

The Last of San Marco

To the right is the Doge's Palace again ... you saw much more when you checked out the link in the last PDF.

Some of the pix in this section were taken from the large arched windows on the second story. More on that later. The left wall with the banner faces W and the wall on the right faces S.

Below we have some ladies on the Basilica steps getting into the spirit of carnevale somewhat before the actual festival.



My commentary about food is in inverse proportion to the number of meals we ate each day. Rarely did we have a large, multi-course meal. We ate like a Chicago voter...early and often. Really, too many trattorias, not enough meal times. So we made our own times...;^) We'd see an enticing foodstuff...and it was mealtime!

Displays of a restaurant's offerings are laid out in all their glory to snag passers-by. These pictured were ! expensive! restaurants just off San Marco ...even a hole-in-the-wall (explanation of THAT term in Firenze!) was expensive...and more if you

wanted table service. The menus actually showed prices for both options. We learned quickly to buy take out during the day when we were exploring...much of the fun of traveling comes from people watching anyhow...

One example of costs:...A can of Sprite was \$5 USD..about 3.25 E . (We figured @ \$1.5 American to one Euro. It wasn't exact but it was quite good enough.)



The little 'snack bar' type eateries were much more fun to explore...we could point to what we wanted with a "Per Favore" and receive it with a delighted "Grazie" before we stuffed our happy faces.

We quickly became comfortable with speaking simple Italian...actually, my friend Sue was the brains...she could figure out what to say but she sounded like Brooklyn Joe. So she'd feed me the words & I'd make it sound good. Growing up listening to Italian gave me good vowels..!

As it turned out, Italians who dealt with tourists did speak English...some more than others but enough that we could still practice Italian & have them laugh & correct us. Almost all seemed to appreciate that we were making the effort & were patient.

It so happened that I'd had my hair cut before we left. Quite a few shopkeepers asked if I was Italian.. (Having dark hair & olive skin kinda outed me.) So I dragged out my maiden name. It has enough syllables & vowels, especially at the end, to make 'em happy....Sue's red hair & freckles pointed her into another ethnic direction!

At right is one of the many artists who locate themselves wherever tourists are. Many of them are quite good...part of the fun of touring is bringing back something that represents that region...and having a good haggle makes it even better!

The water in the canals was always quite rough. Vaporetti (water buses) water taxis, police boats, delivery boats, pleasure boats, ambulance boats, all vied for space in the marked channels. All moved very fast. Photos tend to flatten the waves. These gondolas bucked furiously from the



wave action. Look under the bows of the two on the far right.

Looking south across the Canale di San Marco to the Bacino (Bay) di San Marco one sees San Giorgio Maggiore.

The church was designed by Palladio (he of the arched window fame) and contains works by Tintoretto. All through Italy we saw churches with fabulous paintings,



sculpture, mosaics by well-known artists: Tintoretto, Michaelangelo. So much art not in museums...actually being used. (In Firenze I will show you an most unusual use of a very famous painting!_)

These next three photos were taken from a second story window within the Doge's Palace. The window sills were 5' above floor level; so all I could do was put the camera on auto & hold it up. Took lotsa photos, adjusting each time; finally got some good ones. Love digital...the film is so cheap.

Note the marina by the church...these were NOT small boats.

The island & church are but a 5 min. vaporetto ride from San Marco...

The view below is the the SE, just to the left of the photos above.

The green roofed structure is a gondola stand; the white roofed structure on the lower right is a vaporetto station.

The vaporetto is the flat



roofed vessel approaching on the right.

There is another vaporetto station with a white roof & a yellow stripe on the roof. There are express vaporetti & local vaporetti; I don't remember which is which....I believe the one w/ the yellow stripe is the express. All the boarding platforms float-natch!

Look carefully at the photo at right and you can see a



canal just to the left of the green-roofed gondola stop. A blue gondola is heading up the canal.

I took the photo below one evening as we tried -and failed-several times to find our way back to our lodging. We weren't particularly worried as the hour grew later as Venetian streets were always lively with people, We probably would have had better luck if we hadn't been

laughing so hard every time we ended up in the same place.

One thing we later realized is that San Marco is the very lowest point in Venice...so walking up a grade meant we were heading away from San Marco and to Ospedale.

Notice the Campanile in the picture to the right. It really IS leaning..this is not a photographic effect.

Next installment..one more Venice...Murano and boats, boats, boats.

