

Editor's CHOICE

Hotel Cipriani

VENICE'S HOTEL CIPRIANI SPARKLES WITH enough splendor, vistas, and delicious Italian food to rival the city itself. On a secluded area of Giudecca Island, a mere private shuttle boat ride away from Saint Mark's Square, the Hotel Cipriani [www.hotelcipriani.com] is at once a perfect complement to the romantic charms of Venice and a tranquil respite from the hustle and bustle of the main island's streets and canals.

The hotel's refined elegance reminds one of a modern version of a Venetian palazzo. Its rooms are comfortable and spacious, many with balconies overlooking the lagoon or with patios conveniently snug against the hotel's salt-water pool. Naturally, they are complete with all the necessities one might desire after a day spent exploring the wonders of the city on the main island. The hotel's continental breakfast is a tranquil and relaxing way to begin a day in Italy, and its resort spa and state-of-the-art fitness center offer wonderful ways to top off an afternoon.

The sophisticated atmosphere of the hotel's own Fortuny Restaurant – a popular spot even for those not staying in the Cipriani itself – further enhances its refined and authentic cuisine. Under the masterful hand of Chef Renato Piccolotto, flavorful dishes with clear callbacks to Venetian culture are served with flair and modernity.

Of course, the hotel's service is as impeccable as its rooms and cuisine; from the timely and comforting basics to the ever-willing and truly above-and-beyond concierge service, it is clear that there is no better place to explore the beauties and mysteries of this magical and romantic city. Indeed, if Venice is the "Queen of the Adriatic," then the Cipriani must be its crown. ●



The dining room of the Fortuny Restaurant (left); View of Venice from the Dogaressa Suite (center); A private shuttle boat arriving at Fortuny