

HOTEL CIPRIANI

Address: Hotel Cipriani
Giudecca 10
30133 Venice (Italy)

Tel.: 39 041 5207744
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E-mail: info@hotelcipriani.it
Internet: www.hotelcipriani.com

Location: Situated amid beautiful gardens on Giudecca Island, the Cipriani is five minutes from St. Mark's Square by the hotel's own launch
(24-hour service free of charge)

Awards & Affiliations: Member of The Leading Hotels of the World

Management & Contacts:
Dr. Natale Rusconi, Managing Director

Patrick Nayrolles, Resident Manager

Manuela Rampado, General Assistant Manager and Marketing Director
Michele Citton, Food & Beverage Manager

Ulrike Turza, Reservations Manager

Access: 30 minutes by boat from Marco Polo Airport
15 minutes from the Railway Station
15 minutes from parking facilities

Accommodations: Rooms: 41 doubles and 2 singles
Suites: 18 suites and 27 junior suites

All rooms have superb views of the lagoon and the Palladian Church of San Giorgio Maggiore in the front or the Casanova gardens and vineyards at the back.

Check-in Time: 3:00 pm
Check-out Time: noon

Services: Twice-daily housekeeping service including evening turndown. 24-hour room service. Hairdresser, Casanova Spa, Gymnasium, Tennis and Boutique. Wireless high-speed Internet access in every guest room and throughout the hotel. Copy and fax services. Complimentary 24-hour motor boat transfer service to and from St. Mark' Square. Deluxe motor boat available for outings in the lagoon and sea. Day trips, sightseeing, shopping, theatre tickets, travel tickets arranged by the Concierge. Guests are met at the airport and railway station. Car parking is arrange on request. Baby sitter service also available on request. House Doctor.

Restaurants: "Fortuny Restaurant" and "Fortuny Terrace" serving dinner only. Poolside

Restaurant is open for lunch .

Pool Bar and Grill, open air. The Cip's Club, situated on the ground floor of the Palazzetto, open for dinner.

Bars: The Piano Bar Gabbiano, the San Giorgio Bar and Poolside Bar.

Facilities for disabled large Guests: There is a lift to the third floor. The bathrooms in the suites are enough for wheelchairs.

Sport Facilities: Swimming Pool
Olympic size, filled with heated saltwater.
Only pool in central Venice

Tennis

There is one tennis court at the hotel, the only one in Venice

Yacht Harbour
Docking facilities available for yachts and boats up to 70 fee (draft 10 feet). Yacht rentals on request

Golf at Alberoni Golf Course (Lido)
18 holes (40 min. by boat - private launch leaves daily at 9:30 am, and returns approx. at 4:00 pm)

Lido Beach (40 mins. away)

Health facilities: New Casanova Beauty & Wellness Center. Sauna, Steam bath (Turkish Bath), massage, "Gymnasium"

Transfers: The Hotel runs a complimentary motor boat shuttle to and from St. Mark's Square. Operates 24 hours a day.

Local points of interest: The city of Venice is rich in art galleries and glass works. Other islands in the Lagoon such as Murano, Torcello and Burano specialise in glass blowing and lace making. Day trips are also available from Venice to Padua.

Credit Cards accepted: Amex, Visa, JCB, Diners' Club, Mastercard.

PALAZZO VENDRAMIN & THE PALAZZETTO

Adjacent to the Hotel Cipriani, Palazzo Vendramin a 15th century palace and the newly restored "Palazzetto" offer deluxe apartments served by butlers in the atmosphere of a private home.

All food and beverage requirements are available both at the Hotel Cipriani or at the new Restaurant "Cip's at the Palazzetto" opened in August 1998. Described by Eileen Mehle (Suzie) as .. "all the rage in Venice".

PALAZZO VENDRAMIN **"All suites hotel"**

Accommodation: Rooms: 3 doubles (all with whirlpool bath)
Suites: 6 suites and 2 junior suites. Some have private terraces or gardens and all have a kitchenette and a Bar.

