



ITALY

LA BELLA VITA - VENICE & MANTUA (TOUR CODE: 11839)

STARTS AND ENDS
in Mestre (Venice)

TRAVEL PERIODS
until October 2027

EXPERIENCE
Cruising
Food & Wine
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE
Barge Cruising

A cruise on the Venetian Lagoon, River Po and Canal Bianco between Venice and the lakeside city of Mantua is a truly magical experience.

Highlights

- Tour of **historic Venice**, The Naval Museum and the Pavilion of Gondolas
- Tour of **Chioggia** with its Roman, Etruscan and Byzantine history
- **Dinner ashore** at the 17th Century stately home Villa Ca'Zen
- Visit **Mantua's** 14th century Ducal Palace and Gardens
- Tour of the Renaissance city of **Ferrara**, including the beautiful Estense Castle

Explore the rich cultural heritage of Italy with guided tours of Ferrara, Mantua, and Chioggia, where Renaissance, Roman, Etruscan and Byzantine influences come to life. Cruise through diverse landscapes, from vibrant lagoon islands to wild dunes and bird-filled pine forests. La Bella Vita, a stylish 20-passenger vessel, features a modern Italian interior with vibrant colours, a welcoming bar and a spacious dining room with panoramic views. Enjoy comfortable ensuite cabins, two upper-deck junior suites, and a vast sun deck with loungers, offering the perfect setting for relaxation.



INCLUSIONS

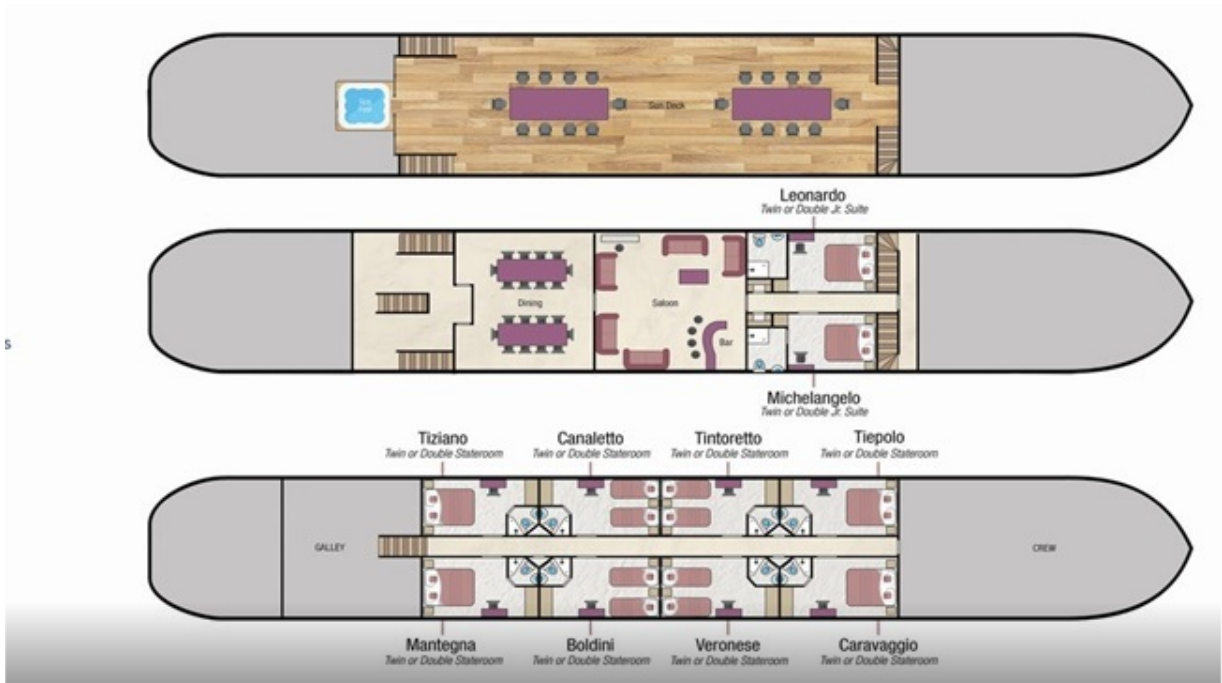
- 6 nights onboard the Hotel Barge La Bella Vita in a Stateroom
- Crew of 6-10 (Captain, tour guide, chef and hostesses)
- Transfers by an air-conditioned minivan
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily prepared by your chef
- Captains farewell dinner on your last night
- Selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Excursions as per itinerary
- Use of barge facilities

ITINERARY

Deck Hotel Barge La Bella Vita

First Class | 20 Passengers | 6-10 Crew

- First Class | 20 Passengers | 6-10 Crew
- 148 Feet long
- 2 Twin/Double Junior Suites (130sq ft. incl. en suite)
- 8 Twin/Double Staterooms (105sq ft. incl. en suite)
- Air-Conditioned
- Centrally Heated
- Piano



Day 1 Mestre (Venice)

Guests are met at the **Best Western Hotel Bologna in Mestre*** and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to La Bella Vita for a prosecco welcome, followed by a late afternoon cruise 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 – before mooring near the Naval Museum and enjoying dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard Hotel Barge **La Bella Vita** in a Stateroom.

