

DEPARTURES

OCTOBER 2011



Your Own
Private Italy

Special Issue

WHERE TO HEAR VIVALDI

Ignore all the barkers with their tourist-friendly concert flyers. Head instead to San Vidal, a pretty church in Campo San Stefano, to hear the **Interpreti Veneziani**, a string ensemble with a long discography and a spectacular way with Vivaldi (this is his hometown, after all). Cellist Davide Amadio steals the nightly show. At 2862B Chiesa di San Vidal; 39-041/277-0561; www.interpretiveneziani.com. P.R.



BRING BACK
**Venice
Immortal**

Roger de Montebello (whose mother is a De Polignac and whose uncle Philippe is the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York) paints serene Venetian landscapes. Make an appointment to visit

his studio, in a Gothic palazzo overlooking the Grand Canal. It is full of quiet studies in oil—of the cemetery island San Giorgio and variations on Punta della Salute—that poetically capture the elusive magic of the city. **E** \$1,450–\$12,000. At 2840 Campo Santo Stefano; 39-348/252-9077; www.rogerdemontebello.com. L.M.



ITALIAN SPECTACLES

At **L'Ottico Fabbricatore**, Francesco Lincetto sells some of the most divine eyewear this side of the Alps, especially the mod flexible-steel frames from ICI Berlin, as well as Lincetto's own line of Peggy Guggenheim-esque glasses (above) made of buffalo horn (\$500–\$615). At 4773 Calle del Teatro; 39-041/522-5263; www.otticofabbricatore.com.

WHAT'S NEW

CHECKING IN AT THE BIG THREE

Hotel Cipriani With the Casanova Spa, the fabulous Cipriani finally gets the pampering it deserves. Each of the four smart pastel-pink treatment rooms has a private garden patio. *Treatments, \$60–\$300.* At 10 Giudecca; 39-081/520-7744.

Hotel Bauer Owner Francesca Bortolotto Possati has acquired **Palazzo Mocenigo** on the Grand Canal (www.livingasavenetian.com), which is rented for weddings and banquets, and **Bauer Casa Nova**, a suite of apartments opening next spring (www.bauervenezia.com).

Hotel Gritti Palace One of our favorites in Venice, along with the Hotel Danieli, the Gritti has revamped its School of Fine Cooking, offering three-day courses overseen by executive chef Celestino Giacomello. *Course, \$825 for three days. Hotel rates, \$930–\$4,825.* At 2467 Campo Santa Maria del Giglio; 39-041/94716; www.starwoodeurope.com/gritticookingschool. L.M.