

Venice and Veneto Private Palaces, Villas & Gardens Tour Trip Notes October 7-17, 2011



What & Why? A long time ago this itinerary came to us from friend Ellen; she and Tom immediately decided it was the trip of a lifetime and not that I disagreed, I however thought it was pretty extravagant for me. Thus I was almost pleased to announce that I already had two marathons prepaid plus a tour through Munich – and both calendared events were conflicting. So Tom agreed to hold off on this Venice trip until 2012 which I appreciated because maybe then he'd forget about it (smile.) Fast-forward about six months when one day I came home to hear Tom announce that this “trip of a lifetime” wouldn't be offered in 2012 and he was going NOW and hoped I'd reconsider and go too. So what's a gal to do? I got part of my Munich monies back but nothing for the marathons, but off we went to Italy.

A big problem - I say off-we-went but only after plenty of MY stress over what to wear following the receipt of THE DRESS CODE. Clearly no one was going to be particularly happy with my marathon or hiking clothes. I dug deep into my old work wardrobe (last used early 2007 and still preserved in tact – marathon clothes not needing a closet) and survived after all. My survival included looking at the other participants sporting expensive top-dollar brands with something new every day: they had multiple world traveler suitcases and I had one small carry-on.



Just what was this trip?

The pictures above are from the tour brochure. I'll let the Tour Summary describe it: *“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.

Since we always give the ups and the downs. . . .

- Exclusive, special, unique and I can admit to it being a 'trip of a lifetime' – yes! Making it more exclusive, one must be a member of the architectural group and make a sizeable donation to attend.
- Pricey is an understatement but well, it's what Tom wanted. I could have done four hiking trips for the price; but then I'd have landscapes instead of villas as memories and I can do landscapes any time.
- Participants were in most cases lovely folks and quite a few we want to see again; some were amusingly pretentious. (Top designers' names were seen every day.)
- Food was excellent: sometimes over the top and sometimes dinner drug on-and-on late night. Some of us loved it and some of us dreaded the late nights. Aperitifs, wines and after dinner drinks flowed freely. (A walk-out happened one night. Over half of us walked home early, laughing through our mutiny. In our defense it was 11:30pm already.)
- Caloric trip! I added back most of those pounds lost during the French saga the prior month.
- Schedule was pretty exhausting with most participants begging out of at least a half if not a full day. (There really wasn't free time.) Guess who managed to do it ALL despite antibiotics, coughing, drugs, ear infection and resultant hearing loss, etc.? I must say that Tom did excellent with only ½ day off and that was just to walk the city on his own. (Tom had practiced giving up his naps the month preceding the trip as practice. Honest!)
- Promptness was not in the cards: We'd be asked to meet at a certain time and we'd not get going until 15-25 minutes later. I hated that; I felt insulted to be so treated and said so.
- Logo apparel was far too selective: Tom was probably grateful to see me without marathon logos but others had designer logos. How fair is that?
- Did I say expensive? We had at least three tour guides as overhead; possibly more were under either a deal or on a portion of the trip. Yet as Tom has often been quoted: It's only money!
- We should have added additional days in Venice since the tour was basically villas and palazzos. It had been far too long since either of us was there and it deserved a renewal.



Tom's Photo Show

I didn't take a camera and most villas didn't allow pictures inside anyway so what you have is Tom's photo show. One photo show is on the Veneto and another one on Venice.

From Tom: Hi All, For those interested, we've just returned from nine days in Italy with seven of those days with a very special guided group tour – three days in The Veneto area seeing inside and out, the marvelous villa/palaces of the famous sixteenth century architect, Andrea Palladio. Then four days in Venice visiting private homes (palaces) and marveling at the architecture and interior design while being wined and dined in several. What a treat and unique experience. Unfortunately, most places would not allow photographs so the resultant photo shows are not my usual "see what I saw" kind but I think you'll get the idea. As usual, just go to www.tomskoi.com and click on the link to photo shows. See ya, Tom

Unique – like Villa libraries with Palladian originals

From Ellen to Tom as she always gives special insights and sees touring through educated eyes: Thanks for sharing your Venice trip. Another two photo treats by Tom Burton! I hope you had a wonderful time! My first surprise is how spectacular the Italian Renaissance murals are in the Palladian houses in the Veneto. Fascinating. In fact, I'd say the Palladian interiors are more interesting to me than those you showed in Venetian palazzos. I do like the tropical foliage murals in the Venice palazzo, although for my taste I'd say each plant is a bit too big. Were these in the same palazzo as the rooms with yellow stripes? I ask, because painted walls to create atmosphere and walls with stripes were two of the hallmarks of Elsie de Wolfe, the amazing woman who invented the idea of a Professional Interior Designer, and did away with the dark interiors of the Victorian Age. She brought light and color into rooms. Two of her hallmarks were bold stripes, and trompe l'oeil wall paintings. The decor of the Venice Palazzo you showed looks like it was seriously influenced by Elsie de Wolfe. Great picture of the inside of the Fenice. What a magnificent opera house! Is it a good guess that the majority of the houses and palazzos were off-limits to cameras? How was the food? I hope was up to your expectations. Did you enjoy your hosts in the various palaces and palazzos? How about the trip participants? I take it from Diana's comments that some of them were a bit "out there". Do you have a picture of the group that you could identify for me. Having seen the guest list before you left, I'd love to see a picture to connect faces to names and titles. Hugs, Ellen

Tom answering Ellen: Yes, we had a great time. The itinerary was packed so we were going from about 7 in the morning until midnight. We're both glad we did it but I still don't like group things and wouldn't have gone on this one except that was the only way to do it. It all turned out fine and travelling in first class on the long trans-Atlantic parts (not my usual business class which is great but not anywhere near first) was fabulous. I checked the Lufthansa round trip first class from Frankfurt to Detroit where I came in (then took an hour's hop to Newark where Diana picked me up - she took Continental direct from Frankfurt - but had found my trip for me for only 135,000 miles - what a bargain) and it is \$16,669. Can you believe it? No wonder there were only three of us for the eight seats and I was treated like a king. That following a lovely lunch in the Lufthansa first class (exclusive) lounge in Frankfurt. I'll never forget that trip.

The murals you spoke of were done by the lady owner's daughter and were extremely well done and in keeping with the rest of the place (which as you saw was wonderful). The owner is American and a delightful person and had been a stunning beauty (lots of family pictures around), married to an Italian (no longer, and I don't know whether a widow or divorcee) and obviously well off. We had a great lunch with white gloved service (and everywhere we went as well) and very nice wine. Only one place served us plonk wine during the whole trip. The most beautiful house we visited for dinner was a designer's dream. The presumably gay couple -- one older who is a big shot in town getting "Save Venice" type funds -- and his young partner who is a decorator. The young guy was put out that we were there but things had been arranged through the older fellow that is Pamela's ex brother-in-law. All turned out fine and we all agreed that we didn't care what he thought -- the place was the best of the best. The striped room and the murals were in the same house. Yes, "no pictures allowed" in most places but the murals house was without such restriction. With only a couple of exceptions, the hosts were gracious and gave a good historical and architectural account of their places.

The closest thing to a group picture I have is attached. The gal on the left in the back was Eva, the pro photographer from Canada. Then Harvey -- probably very comfortable -- my age frame with his young blond wife (of four years) Patty. They have homes in East Hampton and Beverly Hills. Then Reiko who lost two husbands to illness and left her some money that she's having fun spending but is still a bit sad. We liked her. Next is Mona and we like her a lot. She's an interior designer and good at it (we saw her just released book), from Lebanon and lives and has her business in Baltimore. Next is the dear little lady who lives on Park Avenue at about 72nd



Street. She's a Cocoran real estate broker now and doing well, but used to be in fashion and was always dressed beautifully. Delightful person and we had quite a bit of time with her and really enjoyed her. She seems to be in the NY social scene but quite down to earth. We even got an invite for next Wednesday to some function where a famous gal runner was giving a talk and we would have gone but for Diana going off to Dublin that day. Next is Helen from NY who is also at Corcoran and plays violin in the NY City Ballet. Very nice gal. Then the fellow who has all the archives of Palladio (in the room where standing) and is the husband of our countess guide -- they own this huge villa and that's where we had a tour and dinner. Can you imagine, we're leafing through one of Palladio's manuals from 1570 - no gloves just handling it like any old paperback. The man you see next to him is Michele from Geneva who works with Christies Auction House there. His wife is a Muslim from Iran (and great fun) and they both speak at least four languages and French to each other. Behind him is Ben who is the other half of Ben and Jerry a gay couple who've been together five years and live in NYC. They're decorators and really nice fellows. Not shown but our favorite of all is Isidora. She's divorced, maybe 65, speaks several languages, is a countess, has an apartment in a Haussman building in Paris and another in Miami. Born in Cuba and brought up as in the manner born. Witty, smart, intelligent, and fun. We hope to see more of her and she just may come to Budapest when we're there because I think she likes us as well. If not then, we'll certainly try to see her in Paris next time there. Pamela is the tall blond with hair pulled straight back, usually in beige something. She'd done a credible job. Divorced after 18 years, got a good settlement, invested it and lost so this is what she does for a living now, and seems to be doing okay. A few on this trip are going with her right away to Jordan and Lebanon. There you have it. See ya, Tom

From Tom to Ellen later: *Hi there, I think everyone had his hands on the manual. But, as you said, the owner didn't object and I think he had a room full of original Palladio stuff (all those red manuscript boxes).*

Palladian documents: I felt all wrong with touching these old books and especially an original Palladian book of drawings but everybody else was so I confess to turning a page or two -- carefully. Many of us wondered why the count and contessa had to skimp and not fix the roof when they could have sold just one volume of the book. Or the documents hand written and sealed by one of the doges would bring a pretty penny by a museum.

Culinary Experiences

In most all cases the food and drink was outstandingly excellent. My only complaint was the long and late evenings of eating which some seemed to enjoy. Here's Tom to Ellen again: *You asked about the food and I forgot to mention it. We had risotto at least four ways as a first course and all were very good. Every meal taken in a house, whether lunch or dinner, was a winner. Not a full 10 but certainly noteworthy. And only once did we have a junk wine. The pre-drink was Prosecco with one serving Champagne along with hors d'oeuvre. No complaints except for the one wine thing. In the Veneto hotel (Cipriani- very nice) we had room service cappuccino with croissants and other pastries then went down to the dining room for the buffet to have fruit, juice, cereal, etc. In Venice there was a very nice buffet with all sorts of stuff. Included in the price both places. Did we get our money's worth overall? I'd say so and besides, it's only money. See ya, Tom*

Diana's health in a note to Ellen --

Following my fiasco in France and related troubles, Tom suggested I seek a doctor's guidance who declared that I'd never make it to Venice if I didn't relent and take antibiotics, so of course I did. 24 hours later the body rebelled and I've got a call into doctor now as to whether body will adapt in time for tomorrow's flight, if Lomotil or Imodium is needed, or if I need a different prescription. Apparently tummy troubles are not unusual with some antibiotics and my yogurt wasn't enough to compensate. Now, isn't that TMI as in Too Much Information and you're sorry you asked? Pending doctor call-back, Tom is off to get me more yogurt (Greek type with different good bacteria) and some more chicken soup. Thanks for asking. I am absolutely a wimp and limp! And hate getting in the throes of the medical community.

Tom's flight delay as written from Brussels

Well, we were two hours late getting away from Newark and that meant a missed connection in Brussels. As I got off a guy gave me a boarding pass on Brussels airlines flight 3205 leaving at 1430 direct to Venice arriving

at 1610. In a word - merde! The flight was fine but this five hour dead time really is the pits. I'm in a nice club but...

That rough looking bunch checking in just ahead of me caused most of the delay.

Seems the young (20s) gal got sick as soon as she got on. Said she'd been sick for five days. Flight crew said she had to get off. Big brouhaha - security came and took all eight of them off. THEN their luggage had to be offloaded and to find all their stuff took more than an hour. Two glasses of champagne later we took off. On the upside, best filet I've ever had on a plane. So here I sit with lots of time to contemplate my navel. C'est la vie but terrible start and I'll hope this the end of the bad luck.

More of Tom's travel notes – clearly it all got better: Email Tom to some friends on his way home from Frankfurt: *Lufthansa first class lounge is not to be believed. It is above business and the next higher senator level. It has a lovely restaurant, a spectacular buffet, a bar that has Johnny Walker blue, green, gold, black and even the lowly red. Plus 18 year old Chevas Regal and our favorite Woodbridge Kentucky bourbon, plus etc., etc. After a perfect lunch of consume followed by wiener schnitzel, thin sliced cuke in dill cream sauce, German potato salad, chopped green salad, then a coffee and a great old Remy Martin cognac. I'm on board now and only three out of eight first seats are occupied (wish you were here). Glass of champagne in crystal. Can it get more decadent!!? We're on our way to take off now. Eight hours and 20 minutes to wallow in this luxury (but somebody has to -- right?) See ya, Tom*



Does Venice still flood?

