



# Veneto Silver Award Project

A guide by Cece



# Venezia (Venice)

Venice, the city on water has many attractions to behold. Whether you get to the destinations by taking a stroll by the Grand Canal or on the Rialto, taking a lovely gondola ride, or (the cheaper but still awesome) watertaxi. Since there are no cars in Venice the city has many bridges and lots of water power. Venice is made up of over 110 islands and quadruple the amount of bridges! That's a lot of walking and cash spent looking for a ride, so here are some of the must sees of the City on the Sea.

Venice has a very colorful history including creating nationally recognizable things and customs like: "Happy Hour" and the gondola rides across the 'streets' or stealing the most iconic features such as St. Mark's Basilica, St. Mark HIMSELF, milk from the Virgin Mary, Jesus' blood, jewels, a splinter from the cross, and even more.

# St. Mark's Cathedral and its stolen history

When you explore the outside of St. Mark's Cathedral you might just find the lions and the horses. Why are these so important to the history of the church? How did the church come to be? Well, it all started with thieves, the Pope, and St. Mark's corpse. In 828 CE the Pope didn't want Catholics to trade with Muslims, thought it would give them new ideas and that can be dangerous. The Venezians didn't like this because they had resources Venice needed like spices and greens. So, in that fateful year two Venezians, Buono and Rustico ventured to Alexandria, Egypt a Muslim dominated city, and stole St. Mark's 800 year old corpse. Everyone in that age knew that a saint's body can't be moved unless the saint allowed it, so them stealing it was really saving the saint. It was challenging but they managed to get the saint to Venice, eventually. When they came back to Venice they were not punished but praised, even thrown a parade by the doge or governor. Then the doge ordered a church built for it.

# St. Mark's Cathedral and its stolen history

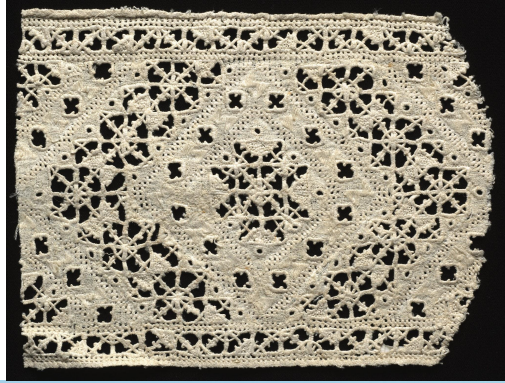
But what about the lions and horses? In the 10th century the church burned down and the Venezians wanted a bigger and grander church built. Thankfully Europe was going crazy for crusades, which meant lots of money and riches up for grabs. One thing lead to another and the Venezians were stealing from Constantinople, taking silver alters and whatever wasn't nailed down. Including the four tetrarchs dating back to 300 CE. Soon they had more than enough to build an incredible basilica. Another famous piece from Hippodrome was the four bronze horses, along with St. Mark they became a symbol of Venice. Even though the original horses are kept inside, to keep away from the elements and 'handsy tourists' you can still find replicas outside in the same spot the originals were.

# ‘Made in Venice’

While Venice has stolen a lot it has also made some incredible things. Some examples can be found in the Accademia Galleries which showcases some Veneztian art, paintings, sculptures, and Da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man. Another wonder of art in Venice is the incredible lace and glass, entire islands are dedicated just for lace and glass making. For example, Burano or the island of a thousand colors is dedicated to making fantastic lace. Check out the Lace Museum in Burano if you have extra time. Another island dedicated to the arts is Murano, famous for its glass making and sculptures. You can visit the Glass Museum there or just look in windows of shops to find amazing and extra-special creations.



# Venice



# Verona

Verona, referred to as the City of Romance is a magical place. How did it get its name? Possibly the architectural feats of the Arena, the stunning plazas, or the castles such as Castle Vecchio. One reason I believe Verona is a city of romance is because it is the place one of the greatest love stories takes place, Romeo and Juliet. In fact, you can find a house dedicated to the Juliet Capulet from Shakespeare's play, just a few minutes walk away from the Arena. Here is a little history about Juliet's House, the Arena, and other wonders of Verona.

Juliet's House dates back to the 1200s and was restored in the 1900s. It originally belonged to the Cappello family. There you can see the statue of Juliet in the courtyard and you can tour the house. Towards the end of the house there are signatures of couples on love locks.

# La Verona Arena

Over 2000 years this great city was formed. Something that represents all of those years gone by is the Arena di Verona. Located on the Piazza Bra', this amphitheatre towers tall at 30 meters, almost 100 feet. It was originally used to host gladiator fights but is now used to hold concerts. It has been the largest open-air opera house since 1913. You can still go inside and climb the steps when there aren't concerts, and afterwards there are several lovely cafes and restaurants around there.



# CastelVecchio

This magnificent castle was built between 1354 and 1356, but now is a museum. Inside you will find 29 rooms each exhibiting extravagant art and weapons as well as archeological findings. To make things easier and less confusing, all of the exhibits are in chronological order, starting from early Christian finds and ending with the 1700s.

