



# CARNEVALE DI VENEZIA

2025

## THE MAIN EVENTS

### VALENTINE'S NIGHT – HEART TO HEART

The Carnival of Venice celebrates love with a special evening in St. Mark's Square for Valentine's Day. On Friday February 14, starting at 6:30 p.m., the beating heart of Venice, a timeless symbol of love and romance, will offer an unforgettable evening to all those wishing to celebrate the magic of love. On the stage of St. Mark's Square, singers, hosts, and bands will take turns performing to set hearts racing in the city that has always been a favourite destination for lovers from around the world. Special guests Jacopo Sarno and Silvia Scartozzoni, stars of Red Canzian's show Casanova Operapop, will perform the most moving songs from the musical, introduced on stage by Red Canzian himself. And that's not all: historical dances by the associations "Dame e Cavalieri" and "Le Maschere di Mario del '700 Veneziano," dance shows by the Dance4fun Company, the Doo-Wop Boogiedancers and Soleàma, as well as a modern take on opera with the duo of Silvia Celadin and Alberto Zanetti, accompanied by the accordion of Mirko Satto. The evening will continue with an exhilarating final live performance and DJ set by the Aba Chiara Show. "Shout Your Love" will be the perfect chance to declare your feelings in the most romantic square in the world.

### THE FIRST WEEKEND AND THE WATER-THEMED PROLOGUE

Water will once again take centre stage during the opening weekend in Venice. On Sunday February 16, the much-anticipated water parade of traditional boats, organised in collaboration with the Venetian Rowing Associations Group and led by the legendary "Pantegana" boat, will officially kick off the 2025 Carnival celebrations. Decorated vessels and rowers in costume will navigate the Grand Canal, starting from the Punta della Dogana at 11:00 a.m. and heading towards the area of the Rialto bridge, eventually gathering under the arches of the Erbaria market for a truly colourful celebration. The first taste of the 2025 Carnival in Venice and Mestre will be on Saturday February 15 and Sunday February 16, with a preview of the Venice Carnival Street Show, titled "Casanova, What Crazy Adventures!", which will bring life to the stage in St. Mark's Square, while Piazza Ferretto will host another opening show. During the following weekend (February 22 and 23) and throughout the main week of the Carnival, the programme will continue in both squares, where two stages inspired by 18th-century Venice will be set up. These venues will welcome all the masks taking part in the now traditional Most Beautiful Mask Contest. The stages will also feature a variety of shows, music, and artistic performances.

## **CASANOVA, WHAT CRAZY ADVENTURES! – THE VENICE CARNIVAL STREET SHOW**

“Crazy adventures” are just waiting to happen! The Venice Carnival returns with a programme of street performances designed to entertain Venice, Mestre, the islands of the Venetian lagoon, and all the surrounding towns and villages surrounding the city. Colourful little stages will be set up in the squares and streets, serving as backdrops for performances by mimes, clowns, actors, musicians, stilt walkers, magicians, and storytellers, captivating a wide audience of both children and adults who will be whisked away into the world of street art, comedy, fantasy tales, games, and music. A blend of joy, songs, choreography, and energy will create an unforgettable experience for people of all ages. A total of 250 artists, featuring some of the best international street performance companies, will shape the event. The Venice Carnival Street Show, titled “Casanova, What Crazy Adventures!,” will begin with a preview in St. Mark’s Square and Piazza Ferretto during the weekend of Saturday February 15 and Sunday February 16, before reaching its peak on Saturday February 22 and Sunday February 23, and during the main Carnival week from Thursday February 27 to Tuesday March 4.

### **ST. MARK’S SQUARE AT DUSK**

At dusk, St. Mark’s Square becomes a place suspended in time, where every step echoes beneath the illuminated arches. On Saturday February 15, Saturday February 22, Thursday February 27, Saturday March 1, and Tuesday March 4, the stage in the Square will extend its programming until 8:30 p.m. An enchanted setting where every moment is wrapped in timeless beauty.

