

AMAN

CANAL GRANDE VENICE

Built on water, steeped in history and synonymous with romance, Venice is a fabled destination with a glorious past. A city in northeast Italy, it is built atop 118 small islands separated by winding canals and linked by arching bridges. Once a major power in the Mediterranean and a flourishing trade centre between Western Europe and the rest of the world, it is known today for the beauty of its setting, its architecture and its artworks. The entire city along with its lagoon is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Home to the Piazza San Marco and Saint Mark's Basilica, the most famous of the city's churches and one of the best-known examples of Byzantine architecture, it is perhaps the Grand Canal which is the city's most iconic feature. Meandering in a sinuous s-shape through the heart of Venice, the Grand Canal is the city's main thoroughfare, plied by gondolas and *vaporetti* (water buses) and lined with more than 170 gracious buildings between 200 and 700 years old. Physical reminders of the city's grand heritage, most were built to demonstrate the wealth and artistry of the Republic of Venice in its heyday. It is in one of these regal old homes directly on the Grand Canal that Aman is housed, fusing the romance and history of this legendary city with the hospitality and service for which Amanresorts is renowned.

PALAZZO

Aman overlooks the Grand Canal in San Polo, the smallest of the six *sestieri* (districts) of Venice. Named for the Church of San Polo, it is also one of the oldest parts of the city, known for its beautiful palaces, churches and market.

The *palazzo* in which Aman is housed, Palazzo Papadopoli, was built in the 16th century by the architect Gian Giacomo dé Grigi, as commissioned by the Coccina family of Bergamo. At the beginning of the 19th century, the property was bought by two brothers, Nicolò and Angelo Papadopoli Aldobrandini. They entrusted the internal decoration of the *piano nobile* – the main living area of the *palazzo* – to Michelangelo Guggenheim, a leading exponent of the Neo-Renaissance and Rococo styles. He reinvented the space, turning the *palazzo*

into one of the most significant examples of these styles in Venice. The brothers also bought two adjacent buildings which they razed in order to build two gardens – very unusual features in Venice. Today these beautiful gardens are green oases in this historic district, alive with the gentle sounds of water all about.

Guests usually arrive at the property by boat, docking at a landing that leads directly into the *palazzo*'s **Reception Hall**. With its soaring ceilings and historic frescos and reliefs, the hall provides a sense of bygone luxury, as well as direct access to the resort's private gardens and a small **Boutique** specialising in Venetian glassware.

A sweeping staircase rises through two levels to arrive at the reception area for the **Dining Room**, which overlooks the Grand Canal and serves Italian and Asian cuisines. This is situated on the *piano nobile*, the grandest floor of the *palazzo*. The main dining area is housed in the ballroom, a gilded room decorated with mirrors, frescos and the original chandeliers. The Yellow Dining Room and the Red Dining Room lie adjacent to the ballroom, with views over the Grand Canal and the resort's Garden Terrace respectively. Named for their colour schemes and featuring ceilings painted by the renowned 18th-century artist Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, each room has a number of dining tables and provides an intimate setting within grand surrounds. Accessed from the ballroom is the **Bar** which provides a cosy setting with canal views.

Rising from the reception area of the Dining Room is a secondary staircase that leads to the fourth level. This houses the **Salon** – a regal, lofty-ceilinged lounge and relaxation area featuring a grand piano. The Salon is divided into two large areas with expansive windows providing commanding views of the Grand Canal. Similar views are enjoyed by the historic **Library** which is situated adjacent to the Salon. Also on this level are the **Stanza del Tiepolo** and **Stanza del Guarana** which can be used for private dining and meetings. The Stanza del Tiepolo features elegant chess and backgammon boards, as well as card and jigsaw tables. These areas are only accessible to resort guests and provide a sanctuary from which to view the daily life of the city on the Grand Canal.



An elevator provides access to the **Roof Terrace**. Intimate in scale and evident in many of the buildings within Venice, the terrace is best visited early in the morning or at sunset, and is the ideal location to view the rooftops of the city. On a clear day, the Alps are visible in the distance.

Fronting the Grand Canal is the **Garden Terrace**, one of very few private gardens on the canal. Mature trees and a quadrangle of verdant green grass provide the ideal setting for a relaxing hour or two, or an al fresco meal in the warmer months.

Aman has a second hidden **Private Garden** with soaring trees. This garden provides a serene setting for resort guests as well as walking access to San Polo.



ACCOMMODATION

Unusual for a hotel in Venice, almost all of the resort’s suites offer beautiful views over the Grand Canal. Aman offers a total of 24 suites with the majority being of unique layout and design. Many feature protected frescos and reliefs that reflect past periods of art and architecture. Furniture and furnishings throughout the rooms are contemporary yet of a simple aesthetic.