# Lake Garda

Lake Garda is a place full of wonder and adventure, there is no way to get bored. With over 1000 km of trails to hike, bike, or horseback riding on shore and a whole lake to explore on a boat. There are also golf courses and rock walls just waiting to be climbed. The perimeter of the lake is also covered in history from castles, towers, and medieval villages. Lake Garda is full of adventure, history, and relaxation, which makes a great stop on an Italian trip.

# Verona



# Vicenza

Vicenza is full of wonders of all kinds. Whether it is the Olympic Theater, the Girl Scout headquarters, Basilica Palladiana, Monte Berico, or Villa La Rotonda for history and sights galore. Vicenza is a beautiful city with incredible history. A must-see city in Veneto with astonishing structures, amazing people, and wonderful festivals. Vicenza even obtained UNESCO recognition in 1994. An incredible city in a great region.

# Basilica Palladiana

This symbol of Vicenza, a huge basilica was designed by Andrea Palladio and added to the UNESCO list in 1994. Located in the Central Piazza dei Signori. You can recognize it by the giant blue dome, loggia. It used to be the government's offices, then shops, and now it is an exhibition hall. It is also a national monument and has been since, May 9th 2014. While it is not a basilica Andrea Palladio wanted this structure to remind people of a grand church.

# Monte Berico

On the hills of Vicenza lays the beautiful chapel of Monte Berico with stunning design and stained glass. If you aren't interested in the chapel, there is a magnificent look-out spot of Vicenza. A stunning view of this incredible city. After seeing the amazing view if you feel peckish, take a lovely stroll past the parking lot and you will find a fantastic restaurant.

# Villa La Rotonda

A renaissance building designed by Andrea Palladio, the Villa La Rotonda or Villa Almerico Capra Valmarana. A building inspired by the Pantheon in Rome includes three floors, a majestic dome, and surrounding countryside it is a beautiful sight. Opened all seasons except winter, and guided tours on Saturday. Also, during the spring, the fields and hillsides are covered by the yellow Rapeseed flower, causing a sea of yellow. A great stop on your Veneto voyage.



# Olympic Theater (teatro olimpico)

The Olympic Theater has stunning architecture, so much so that it made the UNESCO world heritage list. As the oldest enclosed theater in the world it is very important to conserve it. It was first commissioned in 1580 by famous architect Andrea Palladio, who unfortunately didn't get to see the finish product because he died later that year. Following his death, another son of Vicenza was selected to complete the project. According to [italia.it](http://italia.it) , “created by another great architect from Vicenza, Vincenzo Scamozzi. They were respectively decorated with frescoes by Francesco Maffei depicting divinities and allegorical figures (1637) and a monochrome frieze (1595).” A must see for architecture beauty that has and will last centuries.

# Vicenza



# Marostica

Ahhhh Marostica, a small city but full of fascinating history. The place where Prospero Alpini was born, an incredible doctor and botanist who invented a very useful drink, coffee! In Marostica you can hike up to the great Castello Superiore (Castle Superior), and look down upon the city and giant chess board in the piazza. Why is there a life size chess board and who lived in that castle you ask? What history is behind these architectural masterpieces.

# Live Chess! (not just Harry Potter)

The show happens because of a real event in the towns history. In 1454 two noblemen wanted the hand of the governor's daughter, Lionora. Both prepared for battle but the governor stopped them by telling them whoever won a chess game in the piazza, with live chess pieces, would win her hand. Whoever lost would marry the youngest daughter, Oldrada.

That is why on even years in the second week of September Marostica hosts a Living Chess Match with astonishing showmanship, day or night, and miraculous pyrotechnics for the night show.

# Castle Superior (Castello Superiore)

It was built on an old tower and records go back to the 13th century. Now in ruins, some wall fragments are still there. Restorations took place in the 1930s, to recover the turret located on the top of the Castle overlooking the chessboard piazza. Nearby is a large shady olive grove. Even Though the Castle is in ruins it is still possible to walk along some of the walls surrounding the city. The hike up is a little challenging but worth it to see the view.



# Marostica



# Padua/Padova

If you are looking for a city with chapels, Basilica, garden, rivers, statues, art, culture, and history then Padua is the place for you. There are many places of culture and heritage dating back centuries. Just some of these sites include St. Anthony's Basilica, Prato della Valle, and Padua's Botanical Gardens. Don't miss any of these amazing sites because each one offers something different.



# St. Anthony's Basilica

Most cities in Italy have a patron saint, and the one of Padua/Padova is St. Anthony. Who wasn't even from Italy, but Lisbon the capital of Portugal. Since the saint was so important Italians wanted to build a massive basilica, it took 70 years to build. Some items and relics you can find here include, the Main Alter, Chapel of Relics, Chapel of Dark Madonna, The Chapel of Blessed Saint Luke, Cappella del Santo, and Chapel of Saint James. A beautiful Basilica awaits in the amazing city of Padua.