Yes, despite the Venice tidal control project projects it was somewhat flooded while we were there as planks were set up on St Marco Square: *The MOSE project has a budget of € 4.7 billion and it is planned to be completed by 2014. As of January 2008, the project is reported as 63% complete and projected to open on schedule in 2012.*

More web information on Palladian villas and the respective villas are at the very end.

More Venice touristy information is at the end in the form of my 2004 trip notes.

Trip in Detail – Why not let the tour organizer Pamela Darling explain the trip. Her itinerary notes are in italics. My comments are in regular print.

Sunday October 9 - Diana and Tom

11:30am Meeting Point at Venice Customs. Find contessa Giuliana di Thiene, the expert lecturer, and Joseph Walsh, the accompanist. They will have a sign "ICAA". Pamela will be at Villa Cipriani.

Notice that we had three tour directors. Did we need three as overhead? While Tom and I especially enjoyed the addition of Irishman Joseph, who resides in Paris and who we hope to meet up with again, do 17 or so participants really need that much overhead? Oops, my business sense came out many times . . .

12:00 noon Departure from Venice Marco Polo Airport by private coach to Asolo. For our 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 reside 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. Some guests will 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 comfortable rooms furnished in charming style and warm hospitality.

Luncheon – Villa Cipriani

Asolo from the web



Its great location and wonderful climate made Asolo a population centre right from prehistoric times and later a principal settlement for the Veneto people. Acelum, the Asolo of Roman times, went through a period of great expansion: the town that also became municipium, developed mainly between the first century BC and the first century AD. Archaeological remains and findings - housed in a special section of the City Museum- document the present of a spa, an aqueduct, a forum and a theatre testifying to the importance of Asolo in Roman times. A very ancient centre of Christianity as far back as the sixth century, the city had a bishop and was the centre of the diocese until 969 when it became enfeoffed to the bishopric of Treviso. At different times between the XIth and XIVth centuries it knew the hegemony of various powerful families (Tempesta, Ezzelini, da Camino, Scaligeri, Carraresi) and finally fell under the sway of Venice. From the end of the fourteenth century with the Venetian denomination, the centre entered a period of great splendour. In 1489 Venice bestowed upon Caterina Cornaro, former Queen of Cyprus, the Seigniorship of Asolo. She created a magnificent Renaissance court of artists, men of letters and poets and left an indelible imprint in the art and in the very ideal of the city. Through Venice, Asolo received far-reaching urban reorganisation and its big brother bound it to itself and its aristocracy inextricably until the fall of the Venetian Republic. "Asolo is Venice and Venice is Asolo" goes the saying to underline the similarity of the atmosphere that is demonstrated in the architecture and in the spirit of the towns. The year 1797 saw the entrance of Napoleon. In the nineteenth century under the dominion of Austria, Asolo was involved in the reforms of the civil institutions and by a programme of public works, such as the revamping of the Duse Theatre. It finally became part of the Kingdom of Italy in 1866. A curious testimony to the events in Asolo's history during the XIXth century is the old clock with an enormous pendulum hidden behind the counter in a wine shop in via Browning, not far from the Teatro dei Rinnovati. The events of the city's history are noted down here starting from the beginning of the nineteenth century.



Hotel Cipriani in Asolo from the web



The hotel really was a delight it being elegant, on the grounds of major gardens, and on a hill overlooking the valleys and other villas. Everything was superb. This is a famous name but I don't know if it is or isn't related.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm - we will enjoy a relaxing luncheon in the gardens of Villa Cipriani (weather permitting) offering breathtaking views and cuisine of regional specialties prepared with fresh produce from the local markets, and perfect service.

*Rocket salad with julienne of crispy San Daniele ham
Slice of salmon flavored with thyme parsley potatoes and tomato au gratin
Salad of seasonal fruits and cheese platter
Mineral water, coffee or tea and migniardises*

Afternoon – Optional: Relaxation or Visit Asolo’s Antique Market

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm - 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, Giuliana di Thiene, stroll through Asolo, visit its monthly antique market, and the boutiques and local artisan shops that dot the romantic arcaded streets.

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual, elegant attire.

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm private coach transfer from Villa Cipriani to Villa-Castle Porto Colleoni Thiene (43 km. 1 hour)

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm - Private Visit and Welcome Dinner – Castle-Villa Porto Colleoni Thiene - Conte Clemente and contessa 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!

*Aperitif and appetizers in the garden
Homemade torchietto pasta with fresh pumpkin sauce, speck smoked ham and asiago cheese
Fresh chestnut and mushroom cappellacci pasta
Pork fillets with Treviso radicchio, rosemary potatoes and salad – this was canceled for lack of time
Fresh fruit brochette and biscotti
Italian wine, mineral water and coffee or tea*

Note that this visit was in the home of the contessa who would be our tour guide for the entire 7 days. She was a Venetian and very well connected and fortunately without pretense. Her language skills were excellent but I never quite got used to the ‘lets’a add’a extra vowel to’a every word’a.’ Complicated by my worsened hearing and ears that thought they were still on an airplane.

Their library with old documents and even an original volume of Palladio drawings was a highlight for many. We not only saw these documents but shockingly were able to handle them. There was a scrolled missive from a Doge complete with the waxed seal. All of which should be in a museum. Well, this was a museum and hard to imagine anybody living in it but this was just the first of what we wondered how anybody could live among the old museum pieces in big drafty villas.

9:30 pm to 10:30 pm private coach transfer to Villa Cipriani and Hotel Duse (43 km. 1 hour)

I can assure you that we never got in when we were due in. That might in part be since we never left when we were supposed to. I admit that many others didn't seem to mind but it absolutely infuriated me to be asked to show up 15 minutes early and then leave 15 minutes late. I said so a number of times and begged to show up 'on time' and not be treated like a child, all to no avail.

Hotel Villa Cipriani – 3 nights

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.

While the tour directors were going to be at the smaller hotel in town, this didn't seem to be the case as at least Pamela was at the Villa Cipriani.

Monday, October 10

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual pantsuit attire. Good walking shoes.

Morning – Villa Emo at Fanzolo and Villa Cornaro

9:00 am to 9:30 am transfer from Villa Cipriani to Villa Emo (15 km. 30 min.)

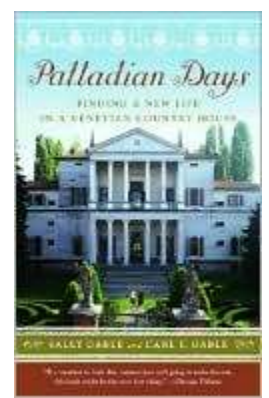
9:30 am to 10:30 am visit - *Our first visit will be to Villa Emo, located in the village of Fanzolo, built between 1559 and 1565, considered the masterpiece of Palladian villa design, housing extraordinary décor. As at Villa Barbaro, barchesse (farm buildings) extend symmetrically on the sides of the 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.*

10:30 am to 11:00 am transfer from Villa Emo to Villa Cornaro (18 km; 35 min.)

11:00 am to 12:00 pm visit Villa Cornaro - *We will continue to the village of Piombino Dese to visit Palladio's Villa Cornaro, where the proprietors, Carl and Sally Gable, will welcome us for a special private visit. 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).*

Carl and Sally were most gracious hosts and this villa might have been our favorite. They have written a book about their experiences in renovating and dealing with the Italian government which every single villa or palazzo owner made clear that was absolutely horrific. Many bought their book and I have ordered it.

From B&N: Overview. *"Palladian Days is nothing short of wonderful—part adventure, mystery, history, diary, and even cookbook. The Gables' lively account captures the excitement of their acquisition and restoration of one of the greatest houses in Italy. Beguiled by Palladio and the town of Piombino Dese, they trace the history of the Villa Cornaro and their absorption of Italian life. Bravo!"* –Susan R. Stein, Gilder Curator and Vice President of Museum Programs, Monticello



In 1552, in the countryside outside Venice, the great Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio built Villa Cornaro. In 1989, Sally and Carl Gable became its bemused new owners. Called by Town & Country one of the ten most influential buildings in the world, the villa is the centerpiece of the Gables' enchanting journey into the life of a place that transformed their own. From the villa's history and its architectural pleasures, to the lives of its former inhabitants, to the charms of the little town that surrounds it, this loving account brings generosity, humor, and a sense of discovery to the story of small-town Italy and its larger national history.

Eighteen of the innovative 16th-century villas by Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio survive today in Italy's Veneto region, and one of them, Villa Cornaro, made it onto Town & Country's list of the world's 10 most important buildings. The sixth family to occupy this country house during its 450-year history, the Gables reside there for half the year (she's on the boards of various educational and musical organizations; he's a lawyer and author of a book on Venetian glass). Sally Gable portrays the villa, the people who live in the surrounding countryside and their fading traditions, which "may be in their last generation." In fluid prose, she recalls the 1987-1988 negotiations that led to the couple's purchase, the previous inhabitants and her research into the history of the palatial house, its 104 frescoes and Palladio himself. Surmounting swarming bees and the usual maintenance problems, the Gables brought grandeur back to the villa, eventually receiving house guests and film crews, hosting dinner parties and staging cultural events. This delightful mix of memoir, travel guide and recipes is, in essence, a twist on these well-worn genres—a very chic, expensive twist at that.

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm transfer Villa Cornaro to Villa Valmarana ai Nani (65 km. 1 hr.)

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm luncheon and visit

Luncheon – Private Visit, Cocktails and Luncheon - Villa Valmarana ai Nani - In Vicenza's countryside stands the majestic Villa Valmarana ai Nani. We will be welcomed by our hosts, contessa Maria Sofia di Valmarana, conte Adalberto Cremonese and contessa 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 luncheon in the Villa, surrounded by the Tiepolos' awe-inspiring frescoes, followed by a private visit, a convivial way to enjoy this special day in the Veneto!

*Aperitif and appetizers in the garden
Risotto with artichokes and asiago cheese cream
Fish filet with tomatoes, potatoes, olives, capers and basil oil
Fresh fruit salad of pears in a chocolate sauce
Italian wine, mineral water and coffee or tea*

We think of this villa as the home of the three Maria's. Momma and daughter were absolutely delightful and the quintessential of the privileged villa owner. The luncheon was one of the best with excellent wines served. The term 'ai Nani' means little dwarfs as represented by all the statuary.

The art work of the frescoes was so dramatically special that a huge glossy book was created and we were all gifted with a copy. In most cases photography was not allowed inside premises. I find it amusing to dig through the internet and find all the pictures anyway.

Afternoon – Private Visit – Villa La Rotonda – Closed to the public

3:45 pm to 4:00 pm walk or coach transfer to Villa La Rotonda (1 km. 15 min. walk)

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm - Closed to the public on this day, Count Nicolo di Valmarana will specially greet us at his family's residence, Villa La Rotonda, 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 Bascape and Domenico Fontana.

5:30 pm to 6:45 pm transfer from Villa Rotonda to Villa Cipriani and Hotel Duse (55 km. 1hr. 15 min.)

Evening Free – Villa Cipriani Delegates must confirm their dinner reservation by October 1 (at cost) - Delegates may enjoy dining at Villa Cipriani offering delicious local specialties and delightful panoramic views over the vineyard-and-villa-dotted countryside; or at a local restaurant in Asolo. Special price based on a minimum of 10 delegates: 60 Euros without wine.

We could have used more optional dinner times. We clearly needed empty time to walk the village which we did.

Tuesday, October 11

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: pantsuit. Attire for full day and evening. Good walking shoes.

9:15 am to 9:30 transfer from Villa Cipriani to Villa di Maser Barbaro (5 km. 15 min.)

9:30 am to 10:30 am - We will visit Villa Barbaro in the village of Maser. Contessa Diamante Luling Buschetti, proprietor, will greet us (schedule permitting). 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.

10:30 am to 11:30 am transfer from Villa Barbaro to Villa Godi Malinverni (49 km. 1 hr.)

11:30 am to 2:30 pm visit and luncheon Villa Godi Malinverni - Private Visit and Luncheon – Villa Godi Malinverni, the 1st villa built by Andrea Palladio Conte Christian Malinverni will welcome us to his home 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. We will enjoy a convivial luncheon with conte Christian Malinverni, specially organized for us in the Villa's "Four Seasons" reception room.

*Aperitif and appetizers in the garden
Rice with mushrooms and scallops
Guinea fowl pull with white grapes and vegetables
Strawberries and cream
Italian wine, mineral water and coffee or tea*

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm transfer from Villa Godi Malinverni to Vicenza (45 min.)

3:30 pm to 5:45 pm - 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, Giuliana di Thiene, and Carla Marzollo, expert

Palladian lecturer, we will visit Teatro Olimpico, an inimitable theatre designed by Palladio just before his death in 1580. We will then 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.

