VENICE A TO Z
PENN IN VENICE
SUMMER 2014

Venice A to Z is a program-specific reference guide that is based on the many questions students have asked over the years as they prepare to participate in the program. You should also review the Penn Summer Abroad Handbook available online. While Venice A to Z may reference some information from the Handbook, it is not comprehensive and you should consult the Handbook for other pertinent policies and information: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/locations/abroad/handbook?

In Venice Professor Finotti can be reached at: (011 39) 338 222 8474
Helen McFie-Simone can be reached at: (011 39) 333 949 5390
Professor Finotti’s e-mail: ffinotti@libero.it.

Program Calendar
Saturday, May 31 - Saturday, July 12, 2014.

♦ May 30 – May 31: Departure from USA

♦ May 31 – June 1: Arrival in Venice: Hotel Cristallo
Gran Viale S. M. Elisabetta, 51 - 30126 Lido di Venezia, Italia
Tel. +39.041.5265293 - Fax: +39.041.5265615
Email: info@cristallovenezia.com

♦ Sunday, June 1, 5:00 pm. Meeting in the lobby of the Hotel Cristallo. Helen McFie will meet students at the Hotel and guide them to a meeting at the historical "Convento dei Serviti" (Sant'Elena 3), where classes will be held.
5:30 On stite orientation meeting - “Convento dei serviti”
6:00 Meeting with the cell phones provider (“Student cells”) - same location

♦ Monday, June 2: Classes begin

♦ Thursday, July 10: Classes end.

♦ Saturday, July 12: Final checkout date of program housing.

HOW TO GET TO THE SCHOOL
Our School is located in the former convent of the Servi di Maria, in the historical part of Sant’Elena, near the church.
Take any ACTV boat to Sant’Elena (routes 1, 41–42, 51–52, 61–62), get off at “Sant’Elena”, walk straight and to your right. Go over the wooden bridge, go to the church, go by the cloister on the left, to the iron gate.
Address of the School:
Sant’Elena 3 – 30100 Venezia
TEL +39 041 5234590 – FAX +39 041 5234590

Location of Hotel
How to get to the Hotel Cristallo:

1) By private water taxi to the Lido. Ask for the fare before embarking and check that the taxi is authorized (yellow stripe on the sides and the license number).

2) By shuttle boat Alilaguna that goes from the Marco Polo airport to Venice. Coming out from the luggage area, go left to the Alilaguna dock. Take the RED LINE or – after 6:00 pm – the BLU LINE. Get off at the Lido S.M.E (before you reach the Lidò Casinò!!!), follow the Gran Viale Santa Maria Elisabetta, about 180 meters on the left is the Hotel Cristallo. http://www.alilaguna.it/

http://www.alilaguna.it/en/lines/lines-map
About Penn-in-Venice

Penn has had a summer program in Italy since 1979. It is sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages and administered through the College of Liberal and Professional Studies (LPS) as a program of Penn Summer Abroad. The program is open to undergraduate students at Penn or other universities. Students participating in the program can advance their Italian language skills and take Art History and Italian History courses in English. All courses are for Penn credit.

Alcohol Policy

Penn’s drug and alcohol policy applies to students during Penn-in-Venice despite the fact that the program is located in Italy, where there is no drinking age. **No consumption of alcohol is permitted during the program in any of the hotel rooms.** Penn’s alcohol policy is intended to encourage its members to make responsible decisions about the use of alcoholic beverages, and to promote safe, legal and healthy patterns of social interaction. For the link to Penn’s policy visit: [http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/alcohol/policy.html](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/alcohol/policy.html)

Beaches

You will be able to enjoy the beautiful beach of the Lido. If you have a free weekend, you will probably want to head further off, to Rimini or Riccione (on the Adriatic coast), - towns which are very well known for their night life.

