

## Hotels — Luxury lodgings

Venice is a city teeming with luxury hotels, many of which are grand, gilded and historic. Meanwhile, new spots are setting up shop all the time in order to accommodate the millions of tourists who descend each year. Yet not all are created equal and you don't always get what you pay for: some of the pricey spots can stray towards the ostentatious or even gaudy end of the spectrum. Luckily, tasteful glamour and a clutch of sleek, independent boutique options can still be found.

More importantly there are hotels that still have a firm focus on hospitality and will go out of their way to make you feel at home in a city of visitors. From distinguished palazzos with verdant grounds to serene canal-side B&Bs and modern apartments, there are a number of winsome options to hand. Read on to discover the best places to rest your head.

1 Cima Rosa, Santa Croce  
*Laidback lodgings*

When it comes to hotels in Venice, the grand and showy are easy to find; less common are cosy, homely spots such as Cima Rosa. Opened in 2012 by US interior designer Brittany Hymore with the help of her Venetian architect husband Daniele Vallot (*both pictured*), this boutique bed and breakfast sits between a pretty courtyard and the Canal Grande.

Exposed beams and calm hues feature throughout the B&B, in which numerous pieces of furniture have been carefully restored by Hymore herself. With just five rooms – two of which are suites – spread over two floors, Cima Rosa can provide a tranquil respite. And while – obviously – your breakfast is taken care of, Hymore will also happily direct guests to her favourite restaurants if you're stuck for dinner ideas.

1960 Calle del Forno, 30135  
+39 041 863 302  
[cimarosavenezia.com](http://cimarosavenezia.com)

**MONOCLE COMMENT:** An out-of-the-way location means Cima Rosa is near some lesser-known spots worth a look. For example, check out the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, brimming with 16th-century paintings by Tintoretto.



Drink it all in  
—  
The terrace here is a cocktail hotspot

2 Bauer Venezia, San Marco  
*Rare find*

Amid all of Venice's grand palazzos, the fascist-era modern façade of the Bauer's Campo San Moisé entrance sets it apart from the moment you lay eyes on it. The 18th-century building first opened its doors as a hotel in the 1880s but when the property changed ownership in the 1930s a new modern wing was built (the side facing the canal still boasts a Byzantine-gothic exterior).

Inside, the sleek marble lobby and sumptuous staircase lead to classic Venetian rooms upstairs, complete with wall tapestries and Murano glass chandeliers. There are canal-side lounges in which to enjoy a drink and guests also have access to Settimo Cielo (Seventh Heaven): it's the highest terrace in Venice, where guests can eat breakfast while enjoying panoramic views of the city.

1459 Campiello San Moisé, 30124  
+39 041 520 7022  
[bauervenezia.com](http://bauervenezia.com)

**MONOCLE COMMENT:** Room styles vary between traditional Venetian and those with more contemporary touches, such as art deco furniture. Take your pick.



3 Aman Venice, San Polo  
*Home comforts*

Many of the city's majestic hotels were once home to aristocrats and royalty and the Aman Venice is no exception; in fact, the Arrivabene family still lives on the top floor of the palazzo. And the hotel, which opened in 2013 and is managed by the Aman hotel group, aims to feel like a home to visitors as well. There is no reception desk or concierge to be seen when you enter and amid the array of classical frescoes you'll find contemporary furniture.

There are only 24 rooms within this sprawling property; the rest of the hotel is made up of common areas, including two gardens and a library. There is no formal restaurant: guests can order food, drinks and snacks anywhere they like, including – but not limited to – the yellow dining room.

*Palazzo Papadopoli, 1364 Calle Tiepolo Baiamonte, 30125*  
+39 041 270 7333  
[aman.com/resorts/aman-venice](http://aman.com/resorts/aman-venice)

**MONOCLE COMMENT:** Many of the hotel's classical features are actually protected historical artefacts: the Alcova Tiepolo Suite boasts an original, cherubic fresco by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, for example.



Best of both  
—  
This classical hotel has a modern twist





4 Hotel Danieli, San Marco  
Prime palazzo

Perhaps the most storied hotel in a city brimming with them, this is a stately 210-room affair made up of three palazzos, the oldest of which dates back to the 14th century. The entrance from the Riva degli Schiavoni, just steps away from the Ponte dei Sospiri (Bridge of Sighs), leads neatly into an expansive gilded bar and lounge. It plays host to a grand piano and Murano glass chandeliers; it has also provided the setting for scenes in two James Bond films.

