Dear Friends and Alumni,

Fall 2017 Colgate Alumni Relations is offering a special trip to Venice accompanied by Batza Professor of Art and Art History Emerita, Mary Ann Calo.

I fell in love with Venice as a college student studying abroad in Italy. In the many years since I have had the pleasure of revisiting this splendid and fascinating city numerous times. Despite its reputation of being seemingly frozen in history, untouched by the modern world, no trip to Venice is ever the same. By far my fondest memory of Venice is the time spent with the Colgate study group I led there in 1997. To be in this magical place with a group of Colgate students was one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of my teaching career. With any luck, some of you will now join this trip and we will have a chance to re-discover Venice together once again!

Mary Ann Calo  
Batza Professor of Art and Art History, Emerita

Join Colgate alumni, parents and friends on an exploration of this miracle of a city. As participants in Venice: Past and Present, even seasoned travellers will discover fascinating detail and hidden depths to its unique history and vibrant modern life. The outstanding Hotel Splendid will be our base. Transport to museums and monuments and many social events will be by water-taxi, on foot or gondola, adding a delightful extra dimension to your Venice experience. This newsletter provides a summary of the entire week for your convenience and is accompanied by a few items to help you prepare for your trip. Get ready for a week of stimulation and surprises, mystery and revelation! We hope that your fond memories of our time together will remain with you long after you return home. I wish you safe travels to Italy and look forward to meeting you in Venice in October.

Ci vediamo presto,

Elaine Ruffolo
Italian Renaissance Art Historian
Venice: La Serenissima

For the world’s most beautiful city, Venice had an inauspicious start. The site was once merely a collection of mudbanks, and the first settlers came as refugees fleeing invading enemies of the Roman Empire. They sought to escape to terrain so inhospitable that no foe would follow.

The success of the community which arose on the site would have been beyond the wildest imaginings of the first Venetians. By the end of the Middle Ages Venice had become the leading maritime power in the Mediterranean and possibly the wealthiest city in Europe. The shallow waters of the lagoon had indeed kept her safe from malign incursions and she kept her independence until the end of the eighteenth century.

Trade with the East was the source of that wealth and power, and this connection has left its indelible stamp upon Venetian art and architecture. Western styles are here tempered by a richness of effect and delicacy of pattern which is redolent of Eastern opulence. It is above all by its color that Venetian painting is distinguished. In paintings from Bellini through Titian to Tiepolo, there remain echoes of the splendor of the Byzantine mosaics of St Mark’s.

That Venice survives is in itself, a miracle. Without cars and the main thoroughfares being water, the imagination traverses the centuries with ease. And while picturesque qualities are all-pervasive – shimmering Istrian limestone, crumbling stucco, variegated brickwork, mournful vistas with exquisitely sculpted details – there are not half-a-dozen cities in the world which surpass Venice for the sheer number of major works of architecture, sculpture and painting.

Venice: Past and Present

At the opening of the sixteenth century, Venice enjoyed an unprecedented period of wealth and power. Venice’s holdings on the Italian mainland began to turn a profit and in turn, public patronage of the arts was on the rise. At the same time, the Venetian school of painting had reached the height of its power and influence, a position that it maintained until the last years of the century. In a society as conscious of tradition as Venice, the success of artists depended on their ability to evoke and blend with the glorious past. This golden period of the Serenissima Republic is reflected in the art generated for its churches, confraternities, and palaces.

The unique artistic and architectural monuments of Venice have made it one of the most visited cities in the world. But like many Italian cities, it was faced with the challenge of preserving its extraordinary history while remaining relevant in the modern world. By virtue of its physical characteristics, Venice was unsuited to the task of developing an economy responsive to the forces of industrial modernity. It became instead a center of modern culture, juxtaposing its past achievements with emerging contemporary art. Initiated in the 1890s, the Venice Biennale has become a primary venue for exhibiting recent art from all over the world. It has stimulated the development of other projects, such as the Punta della Dogana and Palazzo Grassi, similarly focused on the present as seen in the context of the revered past.
Luca Zaggia is an oceanographer working for Venice’s Institute of Marine Science whose passion for the city is key to its long-term future. Specializing in the study of the sea and wetlands, Zaggia spends most of his time in Venice on the water where his work involves everything from investigating contaminants to studying the environmental effects of dredging and commercial shipping. He also monitors the environmental effects of the controversial MOSE project that aims to protect Venice and its lagoon from floods. His research also covers the effect of ship traffic on the morphology of the lagoon.

Elaine Ruffolo has been teaching art history in Italy, since 1989 and is a popular instructor for students and adults alike. Her special interests include the history of patronage and the economy of city-states in Renaissance Italy. Ruffolo firmly believes the best way to fully understand a work of art is by exploring the context in which it was made, which makes the past come alive for the viewer. Ruffolo currently lectures for Syracuse University and Stanford University in Florence and leads programs in Italy for the Smithsonian, Yale Alumni, and Patrons of the Vatican. Ruffolo is on the advisory board of the Friends of Florence and consulted for YPO/CEO.