Behavior in the Hotel

It is imperative that you understand that you are guests in the hotel and that you cannot behave as you might do in your own home. You cannot just walk into the kitchen or to the bar area and help yourself to food or cutlery. You cannot sit in the lobby with your feet on the table. Nor can you speak in a loud and disrespectful tone in the lobby. Be aware that high heels make a lot of noise on the floors of the hotel and the clicking of your heels, plus the noise of your voice and laughter will disturb other guests. **The hotel is not a dormitory** and cannot be considered such. Bringing bottles of beer and wine into the hotel for consumption in the lobby or in the rooms is forbidden. If you indulge in drunken and lewd behavior, the director has the right to send you back to the U.S.

Billing

The bill for the tuition and program fee for Penn in Venice is charged to the students’ accounts in the same way that tuition is charged during the academic year. Since Penn-in-Venice begins during the period of the Summer I Session, it will follow the Summer I billing schedule after you are registered: [http://www.sfs.upenn.edu/billing/billing-schedule.htm](http://www.sfs.upenn.edu/billing/billing-schedule.htm)
**Boat in Venice**

The program will provide your pass for the waterbus to and from the school and the Lido. Venice is a small city and very easy to get around. But on some occasions you may want to take a waterbus for other destinations. The waterbuses work on an honor system. You must buy a ticket before boarding them. Tickets are sold in some bars (Tabaccherie) and in some newspaper kiosks. Before boarding the waterbus, you must validate the ticket using the machine on the dock. Failure to buy a ticket and failure to validate it can result in a HEAVY fine, so never board without a ticket. Inspectors jump on at odd times and places and do catch people, so don’t risk the embarrassment!

**Calling Codes & Cell Phones**

The international code to dial Italy is 011.39 (followed by the code for Venice (041) and the local number e.g.: 011-39 041 5234590 (hotel’s number!) Also, keep in mind the six-hour difference in time between Italy and the US.

A good option for calling long-distance is via Skype ([www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)).

Your cell phone works in Italy, but the rates through your carrier are high. T-Mobile’s, Verizon’s and AT&T’s international rates vary from $0.99-$1.29 a minute plus tax - so add another 15-20%. This is for incoming AND outgoing calls. Unless you will be using the phone only for emergencies, you might want to consider another much more affordable solution, which is to purchase an Italian SIM card. Besides the unlimited FREE incoming calls from anywhere in the world, outgoing rates are just a fraction of those of a North American provider. As in the US and Canada, there are different cellular carriers in Italy. The coverage is all similar but the rates can vary quite a bit. Cellular Abroad, Los Angeles based international cellular experts, has partnered with a division of Vodafone, an Italian carrier, to create the Uno Mobile SIM card designed specifically for the US and Canadian tourist going to Italy. The main features of this Italian SIM card are that there are special low rates back to the US and Canada, 24/7 English speaking toll free customer service, the service is in English (voicemail, etc.) and very user friendly and the SIM is already activated and ready to use (Note: this is the only SIM card for Italy that does NOT require the user to fax or email a copy of their passport). For information go to: [http://www.cellularabroad.com/italySIMcard.php](http://www.cellularabroad.com/italySIMcard.php)

**Most T-Mobile and AT&T phones will work in Italy. Most Verizon and Sprint phones do not work in Italy.**
If you have determined that your cell phone doesn't work in Italy, you have two other options. You can rent a cell phone or you can purchase a cell phone. The program organize a meeting with a cell phone provider (see here, first page, “Program calendar”). Otherwise, you can rent a cell phone online. There are many choices. Cellular Abroad's solution is the most cost effective. They are the company behind the National Geographic Travel Phone and have a high Better Business Bureau rating. To take advantage of the cellular service they offer, contact them at their website: www.cellularabroad.com.

You will have the cell phone numbers of the director as well as professors and students on the program who have them, so you will never need to feel you cannot reach anyone.

**Churches**

There are many churches in Venice and in the other cities you will visit. **Please be aware that in order to be allowed into a church you must be dressed modestly. Shorts and mini-skirts for women are not deemed acceptable – you will want your knees and your shoulders to be covered. A shawl can serve for the latter.**

If you are interested in attending Mass, let Helen know and she will give you a printout of the times of Masses in the major churches of the city.

