

## VENICE



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U. S. S. SPRINGFIELD

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effect of the final Lombard invasion is shown by the resolve to quit the mainland and the rapid building of churches which is recorded by the "Cronaca altinate." The people who finally abandoned the mainland and took their priests with them are the people who made the Venetian republic. But they were not as yet homegemeous.

23-27 June 1962

### History

It is usually affirmed that the state of Venice owes its origin to the barbarian invasions of north Italy; that it was founded by refugees from the mainland cities who sought refuge from the Huns in the impregnable shallows and mudbanks of the lagoons. Venice, like Rome and other famous cities, was an asylum city. But is nearly certain that long before Attila and his Huns swept down upon the Venetian plain in the middle of the 5th century, the little islands of the lagoon already had a population of poor but hardy fisherfolk living in quasi-independence, besause of their poverty and their inaccessible site. This population was augmented from time to time by refugees from the mainland cities of Aquileia, Concordia, Opitergium, Altinum and Patavium. But these did not mingle readily with the indigenous population; as each wave of barbarian invasion fell back, these referees returned to their minland homes, and it required pressure of many successive insursions to induce them finally to abandon the mainland for the lagoon, a decision which was not reached till the Lombard invasion of 568. On each occasion, no doubt, some of the refugees remained behind in the islands, and gradually built and peopled the 12 lagoon townships, which formed the germ of the state of Venice and were subsequently concentrated at Rialto or in the city known as Venice. The There is a tradition that Venice was founded by "consuls from Padua"; and Padua claimed complete control of the seurse of the wide Brenta down to its mouth at Malamocco. The destruction of the mainland cities, and the flight of their leading inhabitants to the lagoens, encouraged the lagoon population to assert a growing independence, and led them to advance the doctrine that they were "born independent." Their development as a maritime people, engaged in small trading and intimately acquainted with their home waters led Belisarius to seek their help in his task of recovering Italy from the Goths.

He was successful; and the lagoons became, theoretically at least, a part of the eastern empire. But the empire was vast and weak, and its capital lay far away; in practice, no doubt, the lagoon population enjoyed virtual independence.

Upon receiving promises of large concessions and trading privileges, the Venetians, in 584, made an act of submission to Byzantium (Constantinople). The terms of this pact resulted in the first diploma conferred on Venice as a separate community. But it was inevitable that, when the barbarians, Lombard or Frank, were once established on the mainland of Italy, Venice should be brought first into trading and then into political relations with its near neighbors, who as masters of Italy also put forward a claim to sovereignty in the lagoons. It is between the two claims of east and west that Venice struggled for and achieved recognized independence.

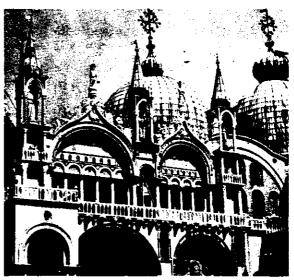
In 466, 14 years after the fall of Aquileia, the pepulation of the 12 lagoon townshipsmet at Grado for the election of one tribune from

each island for the better government of the separate communities, and above all to put an end to rivalries which had already begun to play a disintegrating part. But when the lagoon population was largely augmented in 568 as a result of Alboin's invasion, these jealousies were accentuated, and in 584 it was found expedient to appoint 12 other tribunes, known as the Tribuni Maiores, who formed a kind of central committee to deal with all matters affecting the general weal of the lagoon communities. But the Tribuni Majores were equally powerless to allay the jealousies of the growing townships which formed lagoon community. Rivalry in fishing and in trading, coupled with ancient antipathies inherited from the various mainland cities of origin, were no doubt the cause of these internecine feuds. A crisis was reached when Christopher, patriarch of Grado, convened the people of the lagoon at Heraclea, and urged them to suppress the 12 tribunes and to choose a single head of state. To this they agreed, and in 697 Venice elected its first doge, Paulo Lucio Anafesto.

The growing importance of the lagoon townships, due to their maritime skill, and their monopoly of salt and salted fish, which gave them a strong position in the mainland markets, rendered it inevitable that a clashmust come over the question of independence, when either east or west should claim that Venice belonged to them; and inside the lagoons of growing prosperity, coupled with the external threat to their liberties, concentrated the population into well-defined parties--what may be called the aristocratic party, because it leaned toward imperial Byzantium and also displayed a tendency to make the dogeship hereditary; and the democratic party, connected with the original population of the lagoons aspiring to free institutions, and consequently leaning more toward the Church and the Frankish kingdom which protected the Church.