The first floor – known as the *piano nobile* in Italian palazzos, as the high-ceilinged spaces were where the principal family rooms were found – is where Danieli's largest suites are located. These include the Doge Dandolo Royal, which is dedicated to the 41st doge of Venice and features an original 18th-century fresco by Jacopo Guarana.

4196 Calle de le Rasse, 30122  
+39 041 522 6480  
danielihotelvenice.com

MONOCLE COMMENT: The Terrazza Danieli restaurant and a newer bistro are on the top floor, both with expansive terraces that have breathtaking views of the Bacino di San Marco.



5 Casa Flora, San Marco  
Perennial pad

Gioele Romanelli, the owner of a handful of Venetian hotels, opened this light-filled three-bedroom apartment in 2017 with the aim of providing something unique amid the city's opulent offerings. Under the watchful eye of architect Matteo Ghidoni from Salottobuono and Laura Sari, interior designer at Reveria, the space was created using typical Venetian materials in a contemporary way.

All the furniture in the sleek apartment has been custom-made by regional firms: the sofas and beds are by Berto, fabrics are from Rubelli and the dining table was made by Xilia, a nearby woodworking company.

As the name would suggest, Casa Flora is filled with greenery, giving the space a lived-in feel. Each of the three large bedrooms comes with its own bath and steam room, all featuring the mosaic-like palladiana terrazzo tiles that are a mainstay of many Venetian homes. The expansive kitchen and dining room are perfect for hosting large dinner parties; Venetian chefs can be hired to cater. This is the place to stay if you're looking to break away from the city's love of brocade and gilding.

2283A San Marco, 30124  
+39 041 520 5844  
casafloravenezia.com

MONOCLE COMMENT: Romanelli and his team are happy to assist with unique Venetian ventures, such as arranging visits with regional tailors and shoemakers.



Home comforts  
—  
Everything in Casa Flora is made in Italy



Respect your elders

Across the street from Casa Flora is its big sister: Hotel Flora. It's more traditional than the newer site – though it's been updated over the past few decades – and its gorgeous garden courtyard remains intact. The perfect place to start your day with a cappuccino.



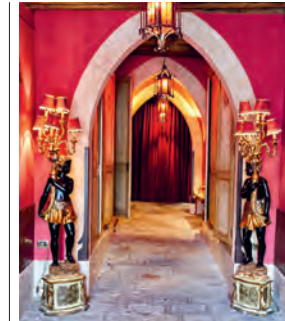


6 JW Marriott Venice Resort & Spa, Sacca Sessola  
Take a step back

While cruising up to a hotel entrance via boat is an option in many spots across Venice, it's mandatory at the JW Marriott: the sprawling resort occupies the island of Sacca Sessola, a 10-minute journey across the lagoon from Piazza San Marco. But don't let the distance put you off: opened in 2015 and built by architect Matteo Thun, this sprawling 266-room hotel boasts four restaurants, three swimming pools, tennis courts, a gourmet food shop and the superb Goco Spa (see page 124).

There is plenty to keep you occupied without ever having to leave the grounds but getting back into the hubbub of Venice is no trouble: the resort lays on regular water taxi services to Piazza San Marco.  
Isola delle Rose, 30133  
+39 041 852 1300  
jwvenice.com

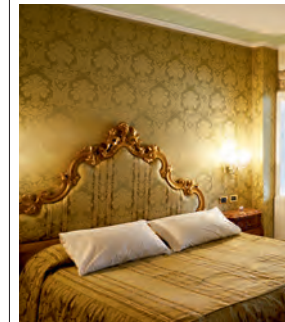
MONOCLE COMMENT: Check out the rooftop pool and bar for stunning views of not only the island itself but also the ethereal Venetian skyline from a distance.



7 Al Ponte Antico, Cannaregio  
Opulent option

Venture down a cobblestone path past the Fondaco dei Tedeschi shopping centre and you'll find the lush Al Ponte Antico, a small and welcoming palazzo. The property has just nine rooms, augmented by a cosy (well-stocked) bar and lounge that has leather banquettes and a carefully restored ceiling. Prepare to get acquainted with other guests, as well as the owners: brothers Matteo and Bruno Peruch.

