable welcoming evening!



Monday, October 10

Morning – Villa Emo at Fanzolo and Villa Cornaro



Our first visit will be to Villa Emo, located in the village of Fanzolo, built between 1559 and 1565, considered the masterpiece of Palladian villa design, housing extraordinary décor. As at Villa Barbaro, *barchesse* (farm buildings) extend symmetrically on the sides of the central structure, surmounted by dovecotes. The result is the famous 5-part profile familiar in later Palladio-inspired architecture, including the U.S. Capitol building, with the Houses of Congress replacing the dovecotes! We will admire the marvelous frescos by Giovanni Battista Zelotti and the stuccos by Alessandro Vittoria.

Villa Cornaro

We will continue to the village of Piombino Dese to visit Palladio's Villa Cornaro, guests of the owners, Carl and Sally Gable. Villa Cornaro is a masterpiece of Palladio's middle period. Built in the early 1550's for prominent Venetian nobleman Giorgio Cornaro, the villa was completed in 1588. We will admire the remarkable statuary gallery by Camillo, the Mariani frescos by Mattia Bortoloni, and the stuccos by Bortolo Cabianca. The villa was included on the list of ten of the world's most important buildings to visit in *Town & Country Magazine* (Jan. 2003).



Private Luncheon – Villa Marcello

Count Jacopo Marcello will welcome us for a convivial luncheon and private visit of his family's residence, an admirable Palladian-style villa built in the 16th century for the powerful noble and military Marcello family. In the 1700's, the facade was transformed to its current appearance. The décor prides refined splendor. Among the notable reception rooms are a ballroom with marvelous 16th century frescos by Giovanni Crosato Batiste and sitting rooms and bedrooms priding stunning frescoes. The Italian-style garden with Greek mythical statues, the vast park, the dovecote and the chapel are astonishing.



Afternoon – Villa La Rotonda

Our afternoon private visit will be at Villa La Rotonda, where Count Lodovico di Valmarana will specially greet us, after opening hours, to Palladio's famous villa and pleasure pavilion. Situated on a hilltop, the villa's central dome, one of Palladio's most famous motifs, was inspired by the Pantheon of ancient Rome. Admirable are the frescos by Alessandro Maganza and Lodovico Dorigny, statues by Lorenzo Rubini, and stuccos by Lorenzo Rubini, Ruggero Bascapé and Domenico Fontana.



Evening – Private Visit, Cocktails and Dinner - Villa Valmarana ai Nani

In Vicenza's countryside stands the majestic Villa Valmarana ai Nani, where we will be graciously welcomed by our hosts, Count Adalberto Cremonese and Countess Maria Carolina di Valmarana, to their inimitable family residence, with stunning gardens and views, famous for its outstanding frescos by the Tiepolos, father and son. We will enjoy cocktails in the gardens followed by a delicious dinner in the Villa, surrounded by the Tiepolos' awe-inspiring frescoes. This will be a most convivial and memorable way to end our special day in the Veneto!

Tuesday, October 11



Morning – Villa Barbaro and Villa Godi

We will visit Villa Barbaro in the village of Maser, where Contessa Diamante Barbaro will greet us. Villa Barbaro is the most renowned of Palladio's farm villas, built for Daniele Barbaro, Patriarch of Aquileia, and his brother Marc'antonio Barbaro, an ambassador of the Venetian Republic. Its construction began around 1549, and was completed in 1558. The *Tempietto* (chapel) was built in 1580. The frescos in the central residence, executed by Paolo Veronese, the statues by Alessandro Vittoria and Marc'Antonio Barbaro, and the stuccos by Alessandro Vittoria are outstanding.

Villa Godi Malinverni, the 1st villa built by Andrea Palladio

Count Christian Malinverni will welcome us for a private visit to the first villa erected by Palladio. Built in 1542 on the Lonedo hill overlooking the Astico River, Villa Godi Malinverni belongs to the rich, artistic patrimony of Palladio's villas. Spectacular frescoes by Gianbattista Zelotti, Battista del Moro and Gualtiero Padovano adorn the interior, portraying the different schools of the artists, diverse in style and in their use of color, a remarkable synthesis of art of the time.



In 1962, Professor Remo Malinverni purchased the villa and dedicated the last years of his life to restoring it to its former magnificence. Since then, his son, Christian Malinverni, continues preserving this remarkable heritage

Luncheon

In Count Christian Malinverni's company, we will enjoy a delicious and convivial luncheon, prepared with a fine selection of fresh regional produce, in the gardens of Villa Godi's new dining area, "Torchio Antico".

Afternoon – Palladio's Vicenza

Vicenza, a UNESCO World Heritage site, founded in the 2nd century, capital of the province of Veneto, is unique thanks to the extraordinary *palazzi* and monuments designed by Andrea Palladio, giving its unique appearance.