THE PALAZZETTO
“All suites hotel”

- Accommodation:* Suites: 1 mansard type junior suite
4 junior suites
All five deluxe suites command breathtaking views of the basin of San Marco.
- Service:* Butlers will provide a personalised service for guests. In addition, all services and facilities of the Hotel Cipriani are available.
- Restaurant:* Guests may use the Hotel Cipriani's various restaurants and the small, intimate "Cip's" Pizzeria and Grill which will also offer the possibility of taking their meals in a relaxed atmosphere on a beautiful terrace overlooking St. Mark's Square.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1956, Commendator Giuseppe Cipriani, founder of the unique Venetian establishment "Harry's Bar", met with an enthusiastic response from his customers for a project he had nurtured for many years. This was to build a hotel within easy reach of St. Mark's Square and yet far enough away to ensure peace and privacy.

Among his clients were the three daughters of the second Earl of Iveagh (head of the Guinness family), the Viscountess Boyd of Merton, Lady Honor Svejdar and Lady Bridgit Ness, who were later to become his partners. Commendator Cipriani already had the proposed site in mind.

Matters proceeded rapidly. A joint company was formed and an ideally-located three-acre plot was purchased on the tip of the Island of Giudecca, just three minutes by boat from St. Mark's Square. In two year's time the hotel opened its doors under the management of Giuseppe Cipriani, who continued managing also Harry's Bar. Then, in 1972, Cipriani gave up his post as President of the Hotel but remained on the Board of Directors.

The hotel enjoyed instant acclaim in virtue of its relaxed atmosphere, attentive service but superbly prepared food which have become its trademark.

During its first decade, the popularity of the Hotel was such that in 1968 some adjoining land was purchased and a magnificent 600 square metre swimming pool was built. This filtered salt-water pool is unique in Venice and is considered as one of the finest in Europe.

The Hotel Cipriani was purchased in 1976 by Sea Containers whose President, Mr. James B. Sherwood, was already a regular guest. In November 1977 he appointed Dr. Natale Rusconi as Managing Director, and under his management the Cipriani has become one of the most exclusive world destinations.

Over the years more land and adjacent buildings were purchased to create space for new restaurants, guestrooms and facilities. Existing rooms have been enlarged and refurbished to adapt to the requirements of the discerning modern traveller. Most suites and bedrooms overlook the lagoon and are furnished with refined elegance. All are air-conditioned and offer the maximum level of the comfort.

The relevance of professional service is taken into maximum account, and its high standard has made the Cipriani famous internationally.

THE DELUXE ALL-APARTMENT ANNEXES OF THE CIPRIANI AND THE CIP'S CLUB RESTAURANT AND GRILL

There can be no finer view of Venice than that framed by the Gothic windows of Palazzo Vendramin. The grand, fifteenth century residence, reached through the Hotel Cipriani's Casanova Gardens, offers seclusion, space and a wonderful feeling of romance.

The Palazzetto, like Palazzo Vendramin, is a historic landmark built on the ruins of the imposing Palazzo Nani Barbaro, seat of the Academy of Philosophy in the fifteenth century. The Palazzetto is connected to Palazzo Vendramin and the Granaries of the Republic. The three buildings have a total of 30 windows overlooking the basin of San Marco, offering a privileged vantage point on the fascinating passage of motorboats, fishing crafts and large cruise ship which enter the port of Venice daily.

The Palazzetto shares the Vendramin's atmosphere of relaxed elegance and refined simplicity. It also offers the discreet service of private butlers.

The interior décor, by the well-known decorator Gerard Gallet of Paris, is a soothing combination of pastel coloured walls, which blend perfectly with the precious Rubelli and Fortuny fabrics and light furniture.

The true marvel of the Palazzetto is the Cip's Club Restaurant, located on the ground floor. This elegant but informal restaurant was originally created for the two Palazzi of the Cipriani and since its opening in 1988 has acquired a great success both with clients of the hotel and with Venetians.

It has a beautiful outdoor wooden terrace and its interior is both cozy and elegant with a wood burning oven for pizza and bar.

