



Ciao Venezia!

We find it hard to imagine ever being disappointed with Venice and we found it to be as captivating as ever....stunning architecture, a wonderful atmosphere, the sophistication of it's shops and restaurants...just a total contrast to the simplicity of Greece. Back to the city...a real culture shock !

The 23 hr. ferry trip up along the coast of Croatia (didn't see a thing) was unremarkable. But the panorama from the top deck while entering Venice in the early morning, past the Grand Canal, threading through the vaporettos, motor launches, water taxis and freight boats was worth every minute.



We had three days and stayed in a comfortable, small hotel only a few minutes walk from St. Mark's Square. So we did what everyone does...we walked and walked ...visited St. Mark's Square and the Basilica, the Doges Palace, the maze of tiny back streets. Ate great pizzas and enjoyed the comparatively sophisticated service of even small restaurants, found a lovely little restaurant near the Teatro Fenice and window-shopped in the many very expensive shops, sailed several times up and down the Grand Canal for the buildings' wonderful facades, managed to still eat lunch outside, bought great hunks of parmesan to bring home (the only cheap thing in the city) and even managed a ride in a gondola – splitting the cost with a young couple from Shanghai. Well, it does cost 80 euros for 30 minutes. That's the basic ride, as it were. No song, backwater canals. Kind of a busman's holiday for us, but it was surprisingly tranquil and the gondolas are beautiful craft. It was worth it.

We flew home on 23 October and that brought our season to an end for this year....except for one extra last surprise...



We got the flu.....

To all our guests who joined us either on Havana or in Rørvig in 2008, thanks for being good shipmates and making this an extra special season...to Willie & Lee, Dad, Nils and Marianne, Jan Mythos and Lene Badenymph, Jytte & Ole, Elinor (skibs pin-up) & Frede (skibs fotograf), Skibsmatrose Jørgen and Skibslæge Peter, Carol and her boys...**Yassas and here's to next time !**