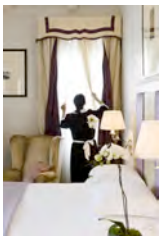
With our expert lecturer, Countess Giuliana di Thiene, and Dr. Wilma Barbieri, historian, we will enjoy a walking tour of the historic area of Palladio's Vicenza, observing the architecture of the most celebrated *palazzi*, including Palladio's Palazzo Barbaran da Porto, the Basilica Palladiana and the Loggia del Capitaniato, and Palazzo Thiene. We will visit the interior of Teatro Olimpico, an inimitable theatre designed by Palladio just before his death in 1580.



Evening – Villa Cipriana

Guests will enjoy a relaxing dinner at Villa Cipriani's admirable restaurant offering delicious local specialties and delightful panoramic views over the vineyard-and-villa-dotted countryside, or at a charming local restaurant in Asolo.

Wednesday, October 12 to Sunday, October 16: "Private Palaces and Gardens of Venice"

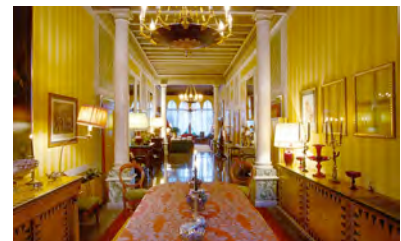


After breakfast, we will depart by private luxury coach from Asolo to Venice, where we will be welcomed by the director at the 4-star luxury Starhotels Splendid Venice, handsomely refurbished, with excellent, personable service, situated near Piazza San Marco.

Hotel Splendid Venice, rated 18th out of 450 hotels in Venice by "Trip Advisor", offers elegantly renovated, very comfortable rooms with marble bathrooms, decorated in Venetian style with a modern accent, overlooking sparkling facades of century-old *palazzi*, spacious lounge areas, a handsome inner courtyard dining room, and a roof-terrace with spectacular views of Venice.

Luncheon – Palazzo Lezze

Marie Bagnasco will welcome us for a convivial luncheon at her delightful, 15th century *palazzo* on the Grand Canal, with splendid views of Venice and a secret garden. Our host's residence is admirably decorated with Empire furniture, a rare finding in Venice, beautiful antiques, and stunning murals painted by her daughter, Evelyn Bagnasco, a theatre designer, with a unique Arabian bathroom of handmade Mosaic tiles and furniture created by her daughter, whose work has been widely published in magazines such as "AD" and "Town and Country".



Afternoon – A remarkable, historic Palazzo



We will enjoy a privileged private visit and refreshments at this majestic *palazzo*, residence of an aristocratic family. One of the most remarkable private, family-owned palaces in Venice, built in late 15th century, it is also one of the most important early Renaissance palaces of Venice.

Designed by Giovanni Buora, it is one of the only palaces in Venice to have two *piano nobili*. Among the remarkable décor are two friezes by Domenico Tiepolo and stupendous stucco décor. In the early 20th century, Princess Winnaretta de Polignac (daughter of Isaac Singer, inventor of the sewing machine) held salons here, at which renowned, avant-garde artists, such as Gabriel Fauré, Ethel Smyth, and Igor Stravinsky, gave concerts.

Evening – Cocktails and Dinner at the Palazzo Bernardo

Our hosts will welcome us to their stunningly decorated residence, brilliantly restored by the proprietors and classical architects Joseph Achkar and Michel Charrière. On the *piano nobile* of the majestic, 15th century Palazzo Bernardo, overlooking the Grand Canal, the residence offers spectacular views of Venice. The composer Richard Wagner lived here. The lady of the house is an artist and creates fine works using glass, gold and silver at her atelier in Murano. Leading interior designers, including David Hicks, Donna Karan, and Jacques Garcia, institutions and private collectors commission her creations. We will enjoy a wonderful, convivial evening with our hosts.



Thursday, October 13

Morning

Private Visit – Bevilacqua – Luxurious Venetian Hand-woven Fabric

By special arrangement, we will visit the weaving workshop of the only company still producing the incomparable quality of handmade brocades, damask and velvets that made Venice famous in the 16th century. We will be welcomed for a private visit by Mr. Alberto Bevilacqua. The name Luigi Bevilacqua is a legend in décor and costumes. Fabric masterpieces, completely handmade on 18th century looms, are still produced at Bevilacqua. The high price simply reflects the number of days it takes an artisan to complete the opulent fabric, which can be admired in paintings of the great Venetian artists, not only in the décor but also in the costumes worn by the elite.



Private Visit – Palazzo Labia

Guests of the director, we will enjoy an exceptional invitation to visit the celebrated Tiepolo rooms of the Palazzo Labia, rarely opened to the public. Once a grand 17th-century family residence, subsequently owned by the famous Don Carlos de Beistegui, heir to a Mexican silver fortune, Labia is today the Venice headquarters of Italy's national radio and TV organisation.

