



Ah, **Venezia..**

Part 2... To Piazza San Marco we go.....

Carnevale (a festival which literally means “farewell to meat”), equivalent to Mardi Gras, is everywhere in Venice. Altho’ Carnevale was still several months away at the time of our visit, we saw shop after shop of masks and costumes. Often the crafters sit within their shops, painting, papier-mache-ing the masks, always willing to explain the technique and meaning of an item (while hoping, surely, for a sale...)



I regret that I did not photograph more stores in Venice; it is the shops with unique regional goods that give each town its own personality. Glass, jewelry, masks, needlework in Venice, Leather in Florence, painted ceramics in Sorrento and Capri....

Flower shops are a colorful accent throughout Venice. Someone has to help fill all of those window boxes. Also quite common is the graffiti...it’s everywhere.

Surprisingly, the streets are clean...other than the piles of garbage put out at night to be picked up in the morning...there is no litter..cups, wrappers, etc. strewn about. Early in the morning, the homeowners & shopkeepers sweep and scrub..yes..broom & water..the street in front of their home or store. I use the term ‘street’ to designate the area between houses or shops...it can be as wide as 40’ or as narrow as 10’. There are no curbs; just pavement of cobbles or or large pavers.

In the pavement , about 6” from the wall of a building, are slits about 6” long...these are drains for the water. These also allow water to come up & flood the streets.





And the churches. Seemingly every block or so is a **piazza** with a church dedicated to a saint, with detailed stone and art work, and a **campanile**, (bell tower).

Photographic note: shooting buildings with a wide-angle lens makes the bulidings appear to lean and vertical lines to converge in odd places. There is not much a photog can do...w/o buying a mega-expensive lens used for architectural photography.



There is, however, a leaning tower in Venice..pix to come....



Speaking of which:

The picture on the right shows how owners attempt to stabilize their buildings with threaded rods when the structure begins to fall outward.



A pot of sedum in the morning sun..



Italy's national bird waiting to greet pedestrians...



Almost to Piazza San Marco.....NEXT!

