Venice: a cosmopolitan city

Everybody knows Venice as a cosmopolitan city situated in the north-east of Italy. The lagoon and a part of the city are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The VENETIAN GHETTO

The Jewish presence in Venice dates back to the end of Xth century, although a consistent and permanent settlement only took place in the late XIVth century. The Venetian ghetto was the area of Venice in which Jews were compelled to live by the government of the Venetian Republic. The Venetian ghetto was instituted on 29th March 1516 and it is the oldest Jewish ghetto in the world.

In 1797 the French army, commanded by the young General Napoleon Bonaparte, conquered Venice, dissolved the Venetian republic, and ended the ghetto’s separation from the city. In the XIXth century, the ghetto was renamed the “ Contrada dell’Unione”. Today the ghetto is still the centre of Jewish life in city. The Jewish community of Venice counts about 450 people who are still very active, although only a few members live in the ghetto.

SAINT MARK’s BASILICA

The Patriarchal Cathedral of Saint Mark is the most famous church in Venice and one of the best known examples of Italo-Byzantine architecture.

The Church of Saint George of the Greeks

The church was granted for the Greek confraternity in the late XVth century. In fact, the Greek Orthodox rite was not permitted in Venice until then. The community started growing in the city and later it reached the number of 4000 people.