The central event of early Venetian history was reached when Pippin, the Frankish ruler, resolved to make good his title as king of Italy. He turned his attention to the lagoon of Venice, which had been steadily growing in commercial and maritime importance, and had, on the whole, shown a sympathy for Byzantium rather than for the Franks. Pippin decided to subdue the lagoons. He gathered a fleet at Ravenna, captured Chioggia, and pushed on up the Lido toward the capital of the lagoons at Malamocco. But the Venetians,

in face of the danger, once more moved their capital, this time to Rialto, that group of islands now called Venice, lying in mid-lagoon between the lidi and the mainland. This step was fatal to Pippin's designs. The intricate waterways and the stubborn Venetian defense baffled all his attempts to reach Rialto; the summer heats came on; the Lido was unhealthy. Pippin was forced to retire. A treaty between Charlemagne and Nicephorus (810) recognized the Venetians as subjects of the eastern empire, while preserving to



Spires, domes, arches: the facade of San Marco.

them the trading rights on the mainland of Italy which they had acquired under Lintprand, the Lombard.

The first doge elected in Rialto was Angelo Partecipazio, a Heraclean noble, and his meign was signalized by the building of the first Church of S. Marco, and by the removal of the saint's body from Alexandria, as though to affirm and to symbolize the creation of united Venice. At this time began the annual ritual marriage of the doge to the sea, symbolizing Venice's union with the Adriatic.

The history of Venice during the next 200 years is marked externally by the growth of the city, the result of its increasing trade. Internally this period is characterized by the attempt of three powerful families, the Participazi, the Candiani and the Orseoli, to create an hereditary dogeship, and the violent

resistance offered by the people. There were seven of the Partecipazi, five Candiani and three Orseoli reigning in almost unbroken accession, until, with the ostracism of the whole Orseolo family in 1032, the dynastic tendency was crushed forever.

The growing wealth of Venice soon attracted the cupidity of its piratical neighbors on the coast of Dalmatia. The swift Liburnian vessels began to raid the Lido, compelling the Venetians to arm their own vessels and thus to form the nucleus of their famous

ier classes, with a growing tendency to draw together for the purpose of securing to themselves the entire direction of Venetian politics in order to dominate Venetian commerce. To achieve their object a double line of conduct was imposed upon them: they had to absorb the powers of the doge, and also to deprive the people of the voice they posessed in the management of state affairs by their presence in the "concione" or general assembly of the whole community, which was still the fountain of all authority.



The gondolier's union flourishes in the summer.

fleet, the importance of which was recognized by the Golden Bull of the emperor Basil, which conferred on Venetian merchants privileges far more extensive than any they had hitherto enjoyed, on condition that the netian fleet was to be at the disposition of the emperor. But the Dalmatian raids tinued to harass Venetian trade, till, in 1000, the great doge Pietro Orseolo II attacked and captured Curzola and stormed the piratical stronghold of Lagosta, crushing the freebooters in their citadel. The doge assumed the title of Duke of Dalmatia, and a great step was taken toward the supremacy of Venice in the Adriatic, which was essential to the free development of its commerce and also enabled it to reap the pecuniary advantages to be derived from the Crusades.

This expansion of the trade of Venice resulted in the rapid development of the wealth-

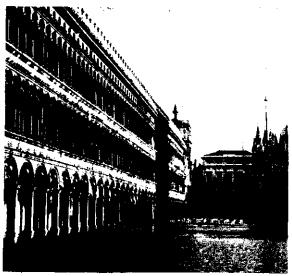
When the fourth crusade was proclaimed at Soissons, it was to Venice that the leaders applied for transport, and it agreed to furnish transport for 4,500 horses, 9,000 kmights, 20,000 foot, and provisions for one year: the price was 85,000 silver marks of Cologne and half of all conquests. But Zara and Dalmatia had revolted from Venice in 1166 and were as yet unsubdued. supremacy in the Adriatic had been temporarily shaken. The 85,000 marks, the price of transport, were not forthcoming, and the Venetians declined to sail till they were paid. The doge Dandolo now saw an opportunity to benefit Venice. He offered to postpone the receipt of the money if the crusaders would reduce Zara and Dalmatia for the republic. These terms were accepted. Zarawas recovered, and while still at Zara the leaders of the crusade, supported by Dandolo, resolved for their own private purposes to attack Constantinople, instead of making for the Hely Land. Constantinople fell (1204), chiefly because of the ability of the Venetians under Dandolo. The city was sacked and a Latin empire, with Baldwin of Flanders as emperor, was established at Constantinople.

