



Rooms with a View

VENICE LA GARE HOTEL, VENICE, ITALY

Daisies line a sweeping window ledge overlooking the small boats and terraced houses along Murano's Grand Canal, from a bedroom in the new La Gare on Murano Island, Venice. Built in the 13th century as a monastery and then repurposed as a kiln for glass-making during the 19th century, this hotel is the first on the little island of Murano, in the Venetian lagoon. Murano is world-renowned for its glass-making, a centuries-old craft born from Venice's mixed cultural lineage.

Inside the 118-room hotel, the décor fuses baroque prints, gold hues and clean modern lines. A permanent exhibition of Venini design pieces and wondrous Venini lighting - by the ascendants of Paolo Venini, one of the most spectacular modernist Murano glass artists - features throughout the hotel. The draw of La Gare's light is extended by long arched windows in the earthen-like exterior of this ancient building. At night, explore the island's winding waterways and slowly find your way back to this grand waterside lantern.

La Gare Hotel, Venice, Italy. Doubles from £85 (00 39 041 736250; www.lagarehotelvenezia.com)

By Jenny Cusack

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