



Road Warrior // Philippe Starck on Venice

Philippe Starck's personality is so vibrant that he makes a room sparkle simply by being there. Throw in his witty repartee and electric-hued clothing and there's no stopping the energy of the Paris-based design guru. Starck has had his fingers in nearly every design pie imaginable—from an eponymous underwear line to fabled hotels and the first commercial spaceline. Among his latest ventures is the transformation of a 16th-century Venetian residence into Palazzina Grassi, a whimsical hotel on the city's Grand Canal. For more than 30 years, Starck has had a home on the tiny island of Burano in the Venetian Lagoon, and he loves to riff on the watery municipality's substrata. —Saxon Henry



- BEST PLACE TO STAY FOR AN AUTHENTIC VENETIAN VIBE
Palazzina Grassi

Palazzina Grassi offers a sense of what it means to be truly Venetian, especially if you book a room overlooking the Grand Canal. After drinking in the busy water traffic, have a glass of wine in the luxurious bar, where you can overhear the Venetians boisterously conversing. palazzinagrassi.com

- BEST PLACE FOR A POWER LUNCH
Red Bar Canale

A spritz—white wine, sparkling water and orange liqueur—a favorite traditional drink in Venice, is a must. Sit on the outdoor terrace of the Red Bar Canale and enjoy the views up the Grand Canal toward the Chiesa della Salute on the Punta della Dogana. bauervenezia.com



- BEST PLACE FOR A BIT OF DOWNTIME BETWEEN MEETINGS
Rialto Market

Beauty, history and intelligence are everywhere, but I love to watch people in the market near the famous Rialto Bridge. It's also a great spot for watching the gondolas—the most sophisticated boat design ever made. When I'm there, I'm inspired with great ideas, like the new solar electric boat I'm developing—so necessary to protect the city's ecology and its architecture.

- BEST PLACE TO PURCHASE SOUVENIRS
Papier Maché



I am a fan of Venetian masks, which I love to buy at Papier Maché. They carry the traditional commedia dell'arte masks, wall sculptures and decorative objects of art that have been a symbol of Venetian artistry for generations. papiermache.it

- BEST PLACE TO HAVE A COCKTAIL
Harry's Bar

Harry's Bar has the best bellinis—the recipe was handed down to Arrigo Cipriani from his father, Giuseppe, who founded the bar and many others after it. The history is incredible: The guestbook reads like a who's who of celebrities dating back to Charlie Chaplin's time. harrysbarvenezia.com



- BEST PLACE TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE
Burano

I am a lover of the Venice Lagoon and the tiny island of Burano, which is my mirror: feet in the mud and head in the sky. The key, I think, is that there are no cars, so there is more room for humanity.



“THE TWO BEST RESTAURANTS ARE ON THE ISLAND OF BURANO, A 30-MINUTE BOAT RIDE FROM VENICE. TRATTORIA DA ROMANO AND TRATTORIA AL GATO NERO DE RUGGERO ARE PERFECT.”

—Philippe Starck