### **ARSENALE WATER SHOW: GIACOMO. A LOVE STORY**

After the success of previous editions, the Arsenale will once again be the setting for an extraordinary water show that will fill the surface of the Darsena Grande with magic for over thirty minutes. The show, titled “Giacomo: A Love Story,” will bring the Arsenale to life. This original production of the Venice Carnival is tailor-made for this historic site, featuring original texts and music. It offers an emotional journey through the life of Giacomo Casanova, designed to entertain, move, tease, and surprise the audience through dance, music, and storytelling, blending classical and modern elements, historical accuracy and dreamlike imagery, Venetian identity and international appeal. The performance will feature dancing fountains, tongues of fire, astonishing projections, and laser beams flashing through the night. It will be a crescendo of scenes and evocative images that capture the essence of Casanova, narrated through the voice of Henriette, the love of his life. This story - conceived and directed by Enrica Crivellaro, poetically crafted by Antonella Barina, and under the artistic direction of Massimo Checchetto - brings to life the memory of the woman Casanova loved most deeply to whom he dedicated the most inspired pages of his memoir *Histoire De Ma Vie* (The Story of My Life). From Friday February 21 to Sunday February 23 and from Thursday February 27 to Tuesday March 4 2025, with performances at 6:45 p.m. and a repeat show at 9:00 p.m.

## **THE “12 MARIE” AT THE VENICE CARNIVAL**

On Saturday February 22, the “12 Marie” of the 2025 Carnival will be presented to the public. Following the eagerly awaited selection on February 13, with participants aged between 18 and 28 from the Metropolitan City of Venice, the “12 Marie” will parade dressed in historical costumes aboard gondolas along the Grand Canal, making their way to St. Mark’s Square, where they will be welcomed and introduced to the public. This collaboration involves the organisation of the Venice Carnival, the newspaper “Il Gazzettino,” and patron Maria Grazia Bortolato, following in the footsteps of the unforgettable Bruno Tosi. After an intense schedule of events and socio-cultural activities, on “Lunedì Grasso” (Monday March 3), the winners of the competition will be announced in the Apollinee Halls of the La Fenice Opera House: the “Maria of the Year” and the “Maria of Il Gazzettino”, the latter chosen by the newspaper’s readers. On Tuesday March 4, the traditional presentation of the winning Maria will take place in St. Mark’s Square.

## **THE FLOAT PARADES**

The 2025 edition of the Carnival confirms the return of the much-anticipated and well-attended parades of masked floats across the entire city, from the islands of the Venetian lagoon to the mainland. As tradition dictates, the town of Dese will kick off the Carnival with a parade on Sunday February 2. This will be followed by Chirignago on Sunday February 23, Pellestrina on Thursday February 27, Venice Lido on Friday February 28, Marghera on Saturday March 1, and Burano, as always, over several days: Saturday March 1, Sunday March 2, and Tuesday March 4. The parades will continue in Campalto on Sunday March 2, Mestre on Monday March 3, and conclude in Zelarino on Tuesday March 4. Dozens of floats with hundreds of performers, Carnival enthusiasts from across the Municipality and the Metropolitan City of Venice, musical bands, majorettes, and flag throwers will be welcomed by the public with confetti and music, creating spectacular shows inspired by the most seductive figure of 18th-century Venice.

## **VENICE, OR THE ART OF COMEDY**

This year, the Venice Carnival 2025 once again hosts one of the world’s most famous theatrical traditions: the Commedia dell’Arte. With the showcase “Venice, or the Art of Comedy,” curated by the Pantakin Company, the Comici dell’Arte company returns to St. Mark’s Square and Campo Santo Stefano Square, featuring eight different national and international groups that will perform over 60 shows throughout the Carnival period, starting on February 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## **CASANOVA IN MUSIC**

Music will be the star of this edition of the Carnival. At the Arsenale, the event “Arsenale Carnival Experience” returns: on Friday February 21, Saturday February 22, Sunday March 2, and Tuesday March 4, inside the Tese of San Cristoforo, young audiences can party with DJ sets until morning (managed by Molocinque). Also at the Arsenale, guests can dance at the much-anticipated “Perplex Carnival Party” on Friday February 28 and Saturday March 1, in collaboration with the British multinational

Perplex, specialising in large musical events.

The Forte Marghera military grounds will also be the beating heart of the Carnival and is ready to offer unforgettable evenings filled with music and fun. During the Carnival period, the fascinating historic setting of the Forte will host a series of musical events, making each night a unique experience. From live performances by bands and local artists to DJ sets that will keep people dancing late into the night, Forte Marghera confirms itself as a place where tradition and modernity meet. The events are scheduled for Saturday February 22, Friday February 28, and Saturday March 1. An additional surprise evening will take place on Tuesday March 4.