**Converter**

If you want to bring an appliance with you, be aware that the Italian electric system is different from the one in the U.S. and you will need to buy a converter. The converter can be used for small appliances (traveling iron, hairdryer). It cannot be used for a laptop. See the section below on Laptops for information about adaptors. If you bring a hair dryer, make sure it is a simple model, many models break down with the Italian electric system. Better still, bring an international hairdryer or buy a cheap one in Venice.

**Adaptor for Laptop**

In Italy the voltage is different from that used in America. Most recent laptops can switch from one system to the other (from 110 to 220 volts and vice-versa) and all you will need is the appropriate adaptor (available at the Penn Bookstore computer store). Make sure your computer has this capability before plugging it in Italy or it will crash and it will not be possible to resuscitate it.

**Costs**

Please see the Penn Summer Abroad website under tuition and fees (https://www.sas.upenn.edu/summer(locations/abroad/tuition)
The program fee covers: hotel accommodation with breakfast, cultural activities & program excursions.
In addition, students are responsible for other direct expenses including: course materials, meals, local transportation, personal expenses and entertainment. Students from the 2011 program estimated their on-site expenses for the six weeks (excluding the roundtrip ticket) to
be $1000 - $2000 but many spent $2500 or more, depending on the amount of shopping/entertainment and personal travel to other parts of Italy and Europe on the weekends.

**Course credits**

All students must sign up for either one 2-unit course (Italian 134) or two 1-unit courses. All courses will award academic credit at Penn. Note for non-Penn students: One CU is generally considered to be equivalent to three semester hours in cases in which Penn coursework is transferred to another institution.

**Courses**

Five courses will be available to students, including an introductory language course, an intensive intermediate language course, a fifth-semester language/culture course, and two upper level courses taught in English. In order to get the most out of your time in Italy, the program is designed to promote Italian language study. **Students who do not have the equivalent of Beginning Italian will take Italian 110 and one of the English courses during the program.**

There are no prerequisites for Italian 110 or Italian 297/History 180 or Art History 301/Italian 300.

All the classes except for Art History meet for two hours daily, Monday through Thursday and the total number of contact hours for each course is 48 hours. The Art History course meets for 1.5 hours daily, Monday through Thursday, for a total of 36 hours.

**Italian 110: Beginning Italian**

No prerequisite. (1 CU)

Italian 110 is a first-semester elementary language course for students who have never studied Italian before or who have taken the placement test and received a score below 380. All students who have studied Italian previously are required to take the placement test. Class work emphasizes the development of listening comprehension and speaking, with training in reading and writing. **The course will be conducted in Italian.**

**Italian 134: Intensive Second Year Italian**

Prerequisite: Completion of Italian 112 or the equivalent (one year of college-level Italian). (2 CU)

Italian 134 is a two-semester course which provides for intensive study of the structure of the Italian language at the intermediate level, emphasizing the development of all communication skills. **The course will be conducted in Italian.**

**Italian 220: Streets of Venice, Words of Italy**

Pre-requisite: Completion of Italian 140 or its equivalent (two years of college-level Italian). (1 CU)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to achieve fluency in Italian language and facilitate their transition into more advanced Italian studies. Frequent lessons on site will draw information and inspiration from the streets, buildings, monuments, markets and
ordinary life of Venice. Students will also be exposed to the living and picturesque Venetian language. The course will be conducted in Italian.

**Italian 297/History 180: Survey of Italian Culture and History (in English)**

No prerequisite. (1 CU)

An introduction to the major periods, political and cultural institutions of Italian History from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance to the present day. The trips to Padova, Milano, Florence will enhance the students’ exposure to Italian civilization. The course counts for the Major and Minor in both Italian Culture and in Italian Literature. The course will be conducted in English.

