



The Gardens of Venice and the Veneto

By Jenny Condie

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The Gardens of Venice and the Veneto takes in a varied selection of gardens old and new, large and small, public and private. It ranges from tiny monastery gardens tucked away within the walls of Venice to grand palatial landscapes in the former marshes of the hinterland. The book is divided into five sections as well as a lively introduction which captures the rich history of this region. The first section will show the extraordinary gardens still to be found locked behind high walls in the city itself. Then Jenny Condie and Alex Ramsay wander through the more modest parts of the city where ordinary Venetians manage to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables in the most unlikely spots. Then it is out into the lagoon and wild gardens on marshy islands before turning inland to the grand Palladian villas and the Baroque splendours of villas like the Villa Barbarigo and the Villa Allegri Arvedi among many fine country residences of ancient families. All the gardens in the book can be reached within a day's expedition from Venice and practical information about access and advice on the best time of year to visit is included for all those open to the public.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review



FROM THE INTRODUCTION

In the season of damp and bitter cold, when Venice withdraws into herself behind drifting banks of grey fog and the melancholic hoots of ships call out to each other across indistinct waters, an invisible presence creeps over certain crumbling brick walls. It wafts silently down the narrow calli, becoming trapped in tiny courtyards or crossing campi in the wake of hunched and scurrying figures. Ousting the pervasive stench of stagnant water and sewer, it pools in certain favoured spots or filters narrowly on an air current like a wisp of smoke. Drawn into the nostrils, its light, bright sweetness brings a pang of sudden recognition and a sense of joy. It is the season of wintersweet once more, and from countless invisible gardens across the city, the waxy yellow and amber flowers are releasing their scent on the chill winter air. The associations come crowding in: of slowly lengthening days to Carnival and Lent, and then of other scents to follow, of heavenly sweet box and fragrant loquat, of viburnum and the delicate almond of a *Clematis arandii* by the Accademia bridge. From Venice's hidden gardens a succession of perfumes spill out, presenting a geography of smells and an intangible calendar of the year's cycle to every passer-by. . .

Cont'd. . .

As spring rushes in, rose blooms cascade down walls and burst through trellises, window boxed trail fronds down the fronts of buildings, and terraces squeezed between high palazzi are swathed in huge hanging

clusters of wisteria. On hundreds of altane - little wooden platforms perched precariously on the rooftops - lemon trees and geraniums are carefully unwrapped from their winter coverings and kitchen herbs replenished and repotted. Only at first glance does Venice appear the least green of cities. In fact gardens abound and are treasured. ...

VISITING THE GARDENS

Almost all of the gardens featured in this book are open to the public for at least part of the year. ...

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Review

'Jenny Condie's fluent and effortlessly scholarly style ... is the perfect driver for Alex Ramsay's superbly numinous photographs.'

'this lyrical, vivid book shows of the area's varied beauty in spades.'

"just looking at Alex Ramsay's pictures ... could have you hopping on the next flight to Verona."

"beautiful photographic collection draws together a variety of stunning garden retreats and sheds new light on the city and the region."

'sumptuous book is the perfect antidote to the gloomy winter weather ... a feast for the eyes.'

'Sit back and delve deep into the 20 magnificent gardens and plan a trip next year.'

'Jenny Condie's fluent and effortlessly scholarly style ... is the perfect driver for Alex Ramsay's superbly numinous photographs.'

'Too good to leave the shop without ... Delicious'

'this lyrical, vivid book shows of the area's varied beauty in spades.'

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"imaginatively varied and chosen by someone who knows her subjects and their settings well . inspired by this book, the reader will wish to visit in person."

From the Back Cover

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