Of all the places we visited, this town was one that I just didn't get enough of. The Theatre was worthy of purchasing the book of pictures. It was said to be the oldest surviving theatre in Europe but I'm not sure how that compares to Kreske Kumlov in Czech Republic which we thought was the oldest. Carla's guided tour of the town inspired us to want to stay there for a few days and thus it's on our list. The next villa, Marcello, has guest cottages Now that's something to consider for another trip.



5:45 pm to 7:00 pm transfer to Villa Ca' Marcello (70 km. 1hr. 15 min.)

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm - Evening – Private Visit and Dinner – Villa Marcello - Counts Vettor (father) and Jacopo (son) Marcello will welcome us for a private visit of their residence, an admirable Palladian-style villa built in the 16th century for the powerful noble and military Marcello family. After our visit, we will enjoy a convivial dinner, cooked specially for us by countessa Marcello, a renowned gourmet. In the 1700's, the facade was transformed to its current appearance. The décor prides refined splendor. Among the notable reception rooms, we will admire 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.

*Spinach flan with tomato sauce
Tortellini in stock – all hand-made and tiny
Braised beef*

*Seasonal vegetables (cauliflower based) au gratin
Warm apple tart*

Ca' Marcello wines of Chardonnay, Pinot bianco and Refosco del Peduncolo Rosso

The 38 year old son spoke excellent English and was quite good looking. He was just one of the young bachelor types we met which amusingly seemed to appeal to one of our participants. We could rarely pull her away from these young guys and never knew if she had a daughter she was trying to marry off or if she simply liked young boys herself.

Tom granted this meal #8 on his 1-10 rating and only the next day's luncheon outdid this one with a top #10. It was a lovely visit but again, very late getting home and a lot of driving.

10:00 pm to 11:00 pm transfer to Villa Cipriani and Hotel Duse (31 km. 55 min.)

Wednesday, October 12

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual pantsuit attire. Good walking shoes.

9:40 am please be in lobby of Villa Cipriani with luggage for 10:00 am sharp departure from Villa Cipriani

10:00 am to 11:30 am transfer from Villa Cipriani to Piazzale Roma (75 km. 1hr. 30 min.)

11:30 am to 12:00 am transfer by water taxi from Piazzale Roma to Starhotels Splendid Venice - 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, San Marco Mercerie, 760

There was a high tide so the water taxi was unable to take us all the way into the hotel area. (Bridges would be too low.) Most of the participants had so many huge suitcases that arrangements had to be made for porters.

Hotel *Hotel Splendid Venice by Star Hotels – 4 nights*

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

I'd stayed in a Star Hotel chain in Rome and knew the hotel would be nice. It turned out to be very small rooms so we were pleased to have coughed up the money for an upgrade well before arriving. I can't imagine how two people with a couple world traveler suitcases full each managed.

12:45 pm to 1:00 pm walk to Palazzo Lezze

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm; San Marco 3317 (San Samuele) Luncheon – Palazzo Lezze - Marie Bagnasco will welcome us for a convivial luncheon at her delightful, 15th century palazzo residence 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”.

*Risotto with fresh Venetian pumpkin sauce
Trofie al Pesto Genovese – pasta with basil pesto sauce
Ricotta and spinach torte with sliced truffles
Fresh salad from the Venetian islands with pears and walnuts
Baklava fresh made; Strawberries and cream
Italian wine (Chianti Classico Reserva '04!), mineral water and coffee or tea
Limoncello*

This would represent Tom's favorite and he blessed the meal and stay with a #10. Maria was selling Jewellery and Purses which many purchased. She asked for postcards for her collection which I've now sent to her.

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm transfer by vaporetto (San Samuele)

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm; 874 San Vio (Accademia) - A remarkable, historic palazzo, Contarini-Polignac Decazes - Thanks to the proprietors, 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.



5:00 pm to 5:30 pm transfer by vaporetto to hotel (Accademia to Rialto)

7:15 pm depart hotel by vaporetto (Rialto)

7:30 pm to 10:30 pm Calle de Bottega, San Marco 3366 (San Samuele)

Attire: Men: jacket and tie or suit. Women: casual cocktail attire. Good walking shoes.

Evening – Cocktails and Dinner – Palazzo Corner Gheltoff Alvera - In the evening, we will be specially welcomed by our charming hostess of Venetian aristocracy, contessa 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.

Risotto – maybe our 4th type
Pastas and tomatoes
Fish, artichoke, capers, with grilled vegetables
Ramondolo desert wine

10:30 pm to 10:45 pm water taxi to hotel

Thursday, October 13

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual pantsuit. Good walking shoes.

9:30 am departure from hotel by foot or by vaporetto (Rialto)

10:00 am to 11:00 am; Campo S. Fantin 1965 (San Angelo) - Private Visit – Gran Teatro La Fenice

We will be welcomed for a private visit of La Fenice, inaugurated in 1792, and 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.

11:30 am to 1:00 pm; San Marco 52 - Private Visit of the Napoleonic Wing of the Royal Palace of Venice - 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 completed and 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.



1:15 pm to 3:00 pm; Campo Sant' Angelo - Luncheon – Acqua Pazza - Ristorante Acqua Pazza, offering flavors of Amalfi cuisine, is an elegant establishment with an inviting dining room and exclusive terrace on Campo Sant' Angelo, one of the most enchanting squares in Venice, where the setting enhances the meal creating a wonderful experience. Antonio, the proprietor, personally welcomes guests, offering delicious fare, well prepared with only fresh ingredients directly shipped from the Amalfi coast.

*Rocket salad with prawns in balsamic sauce and trays of Antipasti
Choice of homemade pizza or fresh grilled sea bass or "Dorade" snapper with zucchini
Italian wine, mineral water and coffee or tea*

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm transfer by vaporetto (San Angelo to San Silvestro)

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm; campiello Albrizzi; San Polo 1940; (San Silvestro) -- 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 stucco work, 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.



5:30 pm to 6:00 pm transfer by vaporetto to hotel (San Silvestro to Rialto)

7:30 pm transfer by water taxi

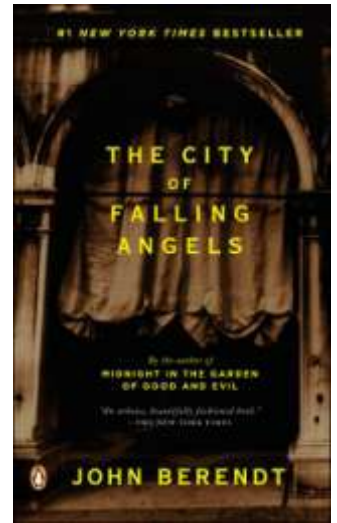
8:00 pm to 11:00 pm; Fondamenta San Sebastiano 2580, Dorsoduro – Cocktails and Dinner – Palazzo Balbi Mocenigo

Attire: Men: suit and tie. Women: cocktail attire.

We will be welcomed by Jérôme-François Zieseniss, President of the Comité Français pour la Sauvegarde de Venise, and President of the Circle of Friends of La Fenice, and by Matteo Corvino, interior designer and organizer of the most prestigious private galas in Venice, Rome and in Paris, for a special dinner at their admirable residence, superbly restored and decorated by Matteo Corvino in the finest of Venetian tradition, elegance and warmth, marrying significant Napoleonic, Modern and Contemporary décor and works of art.

11:00 pm to 11:15 pm transfer by water taxi to hotel

Jerome is Pamela's ex-brother-in-law. Read the book "City of Falling Angels" by John Berendt if you want to hear some inside views about the American and foreign contingents who are living in and off the 'Save Venice' themes. A little dirt is always fun? In fairness, Pamela claims the book is full of fabrication. I don't know except that it received high acclaim and he's noted as a good reporter and it was a good read.



City of Falling Angels review from B&N: *The author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* returns after more than a decade to give us an intimate look at the "magic, mystery, and decadence" of the city of Venice and its inhabitants. It was seven years ago that *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* achieved a record-breaking four-year run on *The New York Times* bestseller list. John Berendt's inimitable brand of nonfiction brought the dark mystique of Savannah so startlingly to life for millions of people that tourism to Savannah increased by 46 percent. It is Berendt and only Berendt who can capture Venice—a city of masks, a city of riddles, where the narrow, meandering passageways form a giant maze, confounding all who have not grown up wandering into its depths. Venice, a city steeped in a thousand years of history, art and architecture, teeters in precarious balance between endurance and decay. Its architectural treasures crumble—foundations shift, marble ornaments fall—even as efforts to preserve them are underway. *The City of Falling Angels* opens on the evening of January 29, 1996, when a dramatic fire destroys the historic Fenice opera house. The loss of the Fenice, where five of Verdi's operas premiered, is a catastrophe for Venetians. Arriving in Venice three days after the fire, Berendt becomes a kind of detective—inquiring into the nature of life in this remarkable museum-city—while gradually revealing the truth about the fire. In the course of his investigations, Berendt introduces us to a rich cast of characters: a prominent Venetian poet whose shocking "suicide" prompts his skeptical friends to pursue a murder suspect on their own; the first family of American expatriates that loses possession of the family palace after four generations of ownership; an organization of high-society, party-going Americans who raise money to preserve the art and architecture of Venice, while quarreling in public among themselves, questioning one another's motives and drawing startled Venetians into the fray; a contemporary Venetian surrealist painter and outrageous provocateur; the master glassblower of Venice; and numerous others—stool pigeons, scapegoats, hustlers, sleepwalkers, believers in Martians, the Plant Man, the Rat Man, and Henry James.*

. . . . he reveals Venice as a festering hive of eccentrics, connivers, and provocateurs; a mazelike city where mysteries unfold upon mysteries and where even murder is a matter of opinion. . . . describes all manner of bizarre patricians and clever parasites, real artists and con artists, annual Carnival participants and those who stay in costume all year round, all united in cherishing Venice's melancholy grandeur. He seeks out the ineffably, aristocratically strange. The man whose palazzo features three space suits and a stuffed monkey is par for the course.

Friday, October 14

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual pantsuit attire. Good walking shoes.

9:15 am transfer by private water taxi ((Riva di Biasio)

9:30 am to 11:00 am; Campiello Della Comare; S. Croce 1320 - Private Visit – Bevilacqua – Luxurious Venetian Hand-woven Fabric - Mr. Alberto Bevilacqua will welcome us for a private visit of

this world-renowned, family-run institution, the only company in the world still producing on 18th century looms, brocades, damask and velvets of incomparable quality, which made Venice famous! Since 1499, the name Luigi Bevilacqua is a legend in décor and costumes. The high price of hand-loomed, opulent fabric reflects the number of days it takes an artisan to create. Such lavish fabric can be admired in paintings of the great Venetian artists, not only in the décor but also in the costumes worn by the elite.

11:00 am to 11:30 am; transfer by vaporetto ((Riva di Biasio to San Toma)

11:30 am to 12:45 pm; San Polo, 2766; (San Toma) - Private Visit – Palazzo Pisani-Moretta - Thanks to the proprietors, we will have a special visit of Palazzo Pisani-Moretta and its splendid state apartments priding a unique collection of art and décor. Overlooking the Grand Canal, built end of 15th the century, the Palazzo is a magnificent example of late gothic architecture. Several expansions and restorations began in the 18th century, when the last important renovations were completed with elaborate Baroque decoration, the work of the most outstanding Venetian artists of the 18th century, such as Giambattista Tiepolo, Jacopo Guarana, and Gaspare Diziani.

12:45 pm to 1:00 pm; 5-minute walk to Da Ignazio

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm; Calle dei Saoneri; San Polo 2749 (San Toma) - Luncheon – Trattoria Da Ignazio - An authentic, family restaurant, a favorite of the Venetians and well advised tourists, serving homemade Venetian dishes prepared by the Matriarch, located near Campo San Polo and Palazzo Pisani Moreta.

*Fresh mixed salad or Grilled vegetables
Homemade tagliolini with spider crab or meat lasagna
Italian wine, mineral water and coffee or tea*

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm; Calle della Maldonetta, Campo San Polo (San Toma) - Private Visit – Palazzo Bernardo - Gabrielle Wagner, the lady of the house, 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, their residence offers spectacular views of Venice. The composer Richard Wagner lived here. Gabrielle Wagner 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.

4:15 pm water taxi to Palazzo Fortuny

4:30 pm to 6:00 pm; San Marco 3780 (San Angelo) - Palais Fortuny – Axel Vervoordt – "TRA, Edge of Becoming" - Michel Soudée, artist, will lead us on a private tour of "TRA, Edge of Becoming". This acclaimed exhibit brings together more than 300 works, exploring the cross-connections among places, history, creative heritage and universal experience, thanks to the renewed collaboration between the Civic Museums of Venice Foundation and the Vervoordt Foundation. We will explore the interaction between the works and the magnificent rooms once Mariano's dwelling and atelier, including renowned artists, such as Marina Abramović, Miquel Barceló, Eduardo Chillida, Fernand Léger and Kazuo Shiraga, Massimo Bartolini, Maurizio Donzelli, Jannis Kounellis, Giulio Paolini, Hiroshi Sugimoto.