Al Ponte Antico's high-ceilinged rooms are done up with velvet tapestries. Without a doubt the hotel's best spot is its tiny yet elegant Canal Grande-side terrace, which offers picture-postcard views.  
5768 Calle dell'Aseo Cannaregio, 30131  
+39 041 241 1944  
alpontantico.com



MONOCLE COMMENT: The Al Ponte Antico doesn't have a restaurant (although it does serve breakfast) but there are plenty of spots nearby.



8 Hotel Metropole, San Marco  
*Unusually appealing*

Hotel Metropole's location in the heart of the Riva degli Schiavoni promenade shouldn't fool you into thinking that this is any ordinary Venetian hotel. The 16th-century palazzo, once home to a girls' orphanage and music school, is now an eclectic spot with warm and quirky touches; 67 rooms are filled with plush furnishings and antique pieces.

Proprietor Gloria Beggiato, whose family has owned the property for generations, has added her own personal collections – from the charming (antique business-card cases) to the odd (corkscrews) – into the mix, all displayed in glass cabinets in the corridors. Don't let the unusual touches put you off, not least because the secluded Citrus Garden is a lovely spot to unwind with an aperitivo after a day of traversing Venice's narrow streets.

4149 Riva degli Schiavoni, 30122  
+39 041 520 5044  
[hotelmetspole.com](http://hotelmetspole.com)

**MONOCLE COMMENT:** The hotel's cocktail bar displays work made by a revolving roster of Venetian artists and is open to passers-by.



**Always famous**

When it comes to hotels, Venice has its fair share of household names. Historical hotspots such as The Gritti Palace in San Marco, Belmond Hotel Cipriani on Giudecca and Ca' Sagredo Hotel in Cannaregio may not be new on the scene but they continue to live up to their reputations.



**Hotels outside the city**

- 01 **Quattro Fontane, Lido:** A quaint four-star hotel filled with antique furniture; outside there's a spacious garden and tennis courts. [quattrofontane.com](http://quattrofontane.com)
- 02 **Grande Albergo Ausonia & Hungaria, Lido:** Built in the early 20th century, with nods to art nouveau. Check out the spa and wellness centre. [hungaria.it](http://hungaria.it)
- 03 **Venissa, Mazzorbo:** Venissa is renowned for its food offering with both an osteria and Michelin-starred restaurant on-site (see page 127). There are six rooms upstairs, as well as a number of rooms scattered across restored houses on neighbouring Burano. [venissa.it](http://venissa.it)

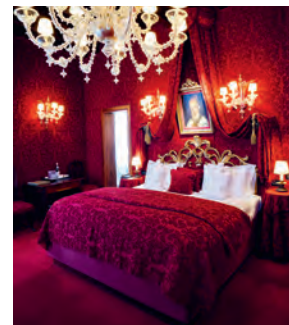
9 Ca Maria Adele, Dorsoduro  
*Love is in the air*

Nestled alongside the imposing Santa Maria della Salute, one of Venice's largest churches, Ca Maria Adele looks unassuming from the outside – yet inside the low-lit and intimate 14-room hotel makes for a charming bolthole. Hotelier brothers Alessio and Nicola Campa opened the property in 2004 and have mixed sumptuous interiors, classic Venetian sensibilities and touches of modern design to make this a romantic spot.

Meanwhile, the Collezione Peggy Guggenheim is just around the corner and there's also a roof terrace, where guests can take in the views of Venice with a cheeky glass of prosecco.

111 Rio Terrà Catecumeni, 30123  
+39 041 520 3078  
[camariaadele.it](http://camariaadele.it)

**MONOCLE COMMENT:** This is an adults-only affair. For those with small children, Ca Maria Adele offers an apartment suite.



10 Palazzo Venart, Santa Croce  
*Personal touch*

This 15th-century palazzo, only recently repurposed as a hotel, sets itself apart with its service. General manager Angelo Rizzi (pictured), a hospitality veteran with years spent at the Hotel Principe di Savoia in Milan, prides himself on knowing how much – or how little – attention to lavish on visitors. "We're small so we know all the guests," he says. "People feel they can ask for anything."

The switched-on staff are on hand to help with whatever you might need, from a five-course dinner to help planning a romantic gesture. The Venart's location on the Canal Grande and its pretty garden don't hurt either. 1948A Calle Tron, 30135  
+39 041 523 3784  
[palazzovenart.com](http://palazzovenart.com)

**MONOCLE COMMENT:** Dine indoors or alfresco at the restaurant, run by Michelin-starred Enrico Bartolini.

