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The Basilica di San
Marco in Venice

From Venice to Jesolo

where history meets the horizon

Enjoying heritage and contemporary style, take
an Italian escape of contrasts with **Jane Wilson**

Kites over the
beach at Jesolo

One is a city woven with canals, layered in marble and gilded in mosaics, steeped in a thousand years of history. The other is a modern resort stretching along the Adriatic coast, relaxed, with the horizon as the focal point. Together they balance heritage and contemporary style. Two Italys, easily reached, conveniently matched.

VENICE: A FLOATING MASTERPIECE

Venice needs no introduction; its allure never fades. Built on more than a hundred small islands in the Adriatic lagoon, it is a city where canals replace roads and bridges link labyrinths of passageways. Gondolas glide with a slow rhythm, their oars sloshing gently as they pass Renaissance façades and Gothic arches that rise like ancient phantoms. Saint Mark's Basilica glitters with Byzantine mosaics, while the Campanile above it frames a panoramic view over terracotta roofs, lagoon and sky. The sound effects come into play from the orchestras at the Caffè Florian and Caffè Lavena across the square in the open-air salon that signifies Piazza San Marco.

Exploring Venice is as adventurous as wandering through a maze. Slip down narrow alleys where shops display extravagant masks, their painted faces and expressions staring back territorially. Cross arched bridges that reveal silent canals hidden away. Pause at a *bacaro* for *cicchetti* – small plates of marinated anchovies, stuffed olives and *crostini* – paired with an *ombra*, a small glass of the house wine. Or join the trendies in Harry's Bar for that legendary Bellini (€22) before strolling towards the Rialto Bridge at dusk, when the city's reflection burns gold and the Lagoon blushes pink. Beyond are

the main islands – Murano, Burano and Torcello – which follow a gentler rhythm of life: glassblowers at work, lace swaying in the breeze, candy-coloured houses and water taxis idling at wooden jetties.

JESOLO: THE MODERN COUNTERPART

Less than an hour from Venice, leaving the many eager tourists behind, Jesolo Beach stretches for 15 kilometres along the coast. Here the air opens out, the sky feels wider, and nature breathes through pine forests bordered by the Sile and Piave rivers. Once a Roman port, the town was reclaimed from the marshes in the 1950s and rebuilt as a contemporary resort. Today it has one of the longest traffic-free promenades in Europe – Via Bafile has 12 kilometres of cafés, boutiques and gelaterias spilling onto the pavements and, between May and September, is fully pedestrianised. The mood here is more Riviera than historic with a summer calendar of concerts, open-air festivals and art shows that denote a seaside atmosphere. Families gather at Luna Park and Caribe Bay, while a Ferris wheel turns



Outside the Caffè Florian in Venice

Venice needs no introduction – its allure never fades



Venetian cicchetti



Family residence on the way to Jesolo

The atmosphere becomes increasingly tranquil as you approach the northern beaches



The promenade at Jesolo on a clear blue summer's day



lazily above Piazza Brescia. Cyclists pedal through pine groves on well-marked paths which follow the reed-lined banks of the rivers, crossing wooden bridges, and passing fishing huts that still lower their square nets into the tide. Herons straddle the shallows, flamingos settle in pink clusters, while the Parco dei Cigni (Swan Park) offers shade.

FROM CANALS TO COAST

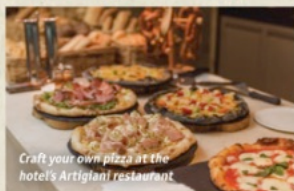
As evening falls, the contrast between Venice and Jesolo makes it feel like the two places are worlds apart, rather than separated by

a mere 40 kilometres or so. While the sun dips behind Byzantine domes in Venice, it sinks straight into the sea here at Jesolo. Venice speaks to the centuries that shaped its soul; Jesolo speaks to the confidence of its present. This is a journey from canals to coast, from the veins of history to the lines of contemporary hospitality. Italy in two forms: timeless and new – one serenaded by Vivaldi and church bells; the other by jazz or DJs from beachfront bars. The contrast couldn't be starker; yet together, they perform a perfect duet. ■

The Falkensteiner Hotel & Spa Jesolo



Dining outdoors at the Falkensteiner



Craft your own pizza at the hotel's Artigiani restaurant



Penthouse bedroom at the Falkensteiner



Cycling along the banks of the Lagoon

The Falkensteiner Hotel & Spa Jesolo reflects the contemporary face of this coast with a stylish and linear confidence. The exterior is white and structured while the interior decor is stylish and playful dotted with Art Deco flashes which evoke the elegance of Miami with an Italian accent. Inside, light pours through large picture windows onto Murano glass features and soft Mediterranean tones. It is one of only three five-star properties in Lido di Jesolo, and was redesigned in 2021 by American architect Richard Meier to form a central part of Jesolo's Design District. Its 152 rooms and suites are filled with light from huge picture windows.

The private beach, precisely ordered in rows of pink parasols, feels more of a geometric statement than sunbathing spot. Dining feels equally curated. At Artigiani, guests can craft their own pizza with cuttlefish ink or five-grain

dough, or dine outside – Falkensteiner Jesolo is one of only two hotels licensed to serve on the beach. Puro Cucina Autentica, under Michelin-starred chef Theodor Falser, turns Mediterranean classics into modern art which can also be served in its mirrored ten-seater private dining room.

The Acquapura Blue Horizon Spa spreads over two floors with a hammam, an ice bath and saunas, one inhaling a panoramic sea view. Don't miss the Augguss rituals which are held twice-daily at weekends and do book for the Hawaiian traditional Lomi Lomi massage – it's worth the indulgence. Ground-floor pools include a larger jacuzzi, indoor/outdoor pool, quieter infinity pool and a dedicated toddler pool.

Piazza Le Corbusier, 6 – 30016 Lido di Jesolo
www.falkensteiner.com/en/hotel-spa-jesolo
reservations.jesolo@falkensteiner.com



Lifeguard station



Jetty at Jesolo



Changing rooms on the beach



Sand art on Jesolo Beach

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Fly direct from the UK to Venice Marco Polo or Treviso airports. Jesolo is around 40 minutes by car from Marco Polo, while Venice is easily reached by water taxi or shuttle boat.
- It's an effortless hop between Venice and Jesolo, especially as hotels can arrange transfers. Just 25 minutes across the Lagoon (or 90 minutes by vaporetto/ferries from Punta Sabbioni).