



*Italy*

*Part 3*

*Back  
to Venice*

*June 12 - 13, 2015*



June 12, 2015 - Our third day in Venice we had a scheduled afternoon tour of St. Mark's Basilica and the Doges Palace. First thing in the morning after our breakfast buffer at the hotel, we headed out to wander and walk our feet off some more and just explore.

On the right is a water faucet. They are all over the place in both Italy and France. I drank the water in both countries and it tasted so good and pure. I can't drink American tap water and only drink bottled water or from my filtered Brita pitcher. So what are they doing to their water that American water utility companies don't do?







Someone Anna met told her about a Lithuanian art exhibit that was there for the week of art. We asked for directions and somehow found our way there without getting lost or walking in circles.







More walking, wandering  
and exploring all the  
nooks and crannies of  
back canals of Venice.







The inside of one of the many old churches. There was this large picture in the church (below) of one of the Popes, but I have no idea which one.

Looks like this Pope could be saying, "Ai-yi-yi...being Pope-ah is-ah so much-ah responsibility-ah!!"







From the very old to the very new and modern.







The opera theater.







And back to St. Mark's piazza a little ahead of our scheduled tour time. I had one of those "perfect moments" when one of the bands playing at the outdoor cafes serenaded us with "Love is a Many Splendor Thing". I'm such an oldie movies fan. I caught the band playing a bit of it on video though!













The Florian Tea Room is a very old and famous cafe in St. Mark's piazza.







We met our knowledgeable tour guide who took us inside St. Mark's Basilica, but we weren't allowed to take any photos inside. Then she took us right next door to The Doges Palace.

Above a stairway up into the second floor of The Doges Palace. The old time rulers of Venice were called "Doges". On the right a view of the courtyard from the second floor.















Italy is known for its  
ornate ceiling art.







That's a clock on the right  
with 24 hours







This room is supposed to be the largest room in a building I think she said in Europe that is not supported by columns in the middle.







That's an astrological clock  
on the right to tell the  
month by which astrological  
sign it pointed to.



















After seeing the rooms of the palace, some of which were where people were put on trial, we crossed over the inside of "The Bridge of Sighs" named because those who crossed over it were being sent down into the jail to await their fate.







A dark and dreary place.







We weren't condemned to stay there in jail to await some gloomy fate, and crossed back over to exit The Doges Palace.







An exterior staircase of  
The Doges Palace.

Just as it was getting later  
into the evening and the sun  
was setting...we saw the  
outside of the Bridge of  
Sighs.







I guess I was checking my iPhone to make sure I got a good photo of this creature above!  
I know for sure we were resting our feet and quenching our thirst from the heat.







Our last night in Venice was spent chatting with this charming young Italian guy above, Enrico. He was the bartender at our hotel.

We were getting hungry, and he told us where to get the best pizza. He was right!! He said it was because the pizza maker was from Naples. Apparently Naples is known for good pizza. We walked around the corner a short way to get pizzas "to go" and brought them back to the hotel bar, where we shared pizza with Enrico and had great fun telling stories and sharing a bit of our lives before moving on. I ate just about that entire pizza there on the left. I wish I could fly back there now and get another!







June 13, 2015 - Our hotel was just across the Grand Canal from the train station where we had tickets to board a high speed train to Firenze (Florence).

Oh....but not until we lugged our suitcases up all those stairs and down the other side!!!







The Venice train station.



We boarded this Italo high speed bullet train and sped off to Florence.



