

SERVANE GIOL AND THOMAS JONGLEZ

Soul of Venice

A GUIDE TO 30 EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES





02

HEADING ONTO THE SILK ROAD

In 1500 there were more than 6,000 looms in operation in the city of Venice. Today, some of the city's wealthy families, such as the Bevilacqua – now in their sixth generation of weavers – continue to keep this tradition alive.

In addition to their exceptional know-how, the Bevilacqua have the added advantage – particularly appreciable to visitors – of owning an amazing wooden loom that dates back to the 18th century and is still in operation. The loom is located behind the showroom and can only be visited by appointment, but the visit offers a truly memorable experience: in a timeless ambiance seven weavers work on velvet, silk, and gold threads using ancestral techniques and patterns that can be found in the historical archives, which include more than 3,500 drawings.

It takes an entire day to make a 30-40 centimetre piece of fabric.

LUIGI BEVILACQUA
CAMPIELLO DE LA COMARE 1320
30135 VENEZIA



MON-FRI: 9:30am / 1:30pm
 2:30pm / 5pm
 SAT: By appointment
 SUN: Closed

Visits to the weaving workshop by
 reservation only
 +39 041 721 566
 luigi-bevilacqua.com

€60 for a group of up to four
 €15 per person for larger groups



16

THE BEST SANDWICH IN VENICE

At first glance, Ai Nomboli isn't very likely to make you want to stop there. It's a bar more or less like any other on a busy street near Campo San Polo, with a small terrace that's of no particular interest. But if you're pressed for time or tired of paying a fortune for a bland lunch, Ai

Nomboli offers what are quite simply the best sandwiches in town.

The choice and quality of ingredients is spectacular, and for some it might even be the best *panini* they've ever eaten.



AI NOMBOLI
RIO TERÀ DEI NOMBOLI 2717/C
30125 VENEZIA



MON-FRI: 7am / 9pm
SAT: 7am / 3pm
SUN: Closed

+39 041 523 0995



19

SHOP AT THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL MARKET

If you're Venetian, you already know; but if you've only rented an apartment or palazzo for a few days, you absolutely must – yes, *must* – shop at the sublime Rialto market at least once.

Firstly, it's clearly the most beautiful market in the world: buying fish, fruits, or vegetables (all of excellent quality) here along the Grand Canal, right near the Rialto, is truly a rare pleasure. As is enjoying a glass of white wine or a Spritz at one of the nearby bars (like the lovely Naranzaria) after you're done shopping.

Secondly, the market is under threat from the pressures of real estate and tourism. In the words of the grandfather of Francesco Agopyan, of the Antiche Carampane restaurant: "When the Rialto market closes, Venice will be a ghost town."



 **CAMPIELLO DE LA PESCARIA**
30122 VENEZIA



TUE-SAT: 7:30am / 12noon
SUN-MON: Closed





A BOOKSHOP THAT'S TAKING ON WATER!

The Acqua Alta bookshop, hidden behind San Marco and regularly flooded, displays its stock in rather unusual ways ... Here, bathtubs, canoes and even a gondola have been transformed into shelving for old and new books.

Despite the apparent disarray, Luigi Frizzo, the owner, knows exactly where to find each book and will guide you enthusiastically through his labyrinth in search of treasures such as *The Little Prince* in Venetian dialect.

For photographers in search of stunning panoramas, climbing the book staircase is an absolute must for a magnificent view of the Venetian Lagoon.

 **LIBRERIA ACQUA ALTA**
CALLE LUNGA SANTA MARIA FORMOSA 5176B
30122 VENEZIA



DAILY: 9:15am / 7:45pm

+39 041 296 0841

libreriaacquaaltavenezia.myadj.it





27

GO ON A MAGICAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT ON AN ISLAND IN THE LAGOON

The island of San Francesco del Deserto is an exceptional place, possibly one of the most beautiful in the entire Venetian Lagoon. To get a real idea of the island and the life of its monks, we recommend doing a retreat there for a few days.

After making your reservation by phone (in Italian only), you'll be welcomed to Burano by a monk who will come to pick you up by boat: there is no public transport to the island.

The retreat, whose days are rhythmically structured by the seven canonical hours, offers a true immersion in monastic life. Between the services, you'll still be free to do whatever you like with your time. The island being as beautiful as it is, most retreat participants go for walks and meditate in the exceptional garden, an enchanting place where long rows of cypress trees form shaded paths.

St Francis of Assisi is said to have stayed on the island in 1220 or 1224.



