

CHRISTIE'S

Venice Biennale 2017 — What to see, and where to eat, drink and relax

Our panel of artists, curators and Biennale veterans discuss what they're most excited about seeing, and offer their insider tips on the best places for lunch, dinner, cocktails and more



Louisa Buck

Contemporary art correspondent for [The Art Newspaper](#)

Louisa Buck is a frequent visitor to Venice during the Biennale, and will be as busy as ever this year. 'I will hotfoot it straight away to Phyllida Barlow in the [British Pavilion](#) — she never disappoints. I am looking forward to Geoffrey Farmer in the [Canadian Pavilion](#); the wonderful nonagenarian Geta Bretescu in the [Polish Pavilion](#); and [James Richards in Wales](#). The [Iraqi Pavilion](#) is mixing contemporary artists with antiquities, and [Irwin Wurn in Austria](#) is another I will be sure not to miss.'

These national offerings are added to the main international exhibition, Christine Macel's [Viva Arte Viva](#). 'I like the way she is breaking it up into nine separate sub-pavilions, and introducing many new artists unfamiliar to me and certainly not the usual suspects,' says Buck. 'I'm especially looking forward to the Dionysian Pavilion!'

Louisa's Little Black Book recommendations

Museum or gallery to visit: 'I love the intimacy of the [Ca' Rezzonico](#).'

Exhibitions to see across Venice: 'Philip Guston at the [Accademia](#) is a must, and also the last of Axel Vervoordt's wunderkammer extravaganzas, [Intuition](#), in [Palazzo Fortuny](#) — it has intuition, dreams, telepathy and Surrealism as its themes.'

Places to eat: 'I am fond of Da Gianni on the Zattere waterfront for lunch — simple Venetian food, reasonably priced and a great location. For dinner, I always love [Montin](#), under the vines and full of memories.'

Best for cocktails: '[Harry's Bar](#) for a definitive Bellini, or an Aperol spritz in [Cantinone già Schiavi](#) (992 Ponte San Trovaso), because it comes accompanied by the best bar snacks in Venice. I also love that it is opposite the last gondola-building workshop in Venice.'

Best-kept secret: 'Claudia Canestrelli's treasure-filled antique shop tucked away in Campiello Barbaro Dorsoduro (I don't know why I'm telling you this though...).'