The Cuisine is refined but casual – clients can feast on fresh seafood or, alternatively, enjoy a pizza or choose from the ample selection of daily regional specialties.

The Restaurant enjoys a unique panorama of St. Mark's Square and is within easy reach of our private pier there, just opposite the Doge's Palace, from which our private launches run a 24 hour service throughout the Season.

THE HOTEL CIPRIANI'S UNIQUE WINE, "CASANOVA SALSO"

The Giudecca island is only a short gondola ride from San Marco and, in the eighteenth century, it was considered Venice's "garden of delights".

Alongside noble residences (such as Palazzo Vendramin, Palazzo Dandolo, Palazzo Barbaro Nani) there were modest pavilions for shorter stays, called "casini". There were also many fragrant and colourful gardens, orchards and vineyards.

It was here that the city dwellers, normally confined to narrow alleys and small courtyards, could enjoy fresh air and open spaces, as well as the famous "vin salso", called in this way because of its characteristic salty after-taste, due to the vineyard's proximity to the lagoon.

Today the Giudecca is much changed, but some of the gardens which were the favourite summer retreats of the Venetian noble families still exist. One of the most attractive is the Casanova Garden, between the Cipriani and Palazzo Vendramin, where the legendary lover once held clandestine trysts.

The historian of cuisine Massimo Alberini narrates that in 1753, upon his return from Constantinople, Casanova became friendly with a disreputable Venetian family, the Capretta's. The son of the house wanted Casanova's endorsement on a bill of exchange and decided to bribe the lothario with the promise of love. He gave him the key to a pavilion on the Giudecca with the suggestion that Casanova invite Caterina Capretta, the young man's sister, to taste the famous wines produced on the island.

In Casanova's record of his tryst with Caterina, he wrote: "It was Pentecost Monday and there were plenty of people about, a dozen groups seated at the tables!". This reference tells of the presence on the Giudecca of open-air coffee shops and wine booths where the "vin salso" was served.

In later years the production of salso wine was discontinued, most likely as a consequence of increasing urbanisation of the Giudecca. Now, over three centuries after Casanova's account, the tradition has been revived by the Hotel Cipriani. Grapes from the vineyards of the Cipriani gardens are harvested and sent to Mr. J.B. Sherwood's winery in Tuscany, Capannelle, to be processed and bottled. The happy result is called "Casanova Vin Salso", the only example of this kind of wine to be made in Venice since the eighteenth century.

I GRANAI DELLA REPUBBLICA THE GRANARIES OF THE REPUBLIC

In the basin of St. Mark's, where the lively commercial port of Venice was based, Venice witnessed for centuries the arrival and departure of large sailing boats, galleons and trading vessels.

Every Palazzo on the Grand Canal was equipped to store merchandise and manufactured goods coming in from all over the world, ready to be shipped away again, because the Venetians were great merchants.

In particular, the Punta della Salute, which controlled the entrance to the Canal Grande from the basin of St. Mark's, offered to arriving and departing vessels large spaces called the Saloni, where salt, a very precious merchandise at the time, and other goods were stored.

In front of St. Mark's and of the Punta della Salute, at the tip of the island called Giudecca, where the Hotel Cipriani was built in 1956 by the poet hotelier and restaurateur, Giuseppe Cipriani, are three very large, interconnecting brick buildings. Each one measures 42 x 8 meters (height. 9,5 meters), for a total of 1.000 sq. mt., called "I Granai della Repubblica" (the Granaries of the Republic).

These massive structures were built in the sixteenth century over the ruins of Palazzo Dandolo in imitation of the Saloni. While they were readapted and modified at various times, they kept their original size which makes them the largest containers on the Giudecca and possibly in Venice.

In year 2000, the Hotel Cipriani acquired them to create a venue for large to small banqueting and conference events, special celebration breakfasts, luncheons or dinners. The building is composed of three sections: the Longhi, Canaletto and the Carpaccio.

All premises are air-conditioned, benefit from an independent entrance and offer incredible vistas on St. Mark's Square.