Mary Ann Calo, Barza Professor, Emerita, joined the Colgate University faculty in 1991 as a member of the Department of Art and History. During her 25 years at Colgate, Prof. Calo taught courses on modern and contemporary art history, the arts and public policy, and American art. She also served as Chair of the Art and Art History Department, Associate Dean of the Faculty, Director of the Institute for the Creative and Performing Arts, and Director of the Division of Arts and Humanities.

Calo has spent many years living and working in Italy, initially as a student and then later as a professor. She led Colgate’s Venice Study Group and was a visiting professor of modern art at Syracuse University in Florence. Calo is the author of three books and numerous articles, some of which grew out of research undertaken during her extended stays in Italy. Her edited volume, Critical Issues in American Art, is widely used as a textbook in college courses on American Art.

Contessa Giuliana di Thiene is a long-time resident of Venice where she was born raised. She is the proprietor of one of the earliest Castell-Villas of Andrea Palladio. A wealth of knowledge, gracious hostess and travel director for Colgate Alumni’s program in Venice.

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Practical Information

Accommodations
A delightful 4-star hotel situated half-way between Piazza San Marco and the Rialto bridge. Despite the central location the hotel is quiet, rooms overlook side canals or a central courtyard. Rooms are attractively decorated in a light, contemporary style and spacious public rooms for relaxed socializing and a good restaurant. Check in is at 3.00pm and check out at 12:00

How strenuous?
The nature of Venice means that the city is more often than not traversed on foot. Although part of her charm, there is a lot of walking along the flat and up and down bridges; standing around in museums and churches is also unavoidable.

Group size
Between 15 and 20 participants.

Weather
The maximum average temperature in Venice during your stay will be 18°C (64°F), and the minimum will be 11°C (52°F). Occasional rain is possible.

Packing and dress
Plan to dress in layers when in Venice: collared shirts with a jacket or sweater for extra warmth and a light waterproof in case of rain. In general, smart casual attire is appropriate excursions and modest dress is required when visiting churches and monasteries. Comfortable shoes are recommended, as there will be extensive walking during daytime activities. Cocktail attire for the last evening and private Guggenheim dinner. Average temperature in November is about 56 degrees F.

Electricity
Electrical current in Italy, as in the rest of Europe, is 220 volts AC 50Hz with two or three-pin round-pronged plugs. We suggest purchasing an adaptor at the airport if you do not already own one.

Currency & Tipping
The local currency is the Euro. Tipping is expected from overseas visitors although locals often do not do so. Service charges in Italy are included in the bill, but in sit-down restaurants it is customary to leave a 10% gratuity when you leave. In bars and cafés a few coins will suffice.

Travel Times
Anything one does in Venice takes longer than you think. Tack on 30 minutes to any kind of transportation you do on your own. Before you take a water bus, consult carefully the posted schedule so that you make it to your destination on time. All events done with the alumni group will be on-foot, or by private boat/water taxi.

Health and Safety
Since we will be traveling by water-taxi to most sites, if you are prone to motion sickness, you may want to bring remedies such as tablets, patches or bands. Please take all necessary precautions when you are outside your hotel. Venice is a safe city and feel free to stroll around in the evening. The greatest risk will be pickpockets in crowded areas. Use common sense and leave you passports, credit cards you do not need in the safe inside your hotel room.
**Pre-Program Suggested Reading & Viewing**

**Non-fiction**
- *A History of Venice*, by John Julius Norwich
- *A Venetian Affair*, by Andrea di Robilant
- *City of Fortune*, by Roger Crowley
- *The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy*, ed. George Holmes
- *The Siege of Venice*, by Jonathan Keates
- *The Story of My Escape*, by Giacomo Casanova, transl. by Andrew K. Lawston
- *Venice*, by Jan Morris
- *Venice: A Literary Companion*, by Ian Littlewood
- *Venice: A New History*, by Thomas Madden
- *Watermark: An Essay on Venice*, by Joseph Brodsky

**Fiction**
- *Death at La Fenice*, by Donna Leon
- *Death in Venice and Other Stories*, by Thomas Mann
- *Falling in Love*, by Donna Leon
- *Glass*, by Christopher Wilkins
- *In the Company of a Courtesan*, by Sarah Dunant
- *The Wings of a Dove*, by Henry James

**Film**
- *Senso (1954)*, dir. Luchino Visconti
- *Summertime (1955)*, dir. David Lean
- *Death in Venice (1971)*, dir. Luchino Visconti
- *Casanova (1976)*, dir. Federico Fellini
- *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989)*, dir. Steven Spielberg
- *The Wings of a Dove (1997)*, dir. Iain Softley
- *The Talented Mr Ripley (1999)*, dir. Anthony Minghella
- *Bread and Tulips (2000)*, dir. Silvio Soldini
- *The Italian Job (2003)*, dir. F. Gary Gray
- *The Merchant of Venice (2004)*, dir. Michael Radford
- *Casino Royale (2006)*, dir. Martin Campbell
- *The Tourist (2010)*, dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck

**Documentaries**
- *Francesco’s Venice (2004)* by Francesco da Mosto

**Where to Eat in Venice**

**Corte Sconta**
Located a short distance from many of the popular sites in the city, it can be easy to walk right past this little restaurant. Corte Sconta is a beautiful restaurant with friendly staff and a sophisticated atmosphere. Guests can partake of their excellent selection of antipasto and try one of the many wines on their extensive list.