In the partition of the spoils Venice claimed and secovered, in its own phrase, "a half and a quarter of the Roman empire." To Venice fell the Cyclades, the Sporades, the islands and the eastern shores of the Adriatic, the shores of the Propontis and the Enxine, and the littoral of Thessaly, and it bought Crete from the marquis of Monferrat...

Venice was raised at once to the position of a European power. In order to hold these possessions, it borrowed from the Franks the feudal system, and granted fiefs in the Greek islands to its more powerful families, on condition that they held the trade route open for Venice. The expansion of commerce which resulted from the fourth crusade soon made itself evident in the city by a rapid development in its architecture and by a decided strengthening of the commercial aris tocracy, which eventually led to the great constitutional reform—the closing of the Maggior Consiglio in 1296, whereby Venice became a rigid oligarchy. Externally this rapid success awoke the implicable hatred of Genea, and led to the long and exhausting Genoese wars which ended at Chioggia in 1380.

It was impossible that the rival Venetian and Genoese merchants, dwelling at close quarters in the Levant cities, should not come to blows. They fell out at Acre in 1253 The first Genoese war began and ended in 1258 by the complete defeat of Genoa, but the war did not end until 1380 when the Venetians turned apparent defeat into total victory. The Genoese, attempting to starve Venice into submission after destroying her fleet, allowed the Venetians to block her routes from the lagoons to the sea. In June the flower of the Genoese fleet surrendered at discretion. Genoa never recovered from the blow, and Venice remained undisputed mistress of the Mediterranean and the Levant trade.

But as the city became the recognized mart for exchange of goods between east and west, the freedom of the western outlet assumed the aspect of a paramount question. It was useless for Venice to accumulate eastern merchandise if it could not freely pass the goods on to the west. If the various states on the immed-



San Marco's Square.

iate mainland could levy taxes on Venetian goods in transit, the Venetian merchant would inevitably suffer profits. The geograph ical position of Venice and the commercial policy alike compelled it to attempt to secure the command of the roads of the mainland, at least up to the mountains, and of the rivers, of the northwestern outlet, just as the command of the southeastern inlet had been tained. Venice was compelled to turn its attention, though reluctantly, to the mainland of Italy. Another consideration drove it in the same direction. During the long wars with Genoa the Venetians realized that, as they owned no meat- or corn-producing territory, a crushing defeat at sea and a blockade on the mainland exposed them to the grave danger of being starved into surrender. Both of these necessities, for a free outlet for merchantise and for a food-supplying area, drove Venice into the mainland, and compelled it to initiate a policy which eventually led to the disastrous wars of Cambrai. (The European powers, the Church and the small states of Italy, partly from jealous greed of its possessions, partly on the plea of its treason to Christendom in making terms with Islam, partly from fear of expansion in north Italy, coalesced at Cambras in 1508 for the partition of Venetian possessions. The war proved disastrous for Venice. The victory of Agnadello (1510) gave the allies the complete command of Venetian territory down to the shores of

the lagoon. But the mutual jealousy of the allies saved Venice. The league broke up, and the mainland cities of the Veneto returned of their own accord to their allegiance to St. Mark. But the republic never recovered from the blow, coming as it did on the top of the Turkish wars and the loss of trade by the discovery of the Cape route. Venice ceased to be a great power, and was henceforth entirely concerned in the effort to preserve and remaining possessions and its very independence.

So far as European politics are concerned, the latter years of the republic are made memorable by one important event: the resistance which Venice, under the guidance of Fra Paolo Sarpi, offered to the growing claims of the Curia Romana, advanced by Pope Paul V. Venice was placed under interdict (1606), but asserted the rights of temporal sovereigns with a courage which was successful and won the esteem and approval of most European sovereigns. But the chief glory of the republic's declining years was undoubtedly its splendid art. Giorgione, Titian, Sansovino, Tintoret-

to, Paolo Veronese and Palladio all lived and worked after the disastrous wars of the league of Cambrai. During these years Venice was the great pleasure city of Europe.