The *palazzo* boasts what is said to have been Giambattista Tiepolo's most expensive commission of frescoes in a private residence. The Labia family arrived from Spain and employed all means to gain approval of the local aristocracy. The grand ballroom, a two-story-high space characterised by a gamut of architectural *trompe l'oeil*, is the framework for giant frescoes depicting the meeting of Anthony and Cleopatra and Cleopatra's banquet, in which Tiepolo included himself.

Luncheon – Antiche Carampane

Situated only steps from the Rialto bridge, Antiche Carampane offers delicious Venetian cuisine and warm hospitality. It is a favorite address among politicians, gourmet locals and showbiz alike. The warm *trattoria* ambience, the delectable regional cuisine, and the welcoming staff make for a wonderful experience.

Afternoon – Palazzo Albrizzi

We will be welcomed by Baron Lorenzo Rubin de Cervin Albrizzi for a private reception at his residence, Palazzo Albrizzi, one of the most luxurious Baroque palaces in Venice, still a private home, in the same family for almost 500 years. The Albrizzi family purchased the palace in 1648 and spent 50 years sumptuously decorating the residence. A vast gallery runs almost the full length of the *piano nobile* with splendid white and gold stuccowork, museum-quality paintings, superb antique furniture, as well as family heirlooms. Our charming host will relate the history of his residence and dedication its preservation while enjoying refreshments in the secret garden.



Evening – Cocktails and Dinner – Palazzo Tiepolo Passi

Countess Lelia Passi will welcome us for a convivial, home-made dinner, prepared by our hostess, at her historic, beautifully appointed residence on the Grand Canal, offering marvelous views of Venice. Palazzo Tiepolo Passi, built

in the 16th century, is one of the few *palazzi* whose façades were painted with frescoes. Traces of the frescos, painted by Andrea Meldolla, can still be admired. Guardi ornaments embellish the ground floor of the palace. Among the admirable décor, ceilings pride well-preserved, valuable stuccoes portraying mythological scenes.

Friday, October 14

Morning – Private Visit of Casino Venier and the Royal Palace of Venice



Casino Venier

Madame Anita Dolfus, French Cultural Attaché in Venice, will welcome us for a private visit to Casino Venier, the only 18th century *casino* that still exists in Venice. Venetian *casini* were rendezvous of Venetian patriarchs for intimate business meetings, conversations with friends, or political discussions. Casino Venier, named after Elena Vernier, is noteworthy. Its ceiling and wall decoration, consisting of polychrome stucco works and tiles from Delft dating from 1750 to 1760, is virtually entirely conserved. Today, it is the headquarters of the Alliance Française in Venice.

Royal Palace of Venice, Napoleonic Wing

We will be welcomed by Jerome-François Zieseniss, President of the “*Comité Français pour la Sauvegarde de Venise*”, to the Royal Palace of Venice, housing Museo Correr in the Napoleonic wing. We will discover the outstanding restoration and work in progress of the Napoleonic rooms, thanks to the “*Comité*” and its distinguished benefactors. The interior décor is owed to Giuseppe Borsato, disciple of Percier and Fontaine, who illustrated an elegant neoclassicism, the result of French and Italian influences. This awe-inspiring edifice is the only neoclassical Royal Palace intact in Italy.



Luncheon – Ristorante Antico Pignolo

We will enjoy the refined atmosphere of this authentic Venetian establishment, its remarkable cuisine and house specialities, and its outstanding service. Antico Pignolo is truly one of the finest *ristoranti* in Venice, sought after by sophisticated Venetians and discerning travelers.

Afternoon – Private Visit of the Residence of world renowned Stage and Opera Director Pier-Luigi Pizzi



This is a highlight of our exclusive program. We will be welcomed by Pier-Luigi Pizzi to his astounding, historic residence, decorated with works of art that would make any museum blush, the same excellent taste and creative spirit that he brings to his theatrical productions.

A further delight, Pier-Luigi Pizzi lives in the converted, former atelier of Renaissance artist Titian, located near the Frari in San Polo. The soaring three-story gallery houses an unparalleled, museum-quality collection of Northern European and Neapolitan paintings, antiques of all periods, statues, and ancient Venetian works of glass. This is a unique discovery, one to which

even very distinguished visitors to Venice is rarely offered.

Evening – Cocktails and Dinner – Palazzo Corner Gheltoff Alvera

In the evening, we will be specially welcomed by our charming hostess of Venetian aristocracy, Countess Caterina Alvera, for cocktails and an enchanting dinner at her marvelous, historic Venetian residence, *Palazzo* Corner Gheltoff Alvera, which has belonged to noble and powerful Venetian families since its origin.

