

TOUR EOLO-1

Tour Highlights:

- An unforgettable tour around the Venetian Lagoon
- Outstanding Venetian cuisine

Tour Season:

- Daily, May to October

(Pick-up times and locations may vary depending on season; more information available upon request)

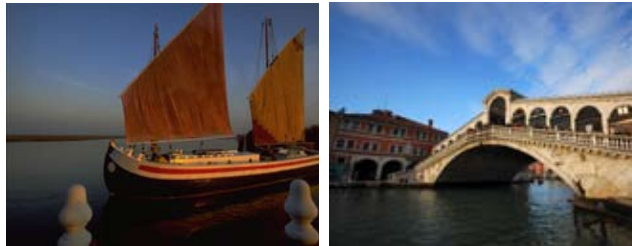
Tour Length:

- 6-8 hours
daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. or
4 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Tour Includes:

- Boat cruise
- Venetian style lunch or dinner - depending on departure time.

Venice



Cruising the Venetian Lagoon

EOLO Cruises include excursions by sail or motorboat departing from Venice and cruising around the Lagoon to S. Erasmo, Saline, Torcello and more, located north of Venice. Depending on departure time the cruise will include lunch or dinner of Venetian cuisine.

Testimonial: Love at first sight

Dinner aboard a historic "Bragozzo" in the Venice Lagoon - We set off at 6:00 p.m. with the sun still relatively high overhead, from San Giorgio Island, a private yacht marina right across the Grand Canal from Piazza San Marco, in Venice. Leisurely gliding past Murano, Burano and Torcello, we nibble on some of our host Mauro's exquisite starters: a crostino with sweet peppers and tiny clams, another with cream of eggplant with thyme and marinated fresh anchovies, still nicely tepid from the galley, accompanied by a Piedmont spumante by the name of Valentino-bubbly with a with a woody finish. As Torcello slowly disappears behind us, Mauro anchors the boat in the middle of the lagoon: the silence is astounding, and our only neighbors are the cormorants and terns that carouse above the marshlands.

As we settle in at the dinner table laid with white tablecloth, silver cutlery and glass stemware, we know we're in for something special. Mauro brings out a huge platter with a not-yet-cooked "lucerna" a gigantic pink fish with "wings" for fins, one you would have extreme difficulty finding on your own. Mauro knows his fish, priding himself in offering the little known local specialties he enjoyed growing up in Chioggia, the historic fishing town just south of Venice. Our antipasto is a pretty little torte of toasted crumbles of Pugliese bread topped with zucchini and tomatoes.

Italy to Discover

History, ancient culture, art, limpid seas and enchanting beaches make Italy a timeless land blessed by nature but refined and shaped by patient human hands.

While travelling through ancient cities and quaint towns of Italy a tourist will experience authentic Italian treasures such as castles, towers, cathedrals, rural buildings, grapevine and olive grove fields as well as shimmering sandy or rocky beaches.

Victours has carefully selected a variety of villas, hotels and apartments in the Italian regions as well as a wide variety of tours. Victours also provides other unique holiday ideas such as cooking courses, wine tasting, ski vacations, classic car tours and Ferrari tours as well as destination weddings in fairy tale settings.

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Next, we taste a Ribolla from the Castello Spessa to accompany our risotto with clams and salicornie, an unheard-of vegetable, also known as wild asparagus that grows in the Venetian lagoon. The flavor is slightly salty and crispy and offsets the risotto wonderfully. Mauro explains that he often ate this wild vegetable as a boy, but has never seen it on any restaurant menu.

As we sip our Il Livio da Felluga, Mauro brings out the main course, baked lucerna with Saturnia peaches. Enjoying this meal, with the full moon rising on our port side and the setting sun drenching everything in an amber glow at starboard, the flickering candles, the gentle rocking motion of the boat... all add a dimension to the dining experience bordering on the sublime.

But, we're not finished- it's time for dessert. Recioto della Corte Sant'Alda served with 7 veli- 7 veils- winner of an international pastry competition with 7 alternating layers of yellow cake, crunchy nougat wafers, chocolate, and more chocolate!

We finish off the evening with a sweet and hearty Canaonau 98 by Angelo Ruyo of Mosca and Sella, fully engulfed in a lazy, eno-gastronomic trance.

Eolo, meanwhile, continued its leisurely pace past the islands and back to San Marco, the flickering lights bringing us back to reality-- the dream was over, for this time. But for me, it was truly EOlove at first sight ...or should I say bite.

The EOLO is a bragozzo - a typical Venetian fishing boat, dating from 1946 and lovingly refitted in 1999 by Mauro Stoppa. He offers tours from ranging from an afternoon or evening cruise in the Venetian lagoon with meal to a week-long exploration down the Brenta river visiting the lesser known gems of the Veneto. His trips include visits to stately villas along the Brenta river, and a cooking course conducted by a Venetian countess. Stoppa's knowledge of the area is extensive and his visits to villas are conducted by the owners themselves -noble families that have owned the villas for generations. Another tour includes a horse and buggy ride in the Euganean hills. Tours run from May through October.