



# LEICA USER WEEKEND

A weekend in Venice, Italy







## FOREWORD

Dear Leica user,

Leica users are dedicated photographers with a certain style, thus we want to create a Leica User Weekend so we can get to know each other and share knowledge and have fun..

We are preparing the next Leica User Weekend that will be hosted the 26th-27th April 2014 in Venice, Italy.

For this occasion we would like to organize something special and capture a very unique scenario with Our Leica cameras.

This Leica User Meet Up will be about:

- Having two great, unforgettable shooting days.
- Visiting the hidden and less touristic sites of the city, a unique experience.
- Sharing and learning from each other while shooting and afterwards.
- Having fun together, and meeting new Leica users.
- Workshop about wide-angle photography, and reflections.





## THE PLAN

We will offer a full “taken-care-of” trip, where we’ll make sure any request/desire is fulfilled. You spend a memorable time.

### **The Itinerary**

It will be developed in the ‘around’ areas of well known touristic places in Venice:

S.Marco, Cannaregio, Castello, Dorsoduro, S.Polo, S.Croce

This will allow to explore the less known corners of the city and below we will give you an alternative sneak preview of this unique city.

# WELCOME TO VENICE, THE CITY OF THE DOGES.

## HIDDEN CORNERS

As you all know Venice is always thought of as a very touristic city. For this special meet up we are going to let you breathe the city through less known routes, having the possibility to capture the city from an unexpected angle.

If you were standing in Piazza San Marco, the heart of Venice, on a clear day, you would see -amid the hundreds of pigeons and tourists- the massive bell tower, the basilica of San Marco, the Doge's Palace, the honeycomb-like presence of the Procuratie enclosing the Piazza, and a glorious opening, the only opening, to the water.

If you didn't know Venice you couldn't guess that this city was surrounded by and infused in water.

**“surrounded by water”** If you were to go a hundred meters above the paving stones of the Piazza, say by taking the elevator to the top of the campanile, you would realize that this most peculiar city was completely surrounded by water but you would not see any sign of the myriad of canals that crisscross her.

All you would see was a pleated mantle of uniform terra cotta tiles, punctuated by the occasional bell tower, floating in the green waters of the lagoon.

**“a city shaped like a fish”** If you were to go five hundred meters above the paving stones, you would see what Jacopo de' Barbari could have only imagined half a millennium ago, but managed to render with astonishing precision on pa-

per: a city shaped like a fish, made of a hundred pieces, glued together with just water.

This most impossible, most singular, most miraculous city is Venice.

With This special itinerary, we will embark on an irreverent tour of the city.

**“where few tourists tread”** We will not spend much time in the basilica of San Marco, the Doge's Palace or the Rialto bridge, instead we will visit some of our favorite corners, where the pulse of the real city beats in the hurried stride of the Venetians and where few tourists tread.

Before we unveil our tour, a few words about the geography of the city to warm up.

Venice is divided into six districts called Sestieri. This is a very ancient division dating back to the middle of the XII century, or perhaps before. Each Sestiere has its own idiosyncrasy and traditions, even its own manner of speech.

To the north and east of the Grand Canal we find the Sestieri of San Marco, Castello and Cannaregio.

To the South and West: Dorsoduro, San Polo and Santa Croce.

There are five cardinal points in Venice: Ferrovia, Piazzale Roma, Piazza San Marco, Rialto and Accademia.



Knowing where they are on the map will help you navigate the city.

If you get lost, prominent yellow signs throughout the city will direct you to those locations.

Follow them only if you absolutely need to.

Half the fun of getting to know Venice is being lost in its labyrinthine self. One never knows what hidden treasure awaits around the corner.

**“no cars”** There are no cars in Venice except for a small area around Piazzale Roma where the bus terminal and the car parking are located.

The islands are connected by bridges, over four hundred of them, that will take you anywhere without the need of ever being on water.

Contrary to some people's belief, every building in the city can be reached on foot, but not every building can be reached by water.

One of the most efficient ways to move around is to ride the vaporetto or water bus. There are several stops or fermata along the Grand Canal and on the periphery of the city.

A ride on line 1 is the best way to see the many palaces and few churches that grace the Grand Canal, the most magnificent avenue in the world.

A few words about Venetian lexicon are also a must.

A regular Venetian street, usually very narrow, is called a CALLE, a very Venetian term for the Italian strada or via. The terms STRADA, via and VIALE in Venice are reserved for rather recent streets, usually wide for Venetian standards, opened during the Austrian occupation or after the unification with the rest of Italy. A FONDA-MENTA is a street on the side of a canal; so is a RIVA.

A sottoportico or SOTOPORTEGO is a street or short section of a street under a building. A CORTE is a short street usually leading to a dead end. A RAMO is a branch of a more important street. A salizzata or SALIZADA is a street that was paved in times when others were not. A PISCINA is a street that used to be a pond. RUGA refers to some of the oldest streets opened in Venice, they usually have shops.

**“there is only one piazza”** A rio terrà or RIO TERA' is a filled-in canal. A LISTA is a street where an embassy used to be. A CAMPO is a square, usually paved despite its name (campo means field) and near a church. A CAMPIELLO is a small campo. PIAZZA, well...there is only one piazza in Venice: Piazza San Marco.

