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Venice For Pleasure (Pallas For Pleasure)



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Synopsis

Now in its seventh revised edition, Venice for Pleasure has become a minor classic, remaining in print for more thanÃ Â 30 years. Ã¢â ¬Å“Its simple object,Ã¢â ¬Â• in the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own words, Ã¢â ¬Å“is to guide the reader to places he might otherwise miss and, having reached them, to tell him what he might wish to know and then leave him, preferably at a cafÃƒÂ©..." Extensive color illustrations, including classic paintings and historical maps accompany the text to reveal a Venice of 50, 100, and 500 years ago.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Not only the best guide book to that city ever written, but the best guide book to any city ever written.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- Bernard Levin, THE TIMESÃ¢â ¬Å“Ã¢â ¬Â| a guide which, like no other I know, leads, by gloriously digressive routes, straight into the heart of a cityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s genius.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- James Mustich, Jr., A COMMON READERÃ¢â ¬Å“One of those miraculous books that gets passed on by hand, pressed urgently on oneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s friends.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- NEW STATESMAN

Now in its seventh revised edition, Venice for Pleasure has become a minor classic, remaining in print for more than thirty years. Ã¢â ¬Å“Its simple object,Ã¢â ¬Â• in the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own words, Ã¢â ¬Å“is to guide the reader to places he might otherwise miss and, having reached them, to tell him what he might wish to know and then leave him, preferably at a cafÃƒÂ©, to admire, to

enjoy, and perhaps be disappointed. The main part of the book describes four walks, each of which can be completed in one day, although there are points in each at which one can break off and return another day. The illustrations show the visitor, as he confronts a view, what his predecessors of a hundred, two hundred, or five hundred years ago saw from the very same point.Ã¢â ¬Â•

The author, J. G. Links, gets it. This is only walking tours book I've ever used that doesn't expect you to read and walk simultaneously. Instead, Mr. Links walks you to a cafÃƒÂ©/park bench/great vista and invites you take a seat while he tells you everything about what you can see. With that accomplished, he gives directions for walking to the next sitting place where he then regales you with wonderful stories about the city before you. Following the guidebook, my husband and I found ourselves in a perfectly private little piazza on the Grand Canal that we never, ever would have discovered because we would have assumed that the passageway was private property. I have recommended this book numerous times over the years (actually an older edition -- my husband and I were newlyweds when we first used the book in 1988) and I'm back at buying yet another copy to give as a gift to friends who are making the trip next week.

Terrific read for those intent on seeing the Venice that lies beyond Piazza San Marco and the Rialto Bridge. Whether you follow the author's routes on his strolls thru the sestieres, or just use his walks as a source of inspiration (as we did), this book is an indispensable addition to the library of anyone planning a trip to Venice. Thanks in large measure to encouragement offered by this book, we ventured into some of the nooks and crannys of this amazing city... we'll see St Mark's Basilica next time we go.

+ Helpful for identifying key historical sites you might not want to miss+ Lends historical context and artistic insight into these sites+ Street maps with recommended walking directions- Somewhat dry and less interesting read for the casual vacationerI got through about half the book before arriving in Venice and never really finished it afterward. It's definitely more for go-getter travelers who like to figure things out on their own and opt for a slightly less traveled path than--say--people who'd prefer a general tour that's been organized by someone else. In short, the book is ideal for a self-guided tour of Venice.Note: Size-wise the book is roughly half of a letter-size paper, an inch in thickness, so it packs well into luggage.

Fantastic Book!!! I bought this for my wife as a memento of our 25th Anniversary trip to Venice. It

was perfect. I highly recommend it to any armchair traveler who wants to "visit" the world's most romantic city. David

If there is no such thing for you as having too much information, then think about buying this book. This book has walking itineraries including places to stop for rest and refreshment, and wonderful details on things to look at while you are walking and even while you are sitting down. This book is not useful for restaurants or hotels or hours that sites are open. Includes history, and comments on Venice from famous writers of the past like John Ruskin. It is to be savored.

What a strange and wonderful little book!Venice for Pleasure is essentially four walking tours told in a charmingly conversational style by an author who is clearly in love with Venice. Stopping in a Venetian cafe to read a passage is like having a friend leaning over your shoulder to recall the local history and gossip, point out fascinating details that you probably wouldn't have noticed, and make you smile with his dry wit.We did all four walking tours and thoroughly enjoyed Links' companionship along the way; I can't recommend it highly enough if exploring Venice on foot is your aim. We also found the directions infallible.Please note that this isn't a conventional guidebook, so you shouldn't expect logistical information.

This book will take you to a quieter, less crowded, and more beautiful Venice than you can imagine. Its approach is unique, emphasizing relaxation and enjoyment as well as history and sightseeing. If you're looking for a checklist of must-sees, this is not it. If you're looking for a new way of looking at an old place, making friends with it in the company of this somewhat eccentric but good-natured guide, you'll be so glad you found this. I was.

This is that rare guide book that is a pleasure to read on its own terms. Of course, it's better to read it in Venice and wander through the alleyways and along the canals in the company of the author, but its charm and humour is such that sometimes I pick it up and read it just for fun. It's the kind of book you're introduced to by a friend, as I was, and then pass on to other friends, as I do. It doesn't look like much but if you want the most entertaining and informative guide to Venice, this is it.

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