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Rick Steves' Venice 2014



Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when visiting the island city of Venice. Following the self-guided tours in this book, you'll explore Venice's most important landmarks and cruise the Grand Canal for a close-up look at the elegant palaces, bridges, and churches. You'll discover picturesque lanes, enjoy the best city views, and tour outlying islands in the lagoon. Dine at a romantic canal-side restaurant, or join the locals at a characteristic cicchetti bar and munch seafood-on-a-toothpick. As the stars shine over St. Mark's Square, sway to the free music of cafÃƒÂ© orchestras. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants. You'll learn how to explore Venice hassle-free and get up-to-date advice on what's worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (RickSteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Europe Through the Back Door in Edmonds, Washington, just north of Seattle, Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening for Americans. Gene Openshaw is a writer, composer, tour guide, and lecturer on art and history.

Specializing in writing walking tours of Europe's cultural sights, Gene has coauthored 10 of Rick's books and contributes to Rick's public television series. As a composer, Gene has written a full-length opera (Matter), a violin sonata, and dozens of songs. He lives near Seattle with his daughter, and roots for the Mariners in good times and bad.

Rick Steves' is always my 1st go-to when it comes to travel/vacationing information. Most of his books are available on as ebooks/kindle books - this is my preference because I can load them on my iPhone's kindle app for easy access on the go (and don't forget you can search keywords to find info quickly, unlike with a regular book). Rick's Venice 2014 book was great: I have been to Venice before as part of a study-abroad program, but went back recently with my brother and we trusted his book to help us develop and prioritize an agenda to get the best out of a short 48 hour stay. He definitely didn't let us down! Venice-goers are reminded that if you're a tense, gotta-follow-a-strictly-scheduled itinerary-or-I-stress type, you probably won't enjoy yourself too much. Why? Because Venice is LITERALLY a maze. Keeping this in mind, we'd just do our best to walk in a new general direction each day, and when we found an easily identifiable spot, we'd load up Rick's Venice 14 and see what he recommended to do/where to eat/what to see in that area, and we were never disappointed! That said, there are a must-see/do things you should plan ahead:1) St. Marks Basilica (book as far ahead as possible - highly unlikely to be able to walk up and purchase tickets day/week of)2) Doge's Palace - my brother and I actually did buy tickets day of for this. If you don't want to stress and rush for an appointment w/ a tour group, this could be the way to go IF you're ok with doing the standard self guided tour w/ an audio headset. OTHERWISE: book a tour ahead online. I highly recommend the "secret agendas" tour (rick tells you a bit about it I believe). I did this my first time on Venice. Definitely was worth it. Get this book before your Venice trip if you want to save time, money, and max out the fun and exiting opportunities on your trip!

This book gives a potential visitor the information needed to plan a stay in Venice. Our upcoming visit is now focused not only on what we want to see but also on the city itself. Not only the sights, the how to's, the things to avoid, and the cultural dos and don'ts, but also the travel itself. Once you decide (at least initially) on things you want to see, Rick gives you the "how" to see them. He provides tours of popular sites and also suggests three "walks" around the city . . . with interesting sites you will see along the way. As to travel, it's good to be reminded that rules are a bit more restrictive in Europe so packing for a vacation there takes a bit more planning. All in all, this book makes traveling to Venice a whole lot less stressful and makes you eager to see this wonderful city.

Additionally, Rick Steves gives you a lot of phone numbers and web sites to further plan your trip to Venice -- a great touch.

Steves' books all take more or less the same approach--they assume you know next to nothing about the place you are going, then anticipate the basic questions you will have and situations you are likely to confront. The tone is genial, humorous, unpretentious, and the organization is easy to follow. Venice is a big, touristy mess of a place, but also one of the most beautiful cities in the world; no guide book could possibly assure a perfect approach to it. If you want in-depth information, it would probably make sense to couple this book with something else, but if you just want a no-nonsense, here's-what-you'll-need-to-know guide (how to get in and out, how to deal with getting around, what and where to eat, which sights not to miss, good walking itineraries, etc.), I think Steves is the best. Plus, he has a nice philosophy about travel. I know at this point he's basically a brand-name, but in my opinion he's earned it by maintaining standards and really caring about his readers.

Before we left I read the book, did some highlighting, underlining & flagging certain pages with 1" pop-up page markers which put the most useful info at my fingertips. I found this book invaluable for our first trip to Venice in September. I appreciated the way it was interestingly readable & jam-packed with detailed info of the area (history, culture, "how-to", transportation, interesting walks, street maps, comprehensive self-guided tours in particular). I had compared this book to DK, Frommer's, Lonely Planet & Fodor's, & preferred Rick's version of helping us get the most out of our trip. I carried this book every day & was often referring to it, especially enjoying Rick's humor here & there. My husband thought I was a great guide, and I was, thanks to Rick!

(I see that the "2015" guide just came out, so this review may not be 100% relevant.) I just got back from spending 7 nights in Venice. While I was there I had the Lonely Planet Venice guide as well as the Rick Steves Venice guide, and truthfully, the whole time while I tried to figure out which book I relied upon most, to make my primary guide, I constantly found unique information in each book. If anything each guide complemented the other. I'd say both were equally good and probably good as a single guide, though, as I always do, I like to have at least 2 guides at each location.

In addition to this book on Venice I also bought Rome and Florence. Although some of the information in each of the books are repetitive about the basics of traveling in Italy, I am glad I

bought all three. The travel guides contain many details about each city itself. Other than the obvious where to eat and stay, these books provide so much more information about how to be a safe and happy traveler throughout Italy. I have read through all three and plan to take them with my on our family trip to Italy this Summer. Rick Steves' travel guides are a must have. I highly recommend them.

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