

Venetian Observations



MATT PALMER

INTRODUCTION

I expected Venice to be a tourist trap.

It was meant to be our chance to address jet lag after over 24 hours in flight and airports. Nothing more than a short stopover on the way to the Italian Dolomites. Perhaps a bit gimmicky. Certainly not a place I could connect to as a landscape and nature photographer these days.

I was very wrong.

What was set to be two nights bookending my honeymoon with Mieke (but in practice, was a full blown photography trip, just the way we love it) expanded into a full two weeks. We scheduled our journey with unallocated time at the end of the trip which we could use to pursue ideal weather or interesting opportunities. Almost the entirety of Europe forecast cloudless blue skies - not the kind of weather that's ideal for landscape photography. We needed a plan B... or realistically, for anyone that knows me, more like a plan G.

The decision to return to Venice to explore was an easy one. And we did, rising before the sun most mornings, and not resting until dark claimed the streets. We weren't after sunrises or sunsets, but experiencing the city at dawn revealed an entirely different side of Venice. The feared tourist hordes were actually much easier to avoid than expected - just wake up early, and deviate from the main streets and attractions.

Not only that, Venice is one of the few cities in the world, perhaps the only one of this scale, that has never been conquered by the automobile. The difference in the feeling of the city is so tangible, even compared to other renowned Italian destinations such as Florence.

Pedestrians own the city (or perhaps the pigeons do) and all of its meandering paths and dead ends.

This small e-book is filled with observations captured while exploring the island of Venice and its close neighbors. It's not a guide to the major attractions, although they may sometimes be featured. Rather, it contains visual dabblings made in side streets, alleys, and with a spirit of play that is all too easy to forget when photographing for a living. I hope you enjoy it, and that you too have or have had the chance to meander through these cobblestone paths.

Matt

mattpalmer.co



View from Ponte dell'Accademia, one of the most popular viewpoints of the Grand Canal.



The grand canal becomes a chaotic dance of boats as the sun rises each morning. Multiple exposure.



Piazza San Marco, one of the busiest places in Venice. Intentional camera movement.



The Grand Canal featuring Basilica Santa Maria della Salute. Multiple exposure.



Palazzo Ducale (Doge's Palace, not to be mistaken with the famous dog). Intentional camera movement.



Piazza San Marco. Intentional camera movement.



RGB (and a little yellow).



Pigeons rule this city. Fake falcons are even positioned on some windows (third image) to prevent their complete domination.



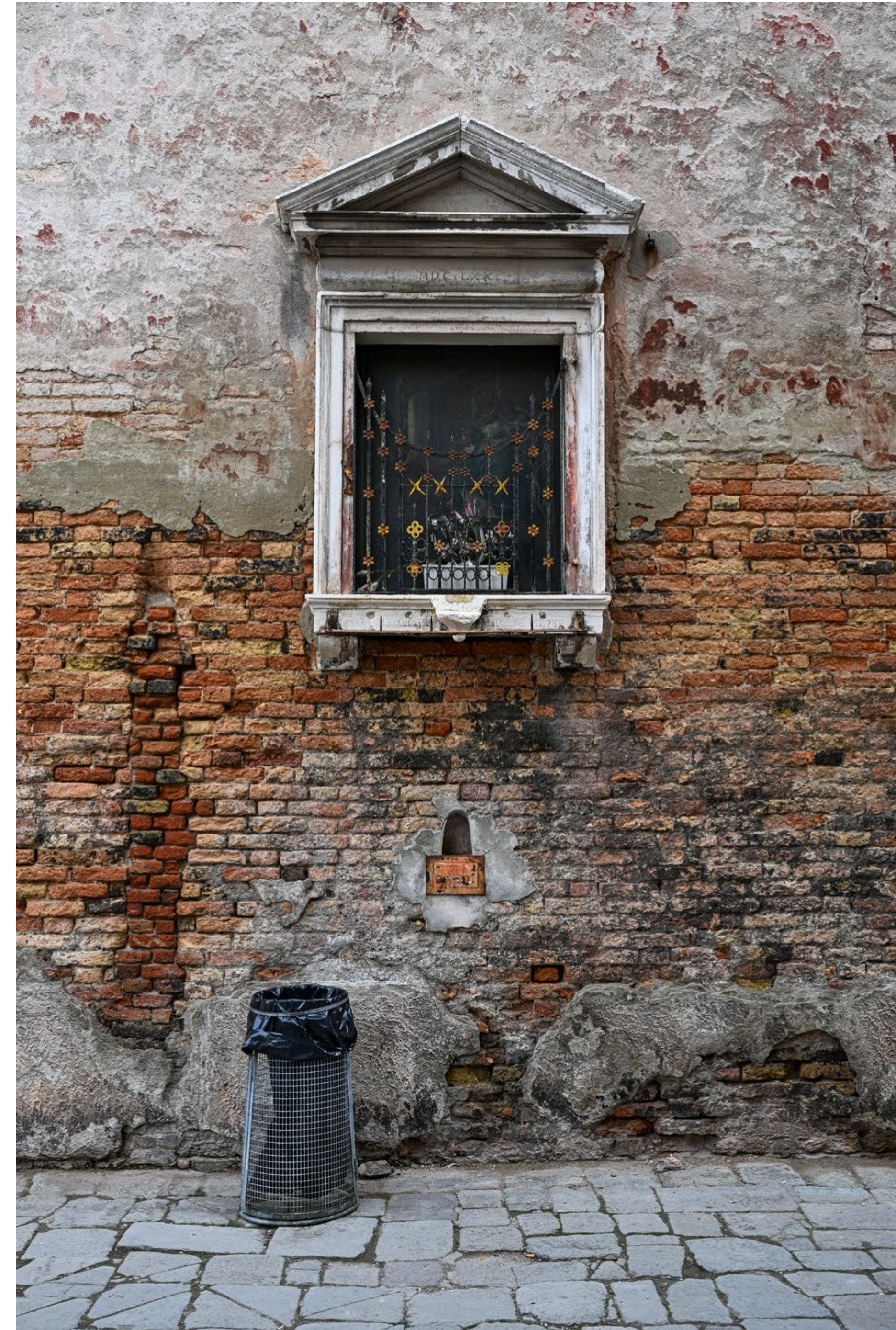
Greedy gull. That hat isn't messing around either.