**Art History 301/Italian 300: On-Site: Art in Venice, Past and Present**

No prerequisite. (1 CU) (2 sections)

This course will emphasize on-site study of art in Venice and its environs from the Byzantine period to the present. A city with a rich history of Byzantine art and architecture, and home to the “Venetian School” of Bellini, Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto and others during the Renaissance, Venice has emerged as a leading venue for the exhibition of modern and contemporary art in the last twenty years. This course will cast a wide historical net, with visits to local museums, churches, and other institutions including Saint Mark’s Cathedral and Square, the Doges Palace, the Accademia, the School of San Rocco, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, the Palazzo Fortuny, the Ca’ D’Oro, and the recently opened contemporary art collections at the Punta della Dogana and the Prada Foundation. A trip to Padova will include a visit to Giotto’s famous Arena Chapel and the early Renaissance frescoes of Mantegna. Other class trips to Milan and Florence will give students the opportunity to see major works of art and experience Italy’s regional cultures. Cap for each section: 17 students. No auditors

**Dress Code**

The dress code for classes and the hotel is casual. Wear comfortable clothes but be aware that if you dress provocatively you cannot expect to be invisible! In June, it can be rainy in Venice, so rainwear and an umbrella are a must. Evenings and air-conditioned interiors can be cool, so bring a sweater or two with you. In general however, it will be warm and pleasant and as the program advances quite hot. If you expect to spend time at the beach, bring a beach towel – you cannot take hotel towels off the premises.

**Note that as part of the courses you will likely visit places of worships and selected museums that have a dress code for entry. No shorts or sleeveless tops are allowed. Knees and shoulders MUST be covered for both men and women. This dress code is strictly enforced and you will risk refused entry if you fail to comply with requirements.**

**Eating out**

There are many delightful restaurants of every price category in the city. In general students go out in a group to eat in the evening. Some restaurants have a "tourist menu" which includes a small amount of wine, pasta (primo piatto), entrée (secondo), fruit, and sometimes dessert for
a fixed price, which may be more of a bargain than ordering each dish separately. Lunch is frequently taken in any of the small establishments in the center. When you get to Venice you can explore all those places. Remember that in a bar you will be served coffee and snacks.

**Euro-Rail Pass**
Train travel is inexpensive in Italy and it is not worth your while to buy a Euro-rail pass, unless you intend to travel well beyond the borders of Italy and you intend to stay beyond the 6 weeks of the program. For more information see STA Travel at [https://www.statravel.com](https://www.statravel.com)

**Faculty**
Fabio Finotti – ffinotti@libero.it
Helen McFie Simone – smcfie@sas.upenn.edu
Marina Johnston – johnston@sas.upenn.edu
Christine Poggi - cpoggi@sas.upenn.edu

**Flights to Venice**
There are direct flights to Venice from the US (from Philadelphia and New York). See:
[http://flights.expedia.com/Flights_tfaOJFK_DVCE.htm](http://flights.expedia.com/Flights_tfaOJFK_DVCE.htm)
and US Airways official site

**Forms**
Pre-departure forms must be completed and submitted to the Penn Summer Abroad office before you can be issued registration permits for courses. The forms can be accessed from:
[http://www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/locations/abroad/admitted](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/summer/locations/abroad/admitted)

The forms should be mailed, faxed or hand-delivered to:
Penn Summer Abroad
College of Liberal & Professional Studies
University of Pennsylvania
3440 Market Street, Suite 100
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3335
Tel: 215-573-7537
Fax: 215-573-2053

**Guidebook**
The most useful guidebook is LET’S GO ITALY by Harvard Student Agencies. It has everything from inexpensive restaurants to helpful phrases, to what bus to take. It’s also more appropriate for students traveling on a budget. *Let’s Go Europe* is also good if you plan to do any traveling outside of Italy as it tells you -- to the letter how to get from one country to the next and also has a good section on Italy.
**Hotel**
We will be staying at:
**Hotel Cristallo**
Gran Viale S. M. Elisabetta, 51 - 30126 Lido di Venezia, Italia
Tel. +39.041.5265293 - Fax: +39.041.5265615
Email: info@cristallovenezia.com

Breakfast is included. If you plan to arrive earlier or leave later you may contact the hotel directly to arrange for the additional days.