Most suites provide combined living areas and bedrooms, as well as linked dressing areas and bathrooms. Lighting is most often provided by table and standing lamps. Each suite provides a television which broadcasts local and international channels as well as movies and documentaries on demand. A docking station is also included in the suite. All rooms offer a king-sized bed, an armoire with personal bar, a writing desk and either a sofa or twin lounge chairs. There are a total of four suite categories, differentiated by design, floor area and view.



PALAZZO ROOMS

The Palazzo Rooms offer views of the Private Garden.

PALAZZO CHAMBERS

Almost all the Palazzo Chambers offer beautiful views of the Grand Canal.

PALAZZO SUITES

The Palazzo Suites all feature spectacular views of the Grand Canal and many have wonderful architectural details. The majority are located between the second and fifth levels of the *palazzo*.

SIGNATURE SUITES

There are five Signature Suites, all with unique architectural features.

Maddalena Suite

This historic room features high ceilings, silk wall coverings, frescoed ceilings and a chandelier in the bathroom. The tall windows offer wonderful views over the Garden Terrace and the Grand Canal.

Papadopoli Suite

The high ceilings of this suite are frescoed in both the bedroom and the bathroom. Views are

of the Garden Terrace and the Grand Canal.

Sansovino Suite

This suite was originally called ‘The Hall of the Four Doors’. Noteworthy architectural details include wood panelling, a painted frieze around the walls and a carved ceiling. It also has the most historical fireplace in the *palazzo*, designed by Jacopo d’Antonio Sansovino, one of Venice’s most famous architects in the early 16th century.

Alcove Tiepolo Suite

The Alcove Tiepolo Suite offers

a Chinese painted sitting room and a bedroom ceiling by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. Tiepolo has been described as the “greatest decorative painter of 18th-century Europe, as well as its most able craftsman”.

Canal Grande Suite

Located above the front door of the *palazzo*, this suite directly fronts the Grand Canal offering exceptional views. It features a lovely sitting room with an arched window through which the full spectrum of the canal’s maritime activities can be viewed.

SPA

The **Spa** is located, almost secretly, on the third level of the Garden Building. Access is via a small stairwell which leads to a discrete reception area. Dimly lit with low ceilings, the Spa exudes the atmosphere of a sanctuary, and provides three single treatment rooms, each with a dressing area and bathroom. One of the treatment rooms has a soaking tub that can be used in conjunction with body scrubs.

FITNESS FACILITIES

The property has a small **Gym** on the fourth level of the Palazzo Building. The facility offers aerobic and strength-conditioning equipment, an area for free weights and stretching, and commanding views over the city’s roofline.





GEOGRAPHY

Situated in Italy's northeastern corner, at the northwestern end of the Adriatic Sea, Venice lies on an archipelago in the crescent-shaped *Laguna Veneta* (Venetian Lagoon). This stretches approximately 51 kilometres from the reclaimed marshes of Jesolo in the north, to the drained lands beyond Chioggia in the south, between the mouths of the Po and Piave Rivers. A line of sandbanks (on which are built many small settlements – some centuries old) protect the lagoon, but three *porti* (gaps) allow access for the city's maritime traffic and the one-metre tides.

The buildings of Venice are constructed on closely spaced wooden piles, most of which are still intact after centuries of submersion. Most of the piles were made from the trunks of alder trees, a wood known for its water resistance.

LOCATION

Overlooking the Grand Canal from San Polo, one of the oldest districts in Venice, Aman is situated within walking distance of the Rialto Bridge, the Church of San Giacomo di Rialto (according to legend the oldest in the city) and the Campo San Polo, amongst many other sites. Of course the Grand Canal itself provides water access to the rest of Venice – 'The Floating City' – via its centuries-old system of canals.

Settled before the ninth century when San Polo and San Marco formed part of the Realtine Islands, San Polo covers 35 hectares. Connected to the eastern bank of the Grand Canal by the Rialto Bridge since the 13th century, the district has been the site of Venice's main market since 1097.

CULTURE

The mystique of Venice has long since held authors, poets, artists and travellers in its thrall. The birthplace of Marco Polo and Casanova, Venice has also been a setting for countless fictional heroes, from Shakespeare's *Othello* to Voltaire's *Candide*. A large part of the city's allure is its rich culture, apparent today in its architecture, interior design, music, art, glass, festivals and fashion.

Architecture: Venice boasts rich and diverse architectural styles, the most famous of which is Venetian Gothic. This style combines the use of the Gothic lancet arch with Byzantine and Ottoman influences. It originated in 14th-century Venice when Byzantine influences from Constantinople converged with Arab influences from Moorish Spain. The city is also known for its Renaissance and Baroque buildings.