The cat demands entrance.



Washing lines in Venice. Those window blinds must be a nightmare to maintain.



Bless thy table and thy bin. Religious iconography is incorporated holistically including in otherwise banal scenes.



This pigeon has a spotter.



What can I say? Sometimes I like a discordance.



These busts have been imprisoned for crimes too heinous to discuss here.



This man IS the engine.



Go now! Towards the tourists!



They loved a pinnacle in ancient Venice.



Left: Lazy pigeons found slacking off around-the-clock. | Right: Marilyn Monroe bird on hipster pillar.



Basically this image transitions us back from birds into black and white buildings...



It's not a voyeurism thing, people just make great elements. Sorry to objectify you, people. Thank you.



The dog (right) is in fact a voyeur. Told me himself.



The street lantern budget is strong.



While we took to the canals, we didn't do the whole gondola thing. I'm not sure I want that kind of personal visual attention. Crammed on a vaporetto is more my style.



Man stands near building. An absolute pillar of street photography.



The island of Giudecca is a nice get away and you still get to point your telephoto lens at groups of people on San Polo.



More spying from Giudecca.



Do you like towers? You'll love Venice.



Towers AND boats.



These ladies are bad ass, and much more fit than me.



The sun sets on Venice. The sky is full of the condensation trails of planes.



San Giorgio Maggiore Church



Ahh yes, background separation plus boat. Another staple.



Even the filler art is pretty good.



Smoke break. Sorry fella, you were just so wonderfully framed with the black panel. I promise I'll leave you alone.



Cocktails, beers and a great sunset. Please buy something.



Come for the extravagant and opulent Basilica di San Marco, stay for the exceptional selection of hats.