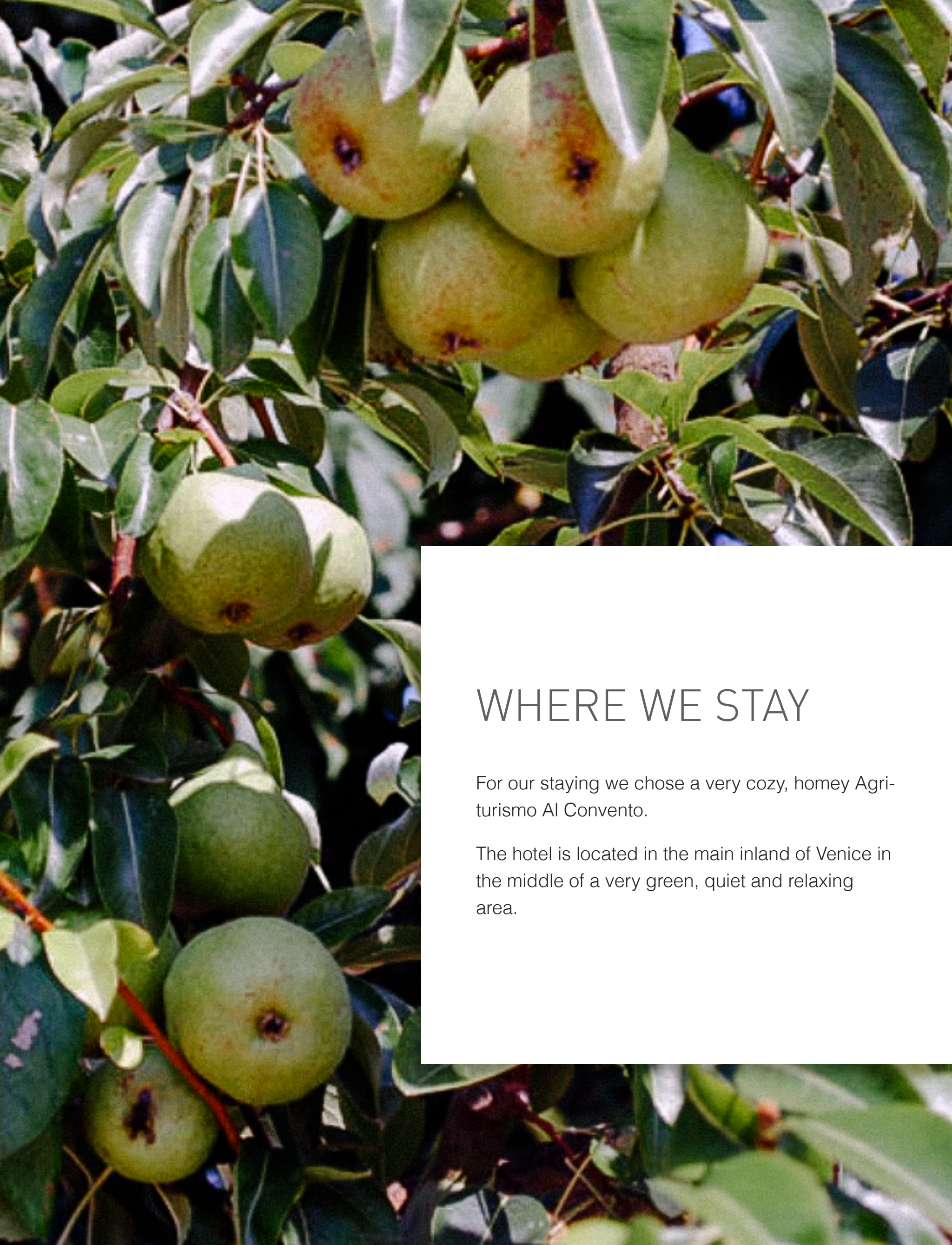
There are only four canals in Venice: Canal Grande, Canal de la Giudecca, Canal de Cannaregio, and Canal de San Piero. All the other watercourses are called rio or riello. A traghetto is a gondola ferry, a traditional and efficient way to cross the Grand Canal.

Taking the traghetto will give you a taste for a gondola ride at a fraction of the cost and you will get to do it with true Venetians; the only con (or

added bonus depending on your point of view)  
is that you must do it standing up.

This is just a foreword to our trip to Venice! A detailed itinerary will be delivered as soon as you decide to participate.





## WHERE WE STAY

For our staying we chose a very cozy, homey Agriturismo Al Convento.

The hotel is located in the main inland of Venice in the middle of a very green, quiet and relaxing area.





## THE HOTEL

The hotel is family run and the food and cuisine is typical of the Venetian tradition: it is genuine and almost all the ingredients used are from the local crops and threshing of the neighboring farms.

The hotel as well dates back to of 1300 to the Congregation of the Franciscan Order, who between the late 1500s and early 1600s settled in this land and built small monastic dwellings, for short periods of stay, to live only from early spring to late autumn, the time required for the cultivation of vegetables, medicinal herbs and the breeding of small animals.

The whole structure has been recently restored and the rooms are cozy.

In this hotel you will get time to relax after a full day in Venice walking and sharing some quality time together talking about photography!





# SUBSCRIPTION

On the next page you will find information about how to subscribe for the Leica User Weekend in Venice, Italy.





## ENROLLMENT

Of course since we're talking about a whole weekend this costs something, we've aimed at keeping it low cost, so it's a manageable price for everyone.

What is included in the price:

- Transfer/transportation from the airport to the hotel and back.
- Hotel stay
- Dinner/Breakfast
- Water bottles on the go
- Workshop, and meeting.



What is not included in the price:

- Travel to and from Venice from where you live.
- Possible Public transportation, bus, water bus
- Entrance to museums, although group discount will be in order.

Prices:

Single person:

€410,- per person

Couples (staying in a double bedroom):

€365,- per person.

#### SUBSCRIPTION DEADLINE:

We would really appreciate it if you would subscribe before mid March. Payments have to be made, and received before the actual meeting.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

For questions and reservations you can contact  
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We are looking forward to seeing you in Venice,

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