Dinner



Day 2 Venice San Pietro in Volta

This morning begins with a guided visit to the **Doge's Palace**, also known as Palazzo Ducale, a Gothic masterpiece that once served as the political and judicial centre of the Venetian Republic. Now a museum, it features magnificent chambers, grand staircases, and priceless artworks.

After lunch, there is free time to explore further, perhaps with a guided walking tour through the quiet Castello District and the Naval History Museum, home to historic vessels including ceremonial barges and warships.

Alternatively, visit **Murano island**, the renowned "Island of Glass", to see the famed glassworks. In the late afternoon, cruise to Pellestrina, separating the Venetian Lagoon from the Adriatic Sea, passing lagoon islands with ancient monasteries, colourful fishing boats and small churches. There may be time for a walk or cycle along the 18th-century Istrian Sea Wall before dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge La Bella Vita** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

San Pietro in Volta Taglio di Po

After breakfast, cruise to Chioggia, city of Goldoni's plays. Here you will **visit the 18th century Church of San Domenico** set on its own island, to see Carpaccio's St Paul, his last recorded painting and other works of art by Tintoretto and Bassano. You will also admire the **Piazzetta Vigo** and visit the colourful fish market. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a short tour of Chioggia's pretty canals in a traditional locally-built boat, before re-joining La Bella Vita. Passing through a nature reserve with flamingos and occasional heron, snipe and other wildfowl, travel upriver to Taglio di Po for dinner ashore hosted by the owners at the beautiful 17th Century Villa Ca'Zen, a private stately home by the river where Lord Byron courted the Countess Guiccioli and wrote some of his best poetry.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge La Bella Vita** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



LA BELLA VITA OUTSIDE PATIO

Day **4** Taglio di Po Zelo

This morning, the cruise continues along the **Bianco Canal** to Adria, an ancient Etruscan town with a visit to the Archaeological Museum. After lunch on board, the journey continues by road to the **Bagnoli Estate** to explore the Renaissance gardens and wine cellars of the 17th-century Villa Widmann Borletti, where a private tasting of the estate's renowned vintages is arranged. The winery has been a supplier to Venetian society for centuries. Later, the barge is re-joined in Zelo. Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge La Bella Vita** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



VILLA WIDMANN BORLETTI

Day **5** Zelo Vallazza

The morning begins with a guided tour of the Renaissance city of **Ferrara**, including views of the **Estense Castle** with its surrounding moat and a visit to the magnificent cathedral, whose sculpted façade is often described as an 'illustrated Bible'.

In the afternoon, return to the hotel barge in Trevenzuolo for a relaxing canal cruise past villages and farmsteads en route to Vallazza. Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge La Bella Vita** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6

Vallazza Mantua

The final cruise makes a dramatic approach to **Mantua**, birthplace of the poet Virgil and home to artists Mantegna and Donatello, set against a captivating lakeside backdrop. The city showcases exceptional neo-classical and baroque architecture, epitomised by the 14th-century Ducal Palace, once residence of the Gonzaga family. With its courtyards, gardens, museum, basilica and theatre, along with intricate frescoes, the Gallery of Mirrors, the Rivers Room and 12,000 artworks, Mantua provides a magnificent finale to this Italian Renaissance journey. **Captain's Farewell** Dinner on board.

Overnight stay onboard **Hotel Barge La Bella Vita** in a Stateroom.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **7**

Mantua Mestre

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to the Best Western Hotel Bologna in Mestre, opposite the Venezia Mestre train station.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Italian

LOCAL CURRENCY

EURO

FROM price reflects the lowest available price within the advertised travel period (e.g. April to October). Pricing varies depending on travel dates, availability and demand, and may not be available on all departures. Higher pricing applies during peak and shoulder periods. Final pricing is confirmed at the time of enquiry or booking. Please refer to [Pricing & Price Conditions](#) for full details, including inclusions, exclusions and other conditions.

- This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. On alternate weeks, the cruise will be in the reverse direction. Some cruises may be on the River Po, depending on the water level.
- This barge is available for charter bookings and theme cruises. Contact us for more details.
- Approximate transfer duration between pick up location and La Bella Vita = 15 minutes (Venice) or 2 hours (Mantua)

Pick-up Point

- Cabin bookings - Best Western Hotel Bologna in Mestre between 2:00pm - 2:30pm
- Charter booking - Marco Polo Airport OR any one location of the group's choice in Venice or Mestre at 2pm

Drop-off Point

- Cabin bookings - Best Western Hotel Bologna Mestre OR Mestre train station between 10:00am & 12noon (depending on the cruise direction)
- Charter bookings - As per cabin bookings drop off point, Marco Polo Airport OR any one location of the groups choice in Venice or Mestre between 10:00am and 12 noon (depending on the cruise direction)

* This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change - Blackout dates may apply during festive season.