Abercrombie & Kent



LA BELLA VITA RIVER CRUISE

A cruise aboard La Bella Vita on the Venetian Lagoon, River Po and Canal Bianco between Venice and the lakeside Renaissance city of Mantua is a truly magical experience.

European Canal Barge Cruises, Cruises

Europe, Italy

7 days from AU$7,396 pp

Private

Journey Overview

A cruise aboard La Bella Vita on the Venetian Lagoon, River Po and Canal Bianco between Venice and the lakeside Renaissance city of Mantua is a truly magical experience. There is the opportunity to enjoy diverse landscapes and nature en route, from colourful lagoon islands to wild beach dunes and pine woods full of birdlife. The itinerary includes fascinating guided tours of Ferrara, Mantua and Chioggia which give a real insight into the many cultures – Renaissance, Roman, Etruscan, Byzantine – that have influenced this region of Italy for centuries.

La Bella Vita is a stylish 20 passenger vessel with a typically modern Italian interior, reflected in the use of vibrant colours throughout to create an atmosphere of casual relaxation. There is an inviting bar area in which to enjoy a glass of Prosecco and a spacious dining room with louvre doors that open to give a perfect view as you are served delicious Italian specialities and wines.

She has two upper deck junior suites and eight lower deck staterooms, all air-conditioned and with en suite facilities, while above there is a huge sun deck with a large canopy and comfortable loungers to relax on and watch the world drift by.

Cruise Highlights

- Tour of historic Venice, The Naval Museum and the Pavilion of Gondolas
- Cruise on the Canal of the Orphans past picturesque lagoon islands
- Tour of Chioggia with its Roman, Etruscan and Byzantine history
- Visit to Chioggia’s colourful fish market
- Dinner ashore at the 17thC stately home Villa Ca’Zen
- Private visit to the wine cellars of Villa Widmann-Borletti
- Tour of the Schifanoia Palace in Ferrara
- Visit Mantua’s Ducal Palace and gardens, or the Doge’s Palace in Venice


La Bella Vita
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Itinerary

Day 1: Venice

Guests are met at the Hotel Laguna Palace in Mestre or Piazzale Roma in Venice** and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to La Bella Vita for a Prosecco welcome. An afternoon cruise takes us along the Giudecca Canal past some of Venice's most famous monuments: the Chiesa del Redentore, the impressive Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute and the Punta della Dogana to our mooring outside the Naval Museum. Then time for a stroll to St Mark's Square and a guided tour of the Doge's Palace before dinner on board.
La Bella Vita | Meals: D

Day 2: Venice to San Pietro in Volta

Guided walking tour to Castello District, perhaps discovering some hidden parts of the city of Venice: the gardens of the Biennale Exhibition of Modern Arts, Palladio's Church of San Pietro in Castello and the Venetian Ships Pavilion, an annex of the Naval History Museum Venice, housing vessels of historical importance including ceremonial barges and warships. Late afternoon cruise to Pellestrina which separates the Venetian Lagoon from the Adriatic Sea, along the Canal of the Orphans passing lagoon islands with their ancient monasteries, painted fishing boats and tiny churches. Time perhaps for a walk or cycle ride along the 18th century Istrian sea wall. Dinner on board.
La Bella Vita | Meals: BLD

Day 3: San Pietro in Volta to Taglio di Po

After breakfast, we cruise to Chioggia, city of Goldoni's plays. Here we visit the 18th century Church of San Domenico set on its own island, to see Carpaccio's St Paul, his last recorded painting and other works of art by Tintoretto and Bassano. We also admire the Piazzetta Vigo and visit the colourful fish market. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a short tour of Chioggia's pretty canals in a traditional locally-built boat, before re-joining La Bella Vita. Passing through a nature reserve with flamingos and occasional heron, snipe and other wildfowl, we travel upriver to Taglio di Po for dinner ashore hosted by the owners at the beautiful 17thC Villa Ca'Zen, a private stately home by the river where Lord Byron courted the Countess Giuccioli and wrote some of his best poetry.
La Bella Vita | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Taglio di Po to Zelo

This morning we join the Bianco canal and cruise to Adria, an ancient Etruscan town where we visit the Archaeological Museum. After lunch on board, we drive to the Bagnoli Estate to tour the Renaissance gardens and wine cellars of the 17thC Villa Widmann Borletti to enjoy a private tasting of their renowned estate-grown vintages. This winery has been supplying Venetian society for centuries. Afterwards, we rejoin La Bella Vita moored at Zelo. Dinner on board.
La Bella Vita | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Zelo to Governolo

Morning excursion with a guided tour of the Renaissance city of Ferrara, including the Schifanoia Palace, renowned for its fabulous 15thC frescoes. We also admire the exterior of the Estense Castle and its moat and visit the magnificent cathedral with its façade of sculpted images described as an illustrated Bible. Return to the hotel barge moored in Trevenzuolo for an afternoon canal cruise past villages and farmsteads to Governolo and dinner on board.
La Bella Vita | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Governolo to Mantua

Our final cruise has a dramatic approach to Mantua, home of the poet Virgil, artists Mantegna and Donatello and a captivating lakeside setting. Mantua displays extraordinary neo-classical and baroque architecture, portrayed in the 14thC Ducal Palace housing some 15 gardens and courtyards, a museum, basilica and theatre. The intricate frescoes, Gallery of Mirrors and exquisite Rivers Room and 12,000 paintings and sculptures all create a Grand Finale to our Italian Renaissance adventure. Captain’s Farewell Dinner on board.
La Bella Vita | Meals: BLD

Day 7: Mantua

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to the Hotel Laguna Palace in Mestre or Piazzale Roma in Venice.
Meals: B

*This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change***.**

On alternate weeks the cruise will be in the reverse direction.

Some cruises may be on the River Po, depending on the water level.

*** Alternative locations possible for Private Charter bookings*

Inclusions

- Comfortable accommodation in air-conditioned, en suite staterooms or suites
- Gourmet meals prepared by the on-board chef, fine wines and an open bar
- Daily escorted excursions to places of interest and private wine tastings
- Local transfers, for example to and from Venice
- Bicycles and on most hotel barges, an on-deck spa pool
- Attentive service from an experienced crew – Captain, chef, tour guide and hosts/hostesses

Map


Venice
ITALY
Mantua
San Pietro
in Volta
Taglio di Po
Trevenzuolo
Bosaro
EMBARK/
DISEMBARK
ROUTE

Accommodation

La Bella Vita



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Category: First Class
Cruise region: Venice & the Po Valley
Cruise Route: Venetian Lagoon, River Po/Canal Bianco
Pickup location: Venice
Departures: March - October
Length of vessel: 140 ft

Crew: 6-10
Max Passenger Capacity: 20
Approx Cabin Size: Jr. Suites 135 Staterooms 103
Interior Decks: 2
TV/DVD Play in Cabin Saloon: -
Demo Gallery: No
Laundry service: Yes



Dates & Pricing

La Bella Vita is also available for whole barge charter for 10-20 passengers, from $116,599.

Please call A&K on 1300 851 800, send us a **booking enquiry** to book this journey or contact your travel advisor.

Abercrombie & Kent

Call Us Now on 1300 851 924 within Australia

Melbourne Office:

T: +61 (0)3 9536 1800
F: +61 (0) 3 9536 1805
E: contact@abercrombiekent.com.au

Address

Level 26 (North Tower)
80 Collins St
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

International:

New Zealand Call: 0800 441 638
Asia Call: 800 4747 7700