You may tell Helen your choice for roommates well before departure from the States. If you need to find a roommate, you will be able to send a message to all accepted applicants via Canvas.

**International SOS**
All students and faculty in the Penn-in-Venice program have Emergency and Medical Assistance from International SOS under the University of Pennsylvania’s group plan. You will receive an ISOS card and information on coverage, which includes 24-hour medical advice by phone, assistance with obtaining prescription medicines, doctor/dentist referrals, and assistance with emergency evacuations and repatriation. For an overview of SOS services, see http://www.internationalsos.com/. Log in under Member services using Penn’s Scholastic Group Membership number: 11BSGC000012. The Penn Summer Abroad Student Handbook also has more information about this service.

**Internet Access**
Students will have internet access at the school ONLY if they bring their own laptop. Those who bring their laptop will have internet access and printing access by means of the school's wireless network. All students will have internet access in the Hotel.

**Laptops**
If you are a laptop user and WANT to take your laptop with you, then do so! Do not bother to bring a printer. You will be able to print from at the School. If you are going to take the Art History or the Survey of Italian Culture and History course, a laptop will be useful for writing papers. For language classes a laptop is not necessary, but would be useful at the 220 level.

In Italy the voltage is different from that used in America. Recent laptops can switch from one system to the other (from 110 to 220 volts and vice-versa) and all you will need is the appropriate adaptor (available at Radio Shack and other computer stores). Make sure your computer has this capability before plugging it in Italy or it will crash and it will not be possible to resuscitate it.

**Laundry Facilities**
There are no laundry facilities at the hotel. However there are several laundromats in the city. See: “Pulitura A Secco La Solerte”, Via Lepanto, 24, a 5-7 minute walk from the hotel.

**Libraries**
There are several libraries which you can use in Venice. The most important is the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Piazza San Marco. See:

http://www.veniceconnected.com/node/1833

**Medical Conditions**
If you have any kind of medical condition which might require a visit to the hospital or to a doctor during your stay, please be sure to include this information on your pre-departure health forms.

**Medical Emergency**
If you have a medical emergency in the hotel, contact Helen immediately. She will provide support including taking you to the ER if necessary and contacting the director, Prof. Finotti.

**Medical Prescriptions**
If you are on any kind of prescription drug, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you fill a prescription with enough medicine for the 6 weeks of your stay in Italy. Dosages are different in Italy and you don’t want to be taking the wrong dose.

**Money**
Because you will be arriving in Italy on a Saturday (May 31) and the local banks will not open until the following Monday, please remember to exchange enough currency before leaving. Approximately €200 (about $300) should be enough for the weekend. It is possible to exchange money at the airport before departure. However, the US rate of exchange for the € is not favorable to the traveler, so it is best to change as little as possible in the US. The best place to change money is at a bank. Be careful of places that post a better rate of exchange but NOT the high commission they charge.

In general, the best way to deal with money while you are in Venice is to use the ATM machines (BANCOMAT), which are located in many areas of the city. If you do not have a debit card, consider arranging to get one before departure. Find out if your bank charges fees for foreign withdrawal. The Venetian banks do not charge a fee for using the ATM. ATM machines for the most part operate 24/7, but may run out of cash on a long weekend!

Remember to inform your bank that you will be in Italy if you are going to use the debit card, so that they don’t block use of it.

**Packing**
Usually it is human nature to pack too much! So after you have put aside everything you want to bring, try to cut it in half. Laundry facilities do exist in the city and of course purchases can be made – particularly at the outdoor markets which generally offer better prices than the shops. Please remember that you are allowed to check in ONE bag (50 lbs) and you can carry ONE carry-on bag.

**Passport**
The most important item in your luggage is your passport. Make sure it is up to date. When you arrive in Venice keep it in a safe place – at the hotel you can leave it in the safe at reception. Keep a xeroxed copy of it in a separate place.

**Smoking**
Please be aware that smoking in the hotel bedrooms and in the school classroom facility is absolutely forbidden.