Interior Design: An 18th-century artistic movement and style, Rococo developed as a reaction to the symmetry and strict regulations of the Baroque movement. As a city accustomed to lavish displays of wealth, Venice embraced the opulence and playfulness of Rococo, producing some of the movement's best and most refined designs. Venetian bedrooms were usually sumptuously grand, with rich damask, velvet and silk drapery, as well as beautifully-carved Rococo beds. Venice was especially famous for its mirrors, lacquer furniture and chandeliers featuring colourful Murano glass.

Music: The medieval Republic of Venice was popularly called the 'Republic of Music', so pervasive was this art form in the city. During the 16th century, Venice became one of Europe's most important musical centres, marked by a characteristic style of composition – the Venetian School. It was also an early centre of music printing, which helped to attract composers from all over Europe. By the end of the century, the city was famous for the splendour of its music which often employed multiple choruses and orchestras. Venice was also home to





many famous Baroque composers including Antonio Vivaldi, who composed the series of violin concertos known as ‘The Four Seasons’.

Art and Printing: Venice has always been one of Europe’s major art centres, especially during the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque periods when it was common for wealthy Venetians to become patrons of the arts. Early masters were Giorgione and Titian, followed by Tintoretto and Veronese. The advent of printing also raised the city’s profile, as by the end of the 15th century Venice had become one of the first cities in Italy to have a printing press, after those established in Germany. Considered the most beautiful book of the Renaissance period, the ‘Hypnerotomachia Poliphili’ was printed by Venice’s Aldine Press of Aldus Manutius in 1499. This same printing office established modern punctuation, italic type, paperback books and the first printed work of Aristotle.

Today Venice is a centre of the modern art world, hosting the Venetian Biennale every two years. Amongst the most important museums in Italy for European and American art of the first half of the 20th century, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection features pre-war art of Pablo Picasso, Constantin Brâncuși, Jackson Pollock, Max Ernst and many more. The Punta della Dogana meanwhile is a centre for contemporary art with exhibitions including the works of artists such as Donald Judd and Jeff Koons, to name but a few.

Glass: Famous for its ornate glass-work known as Venetian glass, Venice benefited from the sacking of Constantinople in 1204 by offering safe haven to many artisans including glassworkers. This happened again in 1453, and by the 16th century, Venetian artisans were producing some of the finest, most colourful and decorative glasswork in Europe. The centre of the Venetian glass industry has

been based in Murano, an island off Venice, since the end of the 13th century.

Masks and the Carnival: For many people, masked revellers in ornate costumes are as iconic an image of Venice as gondolas and canals. Traditionally, masks were allowed to be worn in Venice during certain periods of the year, adding greatly to the mystery and intrigue of the city. Mask makers enjoyed a special position in society, with their own laws and guild. Masks could be made of leather, porcelain or glass, and often had symbolic functions.

Today masks are mainly associated with the Carnival of Venice, an annual festival which starts on St. Stephen’s Day (26th December) and ends with Lent, forty days before Easter on Shrove Tuesday. The Carnival is said to have originated from victory celebrations in 1162 when Venice – the ‘Repubblica della Serenissima’ at the time – defeated the Patriarch of Aquileia, Ulrico. The Carnival declined during the 18th century and was only reinstated in 1979. Today the Carnival attracts millions of visitors and one of the most important events is the contest for best mask – held on the last weekend of the festival and judged by a jury of international costume and fashion designers.

Fashion: While not as major a fashion capital as Milan, Florence or Rome, Venice is still a considerable fashion destination today. This status has its origins in the 14th century when young Venetian men began wearing multi-coloured hose with designs indicating the *Compagnie della Calza* (Trouser Club) to which they belonged. The Venetian Senate passed laws against this form of dress, but these merely resulted in fashion changes to circumvent the laws. Dull garments were worn over coloured ones, with cut-outs to reveal the colours beneath. These ‘slashed’ fashions were very popular in the 15th century.

HISTORY

Most historians agree that the original population of Venice consisted of refugees from the mainland, fleeing Germanic and Hun invasions, as well as fishermen. The traditional founding of the city is identified with the dedication of its first church, San Giacomo, on the islet of Rialto. This is said to have occurred at noon on 25th March 421.

While still officially a part of the Eastern Roman Empire in the late sixth century, Venice's isolated position meant that the Roman/Byzantine territory enjoyed increasing autonomy. In 726, the soldiers and citizens of Venice elected their own leader for the first time after an uprising, and Ursus became the first of 117 *Doges*. *Doge* is the Venetian form of the Latin *dux* (leader). In a savvy political move, Ursus supported the Byzantine Emperor Leo III in a military expedition to recover the area, and as a result Venice was granted numerous privileges and concessions.