10-minute walk to hotel

Attire: Men: suit with or without tie. Women: cocktail attire.

7:30 pm to 8:00 pm transfer by vaporetto (Rialto to San Samuele)

8:00 pm to 11:00 pm; 2914 Calle Vitturi O Falier - Cocktails and Dinner at the residence of Elizabeth Royer and Pierre Grimblat. Elizabeth Royer will welcome us to her Venetian residence for a wonderful evening, where we'll discover significant works of art in an admirable setting. Elizabeth is well known to museums and art collectors, and has a gallery in Paris. Pierre Grimblat made his fame in the music and film industry, having received many international awards.

11:00 pm transfer by water taxi to hotel

Saturday, October 15

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: pantsuit attire. Good walking shoes.

9:30 am depart hotel (15-minute walk)

10:00 am to 11:30 am; Ramo Grimani, Castello 4858 - Private Visit of Palazzo Grimani Emailed Dottore Fontanari Dottore Roberto Fontanari, Superintendent of Historical, Artistic and Demo-ethno anthropological Venice, Art historian, Galleria dell'Accademia, Palazzo Grimani (Venice) and Museo di San Marco (Florence), 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 restored the palace from 2001 to 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.



11:30 am to 12:00 pm transfer by vaporetto (San Zaccaria Danieli to Accademia)

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm; 583/B San Vio, Zattere - Private Visit and Drinks at the Residence of Massimiliano and Corinne Rocca, Casa Rocca - Corinne and Max Rocca will welcome us to their lovely Venetian residence, one of the only villas in Venice with a beautiful garden, located on the Zattere and the Giudecca Canal. This will be yet another special invitation and insight to the art of living in Venice.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm; Fondamenta di Ca' Bragadin 660/661 - Luncheon at Cantinone Storico - A favorite nearby, local address of Max and Corinne Rocca, a quiet restaurant on the Giudecca Canal offering classic Venetian dishes with fresh ingredients; near Palazzo Grassi and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

Afternoon - Free time this afternoon to shop or visit nearby sites, including the Peggy Guggenheim Collection or Palazzo Grassi.

Attire: Men: suit with or without tie. Women: cocktail attire.

8:00 pm to 8:30 pm vaporetto (Rialto to San Toma)

8:30 pm to 11:00 pm; Calle Centani, San Polo 2774 – Farewell Cocktails and Dinner at 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. This will be a wonderful way to end our memorable program!

Aperitif

Avocado salad with celery, olives and cheeses

Pumpkin soup with porcini mushrooms

Veal with carrots and mushrooms and spinach

Pineapple Bavarian

Italian wines, mineral water and coffee or tea

11:00 pm private water taxi to hotel

Sunday October 16 - Diana and Tom

After breakfast, we shall bid guests "A presto!"

We decided to stay in Venice until late evening, parking our luggage and doing what we probably like to do best – wander the streets. We should have stayed over a few days more to wander more streets.

Notes on some of the participants

Diane Dunne, Vice President and Associate Broker Corcoran Group NYC

From the Corcoran website: When it comes to marketing, Diane wrote the book. In fact, she is the author of two books about Marketing. Marketing service, products, and entertainment has been a lifelong successful accomplishment for Diane. She spent her career in marketing at Fortune 100 firms:

Director of Marketing Communications for CBS, Director of Strategic Marketing of Vendor Alliances at Bloomingdale's, and Manager of Advertising for NBC. Consultant to American Express and DuPont. Diane received an Executive M.B.A. degree, having been sponsored by Bloomingdale's for the Master's in Business. She is the only employee to have ever been so honored. Named Vice President at The Corcoran Group, Diane was elected to Corcoran's prestigious Multi-Million-Dollar Club. Ms. Dunne's pro bono activities include Vice President of Events for Oxford University Alumni Association of New York, where she was awarded a special honorary citation by Oxford University Alumni Association of New York for her work on behalf of establishing the growth and success of the organization. She sits on the Board of Oxford University Alumni Association. Diane is a member of her co-op Board where she has served for the past years as Secretary and Chairperson of the House Committee. She has been Co-Chairperson for the Fashion Group International Regional Committee - the world's largest women's professional organization. She served on the Board of Directors for the Women's Economic Round Table. She has been an active member of the American Cancer Society. Diane is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in Finance and Industry. She is the author of two business books. Diane has lived in Manhattan for over 25 years. In her free time, you can catch her skiing, playing tennis, at the opera, or rollerblading around Central Park.

Pamela Darling - Information from both <http://www.paris-expat.com/tours/07-2pamela.htm> and Pamela's website

Reflections on our trip to France - People have asked how we were able to have the privileged access to the fabulous Kraemer collection of 18th century antiques on the rue de Monceau and the astounding apartment of the Count and Countess d'Ornano on the Left Bank. Answer in a word (or two): Pamela Darling.

Mrs. Darling is an American born and bred in Connecticut and a resident of France for more than 25 years. We were introduced by Marilyn White the New York public relations woman who handles a lot of clients in the art and design businesses.

Pamela Darling specializes in creating and organizing exclusive, custom-designed events and cultural travel programs for travelers, connoisseurs, corporations and museums. Many of these events which she organizes take place in the most eminent and celebrated cultural sites both public and private, with the participation of leaders, officials and experts in the Arts, gastronomy, fashion, sports, government and industry.

There's no end to the variety of events. Think: A 4-day program of special events for the executives of a Fortune 500 corporation and its top clients during the Monte Carlo Grand Prix, including private visits of the paddocks with the pilots, yachting on the French Riviera, wine-tasting and luncheon in the home of a world renowned art collector, private concert and dinner gala in a magnificent museum and gardens overlooking the Riviera.

Or: a private recital at the great cathedral in Chartres. Or a prestigious wine-tasting ceremony and reception in a magnificent private chateau. Or a visit to the Louvre Pyramid with architect I. M. Pei, an exclusive privately held dinner for 75 guests in one of France's 3-star restaurants, Joel Robuchon, a private, live fashion show and reception at Yves Saint Laurent.

It's amazing what she can do, providing privileged, unequalled access to government and private institutions, coveted privately owned town residences and chateaux of private collectors, and officials, internationally renowned Champagne and wine estates, luxury institutions, and exclusive private clubs. Innovation, quality, and taste are the hallmarks of her programs which can last from one to seven days, organized in a leisurely or highly sophisticated program, depending on the needs of her clients. Besides our visit to the House of Kraemer and the exquisite d'Ornano residence, we missed out on, due to lack of time, to several other amazing private residences including the oldest hotel in the Marais. Her tours, from our experience anyway, are seamless, relaxed, with very small groups (there were only eight of us on ours, including some people from San Francisco and a couple from Louisville). Because of her long association with France, and her even longer association with the US, her tours and events are fascinating, informative and, as the French would say, "comme il faut."

Still from Pamela's website:

"Dear Ms. Darling, We are so thrilled to be able to offer your exclusive and amazing tours in France. I have heard such great things about them from the participants – and I hope one day to be able to be among them. It is a pleasure to chair the ICA&CA travel committee and to work with the committee to come up with such a diverse and enlightening selection of tours. Many thanks for your creativity, dedication and vision."

William Brockschmidt, Member of the Board of Directors, Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America, ICA&CA, Brockschmidt & Coleman, LLC, Decoration and Design, New York, NY 10010

"The cultural tours that Pamela Huntington Darling creates are very exclusive, extremely well organized and beautifully orchestrated. I have attended two of her unique tours; the first time, upon the recommendation of a friend, during the Biennale des Antiquaires, the Paris Antiques & Fine Arts Fair. Recently, I asked Pamela to organize for a group of friends a special program within the French historic time frame, "Monarchy to Empire". For this special tour, Pamela offered us access to amazing sites, most inaccessible to the public or others closed to the public the day we went, lead by experts. It was fun, informative, and very exclusive. Obviously, there was a great deal of thought and effort put into our special request to make for a terrific trip. We are all soaking up the memories. It was just wonderful." Joan L. Gamble, San Francisco, California

"An enthusiast of art, architecture, culture and international travel, I have been privileged to participate in two extraordinary, prestigious, and unforgettable cultural travel programs organized by Pamela Huntington Darling. One of the tours was in April 2008 in Paris and surroundings sponsored by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America, of which I am a member, and the other was in May 2009 in Venice and the Veneto. Pamela Darling's exclusive programs are extremely well organized, the lecturers are admirable, and the presentation could not be better. Mrs. Darling has a wide range of highly impressive contacts and privileged access to outstanding public and private institutions as well as private residences with extraordinary art collections and décor. She combines years of knowledge and relations in a remarkable way that results in the most significant programs offering the finest in organization, exclusive access to privileged sites, and encounters with high-level hosts, dignitaries and experts, resulting in outstanding and memorable cultural travel programs. Additionally Mrs. Darling has a wonderful understanding of the host culture of the countries

where she offers programs, and she conveys a sense of being a genuine member of the culture being presented. Each and every day of the itinerary is planned with extreme care, precision and the utmost thought to detail and to her attendees. Pamela Darling's programs are the best that I have ever experienced, and I look forward to travelling with her again. I cannot recommend her highly enough." Connie Hamilton Greenspan, Altour Travel International, New York, New York

"Thank you again for a wonderful Parisian experience. All of your efforts and contacts paid off handsomely for those of us fortunate enough to have partaken in your in your exclusive cultural travel program. I would highly recommend your programs to anyone considering participating. We are getting settled into our routine here in Carmel and getting back to a somewhat normal life. But what is normal after all the fabulous things and places we experienced and the incredible people we were fortunate to meet through your good offices! Your tour is the highlight of all our travel experiences!!" Claude and Joan Keyzers, Carmel, California

"As former president of the Biennale des Antiquaires Communications Commission, I take pleasure in expressing my gratitude for the seven-day cultural program offered by the Syndicat National des Antiquaires to its guests that you created and organized for our +120 VIP participants—directors, curators, trustees and benefactors of American museums as well as the most important American interior designers. The cultural program was, as described by the participants, a great achievement made with top level of professional expertise and efficiency". You worked diligently to establish what has been referred to by our guests as "the best ever" cultural program. The access to the prestigious historical sites that you were able to secure, including exclusive private residences, the high level of prominent officials who hosted these prestigious events, including the Minister of Culture, the Joint Mayor of Paris, the Ambassadors residing in the most beautiful residences in France, all contributed to its success. It is a pleasure for me to once again recommend you as a talented, devoted, and trustworthy professional. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and your associates." Member of the Board of Directors, Syndicat National des Antiquaires,

"This is the third time that the New Orleans Museum of Art has been honored to participate in the Syndicat National des Antiquaires' Cultural Program on the occasion of the Biennale des Antiquaires. While the previous two Programs have been outstanding, the Program for the XXIInd Biennale will be the best ever, with an extraordinary schedule of visits to historic buildings, private collections and museums. As in the past, Pamela Huntington Darling has created and organized the Program with the highest level of professional expertise and efficiency." Director, New Orleans Museum of Art,

"On behalf of the members of the Los Angeles County Museum's Decorative Arts Council that had the rare opportunity to participate in the cultural program which you so competently organized, I wish to thank you again for planning such an outstanding program." Chair, Decorative Arts Council, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

"The success of Ernest & Julio Gallo's first and second year as official sponsor of the Deauville American Film Festival is thanks to the public relations program that you created and implemented for us. All of us at E. & J. Gallo Winery France express our sincere gratitude for your professionalism, creativity, perfect organization, and relentless commitment to assuring full satisfaction of our guests, 300 VIP's invited over a ten-day period, for a program of prestigious events. As well, you created and assured our internationally renowned gala evening in homage to the actors and producers honored by the Festival. It was recognized as the most successful gala during the Festival. We look forward to our future collaboration for other public relations events." Director of Marketing, E. & J. Gallo Winery France

"I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all that you did to assure the success of our board of directors' (5-day) program in and around Paris. Not only did you work at maximum intensity for a very long period of time, but also your good taste and judgment resulted in a program that could not have been

surpassed by anyone else. Our Directors have been full of praise for the entire trip." President & CEO, Schering-Plough France & Benelux

"Pamela Darling is a true and trusted professional who has continuously demonstrated top level and extremely effective skills in all aspects of public relations, VIP travel programs and event management. We praise her for her outstanding service." Managing Director, Pepsi-Cola France & Benelux

"We faced a very tough crowd, yet your creativity, your tireless devotion, your ability to handle the public relations aspects resulted in an event that was outstanding in its conception, execution, and impact." Minister Counselor of Commercial Affairs, American Embassy, Paris and the Motion Picture Association of America

"I support you with my highest possible recommendation. I have seldom had the pleasure of dealing with a team that does its work as well, as efficiently, and as cost effectively with the client's best interests in mind. We gave you an incredibly short time frame; what you accomplished was a "tour de force"..." Vice President of Finance, Ryder System, Inc.