HOTEL CIPRIANI UNVEILS ITS NEW CASANOVA BEAUTY AND WELLNESS CENTER

The romantic Casanova beauty and Wellness Center is named after the legendary lover who once held clandestine trysts in the fragrant and colourful gardens of the Hotel Cipriani.

“Casanova’s romantic adventures of the 1750’s in the gardens on Giudecca Island have inspired our recent developments at Hotel Cipriani, such as the restoration of the Casanova gardens and the ‘Vin Salso’ vineyard”, said Dr Natale Rusconi, managing director of Hotel Cipriani. “The concept behind our new Spa is to immerse our guests in relaxing state-of-the-art treatment rooms set in a haven of natural beauty, reflecting the peacefulness of centuries gone by.”

Four fabulous treatment rooms offering Babor massages and other relaxing therapies open on to private terraces with fountains which offer guests ultimate privacy with scenic peaceful surroundings on the Casanova garden.

One of the treatment rooms is dedicated to the special facial SeaCreation, using shells and a special fluid sourced from the deep sea created by Babor. The room is equipped with Dolby surround system and a flat plasma screen which projects images and sounds of the sea. On the ceiling aquatic coloured fibre optics illuminate the room adding a calming influence. There is also Technogym facilities including a new ‘Proellix Vibration’ machine enhancing muscle firming and total well-being.

The Beauty and Wellness Center provides a tranquil environment where guests can enjoy head-to-toe pampering, relax, work out, and where couples can reconnect in an intimate setting. Highlights of the Beauty and Wellness Center treatments and massages range from: floating energising treatments, cranial and Swedish massages and the restorative technique known as ScenTao, the famed toning and stress reducing massage using hot stones.

Hotel Cipriani is offering clients a range of special two and four night programmes, which take advantage of the Casanova Beauty and Wellness Center facilities.

CELEBRITIES AT THE CIPRIANI

Renato Guttuso
Serge Lifar
Jimmy Carter
Pierre Cardin
Nilde Iotti
Margaret Thatcher
Valery Giscard
d'Estaing
Edmund S. Muskie
Vittorio Gassman
Victoria Principal
Russel Harty
Katia Ricciarelli
Mary Martin
Fedora Barbieri
Giancarlo Menotti
Elisabeth
Soderstrom Olow
Beverly Sills
Julius Rudel
Sally Field
Alan Greisman
Bobby Short
Melina Mercoury
François Mitterand
Tom Bosley
Gérard Depardieux
Henry Kissinger
Ronnie Corbett
Bryant Gumbel
Peter Townshend
Ira Fürstenberg
Roman Polanski
Charlotte Vale Allen
Miles Davis
Anna Moffo

Jane Seymour
Danny Kaye
Sophia Loren
Henry Mancini
Linda Evans
Ronald Reagan
Richard Gardner
Maxwell Raab
Matilda Cuomo
Linda Gray
Harold Pinter
Burt Reynolds
Julio Iglesias
Kenzo
Maria Pia Fanfani
Susanna Agnelli
Sir John Gielgud
Richard Nixon
Michel Rocard
Emmanuel Ungaro
Elizabeth Taylor
Gene Wilder
Jutta Speidel
Gianni Versace
Simon Le Bon
Charles M. Schutz
Duke & Duchess of
York
Dennis Conner
Anne Sophie Mutter
Julie Bassett
Gianni Minà
Mikhail Gorbaciov
Bernard Henri Levy
Arielle Dombasle
Natasha Richardson

Seiji Osawa
Diana, Princess of
Wales
Jacques Chirac
Klaus Vaclav
Jean Michel Jarre
Franco Zeffirelli
Angelica Houston
Alain Jupé
Vittorio Cecchi Gori
Jack Nicholson
Kevin Costner
José Carreras
Frank Carlucci
Paul Anka
Candice Bergen
David Hasselhoff
Robert Loggi
Annie Girardot
Beniamino
Andreatta
Michelle Pfeiffer
Hubert de Givenchy
Penny Marshall
Buzz Aldrin
Danny de Vito
Claudia Cardinale
George Shultz
Michael Douglas
Martin Scorsese
James Garner
Valentina Cortese
Dustin Hoffman
Julia Ormond
Tommy Lee Jones
Diana Ross