The end of the republic came when the French Revolution burst over Europe. Napoleon was determined to destroy the oligarchical government, and seized the pretext that Wenice was hostile to him and a menace to his line of retreat while engaged in his Austrian campaign of 1797. The peace of Leoben left Venice without an ally. The government resolved to offer no resistance to the conqueror, and the doge Lodovico Manin abdicated on May 12, 1797. On Oct. 17, Napoleon handed Venice over to Austria by the peace of Campo Formio, and between 1798 and 1814 Venice was passed from France to Austria and Austria to France until the coalition of that latter year assigned it definitely to Austria. In 1848, a revolution broke out and a provisional government under Daniele Manin maintained itself for a brief space. In 1866, the defeat of Austria by the Prussia, s led to the united Italy.



A TOUR OF THE CITY: Venice, the rosy-edged dream world of the American escapist, has always ranked with such locales as Bali, Hawaii, the Riviera and the South Sea Islands as a place a person would want to go, if only he could go someplace.

Venice is a city that can be gray and cold in winter, but shines like diamonds in the Adriatic when the sun is out—which is all summer. It was from Venice that Marco Polo set out on his travels and to Venice he returned with fabulous tales of the wonders of the world; but that was almost seven hundred years ago, and since then the traffic has been mostly the other way. It is to Venice that travelers go, and from Venice that they come back laden with adjectives.

A visit to Venice is one of those truly outstanding travel experiences which suffer from too much advanced build-up. Write about Venice or talk about it, and you find yourself spattering cliches all over the place.

Everything you say about it has been said for centuries. The traveler planning his first visit is usually convinced that the city can't possibly live up to its advanced bill - ing.

You go on to Venice, and everything you've ever read or heard about it suddenly becomes real and vivid. All the stereotypes cease to be trite and become personal reality. You own them forever: the white marble palaces along the Grand Canal, the Basilica of St. Mark's

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with the gold of its mosaics resplendent in the sun and fabulous in the moonlight, the silver sands of the Lido across the laguna, and above all the gondolas with their singing gondoliers.

The gondolier is one of the most colorful characters you'll meet in Europe. He is to Venice just about what a free-wheeling cabdriver is to New York. Like his American counterpart, the gondolier makes his main stand around the railroad station, bus terminal and the hotels. His rates are fixed by municipal edict, and based on the hour or fraction thereof.

Incidentally—as an unromantic sidelight—you'll be amazed to see traffic lights at some of the crossroads of the canals where there is a great deal of freight traffic in gondolas and motor barges. After the mood of Venice has you, the pigeons of St. Mark's Square somehow become friendly and picturesque birds, instead of the nuisance that pigeons are in most of the world's cities. You see the magnificent mosaics above the entrance to

the cathedral, still living and brilliant after three to seven hundred years, and you walk into the dark interior, all gold, marble and mosaic to be transported back into a setting of the second Rome--Constantinople, where the Roman Empire did not end until 1453, the empire which in the west was by this time regarded as an ancient, golden civilization-as remote as she is to us today.

The Doge's Palace, Bridge of Sighs and the Royal Daniele Hotel cease to be names on travel folders, and after you leave, there will always be the unforgettable memories.

The ghosts of the characters in "The Merchant of Venice" haunt the end of the Rialto Bridge and Hemingway's dying general is waiting for his last love at the Gritti Palace. On the Grand Canal you pass another medieval palace, the home of Shakespeare's Desdemona before she went to Cyprus as the wife of Othello. After dark you sit at a cafe in St. Mark's Square listening to the music and you know exactly why you came to Venice.

### Where to Go



TOURS: Organized tours may be arranged through Thomas Cooks-Wagons-Lits, C.I.T. or American Express Co. The latter offers, among others, a half-day gondola trip for \$2.50 and a half-day walking tour for \$1.30; guides may also be hired at the Danieli Hotel.

There are also motorboat tours to some of the outer islands. Bus trips can be made to some of the inland cities. SHOPPING: The normal Italian leather goods are sold everywhere. More typically Venetian are glass-ware, lace and pottery. The Paulaus Glass Co., just off San Marco Square, has large display rooms and an exhibition factory



where one can watch the craftsmen actually make delicate products. Pottery is sold in Venice but is made, for the most part, on the island of Murano. Shipping arrangements are easily made.

#### and what to do

#### Art Galleries - Museums

Biennale di Venezia (International Biennial Art Exhibition - International Theatre Festival - International Festival of Contemporary Music - International Film Art Exhibition) - San Marco, Cà Giustinian

Gallerie dell'Accademia (Venetian painters of XIV-XVIII century) - Accademia . . .

