



# HOTEL SATURNIA & INTERNATIONAL

## A Venetian Delight

By Christopher A. Pape

Less than a five-minute walk from central Piazza San Marco, the Hotel Saturnia & International provides the perfect location for a trip to Venice. Located in the San Marco neighborhood, the hotel possesses a coveted address due in part to the walking distance to the famous piazza and close to important sights such as the Rialto Bridge and other numerous museums and restaurants. It's central to almost everywhere you'll want to go in Venice, including the Grand Canal. San Marco, one of the most popular neighborhoods for visitors, allows guests to wander the streets in search of local restaurants and high-end shopping for a taste of local culture in the midst of a touristy city.

The hotel's accommodations, although charming and rustic, are luxe, with historic details such as wood-beamed ceilings and mahogany headboards. They also include modern touches like flat-screen TVs, central air-conditioning, free Wi-Fi, mini bars and contemporary bathrooms (some rooms also offer balconies). There are various categories of rooms ranging from junior suites to standard doubles, catering to families, couples or singles. There is no spa, pool or fitness center here (although passes to a nearby gym are available), but what it does offer is impeccable service and a top-notch restaurant, along with a solarium rooftop terrace, with stunning views of the Venice rooftops and the perfect spot to unwind with a chilled aperitif after a day of sightseeing.



If you're a foodie (or even if you're not), the on-site restaurant, La Caravella, is one of the best in St. Mark's Square and has been serving traditional Venetian dishes in a typical Italian setting since the 1960s. The menu changes seasonally, using only fresh ingredients from carefully selected purveyors. During the warm weather months, usually May until September, their flower-filled courtyard allows their patrons to experience dinner in an enchanting Venetian ambience. Be sure to try their risotto with fennel and lobster, oven-roasted turbot with potatoes and olives, and Venetian-style fish soup.

The Serandrei family undisputedly ranks amongst the city's most notable hoteliers. For four generations already they have been running the stylish Hotel Saturnia & International, housed inside a stately patrician palace dating from the fourteenth century.

Visiting Venice during the summertime means you are literally one of millions of tourists who flock to this romantic city during its high season. For a change of pace try visiting in the off-season when the tourists are gone and the locals reclaim their magical city, allowing visitors to experience the city at a slower, more peaceful pace, sans crowds and hectic schedules. And what could be more rewarding than enjoying one of the city's most sinful libations, a traditional Venetian hot chocolate, on a chilly winter's day?

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