End of Veneto and Venice! What a trip!

Others – trip notes

Our September trip included Nice France and maybe it was those notes and the notes from before that prompted our friends to go to Nice, and also to rent an apartment. We enjoyed and laughed at Vivian's email from Nice: *Bon Jour! Here we are on the Cote d'azur, eating and drinking in Nice, which is nice. Rained when we arrived and the sea was very angry. I took some photos of the waves pounding the seawall--pretty impressive but nothing compared to what we've seen in Sea Bright! French pussies! The apartment is very nice--Cheap! 2 BR 2 baths, large living room, great heated towel dryers and a strange washing machine. The "lift" holds 2 persons, is very old, very tiny, has a little set of French doors and an outer folding metal door (just like in the movies) and it stinks of cigarettes, cabbage and BO! Thoroughly delightful. It feels very grown-up and foreign to enter the big old wooden door that leads into our apartment building---- just like a native! (But who wants to be French?? Well, maybe for a week or so.) Have had some great meals. We have eaten so much and so well, that we have eaten home 3x: a light-bulb chicken, sandwiches, and tonight, just cheese and bread and Pate. And wine, of course. We've gone to a few fabulous old hotels and sampled their bars. We have to give them the recipe for a Manhattan, but everyone is very accomodating and friendly. The Italian influence is very strong in Nice (since it was once part of Italy), so, lots of Pizza and Italian restaurants. Took the train to Monaco and went to the fabulous Monte Carlo Casino. I have never seen such a display of wealth--mostly in the form of the cars parked in front of the casino: Bentleys, Rolls Royces, Maseratis, a smattering of Mercedes, one stinkin' BMW and a fabulous, gorgeous 2 1/2 million dollar Bugatti. Jack recognized it. Only 300 or so are made every year. We were very impressed! We thought we might do a Wall Street sit-in, but then thought better of it and went and had a drink. This area must be a madhouse in season. Right now, not everything is open but that's ok. Only 2 more days and then back to reality...*

Itinerary

Fri Oct 7 – Tom and Diana

3:30pm Car service to Newark

- Tom

6:25pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#960

7:45am+1 Arrive Brussels BRU for plane change

- Diana

7:30pm Depart Newark EWR via CO#50

9:25am+1 Arrive Frankfurt-Main FRA

Sat Oct 8 - Tom

9:20am Depart Brussels BRU via LH#1007

10:20am Arrive Frankfurt-Main FRA

Meet up in airline club – Try Lufthansa first; Alternate: Priority Pass Club has facility in both Terminal 1 and 2. Later: as it turned out, Tom's departure was delayed and he missed his Brussels connection so they gave him a direct Brussels to Venice flight. I would meet him at the Venice hotel.

- Diana and Tom

12:10pm Depart Frankfurt-Main FRA via LH#326

1:25pm Arrive Venice VCE

Shuttle: Contact hotel at 0039 041 5415200 after having retrieved your luggage and after having reached the departure area, which is located on the upper floor, for pick up. Wait in 2nd lane.

Hotel Annia Park Hotel

Via Triestina 161, Tessera, 30173 Italy Tele: +39 041 541 5200 info@anniaparkhotel.it

Tour Summary: "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 - Diana and Tom

11:30am Meeting Point: after one would exit Customs - find contessa Giuliana di Thiene, the expert lecturer, mobile: +39 336 59 25 09, and Joseph Walsh, the accompanist, mobile: +33 6 80 27 67 94. They will have a sign "ICAA". Pamela will be at Villa Cipriani. My mobile is: +33 6 75 86 67 75. Villa Cipriani's telephone number is: +39 0423 523 411.

12:00 noon Departure from Venice Marco Polo Airport by private coach to Asolo. For our 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 reside 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. Some guests will stay at the 3-star Hotel Duse, a 5-minute walk from Villa Cipriani, located on Asolo's central square across from the cathedral in an ancient building entirely restored, offering comfortable rooms furnished in charming style and warm hospitality. Telephone number: +39 0423 55241.

Luncheon – Villa Cipriani

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm - we will enjoy a relaxing luncheon in the gardens of Villa Cipriani (weather permitting) offering breathtaking views and cuisine of regional specialties prepared with fresh produce from the local markets, and perfect service.

Afternoon – Optional: Relaxation or Visit Asolo's Antique Market

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm - 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, Giuliana di Thiene, stroll through Asolo, visit its monthly antique market, and the boutiques and local artisan shops that dot the romantic arcaded streets.

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual, elegant attire.

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm private coach transfer from Villa Cipriani to Villa-Castle Porto Colleoni Thiene (43 km. 1 hour)

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm - Private Visit and Welcome Dinner – Castle-Villa Porto Colleoni Thiene - Conte Clemente and contessa 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!

9:30 pm to 10:30 pm private coach transfer to Villa Cipriani and Hotel Duse (43 km. 1 hour)

Hotel Villa Cipriani – 3 nights
Tel. +39 0423 523 411; Email: villacipriani@HO10.net

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.

Tour leaders at Hotel Duse: Tel. +39 0423 55241; Email: info@hotelduse.com

Monday, October 10

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual pantsuit attire. Good walking shoes.

Morning – Villa Emo at Fanzolo and Villa Cornaro

9:00 am to 9:30 am transfer from Villa Cipriani to Villa Emo (15 km. 30 min.)

9:30 am to 10:30 am visit - 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.

10:30 am to 11:00 am transfer from Villa Emo to Villa Cornaro (18 km; 35 min.)

11:00 am to 12:00 pm visit Villa Cornaro - We will continue to the village of Piombino Dese to visit Palladio's Villa Cornaro, where the proprietors, Carl and Sally Gable, will welcome us for a special private visit. 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).

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm transfer Villa Cornaro to Villa Valmarana ai Nani (65 km. 1 hr.)

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm luncheon and visit

Luncheon – Private Visit, Cocktails and Luncheon - Villa Valmarana ai Nani - In Vicenza's countryside stands the majestic Villa Valmarana ai Nani. We will be welcomed by our hosts, contessa Maria Sofia di Valmarana, conte Adalberto Cremonese and contessa 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 luncheon in the Villa, surrounded by the Tiepolos' awe-inspiring frescoes, followed by a private visit, a convivial way to enjoy this special day in the Veneto!

Afternoon – Private Visit – Villa La Rotonda – Closed to the public

3:45 pm to 4:00 pm walk or coach transfer to Villa La Rotonda (1 km. 15 min. walk)

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm - Closed to the public on this day, Count Nicolo di Valmarana will specially greet us at his family's residence, Villa La Rotonda, 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 Bascapè and Domenico Fontana.

5:30 pm to 6:45 pm transfer from Villa Rotonda to Villa Cipriani and Hotel Duse (55 km. 1hr. 15 min.)

Evening Free – Villa Cipriana Delegates must confirm their dinner reservation by October 1 (at cost) - Delegates may enjoy dining at Villa Cipriani offering delicious local specialties and delightful panoramic views over the vineyard-and-villa-dotted countryside; or at a local restaurant in Asolo. Special price based on a minimum of 10 delegates: 60 Euros without wine. Please confirm by email to Pamela Darling before October 1.

Tuesday, October 11

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: pantsuit. Attire for full day and evening. Good walking shoes.

9:15 am to 9:30 transfer from Villa Cipriani to Villa di Maser Barbaro (5 km. 15 min.)

9 :30 am to 10 :30 am - We will visit Villa Barbaro in the village of Maser. Contessa Diamante Luling Buschetti, proprietor, will greet us (schedule permitting). 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.

10:30 am to 11:30 am transfer from Villa Barbaro to Villa Godi Malinverni (49 km. 1 hr.)

11:30 am to 2:30 pm visit and luncheon Villa Godi Malinverni - Private Visit and Luncheon – Villa Godi Malinverni, the 1st villa built by Andrea Palladio Conte Christian Malinverni will welcome us to his home 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. We will enjoy a convivial luncheon with conte Christian Malinverni, specially organized for us in the Villa's "Four Seasons" reception room.

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm transfer from Villa Godi Malinverni to Vicenza (45 min.)

3:30 pm to 5:45 pm - 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, Giuliana di Thiene, and Carla Marzollo, expert Palladian lecturer, we will visit Teatro Olimpico, an inimitable theatre designed by Palladio just before his death in 1580. We will then 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.

5:45 pm to 7:00 pm transfer to Villa Ca' Marcello (70 km. 1hr. 15 min.)

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm - Evening – Private Visit and Dinner – Villa Marcello - Counts Vettor (father) and Jacopo (son) Marcello will welcome us for a private visit of their residence, an admirable Palladian-style villa built in the 16th century for the powerful noble and military Marcello family. After our visit, we will enjoy a convivial dinner, cooked specially for us by countessa Marcello, a renowned gourmet. In the 1700's, the facade was transformed to its current appearance. The décor prides refined splendor. Among the notable reception rooms, we will admire 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.

10:00 pm to 11:00 pm transfer to Villa Cipriani and Hotel Duse (31 km. 55 min.)

Wednesday, October 12

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual pantsuit attire. Good walking shoes.

9:40 am please be in lobby of Villa Cipriani with luggage for 10:00 am sharp departure from Villa Cipriani

10:00 am to 11:30 am transfer from Villa Cipriani to Piazzale Roma (75 km. 1hr. 30 min.)

11:30 am to 12:00 am transfer by water taxi from Piazzale Roma to Starhotels Splendid Venice - 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, San Marco Mercerie, 760

Hotel Hotel Splendid Venice by Star Hotels – 4 nights
 S. Marco Mercerie 760, Venezia 30124 Italy Email: splendidvenice.ve@starhotels.it
 Tel: +39 041 520 0755.

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

12:45 pm to 1:00 pm walk to Palazzo Lezze

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm; San Marco 3317 (San Samuele) Luncheon – Palazzo Lezze - Marie Bagnasco will welcome us for a convivial luncheon at her delightful, 15th century palazzo residence 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”.

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm transfer by vaporetto (San Samuele)

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm; 874 San Vio (Accademia) - A remarkable, historic palazzo, Contarini-Polignac Decazes - Thanks to the proprietors, 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.

5:00 pm to 5:30 pm transfer by vaporetto to hotel (Accademia to Rialto)

7:15 pm depart hotel by vaporetto (Rialto)

7:30 pm to 10:30 pm Calle de Bottega, San Marco 3366 (San Samuele)

Attire: Men: jacket and tie or suit. Women: casual cocktail attire. Good walking shoes.

Evening – Cocktails and Dinner – Palazzo Corner Gheltoff Alvera - In the evening, we will be specially welcomed by our charming hostess of Venetian aristocracy, contessa 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.

10:30 pm to 10:45 pm water taxi to hotel

Thursday, October 13

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual pantsuit. Good walking shoes.

9:30 am departure from hotel by foot or by vaporetto (Rialto)

10:00 am to 11:00 am; Campo S. Fantin 1965 (San Angelo) - Private Visit – Gran Teatro La Fenice We will be welcomed 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.

11:30 am to 1:00 pm; San Marco 52 - Private Visit of the Napoleonic Wing of the Royal Palace of Venice - 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 completed and 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.

1:15 pm to 3:00 pm; Campo Sant' Angelo - Luncheon – Acqua Pazza - Ristorante Acqua Pazza, offering flavors of Amalfi cuisine, is an elegant establishment with an inviting dining room and exclusive terrace on Campo Sant' Angelo, one of the most enchanting squares in Venice, where the setting enhances the meal creating a wonderful experience. Antonio, the proprietor, personally welcomes guests, offering delicious fare, well prepared with only fresh ingredients directly shipped from the Amalfi coast.

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm transfer by vaporetto (San Angelo to San Silvestro)

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm; campiello Albrizzi; San Polo 1940; (San Silvestro) - – 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.

5:30 pm to 6:00 pm transfer by vaporetto to hotel (San Silvestro to Rialto)

7:30 pm transfer by water taxi

8:00 pm to 11:00 pm; Fondamenta San Sebastiano 2580, Dorsoduro – Cocktails and Dinner – Palazzo Balbi Mocenigo

Attire: Men: suit and tie. Women: cocktail attire.

We will be welcomed by Jérôme-François Zieseniss, President of the Comité Français pour la Sauvegarde de Venise, and President of the Circle of Friends of La Fenice, and by Matteo Corvino, interior designer and organizer of the most prestigious private galas in Venice, Rome and in Paris, for a special dinner at their admirable residence, superbly restored and decorated by Matteo Corvino in the finest of Venetian tradition, elegance and warmth, marrying significant Napoleonic, Modern and Contemporary décor and works of art.

11:00 pm to 11:15 pm transfer by water taxi to hotel

Friday, October 14

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: casual pantsuit attire. Good walking shoes.