This impressive 16th - 17th century palace of Gothic style with Palladian influence, housing refined, elegant décor and artwork, is situated on the Grand Canal. We will enjoy cocktails on the rooftop terrace, with spectacular views of Venice, followed by a convivial dinner, specially prepared by the Countess herself. This will be a memorable evening.

Saturday, October 15

Morning – Palazzo Grimani and Palazzo Cappello Malipiero Barnabo

Private Visit of Palazzo Grimani

Dottore Roberto Fontanari will lead us on a private visit of Palazzo Grimani, the only palace in Venice built following the architectural plan of a Roman villa. In the early 1500's, Antonio Grimani bequeathed his partially completed *palazzo* to his sons. It was subsequently admirably finished, thanks to his nephews Giovanni and Vettore Grimani. The state purchased the palace in 1981, and in 2001 restoration began and was completed in 2008.

The palace and its architecture are unique among Venetian *palazzi*, incorporating Roman and



Tuscan architectural and decorative elements. The restoration is remarkable. Some of the most prominent features include the unique cortile, the Tribuna, the Sala del Doge, the entrance stairway, luscious marble, and endless panels of leaded glass doors that stream light from the open cortile and the *rio*. This is, indeed, a unique and memorable discovery.

Private Visit – Palazzo Cappello Malipiero Barnabo

Countess Anna Barnabo will welcome us for a private visit to discover her historic residence and gardens on the Grand Canal, with superb views and one of the largest private gardens in Venice on the Grand Canal. The 18th century décor, the collection of artwork, and the garden, with its manifold sculptures, are exquisite.

Gracefully preserved, the *palazzo* was built over three periods, the 12th century, the Renaissance period, and the 17th century, when Baldassarre Longhena restored it in Baroque style. We will enjoy refreshments in the garden or in the majestic living room overlooking the Grand Canal.



Luncheon – Palazzo Grassi

Just next-door is the Palazzo Grassi, where we will enjoy a deliciously light luncheon and a quick view of museum, overlooking the Grand Canal. Palazzo Grassi presents major temporary exhibitions, and outstanding works from the François Pinault Collection.



Afternoon – Private Visit – Gran Teatro La Fenice

The director of VIP relations will welcome us for a private visit of La Fenice, inaugurated in 1792, one of the most celebrated opera houses in Europe, site of many famous international opera premieres. We will enjoy a behind-the-scenes visit of this mythical institution, twice burnt, where the most famous composers and artists have performed, including Rossini, Donizetti, and Verdi. We will discover the stunning results of its latest renovation and the special, engaging anecdotes of its renowned international patrons throughout its history.

Evening – Farewell Dinner - Palazzo Balbi Mocenigo

We will be welcomed by Jérôme-François Zieseniss, President of the *Comité Français pour la Sauvegarde de Venise*, and by Matteo Corvino, interior designer and organizer of among the most prestigious private galas in Venice and in Paris, for our farewell dinner in their fabulous residence, superbly restored and decorated by Matteo Corvino in the finest of Venetian tradition, elegance and warmth, marrying significant Napoleonic and Contemporary artwork and décor. *This will be a wonderful way to end our exclusive and memorable program!*

Sunday, October 16

After breakfast, we shall bid guests “*A presto!*” in the hope you will join us for another exclusive cultural travel program in Europe. We will be pleased to assist guests wishing to prolong their stay in Venice.

Tour Price: Land cost: Double occupancy: \$7,500 per person. Single occupancy guests may choose between: (1) \$950 single supplement with Villa Cipriani & Starhotels Splendid Venice; or (2) \$600 single supplement with Hotel Duse & Starhotels Splendid Venice. Based on an exchange rate of \$1.40/1 Euro and a minimum of 15 participants (maximum 20 participants). A fully tax-deductible \$500 donation to ICAA is also required.

Rate includes: 7 days of private visits and receptions; 7 nights of hotel accommodations—3 nights at the 4-star luxury hotel Villa Cipriani (or 3-star Hotel Duse: single occupancy) in Asolo and 4 nights at the 4-star luxury Starhotels Splendid Venice; 7 breakfasts; 7 luncheons and 6 dinners; transportation to and from events; all private visits, and expert lecturers.

To assure availability, please reserve now. Members at the Contributor or Individual~Professional level or higher are welcome to attend ICA&CA tours. Confirmation will be treated according to reception date of registration.

For more information and to reserve, please email or call Pamela Huntington Darling at your earliest convenience. Email: pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com . Telephone in Paris, France: 011 33 1 45 67 62 81.

A detailed itinerary will be sent to the confirmed participants. Due to the exceptional character of our private visits and receptions, the date and time are subject to change. A private visit or reception may be replaced in the coming months by another exceptional invitation, in which case confirmed participants will be notified.