### **THE CARNIVAL OF CULTURE**

“The Time of Casanova” is not only about street art and performances in outdoor spaces. Art and theatre return to celebrate the Carnival with a programme of performances in the cultural spaces of the city, thanks to the well-established experience of the Carnival of Culture. Theatres and museums are prepared to host performances, concerts, and events, offering a programme focused on the theme of this year. Workshops for children and theatrical readings, conferences and cinema, concerts, commedia dell’arte, and café concerts will alternate between the historic centre and the mainland, involving - among others – the Palazzetto Bru Zane, the House of The Human Safety Net at the Procuratie Vecchie site, the Candiani Cultural Centre, the “Al Parco della Bissuola” Theatre, the “Groggia” Theatre, the M9 Museum of the 20th Century, the Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista palace, the La Fenice Opera House, the “Carlo Goldoni” Theatre, the “Toniolo” Theatre, the Ateneo Veneto Cultural Centre, the “A l’Avogaria” Theatre, and many more. In addition, there are the extraordinary openings of the museums in the MUVE Foundation circuit, as well as the programme of events presented by the Venice Biennale with the Kids' Carnival.

### **THE CARNIVALS OF THE WORLD**

Delegations from Italian and international Carnivals will bring their traditions, customs, and costumes to the city’s squares and St. Mark’s Square. On Monday March 3, the National Union of Pro Loco of Italy will organise the participation of groups from various Italian regions on the stage of St. Mark’s Square and in other locations. The event will also feature the valuable participation of historic Venetian groups: the International Carnival Association, the “Amici del Carnevale” Association, the “Le Maschere di Mario del ‘700 Veneziano” Association, and the “Dame e Cavalieri” Association.

## **CASANOVA'S REVERIES**

### **IL CARNIVAL OFFICIAL DINNER SHOW & BALL**

The official Dinner Show & Ball of the Carnival at the Ca' Vendramin Calergi palace will take place on Saturday February 22 and Sunday February 23, and from Thursday February 27 to Tuesday March 4, under the enticing title "Casanova's Reveries." The splendour of the 18th century will come to life in the luxurious halls of the historic building and residence, where exclusive masked evenings will welcome guests with music, dances, performances, and a dinner celebrating Venetian gastronomy of the 18th century.

The Nights of Lovers—designed by stylist Antonia Sautter—will be an exclusive event combining the celebration of love with 18th-century elegance, featuring sumptuous costumes and unforgettable artistic performances that will recreate a unique atmosphere inspired by the life and passions of Casanova.

### **THE INTERNATIONAL KIDS' CARNIVAL OF THE BIENNALE**

The International Kids' Carnival is a project of the Venice Biennale that, since 2010, has been aimed at children, schools with their teachers, and families, encouraging creativity and participation among young people while maintaining a constant, direct, practical, and active dialogue with the participants. The 16th edition will be held from February 22 to March 2 2025, with the usual creative and artistic workshops for schools and families at the Ca' Giustinian palace. All activities are free of charge, with mandatory booking required.

### **THE TIME OF CASANOVA AND MUCH MORE**

Thanks to the involvement of the commercial and tourism network of the city, there will be no shortage of additional musical and entertainment initiatives in the local venues. On the official Carnival website [www.carnevale.venezia.it](http://www.carnevale.venezia.it), under the section Carnevale Metropolitano, all events organised by the municipalities of the Metropolitan City will be listed, making it easier for visitors and residents to participate and providing a unified programme of entertainment.

For updates and schedules, please visit the official website [www.carnevale.venezia.it](http://www.carnevale.venezia.it) and follow the social channels #CarnevaleVenezia2025.

Partners of the Venice Carnival 2025 include: the Chamber of Commerce of Venice Rovigo, the Consortium for the Protection of DOC Prosecco, American Express, and Aperol.

Institutional partners of the Venice Carnival 2025 include: Venezia Unica, the AVM Group, the MUVE network of museums, the Casinò di Venezia, the Teatro La Fenice Foundation, and the M9 museum.

For more information on the full programme, please visit the official website of the Venice Carnival: [www.carnevale.venezia.it](http://www.carnevale.venezia.it).