9:15 am transfer by private water taxi ((Riva di Biasio)

9:30 am to 11:00 am; Campiello Della Comare; S. Croce 1320 - Private Visit – Bevilacqua – Luxurious Venetian Hand-woven Fabric - Mr. Alberto Bevilacqua will welcome us for a private visit of this world-renowned, family-run institution, the only company in the world still producing on 18th century looms, brocades, damask and velvets of incomparable quality, which made Venice famous! Since 1499, the name Luigi Bevilacqua is a legend in décor and costumes. The high price of hand-loomed, opulent fabric reflects the number of days it takes an artisan to create. Such lavish fabric can be admired in paintings of the great Venetian artists, not only in the décor but also in the costumes worn by the elite.

11:00 am to 11:30 am; transfer by vaporetto ((Riva di Biasio to San Toma)

11:30 am to 12:45 pm; San Polo, 2766; (San Toma) - Private Visit – Palazzo Pisani-Moretta - Thanks to the proprietors, we will have a special visit of Palazzo Pisani-Moretta and its splendid state apartments priding a unique collection of art and décor. Overlooking the Grand Canal, built end of 15th the century, the Palazzo is a magnificent example of late gothic architecture. Several expansions and restorations began in the 18th century, when the last important renovations were completed with elaborate Baroque decoration, the work of the most outstanding Venetian artists of the 18th century, such as Giambattista Tiepolo, Jacopo Guarana, and Gaspare Diziani.

12:45 pm to 1:00 pm; 5-minute walk to Da Ignazio

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm; Calle dei Saoneri; San Polo 2749 (San Toma) - Luncheon – Trattoria Da Ignazio - An authentic, family restaurant, a favorite of the Venetians and well advised tourists, serving homemade Venetian dishes prepared by the Matriarch, located near Campo San Polo and Palazzo Pisani Moreta.

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm; Calle della Maldonetta, Campo San Polo (San Toma) - Private Visit – Palazzo Bernardo - Gabrielle Wagner, the lady of the house, 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, their residence offers spectacular views of Venice. The composer Richard Wagner lived here. Gabrielle Wagner 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.

4:15 pm water taxi to Palazzo Fortuny

4:30 pm to 6:00 pm; San Marco 3780 (San Angelo) - Palais Fortuny – Axel Vervoordt – "TRA, Edge of Becoming" - Michel Soudée, artist, will lead us on a private tour of "TRA, Edge of Becoming". This acclaimed exhibit brings together more than 300 works, exploring the cross-connections among places, history, creative heritage and universal experience, thanks to the renewed collaboration between the Civic Museums of Venice Foundation and the Vervoordt Foundation. We will explore the interaction between the works and the magnificent rooms once Mariano's dwelling and atelier, including renowned artists, such as Marina Abramović, Miquel Barceló, Eduardo Chillida, Fernand Léger and Kazuo Shiraga, Massimo Bartolini, Maurizio Donzelli, Jannis Kounellis, Giulio Paolini, Hiroshi Sugimoto.

10-minute walk to hotel

Attire: Men: suit with or without tie. Women: cocktail attire.

7:30 pm to 8:00 pm transfer by vaporetto (Rialto to San Samuele)

8:00 pm to 11:00 pm; 2914 Calle Vitturi O Falier - Cocktails and Dinner at the residence of Elizabeth Royer and Pierre Grimlat. Elizabeth Royer will welcome us to her Venetian residence for a wonderful evening, where we'll discover significant works of art in an admirable setting. Elizabeth is well known to museums and art collectors, and has a gallery in Paris. Pierre Grimlat made his fame in the music and film industry, having received many international awards.

11:00 pm transfer by water taxi to hotel

Saturday, October 15

Attire: Men: jacket, polo, and slacks. Women: pantsuit attire. Good walking shoes.

9:30 am depart hotel (15-minute walk)

10:00 am to 11:30 am; Ramo Grimani, Castello 4858 - Private Visit of Palazzo Grimani Emailed Dottore Fontanari Dottore Roberto Fontanari, Superintendent of Historical, Artistic and Demographic Venice, Art historian, Galleria dell'Accademia, Palazzo Grimani (Venice) and Museo di San Marco (Florence), 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 restored the palace from 2001 to 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.

11:30 am to 12:00 pm transfer by vaporetto (San Zaccaria Danieli to Accademia)

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm; 583/B San Vio, Zattere - Private Visit and Drinks at the Residence of Massimiliano and Corinne Rocca, Casa Rocca - Corinne and Max Rocca will welcome us to their lovely Venetian residence, one of the only villas in Venice with a beautiful garden, located on the Zattere and the Giudecca Canal. This will be yet another special invitation and insight to the art of living in Venice.

1:30 pm to 3:00 pm; Fondamenta di Ca' Bragadin 660/661 - Luncheon at Cantinone Storico - A favorite nearby, local address of Max and Corinne Rocca, a quiet restaurant on the Giudecca Canal offering classic Venetian dishes with fresh ingredients; near Palazzo Grassi and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection.

Afternoon - Free time this afternoon to shop or visit nearby sites, including the Peggy Guggenheim Collection or Palazzo Grassi.

Attire: Men: suit with or without tie. Women: cocktail attire.

8:00 pm to 8:30 pm vaporetto (Rialto to San Toma)

8:30 pm to 11:00 pm; Calle Centani, San Polo 2774 – Farewell Cocktails and Dinner at 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. This will be a wonderful way to end our memorable program!

11:00 pm private water taxi to hotel

Sunday October 16 - Diana and Tom

After breakfast, we shall bid guests “A presto!”

Stay in Venice until late evening – verify late check in for airport hotel

Hotel Annia Park Hotel
Via Triestina 161, Tessera, 30173 Italy Tele: +39 041 541 5200 info@anniaparkhotel.it

Mon Oct 17 - Diana and Tom

10:15am Depart Venice VCE via CO#5137 aka LH#325

11:40am Arrive Frankfurt-Main FRA for plane change

- Diana

1:20pm Depart Frankfurt-Main FRA via CO#5002 operated by LH

3:45pm Arrive Newark EWR

Car service for Diana – to return later to pick up Tom

- Tom

1:50pm Depart Frankfurt-Main FRA via LH#442

4:50pm Arrive Detroit DTW for plane change

There is a Lufthansa club in Detroit that should honor Tom's first class ticket

8:23pm Depart Detroit DTW via CO#2381 (Express Jet)
10:06pm Arrive Newark EWR

Diana to pick up Tom from airport -- both to carry cell phones

Andrea Palladio/Palladian villas of the Veneto – from Wikipedia

The **City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto** is a World Heritage Site protecting a cluster of works by the architect Andrea Palladio. UNESCO inscribed the site on the World Heritage List in 1994.^[1] At first the site was called "Vicenza, City of Palladio" and only buildings in the immediate area of Vicenza were included. Various types of buildings were represented including the Teatro Olimpico, palazzi and a few villas. Most of Palladio's surviving villas lay outside the site. However, in 1996 the site was expanded. Its present name reflects the fact that it includes Palladian villas throughout the Veneto.

The term villa was used to describe a country house. Often rich families in the Veneto also had a house in town called a palazzo. In most cases the owners named their palazzi and villas with the family surname, hence there is both a Palazzo Chiericati in Vicenza and a Villa Chiericati in the countryside, similarly there is a Palazzo Foscari in Venice and a Villa Foscari in the countryside. Somewhat confusingly there are multiple Villas Pisani, including two by Palladio.

Villa architecture - By 1550 Palladio had produced a whole group of villas, whose scale and decoration can be seen as closely matching the wealth and social standing of the owners: the powerful and very rich Pisani, bankers and Venetian patricians, had huge vaults and a loggia façade realised with stone piers and rusticated Doric pilasters; the (briefly) wealthy minor noble and salt-tax farmer Taddeo Gazzotto in his villa at Bertesina, had pilasters executed in brick, though the capitals and bases were carved in stone; Biagio Saraceno at Finale had a loggia with three arched bays, but without any architectural order. In the villa Saraceno as in the villa Poiana Palladio was able to give presence and dignity to an exterior simply by the placing and orchestration of windows, pediments, loggia arcades: his less wealthy patrons must have appreciated the possibility of being able to enjoy impressive buildings without having to spend much on stone and stone carving.

Palladio's reputation initially, and after his death, has been founded on his skill as a designer of villas. Considerable damage had been done to houses, barns, and rural infrastructures during the War of the League of Cambrai (1509-1517). Recovery of former levels of prosperity in the countryside was probably slow, and it was only in the 1540s, with the growth of the urban market for foodstuffs and determination at government level to free Venice and the Veneto from dependence on imported grain, above all grain coming from the always threatening Ottoman state, that a massive investment in agriculture and the structures necessary for agricultural production gathers pace. Landowners for decades had been steadily, under stable Venetian rule, been buying up small holdings, and consolidating their estates not only by purchase, but by swaps of substantial properties with the other landowners. Investment in irrigation and land reclamation through drainage further increased the income of wealthy landowners.

Palladio's villas - that is the houses of estate owners - met a need for a new type of country residence. His designs implicitly recognise that it was not necessary to have a great palace in the countryside, modelled directly on city palaces, as many late fifteenth-century villas (like the huge villa da Porto at Thiene) in fact are. Something smaller, often with only one main living floor was adequate as a centre for controlling the productive activity from which much of the owner's income probably derived and for impressing tenants and neighbors as well as entertaining important guests. These residences, though sometimes smaller than earlier villas, were just as effective for establishing a social and political presence in the countryside, and for relaxing, hunting, and getting away from the city, which was always potentially unhealthy. Façades, dominated by pediments usually decorated with the owner's coat of arms, advertised a powerful presence across a largely flat territory, and to be seen did not need to be as high as the owner's city palace. Their loggie offered a pleasant place to eat, or talk, or perform music in the shade, activities which one can see celebrated in villa decoration, for instance in the villa Caldogno. In their interior Palladio distributed functions both vertically and

horizontally. Kitchens, store-rooms, laundries and cellars were in the low ground floor; the ample space under the roof was used to store the most valuable product of the estate, grain, which incidentally also served to insulate the living rooms below. On the main living floor, used by family and their guests, the more public rooms (loggia, sala) were on the central axis, while left and right were symmetrical suites of rooms, going from large rectangular chambers, via square middling sized rooms, to small rectangular ones, sometimes used as by the owner as studies or offices for administering the estate.

The owner's house was often not the only structure for which Palladio was responsible. Villas, despite their unfortified appearance and their open loggie were still direct descendants of castles, and were surrounded by a walled enclosure, which gave them some necessary protection from bandits and marauders. The enclosure (cortivo) contained barns, dovecote towers, bread ovens, chicken sheds, stables, accommodation for factors and domestic servants, places to make cheese, press grapes, etc. Already in the 15th century it was usual to create a court in front of the house, with a well, separated from the farmyard with its barns, animals, and threshing-floor. Gardens, vegetable and herbal gardens, fish ponds, and almost invariably a large orchard (the *brolo*) all were clustered around, or located inside the main enclosure.

Palladio in his designs sought to co-ordinate all these varied elements, which in earlier complexes had usually found their place not on the basis of considerations of symmetry vista and architectural hierarchy but of the shape of the available area, usually defined by roads and water courses. Orientation was also important: Palladio states in the *Quattro Libri* that barns should face south so as to keep the hay dry, thus preventing it from fermenting and burning.

Palladio found inspiration in large antique complexes which either resembled country houses surrounded by their outbuildings or which he actually considered residential layouts - an example is the temple of Hercules Victor at Tivoli, which he had surveyed. It is clear, for instance, that the curving barns which flank the majestic façade of the villa Badoer were suggested by what was visible of the Forum of Augustus. In his book Palladio usually shows villa layouts as symmetrical: he would have known however that often, unless the barns to the left and right of the house faced south, as at the villa Barbaro at Maser, the complex would not have been built symmetrically. An example is the villa Poiana, where the large barn, with fine Doric capitals, was certainly designed by Palladio. It faces south, and is not balanced by a similar element on the other side of the house.



Villa Capra "La Rotonda" in Vicenza: One of Palladio's most influential designs. Villa Godi in Lugo Vicentino: An early work notable for lack of external decoration.

Villa Barbaro, also known as the Villa di Maser, is a large villa at Maser in the Veneto region of northern Italy. It was designed and built by the Italian architect Andrea Palladio, with frescos by Paolo Veronese and sculptures by Alessandro Vittoria for Daniele Barbaro, Patriarch of Aquileia and

ambassador to Queen Elizabeth I of England, and his brother Marcantonio an ambassador to King Charles IX of France). The villa was added to the list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 1996.