Galleria Franchetti (XV-XVII century art) - Cà d'Oro . Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna (paintings and contemporary sculptures) - Cà Pesaro .

Mostra dei Cimeli della Biblioteca Marciana (bindings, illuminated and decorated books of the IX-XVI centuries) – Piazzetta San Marco

Museo Archeologico (Archeological Museum) - Piazza San Marco, Procuratie Nuove . . .

Museo Civico Correr e Museo del Risorgimento (works of art and historic relics of the Venetian Republic) - Piazza San Marco, Ala Napoleonica Museo Civico di Storia Natu-

Museo Civico di Storia Naturale (natural history Museum) - Fondaco dei Turchi Museo d'Arte Vetraria (ancient and contemporary art of

and contemporary art of glass) - Island of Torcello Museo del Settecento Veneziano (Venetian furnishings of the XVIII century) - S. Barnaba, Cà Rezzonico

Museo Lapidario e Pinacoteca Patriarcale (ancient sculptures and paintings of the XV-XVIII centuries) - Campo Santa Maria della Salute . . .

Museo Provinciale (ancient art)

- Island of

Museo Storico Navale (relics

and trophies of the Venetian and Italian navy) - Arsenale

Palazzo Ducale (paintings of the XV-XVIII centuries) -

Scuola di S. Giorgio degli Schiavoni (paintings by Carpaccio) - S. Antonin, Fondamenta Furlani



#### Noteworthy Buildings and Works of Art

Abbaxia di San Gregorio . . . Arsenale - San Martino . . . . Cà d'Oro - Strada Nuova . . . Cà Foscari - San Pantalon . . . Dogana da Mar - Punta della Dogana Fabbriche Nuove di Rialto Fondaco dei Tedeschi (Poste e Telegrafi) - San Bartolomeo Fondaco dei Turchi - S. Gio-vanni Decollato Libreria Vecchia - Piazzetta . . . . . Monumento a Bartolomeo Colleoni - SS. Giovanni e Paolo Palazzo Balbi - San Pantalon Palazzo Bernardo - San Polo Palazzo Camerlenghi - Rialto Palazzo Cavalli - San Vitale Palazzo Contarini-Fasan - San Palazzo Corner della Cà Grande (Prefettura) - S. Maurizio Palazzo Corner-Spinelli - Sant'Angelo.......

Palazzo Da Mula - Island of Palazzo Dario - San Gregorio Palazzo Ducale - San Marco Palazzo Farsetti (Municipio) -Palazzo Grassi - San Samuele Palazzo Grimani - San Luca . Palazzo Labia - San Geremia Palazzo Loredan (Municipio) -dell'Orto Palazzo Papadopoli - San Sil-rosini Palazzo Van Axel - Miracoli Palazzo Vendramin-Calergi -San Marcuola . Ponte dei Sospiri - San Marco Ponte di Rialto - Rialto Prigioni - Riva Schiavoni Procuratie Nuove - S. Marco . Procuratie Vecchie - S. Marco Scala del Bovolo - Campo Manin Scuola Grande di San Marco -SS. Giovanni e Paolo . Torre dell'Orologio - S. Marco



THEATER AND CINEMA: It is not likely that films are in English. There are two legitimate theaters, one of which has symphonic recitals and operas in season. Operas are often held outdoors during the summer and are announced by posters throughout the city.

#### Principal Theatres and Cinemas

Teatro Verde (open air) - Island of San Giorgio . . . . . . . . . .

Palazzo ed Arena della Mostra Internazionale del Cnema - Lido Piazzate del Casinò

Cinema Rossini - Son Luca . . Cinema San Marco - S. Moisè

Teatro del Ridotto - San Marco, Calle Vallaresso . . . .
Teatro di Polozzo Glassi (openair) - San Samuele . . . .
Teatro La Fenice - San Fantin
Teatro La Perla - Lido, Cosinò
Teatro Goldoni - San Luca . .
Teatro Malibran - S. Giovanni
Grisostomo . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .



HOTELS: Among the better hotels in Venice are: Gritti Palace Hotel, Campo Santa Maria del Giglio 2467.

