Venice, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore

1 March 2018

**The Fondazione Cini at your fingertips: new daily guided tours on San Giorgio Maggiore**

***From 1 March 2018, the Fondazione Giorgio Cini opens its doors to Venetians and visitors thanks to an advanced video-guide system created by Florentine company D'Uva.***

Spring 2018 starts with an important new development at the FondazioneGiorgio Cini for the benefit of both residents and the international visitors who arrive every day on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore. **From 1 March to 15 July 2018**, they can admire the treasures of the island's monumental complex **from 10 am to 5 pm**, **seven days a week**, thanks to an experimental project in collaboration with the **company D'Uva** of Florence, responsible for designing a special video-guided itinerary. The tour of the monumental complex of the Island of San Giorgio, based on the use of video-guides with touch-screen technology and a simple, intuitive interface for children, is available in **five languages** ​​(Italian, English, Spanish, French and German) and includes 17 points of interest plus 3 multimedia descriptions, for about **a total of one hour’s listening**.

The project has been implemented in partnership with **Assicurazioni Generali**.

*"The daily opening of the monuments on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore”* – explains **Pasquale Gagliardi**, Secretary General of the Fondazione Cini – *“has a threefold purpose:
1) Make accessible to as many people as possible – residents and Italian and international visitors – a site of great historical, artistic and architectural importance, today still relatively little known
2) Promote the Fondazione Cini actions in developing a public heritage that was historically entrusted to the Italian state
3) Introduce an enduring sustainable method for generating resources (proceeds from tickets) to be used in the conservation of the buildings on the island.*

*Accessibility, Optimal Use and Conservation. These three concepts express the Fondazione Cini’s mission on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice "*

*"This project”* – adds **Simone Bemporad**, Generali Group Director of Communications and Public Affairs – *“is a further piece in the mosaic of activities launched by Assicurazioni Generali to support the protection and promotion of the cultural heritage in Venice. In addition to the reopening of Palazzo Cini at San Vio, we have been involved in the recent restorations of the Procuratoria Vecchie and the Giardini Reali, as part of an overall project called the Human Safety Net, aimed at encouraging a greater use of our heritage with a special cultural value.
I would also like to stress that this is a further collaboration with the Fondazione Giorgio Cini. We have forged a fruitful, lasting bond with the Foundation, the result of a shared feeling arising from the same realisation of the deep need to take care of the valuable assets that we have been entrusted with."*

The monumental complex can now be visited every day, from 10 am to 5 pm. After receiving a video-guide included in the cost of the visit, visitors are formed into **groups of up to a maximum of 25 people** and accompanied by a guide. It is, of course, also possible to go on private guided tours for organised groups or schools (advanced booking required).

To organise the reception area for the expected rise in visitors, the Fondazione Cini will open a **new information point** of about 100 square metres, comprising the ticket office and bookshop, **open every day from 10 am to 5 pm**. Here you can book a guided tour as well as tickets for other Fondazione Cini events, request information about what’s on and purchase customised merchandise, books and gifts.

The video-guide technology designed by **D'Uva** enables visitors to enjoy a unique individual experience: through **photos, videos and interviews**, they can create a personalised memory of the tour. The video-guides are also equipped with a ***group-guide*** system, which allows the group leader’s device to simultaneously start multimedia guides at the same stop to ensure that the group moves together along the itinerary. This system also allows groups of different nationalities and languages to visit simultaneously.

In a second phase of the project, the tour experience will be further enhanced by additional features: ***beacon technology***, making it possible to send interactive pages to smartphones and other devices with information about the points of interest in the place being visited, and ***augmented reality***, a way of exploring in detail the views that can be seen through your device camera from the Island of San Giorgio.

The tour begins in the **Palladian Cloister** and the **Buora or Cipressi Cloister**, the older of the two. Next stop is the **Refectory** consisting of three large rooms: the two vestibules and the dining hall, where visitors can admire the stunning life-size facsimile of ***The Wedding at Cana***, made by Factum Arte. The **Boiserie**, designed and created and by Michele De Lucchi in 2011, is also thoroughly explored. The visit continues in the **Photography Room**, where you can see images of the monumental complex of San Giorgio before restoration work was begun by Vittorio Cini in 1951.

Following the path indicated by the specially-designed new signage you come to Longhena’s **Monumental Stairway** up to the first floor. From here, the tour continues in the two libraries: the **Longhena Library**, surely one of the most interesting Venetian Baroque interiors, and the **Nuova Manica Lunga**, the former Benedictine dormitory converted into a library by Michele De Lucchi. The itinerary ends with a view of the **Borges Labyrinth** designed by Randoll Coate and inspired by the Argentinian writer’s short story “The Garden of Forking Paths”.

**For further information:**

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