Palladio planned the villa on low lines extending into a large park. The ground floor plan is complex - rectangular with perpendicular rooms on a long axis, the central block projects and contains the principal reception room. The central block, which is designed to resemble the portico of a Roman temple, is decorated by four Ionic columns, a motif which takes inspiration from the Temple of Fortuna Virilis in Rome. The central block is surmounted by a large pediment with heraldic symbols of the Barbaro family in relief.[6] Below the pediment is a Latin inscription on the entablature dedicating the villa to the brothers' father: the inscription translates, "Daniel Barbaro, Patriarch of Aquileia, and Marcantonio his brother, sons of Francesco Barbaro".[7]

The central block is flanked by two symmetrical wings. The wings have two floors but are fronted by an open arcade. Usually Palladio designed the wings to provide functional accommodation for agricultural use. The Villa Barbaro is unusual in having private living quarters on the upper level of the "barchesse" (that is; the rooms behind the arcades of the two wings). The Maser estate was a fairly small one and would not have needed as much storage space as was built at Villa Emo, for example.

The wings are terminated by pavilions which feature large sundials set within their pediments. The pavilions were intended to house dovecotes on the uppermost floor, while the rooms below were for wine-making, stables and domestic use. In many of Palladio's villa's similar pavilions were little more than mundane farm buildings behind a concealing facade. A typical feature of Palladio's villa architecture, they were to be much copied and changed in the Palladian architecture inspired by Palladio's original designs.



Villa Barbaro; The estate at Maser with the fountain of Neptune in the foreground. Villa Barbaro and Tempietto Barbaro are seen in the background.

Villa Emo is a patrician villa in the Veneto, northern Italy, near the village of Fanzolo di Vedelago. It was designed by Andrea Palladio in 1559 for the Emo family of Venice and remained in the hands of the Emo family until it was sold in 2004. Since 1996, it has been conserved as part of the World Heritage Site "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto".

History - The building of Villa Emo was the culmination of a long-lasting project of the patrician Emo family of the Republic of Venice to develop its estates at Fanzolo. In 1509, which saw the defeat of Venice in the War of the League of Cambrai, the estate on which the villa was to be built was bought by Leonardo di Giovanni Emo from the Barbarigo family. The landscape of Fanzolo has a continuous history since Roman times and it has been suggested that the layout of the villa reflects the straight lines of the Roman roads. The Emo family's central interest was at first in the cultivation of their

newly-acquired land. Not until two generations had passed did Leonardo di Alvise Emo commission Palladio to build a new villa in Fanzolo.

The main building (*casa dominicale*) - It is one of the most accomplished of the Palladian Villas, showing the benefit of 20 years of Palladio's experience in domestic architecture. It has been praised for the simple mathematical relationships expressed in its proportions, both of the elevation and the dimensions of the rooms. In 1570 Palladio published a plan of the villa in his treatise *I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura*. Unlike some of the other plans he included in this work, the one of Villa Emo corresponds nearly exactly to what was built.



Another view of Villa Emo - The house is framed by two colonnaded wings which originally housed agricultural activities, for this was a working villa like Villa Badoer and a number of the other designs by Palladio. Andrea Palladio emphasises the usefulness of the lay-out in his treatise. He points out that the grain stores and work areas could be reached under cover, which was particularly important. Also, it was necessary for the Villa Emo's size to correspond to the returns obtained by good management. These returns must in fact have been considerable, for the side-wings of the building are unusually long, a visible symbol of prosperity. The Emo family introduced the cultivation of maize on their estate (and the plant, still new in Europe, is depicted in one of Zelotti's frescoes). In contrast to the traditional cultivation of millet, considerably higher returns could be obtained from the maize.

It is not clear if the long walk, made of large square paving-stones, which leads to the front of the house, served a practical purpose. It seems to be a fifteenth-century threshing floor.^[5] However, Palladio advised that threshing should not be carried out near a house. The outer appearance of the Villa Emo is marked by a simple treatment of the entire body of the building, whose structure is determined by a geometrical rhythm. The living quarters are raised above ground-level, as are all of Palladio's other villas. Instead of the usual staircase going up to the main front door, the building has a wide ramp with a gentle slope. A wide flight of steps leads up to the loggia which takes the form of a column portico crowned by a gable - a temple front which Palladio applied to secular buildings. As in the case with the Villa Badoer, the loggia does not stand out from the core of the building as an entrance hall, but is retracted into it. The emphasis of simplicity extends to the column order of the loggia, for which Palladio chose the extremely plain Tuscan order.



Frescoes by Giovanni Battista Zelotti, west wall of the hall - The exterior is simple, bare of any decoration. In contrast, the interior is richly decorated with frescoes by Giovanni Battista Zelotti, who also worked on Villa Foscari and other Palladian villas. The main series of frescoes in the villa is grouped in an area with scenes featuring Venus, the goddess of love. Zelotti appears to have begun work on the frescoes in 1565. In the *Great Room*, the events in the frescoes concentrate on humanistic ideals, exemplary scenes such as *Virtue* portrayed in a scene from the life of Scipio Africanus. *The Abstinence of Scipio* appears frequently in cycles of frescoes for Venetian villas. For example, the Villa la Porto Colleoni in Thiene and Villa Cordellina in Montecchio Maggiore, built nearly 200 years later, also use this image, fostering ideals which, had in the 15th and 16th centuries, resulted from the renewed discussion of the depravity of town life, in contrast to the tranquility, abundance, and freedom of artistic thought associated with rural existence. Hence, another room in

the villa is called the *Room of the Arts*, featuring frescoes with allegories of individual arts, such as astronomy, poetry or music.

Media: In the 1990s Villa Emo was featured in *Guide to Historic Homes: In Search of Palladio*, Bob Vila's three-part six-hour production for A&E Network. The 2002 movie Ripley's Game used the Villa Emo as a location.

From <http://www.castellodithiene.com/en/history.htm>

With its power constantly rising, Venice began in the 15th century to value the surrounding territories in order to ensure its food supply, thus enriching the territory of Vicenza; during the course of the century, different types of mansions - from the fort to the farm-villa - appear on the recently conquered mainland, as a logical consequence of the different reasons for the aristocrats to reside in the countryside. The castle-villa Porto-Colleoni-Thiene is a fruit of this development, being in one part countryside residence, in the other agricultural estate, built in the centre of Thiene, a small town close to Vicenza. From the town one can see the towers with its battlement and chimneys with the typical venetian profile, just like Carpaccio painted them.

Aerial view of the castle in the centre of Thiene
Inside the outer wall, one can admire an astonishing architectural ensemble, each of which elements hint at the history of the building, which was erected in the middle of the 15th century on the ruins of the medieval castle.

The Villa in the Veneto has found its most perfect expression in the 16th century with the works of Andrea Palladio (1508-1580). He managed to synthesize the aesthetic and functional requirements in a type of Villa that basically remained the same until the fall of Venice in 1797. But Palladio did not invent the concept of the Villa, he renewed the form these agricultural manor houses had acquired in the previous centuries. The Villa Porto-Colleoni-Thiene unites the gothic characteristics of the castle with those of a Venetian Palazzo, where a big loggia is flanked by rectangular towers. The very regular structure of the Villa, exceptional for the time, can perhaps be attributed to the great architect Domenico da Venezia the "engineer" of the city of Vicenza where he worked on the Duomo and the Palazzo della Ragione between 1448 and 1453.



Trip Report from a past Venice trip – 5/12/04 to 5/17/04
Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Manchester, Venice

Sometimes when you're coming home on a 9 ½ hour flight (with an added leg yet to come) it would be tempting to wonder if it was worth the effort. Showing up at the Venice airport on my way home, I had the premonition that everything had been too perfect and how could it continue, and sure enough, the hoards of folks waiting to check in but unable to do so due to Delta's computer's being down was not a good sign. Once finally on board but about an hour plus late and calling the travel agent back in the U.S. confirmed my fears that the shortened connection time in JFK would simply not work. But it did and here I am on a Delta Song and not really minding that it reminds me of a 'bus' and the people belonging to bus stations of the past. What a world apart from my 'real' Delta Business First flight from Venice and now I'm on this 'bus' with movies and snack meals available to purchase and a hostess who felt a need to lecture me about checking luggage so large as mine. I had no trouble telling her my luggage was no problem on my last leg, and never had been on Continental, to which a young gal next to me started her tirade about people who pay \$69 for a flight and then expect luggage room and meals. Well I didn't pay \$69 and I sort of remember it being more like \$6900 or maybe was it \$8900 . . . Despite this 'bus' station atmosphere, I couldn't be more pleased with my week and it WAS all worth the effort.

All week my sleep was limited but the flight from Venice gave me plenty of make up sleep. (Debbie, our marketing pro, had given me a Tylenol PM to try and coupled with a glass of wine and half a glass of port, I was dead for at least 5 of the hours.) Generally we'd get in at 11 or 12pm and I'd either be on the phone or the computer until 2am and then up at 5:30am or 6am for a 7am departure. Even after the boys left and it was just Claudia and I together in Venice, I bounded out of bed at 6am in order to enjoy the only quiet time of the Venetian streets. To compound the sleep deprivation, the 4 hours lying in bed with the lights off didn't always mean sleep as I'd be too keyed up over the day's events or too excited over the next day's possibilities. Claudia confessed to that too and we marveled that we didn't simply fall asleep in our soup at dinner. Adrenaline is amazing stuff.

Now as I sit and marvel over the wonders of Venice, I can still feel the rush of emotion of arriving in the lagoon and seeing Venice from afar. Or on the early morning runs I'd have tears running down my cheeks; I presume it was because I thought of how lucky I was to see this piece of history still intact and feel a part of it. Or when leaving the islands by private water taxi; it was good to be alone. I had goose-bumps accompanied by tears and felt a need to shoot all the pictures I could. Was it for fear that I might not see it again? But wait a minute . . . I'm forgetting what travel is all about. Is it not memories that are important? Even though I hadn't been in Venice since (approximately) 1976, the memories were intact. What is it about Venice?

Even with the rush of people treating it like Disney World, Venice couldn't be ruined. Even with the heavy construction to save Venice from the flood damage, it couldn't be ruined. Even the unfavorable \$ to Euro and wild prices can't hold back the 14 million visitors a year, nor the millions of dollars coming from Americans for the Save Venice projects⁽¹⁾. Even what my boss called a filthy city that was one big sewer, full of trash and dog poop, was not to detract me. Nor would the cool and unfriendly Venetians who clearly do not need to worry about scaring off tourists because they know they will come no matter, and they will spend, and they will continue to dump their trash, and they'll come in droves. On Saturday there were two major cruise ships that landed and flooded the town like it was infested with tourists.

In the early morning I would roll out of bed never minding that I was leaving elegant linen sheets, silk covers and a mass of down pillows, and knowing that my 4 hours in contact with the bed surely wasn't enough. Venice was calling and my mind kept repeating "you can sleep when you're dead."

I'd limp off to the bathroom on feet more sore than after any marathon I'd ever done, and lace up my shoes wanting to see the sun come up and Venice come alive. Turning the opposite direction from San Marks Square out the door of the Danieli, which is only one bridge from the famous Piazza, I'd soon be about 9 bridges down the other way and heading into park area. It certainly is another side of Venice and an unlikely one to find woods and parks and no homes or people anywhere around, just a few dog-walkers and a few runners. I found the Biennial Fair Grounds⁽²⁾ with the mysterious embassies later explained⁽⁷⁾. I found the military campus with guards at the massive iron gates. On the second day I found myself following workers and students who were arriving on ferries from the mainland. Some were on their way to the stores, some were students. Only about 60,000 Venetians remain and most of those are over 65. It is a declining population mostly fueled by high rent prices. Thus workers to support the 14 million per year visitors must be imported.

I was there for business since we were giving the board a tour of our Jacuzzi European operations. On Monday, May 12 we had started with our UK facilities outside of Manchester, going into Leeds (the 2nd largest financial district of the U.K. and a lovely city on the river with an old restored part), then to Bradford, on to Newcastle-under-Lyme and then the Italian operation, where Jacuzzi Whirlpool first began and where they've now gone into showers and spas. Our Italian offices and plant are about 1 hour outside the Venice airport and being in the countryside it's sufficiently logical to stay in Venice. If ever Venice can be considered logical, that is. It was an hour bus ride to the airport and water taxi service, then 30-45 minutes water taxi ride into Venice which took up right to the door of the Hotel Danieli, one of 2 or 3 most famous hotels in the city. We were going to stay in the Hotel Gritti but at \$805 per night, I called Roy Jacuzzi to see if there wasn't something more reasonable. (This is one Euro costing \$1.20 US dollars.) He suggested that the Hotel Danieli was not only better but a mere \$543⁽³⁾ and we'd want to eat on their outdoor terrace. Which I did for breakfast every day after my run and before the others in my group woke up.