Sir. André Previn
Uma Thurman
Andie McDowell
Faye Dunaway
Jim Carey
Woopy Goldberg
Prince & Princess
of Sweden
Ute Lemper
Prince of Turn und
Taxis
Robert Zemeckis
Julia Roberts
Mira Sorvino
Jennifer Lopez
Robin Williams
Giorgio Armani
Steve Martin
Melanie Griffith
Antonio Banderas
George Lucas
Donald Sutherland
Clint Eastwood
John Bongiovi
Richard Gere
Paul Mc Cartney
Paul Young
Erica Jong
Liam Neeson
Franco Battiato
Gualtiero Marchesi
Silvester Stallone
Donatella Versace
Elton John

Recently.....

Steven Spielberg
Tom Hanks
Meryl Streep
Denzel Washington
Tom Cruise
Robert De Niro
Nicole Kidman
Nerio Nesi
Al Pacino

Sidney Sheldon
Gwyneth Paltrow
Sir David Frost
Robert Altman
Johnny Depp
Vanessa Paradis
Ron Howard
John Madden Renée
Zellweger

Susan Sarandon
Tim Burton
Helena Bonham
Carter
Calista Flockhart
Harrison Ford
George Clooney
Orlando Bloom
Kirsten Dunst

Anthony Hopkins
Russel Crowe
Joan Collins
Roger Moore
Sir. Michael Caine
Duchess of Bedford
Paolo Villaggio



ORIENT-EXPRESS HOTELS
TRAINS & CRUISES

NEWS RELEASE

COMPANY PROFILE

Orient-Express Hotels Ltd. owns or part-owns and mostly manages, 50 businesses operating in 25 countries.

39 are hotels ranging across five continents, from the Hotel Cipriani in Venice to the Mount Nelson in Cape Town, the Copacabana Palace in Rio de Janeiro to the Observatory in Sydney, and to Charleston Place in Charleston, S.C. Restaurants include '21' Club in New York, Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons in Oxfordshire, England and Harry's Bar (a private club) in London. Six tourist trains include the legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express in Europe, The Eastern & Oriental Express in South East Asia and The Royal Scotsman in the UK. The company also part-owns and manages PeruRail in Peru, which operates the Cuzco-Machu Picchu train service used by nearly every tourist to Peru. The *m.v Road to Mandalay* provides luxury cruises on the Irrawaddy River in Burma and Afloat in France operates luxury péniche-hôtels (barges) on the inland waterways of France.

In February 2006, the company acquired its 50th property, with the purchase of a 75% shareholding in Casa de Sierra Nevada, a 33 room boutique hotel in the colonial town of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, for US\$8.4 million. Opened in 1952, Casa de Sierra Nevada comprises nine architecturally beautiful Spanish colonial buildings dating from the 16th to 18th century. The buildings, which house guest rooms and suites, as well as two restaurants and bars, include the Casa del Parque, a fort in the 17th century and later a customs house for the silver trade; and Casa Principal, the former residence of San Miguel de Allende's Archbishop in 1580 and an official historical landmark. Orient-Express will invest US\$5 million in renovations and enhancements, including the

development of 20 new suites, a full service Spa and a new pool and garden area on an undeveloped parcel of land.

In June 2005, Orient-Express Hotels announced the reopening of Hotel Caruso in Ravello, on Italy's Amalfi coast, following a US\$30m restoration programme instigated in 1999 when Orient-Express acquired the property and its land. Hotel Caruso has 45 guest rooms (most with sea views and 36 of them suites), two restaurants, one of which is alfresco in the gardens, an outdoor heated infinity pool and event facilities for up to 200. Its hilltop position, 365m above sea level, ensures long hours of sunshine, breathtaking views and a high level of peace and quiet.