# Prato della Valle

Outside of the abbey basilica of Santa Giustina is a large green space with 80 statues and a canal surrounding it. This is Prato della Valle. The statues represent famous men of Padua and its University. Occasionally there will be a huge open market surrounding Prato della Valle with food, fabrics, furniture, and more. (Sometimes there is a carousel for the kids.)

# University of Padova Botanical Gardens

In 1545 the garden was founded to grow medical plants for 'simple medicines' the gardens used to be called the Gardens of Simples. There are over 30 different species including poisonous and insectivorous plants. Since the Botanical Gardens are so important, and the oldest botanical garden in the world, it became a UNESCO site in 1997.

# Padova



# Veneto

## BINGO SLIDE

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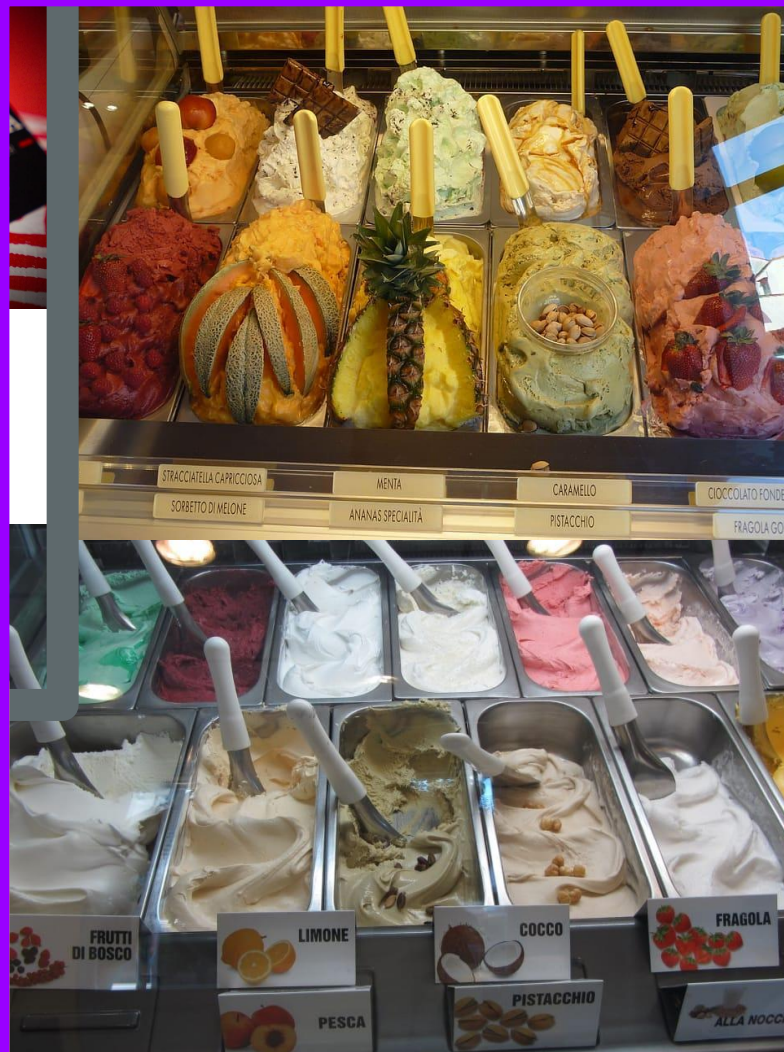
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Try a new flavor of gelato  
Ponte di Rialto (Venice)  
Find lions at St. Mark's Cathedral (Venice)  
Gondola Ride in Venice  
Take a cooking class  
Find horses on St. Mark's Cathedral (Venice)  
Island of Murano (Venice)  
Visit the Arena (Verona)  
Juliet's House (Verona)  
Take the train tour in Verona  
Visit Lake Garda (Castle Ruins, Near Verona))  
Castle vecchio (Verona)  
Free  
Basilica Palladiana (Downtown Vicenza)  
Monte Berico (Vicenza)  
Villa La Rotonda (Vicenza)  
USAGSO offices on Caserma Ederle  
Teatro Olimpico (Vicenza)  
Visit Marostica Chess Board  
Hike up to Castello Superiore (Marostica)  
Try a Cannoli  
St. Anthony's Basilica (Padova)  
Prato della Valle  
University of Padova Botanical Gardens  
Go to a Pizzeria





Cooking class  
Pizzeria  
Cannoli  
Gelato



# For more info check out...

<https://italia.it>

<https://servizi2.comune.vicenza.it/cittadino/scheda.php/42724,174910>

<https://www.histouring.com/strutture/castello-di-marostica/#>

<https://www.marosticascacchi.it/en/history#:~:text=The%20story%20is%20set%20in,beautiful%20daughter%20of%20the%20castellan.>

<https://www.througheternity.com/en/blog/history/basilica-saint-antony-padua-guide.html#>