

<b>EUROLYNX</b>	<b>EUROPEAN WATERWAYS HOTEL BARGING</b>	<b>2005</b>
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## ITALY

### European Waterways Announce the First Hotel Barge in Venice. NEW FOR 2005 CRUISING THE RIVER BRENTA AND THE VENETIAN LAGOON

Canal and river holidays are fun, yet relaxing. A great way to holiday with family or friends. Discover the soul of the country – explore historical treasures – encounter the lifestyles of those living by the waterways.



#### **Hotel Cruising with European Waterways**

Far removed from the hustle and bustle of city life, all-inclusive hotel barge holidays offer a unique opportunity to travel in comfort without the strains of unpacking and repacking – whilst enjoying a balanced blend of daily excursions and fascinating cruising. If you are part of a group – consider chartering the whole boat.

Your voyage includes accommodation, all meals aboard and ashore, champagne welcome, open bar, excursions and admittance fees, and use of bikes. Optional excursions will also be available.

Daily excursions are a highlight of all cruises. They are either a short walk away from the barge, or if further by minibus.

While on board you may relax on deck or in the saloon – reading a book, listening to music, or just admiring the landscape slowly rolling past.

Your floating hotel is furnished with every modern comfort. The finest cuisine is prepared by your on-board chef, complemented by a fine array of wines and an open bar. And of course the experienced and knowledgeable crew is there to attend to your slightest need. Besides your Captain and Chef, the crew includes a housekeeper and deckhand.



#### **Group Charters**

If you are travelling with a group – whether it is friends or family – you can charter the whole boat. You will have the whole vessel to yourselves, with the benefit of the crew doing all the hard work for you! Particular needs or preferences of the group can also be taken into account to adapt the itinerary and excursions.

*Information and rates based on information as at November 2004. Full brochure available.  
NZD Rates are a guide only, and are subject to tariff and exchange variance.*

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## **La Dolce Vita**

6-passenger vessel – seven day voyage

La Dolce Vita, originally a Dutch vessel which has gradually made her way through the canals of France and around Italy and up the Adriatic to the calm waters of the Venetian lagoon. Our unique cruise not only visits Venice's well known and lesser known attractions but also encompasses the outer islands of Torcello, Burano and Murano, as well as cruising the unknown and beautiful, canalised Brenta river.

Prices start from NZD 3,300 per person per voyage for a stateroom.

La Dolce Vita has three comfortable cabins, two with doubles and one a twin. All are en-suite, the vessel is airconditioned and there is a good sized sundeck for outside dining or just watching all that fantastic Italian architecture floating past.

La Dolce Vita and Venice represent probably the most exciting new addition to our fleet. The crew are led by the skipper and host Massimiliano, this tall charming Venetian comes from a family of mariners and will really look after you. He is assisted by a chef and housekeeper and guided tours are taken along the way.



**Sunday, Day 1 Malcontenta to Casone Zappa in the South Lagoon** Guests meet in Mira and escorted to La Dolce Vita for a Prosecco welcome. Enjoy an early evening cruise along the delightful Brenta river as La Dolce Vita descends into the peaceful Venetian lagoon where you dine in front of Casone Zappa, a masterpiece of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Italian *Liberty style* architecture. Dinner on board.

**Monday, Day 2 Casone Zappa to Venice Lido** This morning we visit the hunting and fishing resorts in the wilderness of the Southern Venetian Lagoon. After lunch we sail to Pellestrina Island and then on to Venice Lido, where we moor in front of Villa Laguna Hotel, with a breathtaking view of the Giudecca Canal and across to Saint Mark's Square and Cathedral. Whilst cruising beside the Lido Island you can take a barge bicycle for a 10 km ride around the island. It is also possible to go to the beach, shop or visit the famous historical Excelsior and Des Bains Hotels, where movie stars stay during the Venetian Film Festival. Dinner ashore at Villa Laguna Restaurant.

**Tuesday, Day 3 Venice to Torcello** This morning we take a short cruise around San Giorgio Island before taking a guided tour of historical Venice: Saint Mark's Cathedral and the Doge's Palace. An optional Gondola tour through the inner canals and under the Bridge of Sighs is possible for an additional charge. There is time for shopping or further visits in the early afternoon. Return to the barge for an afternoon cruise past the ancient Venetian defensive artillery Fort of Sant Andrea. La Dolce Vita then hugs the coast of Sant Erasmo, the Venetian orchards and vegetable gardens, to reach Torcello island in the North Lagoon, where we moor for dinner on board.

**Wednesday, Day 4 Torcello to Murano** In the morning we explore Torcello, the first island of the lagoon to be colonised 2000 years ago. We see the Veneto - Byzantine styled Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta. We cruise on to Burano for a walk through the colourful streets of the island and a visit to the Museum of Lace. In the afternoon we sail slowly on to Murano. Dinner on board.

**Thursday, Day 5 Murano to Venice** We start our morning with a visit to a Glass workshop to see the glass blowing process, which has made Murano famous worldwide. Later, La Dolce Vita sails on to Venice, where a boat taxi takes us for a tour of the deeply historic and picturesque Grand Canal. In the early afternoon you can choose between a guided tour of art museums or free time shopping or just wandering the labyrinth of narrow streets, before leaving the lagoon to start the ascent of the river Brenta. Dinner on board moored in the vaillage of Mira on the Brenta.

**Friday, Day 6 Mira to Stra** Further ascent of the Brenta River to Stra, where we take a guided tour of Villa Pisani, an 18<sup>th</sup> century masterpiece of Venetian architecture with fresco's by Tiepolo. A short afternoon cruise closes the week for the Captain's farewell dinner on board moored in Dolo.

**Saturday, Day 7 Dolo** After breakfast we transfer you to Mira.

NOTE: this is a sample itinerary and is subject to change.



Photo credits: European Waterways, T Franklin