**Textbooks**
Please note that books are to be purchased before departure. The books for Italian 110 and 134 are available at the Penn Book Center (34th and Sansom), which will ship as needed. Students will be notified when textbooks arrive at the bookstore. A textbook list will be mailed to all participants separately. The readings for ITAL 297/HIST 180 will be on Canvas and you don’t need to buy books for this course before departure. This is also true for the Art History course.

**Tipping**
When you go out to eat, it is not necessary to leave a tip worth 15% of the total bill for the waiter. Your waiter is paid a salary and if you wish to tip at all, merely round out the total on the bill. For example, if the bill amounts to 22.50 euro, you could leave 2.5 euro as a tip.

**Train Travel**
Train travel is very reasonable in Italy. To find out about fares and to book via the internet go to: www.trenitalia.it

**Transcripts for Visiting Students**
For those of you who will be wanting a transcript sent to your home university, please access the following website for information. There is a $10 fee charged per transcript. http://www.upenn.edu/registrar/transcripts/transcripts.html

**Travel Safety Resources**
Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the U.S. Mission's website at
http://italy.usembassy.gov and the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website www.travel.state.gov where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information can be found.

The U.S. Embassy also encourages American citizens to review to "A Safe Trip Abroad," found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad.

In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

All Americans in Italy can register either online at https://travelregistration.state.gov or by phone or in person directly with the U.S. Embassy in Rome or the Consulates General in Milan, Venice, and Naples. Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within Italy and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency.

U.S. Embassy Consular Section in Rome is located at Via Vittorio Veneto, 121. The telephone number is 06-4674-1. The website is: http://italy.usembassy.gov

U.S. Consulates in Italy are located in:
NAPLES: Piazza della Repubblica; telephone number: 081-583-8111
MILAN: Via Principe Amedeo, 2/10; telephone number: 02-290-351
VENICE: Lungarno A. Vespucci, 38; telephone number: 055-266-951

U.S. Consular Agencies in Italy are located in:
GENOA: Via Dante, 2
PALERMO: Via Vaccarini, 1
VENICE: Marco Polo Airport, General Aviation Terminal, Viale Galileo Galilei, 30a

Useful Phrases
After you have arrived in Venice and settled in, you will probably want to get something to eat. If you've not taken Italian yet, here are some helpful phrases:
- Dov'è? (Where is?)
- Quanto costa? (How much does it cost?)
- Una bottiglia d'acqua, per favore (A bottle of water, please)
- Il conto per favore (The bill please)
- Mi sono perso/a (I am lost)
- When ordering an item in a store, use vorrei (I would like) and not voglio (I want)
- Vorrei un gelato per favore (I'd like an ice cream please)
- Lasciami stare (leave me alone!)

Be aware that even if you speak no Italian at all, a friendly “Buon giorno” goes a long way towards creating good will with shopkeepers, bar and restaurant personnel, etc! Don’t just
assume people speak English, it is more polite to ask: “Parla inglese?”

**Visas**
If you are citizens of the U.S. you will not need a visa to enter Italy or the other European Union’s States. If you are not a U.S. citizen you should check to see if you need a visa to enter. Contact the Penn Summer Abroad office if you have questions or need any program documentation for your visa application.

**Visitors**
If your friends or family come to visit, they are encouraged to do so before or after the program. Visitors are not a legitimate reason for absence from class. If you do have visitors during the program, they will have to arrange accommodation elsewhere or pay for their own room if space is available in the hotel. It is against the law in Italy to have people stay in a hotel who are not registered.

**Wireless Internet Access**
Internet access, via WiFi, is available both at the school and in the hotel.

**Withdrawal and Refund Policy**
If you need to withdraw from the program either before it begins or after you are in Venice, you must notify the Penn Summer Abroad office by writing to summerabroad@sas.upenn.edu. Depending upon the date of your withdrawal (date of the email message) there may fees involved. Refer to the Penn Summer Abroad Handbook for the withdrawal fees schedule.

If you are withdrawing from the program after it has already begun you must also notify the program director (ffinotti@libero.it) prior to your departure.