



**European
WATERWAYS**

EST. 1974



Venice and the Italian Renaissance.
Cruises aboard 'La Bella Vita'

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ITALY

VENICE, THE ISLANDS OF THE VENETIAN LAGOON, RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE, THE BIANCO CANAL AND THE PO VALLEY TO MANTUA



Chioggia

CRUISE THE VENETIAN LAGOON, CANALS & PO VALLEY

Aboard the 20 passenger *La Bella Vita*

The variety of charming waterways between Venice and Mantua promises a unique and magical cruising experience. The itinerary includes fascinating excursions that offer a real insight into the many cultures - Roman, Etruscan, Istrian, Byzantine and of course Renaissance - that have influenced the arts, architecture and history of the region over many centuries. This special voyage also gives the opportunity to enjoy the diverse landscapes and nature en route, from picturesque lagoon islands with their colourful houses, to wild beach dunes and pine woods with an abundance of birdlife; from the charming Venetian port of Chioggia via the River Po and Bianco Canal to the captivating lakeside setting of the Renaissance city of Mantua.

La Bella Vita is a stylish twenty-passenger vessel that has been newly refitted in 2010 to high standards to offer comfortable, fully air-conditioned accommodation. She has two upper-deck suites and eight lower deck staterooms, all offering en suite facilities, and a bright, spacious dining room and bar area where delicious Italian specialities will be served. Louvred doors open to the side decks to give a perfect viewing platform, whilst above is a huge sun deck with comfortable sun loungers from which to enjoy the wonders of the region. *La Bella Vita* is the perfect vessel from which to immerse yourself in Italian Renaissance culture as you cruise the Venetian lagoon and the calm waters of the Po Valley en route to the elegant city of Mantua.

The Good Life - in Style

TYPICAL CUISINE ABOARD

REGIONAL SPECIALITIES

Fegato alla Veneziana; Baccala Mantecato; La Polenta; Sarde in Saor; Risotto al Prezemolo; Lagoon Seafood

CHEESE BOARD

Gorgonzola; Mozzarella di Bufala; Pecorino; Taleggio; Provolone



NEW FOR 2011 – LA BELLA VITA

DAILY ITINERARY ABOARD*

SEVEN DAYS/SIX NIGHTS

Sunday, Day 1

VENICE

Guests are met at a designated hotel in Venice on Sunday afternoon and transferred to La Bella Vita for a Prosecco welcome. A late afternoon cruise takes us along the Giudecca Canal past some of Venice's most famous monuments: the Chiesa del Redentore, the impressive Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute and the Punta della Dogana to our mooring outside the Naval Museum. Dinner aboard, followed perhaps by an evening stroll to St Mark's Square.

Monday, Day 2

VENICE TO PELLESTRINA/SAN PIETRO IN VOLTA

Guided tour to the centre of Venice. We visit the gardens of the Biennale Exhibition of Modern Arts, Palladio's Church of San Pietro in Castello, the Naval Museum with a model of the Bucintoro (Doge's Boat) and the Pavilion of Gondolas housing Peggy Guggenheim's own vessel. Late afternoon cruise to Pellestrina separating the Venetian Lagoon from the Adriatic Sea, along the Canal of the Orphans passing lagoon islands with their brightly coloured houses, painted fishing boats and tiny churches. We moor in San Pietro in Volta for a Venetian aperitif in a typical local 'bacaro'. Dinner aboard.

Tuesday, Day 3

PELESTRINA/CHIOGGIA/TAGLIO DI PO

After a stroll or cycle along the 18thC Istrian sea wall, we cruise to Chioggia, city of Goldoni's plays. Here we visit the colourful fish market with the chef to choose seafood for our evening meal. We also see the Cathedral and the Piazzetta Vigo before cruising on to the River Po delta. Passing through a nature reserve with flocks of flamingos and other wildlife, we travel upriver to Taglio di Po for dinner ashore hosted by the owners at the beautiful 17thC Villa Ca'Zen, a private stately home by the river where Lord Byron courted the Countess Giuccioli and wrote some of his best poetry.

Wednesday, Day 4

TAGLIO DI PO TO ROVIGO

Morning cruise leaving the river and entering the Canal Bianco, to Rovigo. After lunch, we visit the magnificent Renaissance gardens and wine cellars of the 17thC Villa Widmann Borletti for a private tasting of their renowned estate grown vintages. This winery has been supplying Venetian society for centuries. Dinner aboard.

Thursday, Day 5

ROVIGO TO TREVENUOLO

Morning excursion with guided tour of the Renaissance city of Ferrara, including the 14thC Estense Castle with its moat, drawbridges, marble balconies and sumptuous apartments, and the Schifanoia Palace with its fabulous 15thC frescoes. We also see the cathedral façade with its sculpted images described as an Illustrated Bible. Return to the barge for an afternoon canal cruise past villages and farmsteads to Trevenzuolo for dinner aboard, accompanied by live piano music.

Friday, Day 6

TREVENUOLO TO MANTUA

Our final cruise has a dramatic approach to Mantua, home of the poet Virgil, artists Mantegna and Donatello and captivating lakeside setting. Mantua displays extraordinary neo-classical and baroque architecture, portrayed in the 14thC Ducal Palace housing some 15 gardens and courtyards, a museum, basilica, and theatre. The intricate frescoes, Gallery of Mirrors and exquisite Rivers Room, and 12,000 paintings and sculptures all create a Grand Finale to our Italian Renaissance adventure. Captain's Farewell Dinner aboard.

Saturday, Day 7

MANTUA

After breakfast, passengers disembark for transfers back to Venice.

*This is a sample itinerary and subject to change. On alternate weeks the cruise is in the reverse direction.



A SMALL SELECTION OF THE WINES SERVED ABOARD

- Livio Felluga
- Vertigo Muri-Gries,
- Lagrein Rosso Allegrini
- Ribolla "Vinnae" Roveglia
- Lugana Col Vetorax
- Prosecco Spago

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour of historic Venice, including hidden gardens, The Naval Museum and the Pavilion of Gondolas
- Cruise on the Canal of the Orphans past picturesque lagoon islands
- Tour of Chioggia with its Roman, Etruscan and Byzantine history.
- Visit Chioggia's colourful fish market
- Dinner ashore at the 17thC stately home Villa Ca'Zen
- Private visit to the wine cellars of Villa Widmann-Borletti,
- Tour of the 14thC Estense Castle in Ferrara
- Visit Mantua's Ducal Palace and gardens

DECK PLAN

CABIN NAMES

1. LEONARDO
2. MICHELANGELO
3. TIZIANO
4. CANALETTO
5. MANTEGNA
6. BOLDINI
7. TINTORETTO
8. VERONESE
9. CARAVAGGIO
10. TIEPOLO



- 140 FEET LONG, 3 DECKS
- 7 CREW
- 2 SUITES
- CENTRALLY HEATED
- 10 TOURING BIKES
- 20 PASSENGERS (PLUS TOUR LEADER)
- 8 STATEROOMS
- AIR CONDITIONED
- ROOFTOP SUN DECK
- AIR-CONDITIONED COACH



Mantua

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