I was traveling with Claudia, our second newest board member and the first of two women to join our board. She's a dynamo in her own right, and though 52 she easily passes for 40, being slim and fashionable and sporting long blondish hair, and she knows it. Her early career was with Westinghouse and Pepsi and last she was CFO of Rodale Press, all of which gave her suitable credentials to join our board of old men, or rather rich wildly wealthy old farts. At her first board meeting dinner I saw her in action and though she was very Democrat in her thinking among a bunch of Republicans, she really held her ground. She has three young children of 5, 7 and 8 and lives in Allentown PA area. Her world seems a world apart from mine with her horses, preppy life and dress, and somewhat life of leisure, but after initially seeming rather stand off, she warmed and we got along very comfortably. Except maybe the last afternoon when she acted grumpy and said she was just toured out and didn't particularly like the private tour guide but she might have been tired of my enthusiasm. At dinner she confessed that she now knew what her husband must feel like trying to keep up with her and her enthusiasm and energy level. She said she'd never known anybody to walk so fast, to do so much, to keep going for such long spells, and that she was bone dead. All this was fortunately said with a smile and over a long leisurely dinner – because I too was bone dead.

Claudia loved to shop. She threatened to skip a tour and just shop to which I said that was fine, but in fact I found her shopping to be another form of touring too so I accompanied her. She's one of these shoppers that want to try on everything and at one point I considered suggesting that if she could try on pencils, she would. We investigated every paper store in Venice and surveyed all their special paper wrapped pencils and I was beginning to wonder if she'd ever buy anything when she explained that she typically did the surveying and then at the last minute did a mad rush to buy everything and sure enough Saturday night found us at 10pm closing down the shops. She bought a large knock off bag from a street vendor the first night and filled at least the entire Louis Vuitton bag and maybe half of the checked bag she'd brought. She got loads of pencil packs, four tapestries,

some t-shirts, an elegant bracelet, a cameo and would have gotten a unique jacket had we not missed its closing. She reminded me of Aunt Doris in Paris and Brussels.

The weather was to have been cool and 40 to 70% chance of rain, but it was 65 to 68 degrees and it only rained in the morning and cleared just as I was going out. By bringing my umbrella, I must have saved the rain. The week before they'd had serious rain and even some hail.

Claudia had agreed to some walking tours⁽⁴⁾ providing she had shopping time, so on Friday we had an 11:00am Original Venice Walking Tour, then a 4:30pm Grand Canal in a 6 passenger boat. On Saturday we started with an 11:00am Doges Palace Tour and then a 3:00pm Private Tour of the Ghettos. All this walking, in addition to shopping, following a week's worth of plant tours, plus some sightseeing in other cities, took a toll on our legs. It made my morning run very very slow (though once I got in line with a group of Venetian runners and kept up through much of the park.) She said her hips ached. I said my feet hurt and she even relented at one point and agreed that she'd be seen with me with my running shoes on but I stuck with my Mephistos with one morning at the Doges Palace wearing my little flats.

As my feet hurt and I thought it was good to be 'marathon' trained, a waiter in the breakfast room stopped me to ask how far I ran. He explained to me that he has done 11 marathons with many of them being the Venice Marathon. I couldn't imagine how they did these cobblestones and made 26.2 miles out of a 3 mile island to which I learned that pontoon bridges were placed over the lagoon and the start was off Venice. (They all refer to anything not being Venice as out there since of course Venice is the beginning of everything and the gateway was from the sea, not from the land.) Thus I looked up the race route and even that is worthy of a rush of emotion⁽⁵⁾.

The above was primarily drafted aboard the plane home, (aboard that nasty Delta Song which should not be allowed to fly), and now it's a full month later and many miles ago (to include our southern journey into Charleston) and a few tour books later since I'm planning a China trip next month. Due to a large gift box having just arrived from Italy, I'm again reminded of this draft. The kindness of the Italian Jacuzzi friends included gifts for everybody and a huge picture book of Venice that can still bring up a world of emotion. There were cuff links for the men and cashmere/pashima shawls for the women. From the U.K. we received a pair of Scottish crystal brandy sniffers. From both companies, we received lovely boxed pens inscribed with the local company's name.

By the looks of the foot notes with no number assigned to the Ghetto⁽⁶⁾ notes, I can see that I missed a lot of the trip, but alas, I'm off to China now and my mind is elsewhere. The important thing about the Ghetto tour is to know that Ghetto was not in those days a negative connotation, and in fact additional Ghettos were set up by the Italian government by request of groups who wanted their own. Also interesting is how there are actually 'two' Jewish Ghettos because the Jewish groups couldn't get along with their own!

⁽¹⁾ Save Venice was part of a world wide group of many charities trying to save Venice. It was formed after the 1966 flood which caused major damage and made people realize that our history might be gone forever. Many of those charities went by the wayside but Save Venice has had a major impact. They don't just pay to restore a church to its past glory. They send exchange students to learn the trade of restoration, to study the history, and to take part in the culture. They teach people that we're not just putting money into touristy Venice, we are saving our own history.

⁽²⁾ I found this abandoned Biennial Fair Grounds area with paths leading to major buildings representing many different countries. A tour guide explained that every two years an international fair takes place in Venice as it has for centuries. Though totally abandoned now, this place is

restored on even numbered years and comes alive from June to September. The abandoned estates are 'embassies' with most countries represented. They were all designed by famous architects of the respective countries. More odd, the land and buildings have a territorial right like an embassy and presumably one could request asylum there.

(3) Breakfast buffet was 50 Euros or \$60 and that wasn't a Sunday brunch buffet but just a regular 6:30am to 10:00am buffet. A continental breakfast of croissant, juice and coffee costs 30 Euros or \$36 at the hotel. Dinner recommendations started at \$96 and ran to \$144 though we were able to eat a pizza and salad for about \$24 with careful searching out of the tourist areas. We found a slice of quiche and coffee at a little out of the way bar for \$9.50. When ordering a coffee, the cashier asks if you are taking it at a table or standing up because the price is more for a table.

(4) Tour prices were off the chart when I inquired of the hotel. A private 2 hour tour might be something in the \$360 or \$480 range. Lorraine in my office found a web site of a walking tour group that runs its business like BigOnion and booking a \$24 2-hour walk ahead of time was only \$21.60. The Canal Tour with the Venice Walking Tour totaled \$62.40 if booked ahead. Our private guided Ghetto tour through the same group was \$204 however.

(5) From the Venice Marathon website: One word is enough to describe Venice marathon course: **spectacular**. Start takes place in **Stra**, a small town a few kilometers east of Padova. At the end of the long starting stretch, the road slowly bends on the left, in front of the monumental façade of Villa Pisani, the first of the beautiful mansions of the **Brenta** riverside. Course follows National Road N.11, leaving the river on the right, and running through the small towns of the Riviera: **Fiesso d'Artico**, **Dolo**, **Mira** (10th km) and **Oriago**. Then, the road and the river turn right heading to **Malcontenta** (20th km). Runners are now near **Marghera** industrial area, which is quickly passed to enter the center of **Mestre** (25th km). After running for 5 kilometers in the heart of the city, course makes its way towards Venice, with long flat stretches, broken by only one short overpass.

Venice skyline, with its countless bell towers, already appears on the horizon, at the end of the never-ending five-kilometer-long **Ponte della Libertà** (i.e. Bridge of Freedom). Probably, this is the most challenging section of the entire race, where athletes' psychological strength is heavily tested.

At the end of the bridge there are 2 kilometers inside the port-area, then begins the most spectacular and exciting stage of the race. From here there is no more tar: you'll be running over cobblestone, overpassing, one by one, the **13 bridges** which created the Venice marathon legend. You face the long **Zattere** stretch, keeping the **Giudecca Canal** on the right and taking advantage of the slope of the bridges - there are 5 of them in this section - to speed up your run. All of a sudden, the course turns left, among the houses and in a moment you are in front of the **Grand Canal**, while going round **S. Maria della Salute** church. You head to **Punta della Dogana** and climb the short ramp leading on the **pontoon bridge**.

On the other side of the Grand Canal, new energy pushes you between two wings of crowd, as you take a quick look at **St. Mark's Square**, on your left. At the end of **Palazzo Ducale** is time to climb the large steps of **Ponte della Paglia** - the only bridge without ramps - always spurred by the fans' cheers. There are only 5 bridges left, but nothing can stop you now. You follow the gentle bend rightwards of the Grand Canal, leaving **Riva degli Schiavoni**, **Riva Ca' di Dio** - where the finish line was between 1991 and 1995 -, and **Riva San Biagio** behind you...

...then you run downhill the last bridge, trying to increase the pace, asking an ultimate effort to your body, your eyes stuck on the time under the finish banner, at the center of **Riva dei Sette Martiri**.

Congratulations, today Venice has a new Master: you!

⁽⁶⁾ Jewish settlements in the Veneto were found even in ancient times. Archeological remains and reliable testimony testify to the presence of Jews in the area since the IV and V centuries. Jews from the East and transalpine countries were the first to settle there, but, after 1492, many Jews expelled from Spain and Portugal also arrived. Small communities were created in the mainland, and from there, Jews began to move to Venice where their residence was always precarious owing to the wavering policy of the Serenissima which kept giving and withdrawing its permission to stay. Gradually, however, the number of Jews and the importance of the role they played in the life of the city kept growing. The government then decided that the Jews had to live in only one area of the city and in 1516 a law decreed that that area was to be in the S. Girolamo parish and would be called "Ghetto Novo". Thus the first ghetto of Europe came into existence. Today it is a lively and thriving quarter, with its religious and administrative institutions, particularly two Synagogues, still open to service.

When we visit the Ghetto of Venice we enter an extraordinary and unique quarter. Five synagogues (15th to 16th C.) are located in this small area, representing the different "nations" (Jewish ethnic groups) who settled down in the Lagoon along the centuries. Here also stand the "skyscrapers", the old and crowded buildings where the Jews lived, the ancient pawn shops, the midrashim where the sacred texts were studied and discussed.

The ancient stones are still there and the Jewish Community, alive and culturally very active, still has its center here. The Venetian Jews lived confined in the Ghetto from 1516 when the Republic of Venice decreed that they all had to live in the same area, until 1797 when Napoleon put an end to the segregation and had the Ghetto gates destroyed. But Jewish life had begun long before in the territories of the Veneto and developed through the centuries. Nowadays there are about 600 Jews living in Venezia and Mestre, but very few in the Ghetto. Nevertheless, the Ghetto has sprung to new life in the last decade becoming the throbbing heart of all the community activities - the Synagogues, the administrative offices, the Museum, the rest home and the social center are all there. At the social center children, teenagers and adults are taught Hebrew and Judaism, and meetings and other cultural events take place. A one-day seminar on Jewish subjects ("Giornata di Studi") has taken place every year for the last twenty years, attracting a varied and qualified audience. The Venetian Community is committed to several projects in order to maintain its traditions and artistic legacy, share its history and culture, and fight prejudice and antisemitism. An ever growing number of visitors come here from all over the world to admire the synagogues and the museum, and more and more schools bring their children to see the Ghetto and to learn, even in their own syllabi, about Judaism and its traditions.

⁽⁷⁾Information found later: Putting together an exhibition in Venice is tricky and costly. The American pavilion was built by the architectural team of Delano & Aldrich in 1930 and paid for by benefactors of the Grand Central Galleries in New York. It is the only privately owned pavilion in the Giardini di Castello, the lush garden at the tip of Venice where the international pavilions are located.

As owner of the American pavilion, Grand Central Galleries organized and administered the pavilion through the 1930's, inviting institutions like the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art and the National Gallery of Art in Washington to present exhibitions. In 1954 the Grand Central Galleries sold the pavilion to the Museum of Modern Art, which presented shows there in 1954 and 1962. In 1956 and 1960, the Modern invited the Art Institute of Chicago and the Baltimore Museum of Art to put together exhibitions.

In 1964 the Modern withdrew from participating in the Biennale, and the United States Information Agency took over. (In 1999 that agency was consolidated into the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.) In 1986 the Guggenheim bought the pavilion for \$30,000 with money provided by the Peggy

Guggenheim Collection Advisory Board in Venice. Since then the Peggy Guggenheim Collection has been paid for its fees and expenses of about \$100,000 to help run the American exhibition.

Curiously, even though the Guggenheim owns the building, it has never organized an exhibition there, although it has organized architecture biennales in Venice. It was invited to organize the 2003 Biennale but declined, citing the economic downturn after 9/11.

Over the years members of the selection committee say, the Guggenheim has tried to get control of the exhibition in the American pavilion. But now that it has the opportunity, it isn't sure it wants it.

Money has always been a problem. When the conceptual artist Robert Gober was selected to represent the American pavilion at the 2001, he made three editions of prints that he sold to collectors and museums, raising \$370,000 to go toward his exhibition.

"There are a lot of basic expenses you don't think about," he said. For example, artists and curators are expected to keep the pavilion open through November, the duration of the Biennale, that means guards have to be paid for, along with cleaning crews, insurance and Guggenheim interns who act as gallery attendants. Then there's the cost of producing a catalog of the show and expenses like production costs for the artworks themselves as well as the expense of staging events at the site.