

ITALY - Venice

We ended our Italian holiday with two nights in Venice. It was a perfect bookend to an amazing trip.

Hotel Reco **Hilton Molino Stucky - 2 nights**

The location was great - on Giudecca (across from Venezia) and close to Grand Canal. There is an amazing rooftop terrace (gorgeous to see at night with all the lights of the city), pool, and restaurant. The rooms are large (great with kids), and there are constant water shuttles to the main Venice port.



Things To Do

Venetian Mask-Making Class

We took a mask-making class from a master artisan. The kids learned about the history of the masks, the meaning of the designs, the carnival celebration and painting techniques. The best part was designing and painting our own masterpieces - they are still beloved souvenirs!



Gondola Rowing Lessons

This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We took rowing lessons in the heart of Venice, aboard a traditional Venetian boat. The instructors shared about the art of being a gondolier and taught hands-on rowing. We all got a chance to steer, row and maybe sing a little through various canals.



Other Recos

Sites

Be sure to walk through **Piazza San Marco**. The kids loved feeding the birds (but bring your food; peddlers will try to force you to buy seeds). The **Rialto Bridge** is a perfect picture spot with numerous little shops. **Doge's Palace** is a Gothic landmark with fascinating architecture. Don't forget **St. Mark's Basilica**—the gold ceilings are unbelievable. If you have enough time, the ride to **Murano** is worth seeing artisan glass-making up close.



Eating

There are some yummy foods in Venice, without a doubt. A family favorite is always gelato (once a day minimum), and a favorite is **Gelateria Gallonetto**. The pistachio isn't bright green, so you know it's not full of fake colors for tourists. The pies at **Crazy Pizza** were a hit with the entire crew. Lastly, **Antico Calice** is near Rialto Bridge and has classic Italian food everybody loves. If you want to taste history, swing by **Cipriani/Harry's Bar** (home of the Bellini). It's a bit touristy, but the drinks are delicious (and they have a kid's Bellini, too).



Getting Around

Venice has perfected waterway travel. If you arrive by train, you can take a private taxi or simply grab a water ferry to your destination (like a local). Go to www.actv.avmspa.it to get a ferry map ahead of time. If departing from Venice to the airport, we highly recommend getting a private boat taxi. It's a great way to get one last cruise of the waterways in a gorgeous classic wooden boat from **VeniceWaterTaxi**.



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