Venice was granted trading rights along the Adriatic coast in 814, and in 828 the city's prestige was raised by the acquisition of the claimed relics of Saint Mark the Evangelist from Alexandria. These were placed in the new basilica. As Byzantine power waned, Venice grew increasingly autonomous, leading eventually to the territory's independence.

Between the 9th and the 12th centuries Venice developed into a city state with impressive naval and commercial powers. Its strategic location made it almost invulnerable to attack, and with the elimination of pirates along the Dalmatian coast, the city became a flourishing trade centre. In building its maritime commercial empire, the Republic of Venice dominated the salt trade and came to control much of the eastern shores of the Adriatic, the 'Terraferma' (from Lake Garda on the mainland west to the Adda River), and most of the islands in the Aegean including Cyprus and Crete.

Venice became an imperial power after the sacking of Constantinople in 1204, when much of the plunder was brought to its shores. By the late 13th century, Venice was the most prosperous city in all of Europe, dominating Mediterranean commerce. During this time, the city's most powerful families tried to outdo each other by building the grandest palaces possible, and supporting the work of the most talented artists. Governed by the Great Council (whose members came from the city's nobility) which elected a Senate of 200 to 300 men, it was

TRAVEL TIPS

Getting there: Travellers to Venice can arrive via road, train (at the Stazione Santa Lucia), ferry or plane (at Marco Polo Airport 12 kilometres outside of Venice). Whatever the means of arrival, guests will be met and transferred to Aman by boat via Venice's canals.

Climate: Venice has a humid subtropical climate, with cool winters and warm summers. The average temperature in January is 2.5°C while in July the average temperature is 22.7°C. Rain is spread relatively evenly throughout the year.

Language: Venetian is the native language of Venice. It is not a derivative of Italian, but is in fact a separate language. English is widely spoken alongside Italian, German, French and other European languages.

Currency: Italy's currency is the euro. ATMs are available.

Dress: Warm clothes are required during winter, while light clothes and a hat are recommended during the summer months. There is always the chance of a shower, so bringing a fold-up umbrella is a good idea.



really the Council of Ten (voted for by the Senate and headed by the *Doge*) who controlled much of the administration of the city.

Venice's long decline began in the 15th century, with unsuccessful military campaigns against the Ottomans, the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus, and Portugal's new sea route to India which destroyed Venice's land route monopoly. Another factor was the devastation of the Republic's population wrought by the Black Plague: Between 1575 and 1577, 50,000 people died, and in 1630, the plague again killed a third of the city's citizens. Left behind in the race for colonies due to galleys unsuited to sailing across oceans, Venice slowly lost its position as a centre of international trade.

EXCURSIONS & ACTIVITIES

Celebrated throughout the world for its art and architecture, Venice is a destination with something for everyone, from gourmands to historians. Whether you are looking for a romantic gondola ride along the city's picturesque canals, a breakfast cappuccino overlooking a sleepy *piazza*, or a trip back in time through the city's churches, Venice is sure to enchant you within moments of your arrival.

Discovering the city by water is an essential Venetian rite of passage. Being poled or paddled gently down a winding canal, ostensibly forgotten by time, is a magical experience as well as the best way to get a taste of the real Venice. Aman offers a waterborne tour of Venice delightfully free of tourist trappings.

Of course one can also explore the city on foot. Attractions in San Polo near Aman include the Rialto Bridge, the Church of San Giacomo di Rialto, the Campo San Polo, the House of Goldoni, the Church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, the Church of San Rocco and the Scuola Grande di San Rocco.

Other world-renowned sites just a short boat ride from Aman include Saint Mark's Basilica and Piazza San Marco.

The Carnival of Venice is a major attraction, as are the prestigious Venice Biennale (a major contemporary art exhibition that takes place every two years) and the Venice Film Festival (the world's oldest international film festival which takes place every August/September). •



ĀMAN

CANAL GRANDE
VENICE

OPENING JUNE 2013

Palazzo Papadopoli, Calle Tiepolo 1364, Sestiere San Polo, Venezia 30125, Italy

Email: amancanalgrandevenice@amanresorts.com



INTRODUCTORY RATES 2013

Palazzo Room	€ 1,000
Palazzo Chamber	€ 1,500
Palazzo Suite	€ 2,000
Maddalena Suite	€ 2,500
Papadopoli Suite	€ 2,500
Sansovino Suite	€ 2,500
Alcove Tiepolo Suite	€ 3,500
Canal Grande Suite	€ 3,500

**Room rates are per suite per night and subject to taxes.*

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