

VENICE: ON THE TRAIL OF TITIAN

As the 'In the Age of Giorgione' exhibition opens at the RA, head to the Italian city to see more Renaissance works in their birthplace



Rex Features

By [Caroline Lewis](#)

2 March 2016

This month, a series of Renaissance masterpieces will arrive in London for the Royal Academy's 'In the Age of Giorgione' exhibition. The Venetian school came to prominence in the early 16th century, when painters such as Giovanni Bellini and his talented family were paving the way for Venice to become the art capital of Europe. By the turn of the century, Titian and Giorgione were winning significant commissions and garnering acclaim; Tintoretto, Veronese and Bassano all continued the city's great tradition.



'Christ and the Adulteress' by Titian
CGS CIC Glasgow Museum Collections

The RA has curated a selection of these works to be shown in London this spring, but the famous frescoes and altarpieces can't come to the capital. Instead, see them in Venice, where Art Tours will provide an informed local guide to lead you around the key works, from the 13th-century paintings by Paolo Veneziano in the Galleria Accademia to the great Titian pieces gracing the Santa Maria della Salute and the San Frari churches. Giovanni Bellini's altarpiece can be admired at the San Zaccaria church in the Castello *sestiere*.

Where to stay

For art lovers, the perfect choice is the Baglioni Hotel Luna, which has two suites dedicated to Titian and Giorgione, as well as a fresco in the grand breakfast-room by Tiepolo. It's located steps from San Marco and around the corner from Harry's Bar. Guests can arrive in style via a private, water-taxi-friendly jetty.



A suite at Baglioni Hotel Luna
Courtesy of Baglioni Hotels

Where to eat

The lagoon-side city has the seafood offering you'd expect, with everything from sardines and octopus to *spaghetti alle vongole* and sea snails served up in abundance. For a long,

languorous lunch, try Trattoria alla Madonna on the *calle* of the same name, near the Rialto, on the northern side of the bridge. Some of the city's best *cicchetti* can be found in Dorsoduro and Cannaregio, two neighbourhoods with a far more local feel; we recommend [Cantinone Già Schiavi](#), overlooking a gondola garage on 992 Fondamente Nani in Dorsoduro – it's a fine example of the famous Venetian side-street *bacari* (open daily until 8.30pm).

No visitor to Italy can leave without consuming several scoops of gelato; in Venice, the best can be found at Alaska (1159 Santa Croce), Il Doge (on Rio Terà Canal, near Campo Santa Margherita) and [Grom](#) (Campo San Barnaba). Sweet teeth can find further delights at [Pasticceria Tonolo](#) on Calle San Pantalon – once they've got past the queue of locals buying their daily baked goods.

The Renaissance in Venice package costs from £945 a person, including flights, accommodation at the [Baglioni Hotel Luna](#) and a guided tour, with [Art Tours Ltd](#) (020 7449 9707). Stay in the Titian and Giorgione Suites from £1,695 a person. Rooms at the hotel start from about £220 a room a night B&B (+39 041 528 9840). 'In the Age of Giorgione' is on at the [Royal Academy](#) until 5 June.

© 2016 Hearst Magazines UK is the trading name of the National Magazine Company Ltd, 72 Broadwick Street, London, W1F 9EP. Registered in England 112955. All rights reserved.

HARPER'S BAZAAR, PART OF THE HEARST UK FASHION & BEAUTY NETWORK

© 2016 Hearst Magazines UK is the trading name of the National Magazine Company Ltd, 72 Broadwick Street, London, W1F 9EP. Registered in England 112955. All rights reserved.

HARPER'S BAZAAR, PART OF THE HEARST UK FASHION & BEAUTY NETWORK