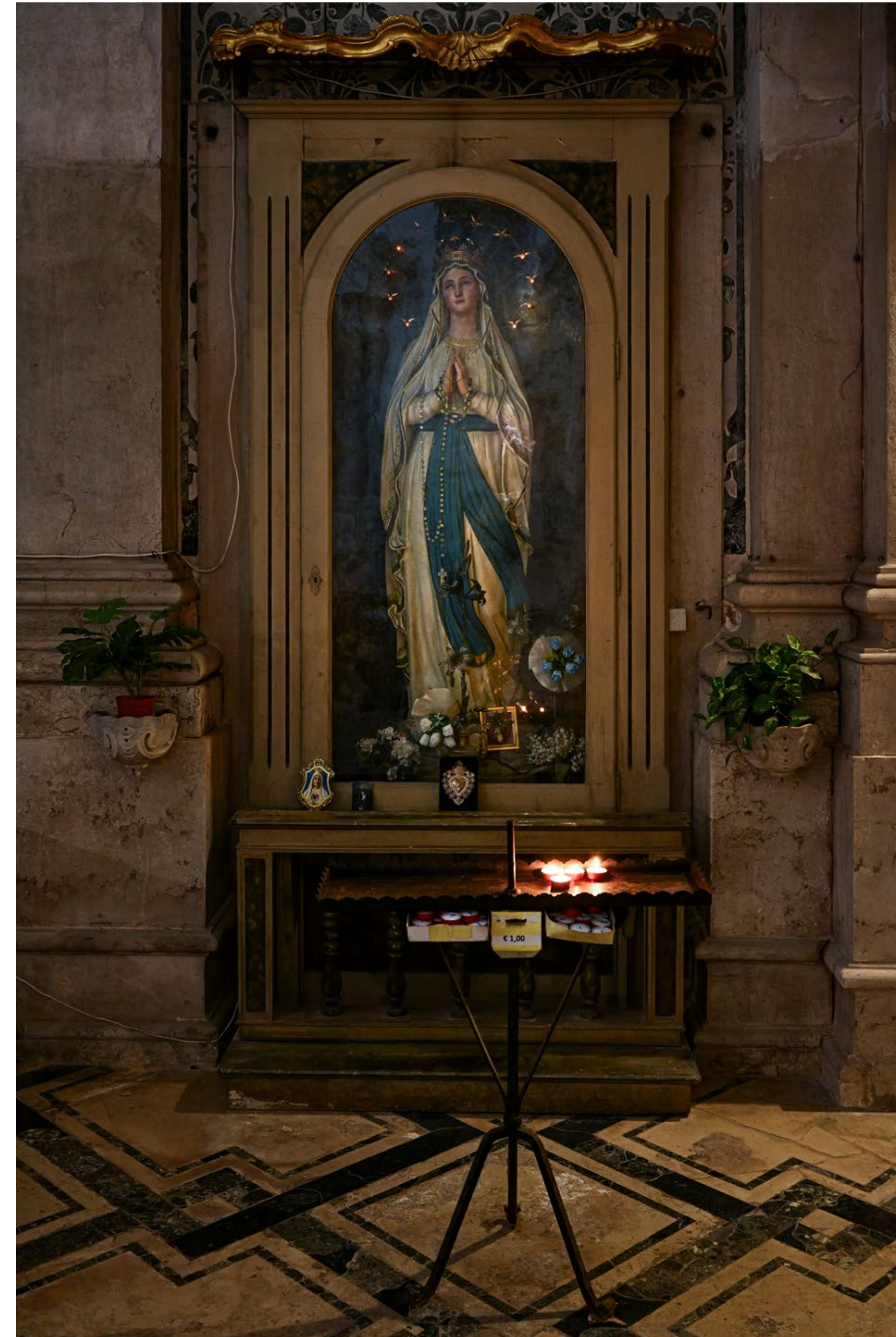
Early morning strolls in Venice are lovely, especially when followed by un cornetto e un 'raspberry juice' per favore.



If this boat's a rockin... well it's just the waves.



Respect to the army of cleaners that help keep Venice beautiful. These popular places are left in horrendous condition of an evening.



Buy a candle and support the excellent vacuuming of the premises.



Not sure if this guy is doing happy hands (ala Napoleon Dynamite) or some kind of Eastern European military sign.



Art is more popular with humans than pigeons.



Dogs are the best people.



Thank you for coordinating your jacket with the nearby building.



Thank you as well, sort of.



This one didn't try at all. Pigeons obey no one.



Not sure what pink neighbour thinks of the state of blue neighbour's place.



Playing with light in Burano.



Religious iconography must be positioned on an angle.



You don't stay blue for long in Burano. It's genuinely a lovely place!



I love what you've done to the place.



Peanuts and Snoopy seem to be very popular here.



Left: As I was saying...



Burano street scene.



Heterochromia cat.



Very friendly cat on utility box. Would recommend.



Sunset from Burano, looking back towards the main islands.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you for viewing this humble e-book, I hope you enjoyed it! Venice is a wonderful city with so much to explore and enjoy. It's important to acknowledge the impact of tourism on the city and the lives of locals. I hope that they are able to strike a balance to protecting their local lifestyle while allowing travellers to see one of the world's truly special cities.

The biggest thank you to my wife Mieke who I travelled with, who trusts me with a lot of the planning, and who jumped at the opportunity to spend extra time together photographing in Venice. She is the best!

Matt

mattpalmer.co

If you'd like to support future projects please feel free to donate via paypal to hello@mattpalmer.co or you can purchase landscape photography prints at alpinelight.com.au.

Not all of the images in this book are already available as prints.

For any special requests email hello@mattpalmer.co





ISBN: 978-1-7635808-3-1