 **ISLAND OF SAN FRANCESCO DEL DESERTO**
30142 BURANO
VENEZIA



Retreats are possible
from Friday to Sunday
or from Tuesday to Thursday

Reservations for spiritual
retreats (in Italian):
+39 041 528 6863
sfdeserto@libero.it

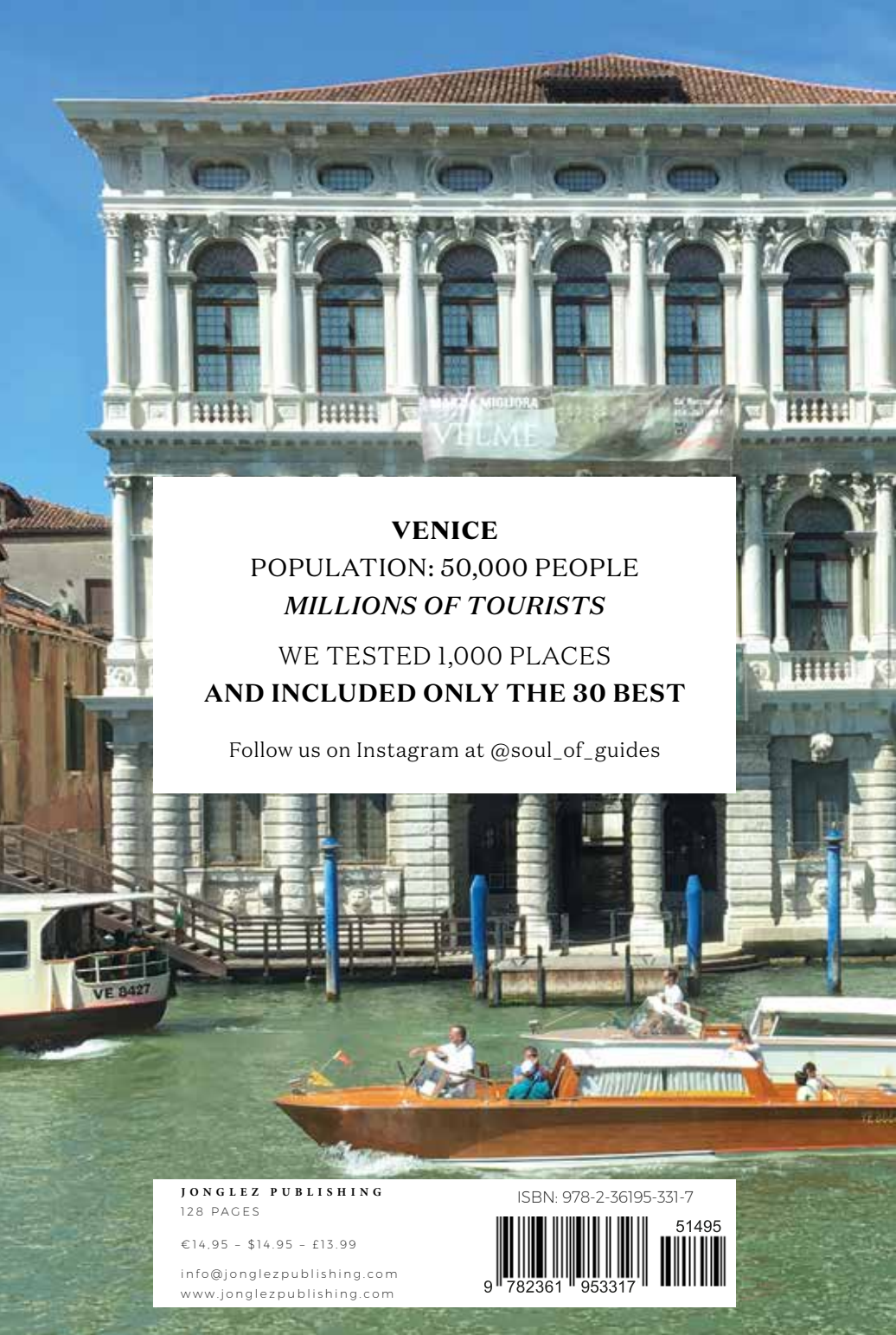
sanfrancescodeldeserto.it



SOME IMPORTANT PRACTICAL ADVICE

Avoid the period between June and September: besides the heat, the mosquitoes are almost unbearable!

The Franciscan Rule, unlike that followed in Benedictine monasteries for example, does not impose silence. Talking is allowed at meals, with the monks, in the gardens, and so on. So if silence is what you're after, we strongly recommend coming either in winter (when fog over the Lagoon adds to the mysterious and magical atmosphere) or during the week. Women are welcome, as are couples, though you will have to stay in separate rooms. Every day of the retreat features a commentary, in Italian, on a passage from the Bible – or a personal meeting with a monk, depending on the number of guests at the time.



VENICE

POPULATION: 50,000 PEOPLE

MILLIONS OF TOURISTS

WE TESTED 1,000 PLACES

AND INCLUDED ONLY THE 30 BEST

Follow us on Instagram at [@soul_of_guides](https://www.instagram.com/soul_of_guides)

JONGLEZ PUBLISHING
128 PAGES

€14.95 - \$14.95 - £13.99

info@jonglezpublishing.com
www.jonglezpublishing.com

ISBN: 978-2-36195-331-7



9 782361 953317

51495