In February 2005, Orient-Express acquired the majority interest in the 301 room Grand Hotel Europe, St. Petersburg's leading hotel, along with full management and operational control. Russia's first five-star hotel, the Grand Hotel Europe is an historical landmark dating from 1824, in the heart of St. Petersburg, across from the Shostakovich Philharmonic, next to the Russian Museum and the Moussorgsky opera and ballet theatre and within walking distance of the Hermitage Museum and the Winter Palace Square.

Other recent acquisitions include El Encanto Hotel and Garden Villas in Santa Barbara, California and a 50 per cent stake in The Royal Scotsman, the luxury tourist train. El Encanto has been an integral part of Santa Barbara's social, cultural and architectural heritage for 90 years. It was an exclusive retreat catering to celebrities from the golden days of Hollywood, including Hedy Lamarr, Clark Gable and Carole Lombard. The Royal Scotsman accommodates just 36 guests in comfort and style with a staff of 12, including 2 chefs. Travelling through breathtaking landscapes throughout Scotland, The Royal Scotsman provides guests with traditional Scottish hospitality and fine dining combined with sumptuous surroundings and attentive service.

In February 2004, the company invested in Hosia Ltd., the Hong Kong holding company which owns or part owns and operates 6 unique hotels in southeast Asia under the brand name Pansea. Orient-Express Hotels has invested US\$8 million in the Pansea group. This is initially a loan, convertible into equity in Hosia Ltd. Orient-Express has an option to buy 100 per cent of the shares in Hosia over a period of five years. Pansea will continue to manage the properties with existing personnel and Orient-Express

Hotels will assist with international sales and marketing and the development of mutual opportunities.

The Pansea Orient-Express hotels are located in Luang Prabang, the ancient royal capital of Laos; Rangoon, Burma, in a former Governor's palace; Siem Reap, Cambodia close to the famous temples of Angkor Wat; Bali, Indonesia where the property occupies an exceptional beach location, and Koh Samui on the Gulf of Siam in Thailand. The latest property, the Ubud Hanging Gardens, also in Bali, opened in July 2005.

Orient-Express Hotels was founded in 1976 with the purchase of Hotel Cipriani in Venice as the leisure division of Sea Containers Ltd. and was later incorporated as Orient-Express Hotels Ltd., a Bermuda company. Orient-Express Hotels Ltd was floated on the New York Stock Exchange in August, 2000 and Sea Containers sold the last of its shareholding in November 2005. In 2005, the last full year for which figures are available, Orient-Express Hotels had net earnings of \$40.7 million on revenue of \$447.7 million.

Orient-Express Hotels seeks out unique properties which have expansion potential. It owns or part-owns its properties because it believes that equity returns are greater than management fee income alone. Increases in property values allow the company to increase funding against those assets and thus fuel expansion. The unique nature of the assets insulates against competition.

Orient-Express hotels and trains have gained awards and accolades all over the world. The company won 'Best Hotel Group 2005' at the UK's prestigious Tatler Travel Awards. In 2004, no less than 19 of the company's hotels including Hotel Cipriani, Hotel Ritz Madrid, Copacabana Palace, Mount Nelson and Hotel Monasterio were included in the US Conde Nast Traveler Gold List. Other awards included: Hotel Splendido, Departures magazine readers' best beach hotel in Europe; Villa San Michele – Best hotel in the world for location, Tatler Travel Awards; Windsor Court Hotel – World's best business hotel, Travel and Leisure; La Samanna – Number One hotel in the Atlantic and Caribbean, Departures magazine; Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons – Number One British Hotel, US Conde Nast Traveler. Le Manoir has retained its two Michelin stars for the 21 consecutive years.

The company avoids the use of a chain brand, so none of its properties is branded “Orient-Express” except the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. The company believes that discriminating travellers will choose a famous individual property in preference to a chain brand.

Orient-Express Hotels has plans to expand as and when suitable properties become available.

Further information about the company and its properties can be found at www.orient-express.com

Ends

February 2006

For further media information:

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Reservations:

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