



Clockwise from top left: Palazzo Venart from the Grand Canal; Lorenzo Quinn's *Support*; a Palazzo Venart interior; dishes at CoVino.



RENAISSANCE WOMAN

Cultural and culinary developments are fueling Venetian travel—just ask model and actress Emily Ratajkowski. By Brianna Kovan

Emily Ratajkowski knows a thing or two about vacationing in style. The model-cum-actress has spent the last few months traversing Italian cities, with side trips to the French Riviera, Mexican white-sand beaches, and Grecian coasts. Her Instagram account, which, with 13.9 million followers, rivals her friend Bella Hadid's, deftly mixes au naturel bikini-bod photos with feminist musings and calls for peace. Yet despite Ratajkowski's many far-flung jaunts, Venice—that water wonderland of gondoliers, carnival masks, and *cicchetti* hors d'oeuvres—is a favorite. "There's nowhere else like it in the world," says the actress, 26, who visited the city with her parents last December. "It's like Disneyland. You can't believe it; it's so unreal-looking."

After a breakout role in Robin Thicke's "Blurred

Lines" music video, the California native quickly landed roles in David Fincher's *Gone Girl*, the 2016 Netflix anthology comedy *Easy*, and two upcoming thrillers (*In Darkness*, with Natalie Dormer, and *Welcome Home*, with Aaron Paul). This month, Ratajkowski adds "designer" to her résumé with a series of bags she cocreated with The Kooples (see below). "I thought about what my dream bag was," the actress says of the leather totes, which come in three sizes and sport sleek gold hardware. Like most good ideas, the Russian nesting-doll design grew from an actual need: "I always end up putting a small bag in a larger bag, and then that larger bag in an extrabig one for carry-on." In other words, they're the perfect set for a trip to one of Italy's most enchanting cities.



DO

The fifty-seventh Venice Biennale, the world's oldest and largest contemporary art festival, runs through late November. Christine Macel, the chief curator of Paris's flamboyant modern art museum Centre Pompidou, curated this year's, which features the work of artists from 83 countries as well as satellite installations (like Italian artist Lorenzo Quinn's *Support*; see above) throughout the city. If you miss the festival, catch a performance at the extravagant opera house, Teatro La Fenice, or visit the nearby Peggy Guggenheim Collection, which holds twentieth-century art—Dalí, Picasso, Pollock, and more—from the heiress's personal collection. Or, Ratajkowski says, "Just start walking. The thing about Venice that's nice is you can get lost and just walk around—but it's an island, so you can't go very far."

One of the bags Ratajkowski designed for THE KOOPLES



STAY

The actress nabbed an Airbnb rental on the water. "Staying on the Grand Canal makes it really easy to get around," she says. Those who prefer a hotel experience should check out Palazzo Venart, centrally located on the Grand Canal near the Fondaco dei Turchi natural history museum. Its lavishly decorated rooms boast traditional Venetian opulence, like marble fireplaces and Renaissance-era frescoes, but, with just 18 rooms, the hotel might feel as cozy as an Airbnb.

EAT

Ratajkowski and her parents dined at CoVino, a 14-seat restaurant with a three-course prix fixe menu, featuring options like oven-roasted cod and sliced tuna. "Italian food is really regional," she says, "so you have to do your research to find out what you should eat in each city." In Venice, seafood is king, along with specialty dishes like *risi e bisi*, a peas-and-pancetta risotto. For the vegetarian traveler, Ratajkowski suggests La Zucca, known for market-driven vegetable dishes like artichoke tagliatelle and ricotta-topped pumpkin flan.