The Pearls of the Po
From Venice to Parma Aboard La Venezia
May 9–17, 2020
Dear Friend,

In 2001, The Renaissance Academy of FGCU was created to bring a broad array of interesting and diverse educational opportunities to Southwest Florida. I am delighted to announce a unique addition to our lifelong learning programs: a leisurely cruise along the Po River from Venice to Parma, savoring la bella vita in northern Italy. On a rare river voyage deep into the heart of Italy’s rustic “breadbasket,” enjoy full access to the region’s abundance of spectacular medieval and Renaissance art and architecture.

We are pleased that Keith Christiansen, John Pope-Hennessy Chairman of the Department of European Paintings at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, will travel with us on this journey. He will be joined by a Professor Emeritus of Music from Yale University and other distinguished experts.

After a scenic tour of the lovely Venetian Lagoon, glide into the picturesque market town of Chioggia. In Padua, stop to see frescoes by Giotto and bronzes by Donatello. Next, call at Ferrara, the seat of the great Este court. In glorious Parma, explore a Romanesque baptistery and cathedral, with its dome sublimely decorated by Correggio, and the Camera di San Paolo, decorated by Correggio for the remarkable abbess, Giovanna da Piacenza.

In splendid Mantua, visit Palazzo Ducale, with its celebrated frescoes by Mantegna and Pisanello, and the astonishing Palazzo Te, designed by Giulio Romano. The greatest assemblage of early Christian mosaics awaits us in Ravenna. Upon returning to Venice, you may choose to take part in one of three behind-the-scenes tours to conclude your journey. An optional prelude to Asolo and the Palladian Villas is also available.

This cruise is co-sponsored with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, and the alumni associations of Harvard and Yale Universities.

We hope to welcome you aboard this delightful voyage.

Sincerely,
John J. Guerra
Director of the Renaissance Academy

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

**JOIN** the first cruise in a decade along this legendary waterway on the lavish, newly renovated super ship *La Venezia*, and visit remote, artistically rich towns that are underexplored by international visitors

**DOCK** overnight in the heart of Venice for early access to the city at sunrise, when the passageways are empty and serene and Venice’s sparkling piazze and palazzi are most captivating

**REVEL** in the artistic splendors of Parma, where dazzling frescoes from Correggio and Parmigianino grace churches, and admire stunning 5th- and 6th-century mosaics in Ravenna

**EXPLORE** the medieval and Renaissance city of Ferrara, innovatively designed as an “ideal city” by urban planner Biagio Rossetti. View medieval Estense Castle, with its storybook moat, drawbridges, and gorgeous towers

**DELIGHT** in an exclusive, after-hours visit to Venice’s iconic Saint Mark’s Basilica, an 11th-century showstopper filled with glittering gold mosaics and beautiful marble floors and statues
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An optional prelude to Asolo and the Palladian Villas is offered May 7–10, 2020.

SATURDAY, MAY 9: DEPARTURE
Depart for Venice on an overnight flight.

SUNDAY, MAY 10: VENICE, ITALY / EMBARK
Arrive at Venice’s Marco Polo International Airport, where you will be transferred to the boat. Unpack, relax, and enjoy your first evening on the Venetian Lagoon. This afternoon, embark on an optional walking tour through the Cannaregio neighborhood, known for its local flavor and picturesque squares and canals. Alternatively, go out and explore the city at your leisure. Tonight, enjoy an exclusive, after-hours visit to St. Mark’s Basilica, with its spellbinding, glittering mosaics.

MONDAY, MAY 11: VENICE / CHIOGGIA
Take a scenic cruise through the historic Venetian Lagoon to the picturesque fishing village of Chioggia, then choose among three options today. You may enjoy a gentle bike ride along the waterways and through the town of Chioggia. Or you may choose to travel to Padua for a guided stroll through the Old Town, including visits to the Scrovegni Chapel, famous for its rich and elaborate frescoes by Giotto, and the Basilica of St. Anthony, with its bronzes by Donatello. Finally, your third option is a guided visit of Villa Valmarana, one of the grand villas along the bucolic Brenta Canal, opened exclusively for us. Enjoy a festive captain’s welcome reception and dinner this evening.