*Price: Fine Dining*
*Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 12:30-2pm/7pm-9:30pm*
*Address & phone number: Calle del Pestrin, 3886, 30122 Castello 041 522 7024*

**CoVino**
A small restaurant with an efficient and amicable staff, CoVino is welcoming to small quiet groups who are looking for a lovely place to relax after a busy day. The menu changes regularly depending on the availability of local and seasonal ingredients. The food is prepared in the open kitchen, where guests can watch the chefs at work.

*Price: Mid-range*
*Hours: Wednesday to Monday 12-3pm/7-11pm*
*Address & phone number: Calle Pestrin Castello, 30122 041 241 2705*

**Al Covo**
Al Covo is a decent sized restaurant featuring two dining rooms, each with beautiful art decorating the walls. The establishment is family run and offers a range of Venetian classics that can be eaten at one of their outside tables or in the charming and rustic interior. All of the food is made from fresh local ingredients and is accompanied by one of their 200 labels of wine.

*Price: Mid-range*
*Hours: Monday to Sunday 10am-11pm*
*Address & phone number: Castello 5533, Corte Perini – S. Lio, 30122, 041 523 9592*

**Osteria Ae Sconte**
Located on a small quiet square, Osteria Ae Sconte is an ideal place to sit back and soak in the events of the day. They offer the option of either a quick bite, in the form of traditional Venetian cicchetti or a longer slow meal, which could include many hearty pasta dishes. The menu features many daily specials depending on the availability of ingredients.

*Price: Mid-range*
*Hours: Monday to Sunday 10am-11pm*
*Address & phone number: Castello, 3968, 041 522 3812*
Al Mascaron
A brasserie type restaurant, Al Mascaron is popular with the locals and features homestyle cooking. The interior is decorated by rotating art created by locals, and gives the restaurant an art deco feel. One of their most popular and delicious entrees in their squid ink pasta, a specialty of Venice, which is a must try.

Price: Mid-range
Hours: Monday to Saturday 12-3pm/7-11pm
Address & phone number: Calle Lunga, 5225, 041 522 5995

Ristorante ai Barbacani
With wood beams, a door on the canal, and candlelight, Ristorante ai Barbacani has a romantic and enchanting atmosphere. Every effort is made to make guests feel welcome and the staff are helpful and willing to answer any question that might be asked. The menu is comprised mostly of fish based entrees that are served in generous sized portions, but there are also several options for vegetarians or meat lovers.

Price: Mid-range
Hours: Tuesday to Sunday 12-3pm/6-10pm
Address & phone number: Calle Paradiso, 5746

Al Giardinetto da Severino
Built in a former 15th century chapel. Al Giardinetto da Severino is a beautiful restaurant with an equally beautiful vine covered courtyard. Guests can chose whether they would like to sit inside or outside, and the restaurant has professional and efficient staff who serve any customer happily whether they be tourists, locals or gondoliers.

Price: Mid-range
Hours: Friday to Wednesday 12-3pm/7-10pm
Address & phone number: Salizada Zorzi 4928, 041 528 5332

Trattoria da Remigio
A rustic and modern restaurant, Trattoria da Remigio is popular with the locals and features a menu of Venetian pastas and seafoods. Customers are guaranteed a delicious no-frills meal by professionals who are passionate about their work and take food seriously. This is a great spot to take a break from a busy day of visiting the sites, or for a final meal after an extended stay in Venice.

Price: Mid-range
Hours: Monday to Sunday 12:30-2:30pm/7:30-10:30pm
Address & phone number: Sestiere Castello, 3416, 041 523 0089

Cafe Florian
The elegant, historic piazza San Marco bar, rivalled only by Quadri and Harry’s Bar as the most expensive place for a cappuccino in Venice? Ah, but if you head past the séparés where fur-coated dowagers sit, you’ll come to the bar itself: four stools and two tiny alcove tables with velvet seats, where you can watch barmen Maurizio and Roberto in action and pay exactly half what you would at a ‘proper’ table. Here, a Bellini (fresh peach juice and sparkling wine) will be considerably cheaper.

Piazza San Marco, Venice
041 5205641; www.caffeflorian.com

Caffe Lavena
The tourists, plus a few well-heeled Venetians, follow Goethe to the Caffe Florian or Proust to the Gran Caffe Quadri, and very elegant they both are, too. But for what the locals claim is the best espresso in the piazza San Marco, be different and drop in at the Caffe Lavena. The decor here is hardly less sumptuous than that of its more famous rivals, with gilded mirrors, strawberry-ripple marble floors and Murano chandeliers. Lavena has musical associations: Wagner would come here for refreshment with his father-in-law, Liszt, and Rostropovich was a regular. But it was also at one time the meeting place of the gondoliers’ union, which is the best coffee testimonial you could ask for.

Piazza San Marco 133-4, Venice
041 522 4070; www.lavena.it