Danieli Royal Excelsior, riva degli Schiavoni\*
Bauer Grunwald, campo San Moise 1459 \*
Grand Hotel, calle larga 22 March-St. Marks \*
Europe

Passazzo al Mare -- Lido Cipriani, Guidecca 10 \*

\*recommended by Michelin

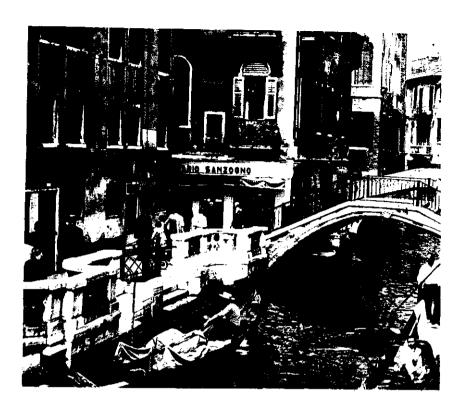
CHURCHES: There are about 300 Roman Catholic churches in Venice. More accessible are San Marco in San Marco Square and St. Elizabeth's Church, Lido. Other denominations represented are the Free Church, a Methodist chapel, Greek Orthodox, and Jewish: G'hetto Vecchio Cammaregio. There is no English-speaking Pretestant minister resident in Venice area, but during July and August one usually visits.

TRANSPORTATION: Buses, taxis and street car do not exist in Venice, except on the outskirts of town, on the mainland. In their stead are gondolas, launches, and ferries... Gondolas run 100 lire per hour. During tourist season, however, prices shoot up to 1500 lire per hour. Ferries depart from various landing areas along the waterfront for the Lido on a half-hour schedule. Grand Canal launches run about 50 lire. Launches can be rented, but are expensive. Vehicles may be obtained from the C.I.T. if vehicles are landed they may be garaged at the C.I.T. garage, a 20-minute boat-ride. Vehicles are useless except on mainland or on the Lido.

ATHLETICS: Athletic facilities are limited...
There is a large stadium suitable for football or soccer, known as "Stadio Della Chiesa San Elena". Arrangements should be made for its use through the American Express Co. There is a basket ball court and baseball field in the Italian Petty Officer's Training School. Arrangements may be made through the Commanding. Officer. There is a tennis court at the Naval Arsenal and a golf course on the Lido. There are a few horses for hire at two small riding academies.

BEACHES: There is excellent swimming at Lido Beach, 15 minutes by ferry from San Marco Square. There are several swimming clubs. Cabanas can be rented from the Excelsior Hotel and Hotel des Bains, among others.

## After hours



CLUBS AND BARS: For extremely pleasant afternoon drinking are the several outdoor bars on Piazza San Marco. Each has its own orchestra, and as one finishes playing another begins.

More sophisticated, and more appropriate for cocktails, are Harry's Bar, Ciro's, Joe and Johnnys, the Danieli and Luna Hotel Bars. Rossini's American Bar, near Campo Manin, is generally expensive, and its sanitation facilities are not up to the others.

The following night clubs offer dancing and entertainment, or both:
Antico Pignolo -- Calle Specchieri, 452
Ciro's Bar -- Via XXII Marzo, 2397
Night Club Martini -- Campo S. Fantin, 1938
Hotel Danieli -- Grand Canal
Hotel Grunwald -- Grand Canal

The Aero-Club, of the Italian Air Force, will usually extend invitations for an evening's entertainment. Two cabanas at the Excelsior Hotel, Lido Beach, have been used for enlisted recreation parties. There is a modern and well-appointed casino on the Lido, pro-

viding cabaret entertainment and numerous forms of gambling.

RESTAURANTS: There are a number of good restaurants in Venice, among them:

Taverna La Fenice: Campiello Fenice 1938, at the Fenice Theater; one of the better restaurants in Venice, but expensive. \*

Antico Martini: campo San Fantin -- San Marco 1980. Recommended for seafood oocktail and filet of sole Martini. \*

Al Graspo de Ua: S. Bartolomeo 5094; Venetian atmosphere, patronized mostly by Italians, excellent food. \*

Alla Colomba: Frezzeria 1665; good food, not too expensive.

Pilsen: Bacino Orseolo 1198, just off Piazza San Marco at the far end from the Basilica; not too expensive. American dishes are also featured.

Noemi: Calle dei Fabbri 912; seafood specialties.

Harry's Bar: At the entrance to the Grand Canal, near Piazza San Marco; small selection of excellent food; expensive. Famous for good drinks.