TUESDAY, MAY 12: FERRARA
Disembark this morning for an excursion to Ferrara, once a center for the arts ruled by the Este family. Meticulously designed by urban planner Biagio Rossetti, Ferrara was the first fully executed concept of an ideal city during the Renaissance. Explore its pioneering layout during guided walks around the city. Walk the cobbled streets of the UNESCO-designated city center, full of grand palaces including the Palazzo dei Diamanti, whose façade is studded with marble blocks carved to resemble diamonds. Stroll through the ancient Jewish quarter, whose community has lived here continuously since the Middle Ages, and visit the newly opened Jewish Museum. Admire the 12th-century cathedral, which combines Romanesque and Gothic styles in its three-tiered pink and white marble façade. Return to the ship in the late afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13: PARMA
Today journey to Parma, which has existed since Roman times and is famous for producing two of Italy’s most iconic foods: Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese and prosciutto. Take a tour exploring the town’s rich culinary traditions, sampling the local specialties along the way. Alternatively, marvel at the architectural highlights of the historic city of Parma: from the Romanesque cathedral, whose cupola by Correggio is a masterpiece of perspective, to the octagonal Baptistery, considered one of the finest medieval buildings in Italy. Explore the 13th-century San Giovanni Pharmacy, filled with apothecary jars on ancient wooden shelves. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the famous Teatro Regio, one of the country’s most renowned opera houses, linked with great composers like Verdi and Rossini (pending final confirmation). Stroll through vibrant Piazza Garibaldi, and step inside the Basilica di Santa Maria della Steccata to marvel at the work of Parmigianino. At the National Gallery of Parma, admire works by Parmigianino, Correggio, and Tintoretto.
THURSDAY MAY 14: MANTUA
Step off the ship today to discover Mantua, called La Bella Addormentata, or “Sleeping Beauty.” We will visit the stunning Palazzo Ducale, created by the powerful Gonzaga family, the largest residence in Italy after the Vatican. With more than 500 rooms, a basilica, courtyards, and gardens, the palace contains precious tapestries based on cartoons by Raphael, spellbinding frescoes by Andrea Mantegna, and extraordinary murals by Pisanello. A short distance away, explore Giulio Romano’s awe-inspiring creation Palazzo Te, a fine example of mannerism in architecture. Inside, admire the painted Hall of the Horses and the Chamber of the Giants.

FRIDAY, MAY 15: RAVENNA
Get an in-depth look at the UNESCO-listed Byzantine and early Christian mosaics in Ravenna, capital of the Western Roman Empire from 402 to 476 A.D. Visit Sant’Apollinare in Classe, with its glorious 6th-century apse covered in brilliant mosaics. Then see the mausoleum of Galla Placidia in Classe, with its glorious 6th-century apse covered in Roman Empire frescoes by Andrea Mantegna, and extraordinary murals by Pisanello. A short distance away, explore Giulio Romano’s awe-inspiring creation Palazzo Te, a fine example of mannerism in architecture. Inside, admire the painted Hall of the Horses and the Chamber of the Giants.

SATURDAY, MAY 16: VENICE
Docked in Venice, choose among several options to savor this beautiful city: take a tour led by an art historian of the Accademia, Venice’s grand museum housing masterworks by Tiepolo, Veronese, and Bellini; explore Venice’s famous opera house, La Fenice, on a behind-the-scenes tour; or take a guided tour of the Peggy Guggenheim Museum to view its fascinating modern art collection. Return for lunch on board and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. This evening, attend the captain’s farewell reception and dinner.

SUNDAY, MAY 17: VENICE / RETURN
Disembark in Venice this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad Inc and the Master of La Venezia, depending on water levels and other factors. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

The 130-passenger La Venezia, undergoing a total interior renovation that will be completed in March 2020, is filled with light and color. The redesign of the super ship will be inspired by Venetian culture, and La Venezia will feature six elegantly appointed suites; three dining venues, including an Italian kitchen on the upper deck; spa; library; lounge and bar. Relax in riverview staterooms and suites with marble bathrooms and handcrafted Savoir® of England beds. Experience a meticulous standard of hospitality including 24-hour room service and concierge services, with butler service in all suites. NOTE: As La Venezia is undergoing extensive renovations until early 2020, photos may not reflect the ship’s final appearance.

RATES INCLUDE
- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard La Venezia
- All meals on board (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner) with unlimited beverages, including premium spirits, beer, and wine
- Airport/pier/airport transfers for all participants
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- All sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees
- All taxes, service, porterage charges, and port fees
- All gratuities including customary shipboard gratuities

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; passport/visa fees; independent meals; super premium wine and alcoholic beverages; personal items and expenses; optional trip insurance; optional Asolo and the Palladian Villas prelude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.
To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

La Venezia cabin preference (1) (2)

I wish to share a cabin with

OPTIONAL PRELUDE

☑ I/We would like to join the optional prelude in Asolo and the Palladian Villas

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on credit card

Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date

On the front cover: Padua