La copertina del mese



Momenti di Capodanno a Venezia

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My Advent Calendar "Christmas in Venice": Impressions, pictures and seasonal recipes

Natale a Venezia

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Epiphany Day: How Nativity Scenes reflect life - present and past - in Venice



Nativity Scene at the church of Santa Maria del Giglio (Santa Maria Zobeningo). You can see how it is partly covered with a cloth, to be taken off only on Christmas Eve

They tell about life, reality and dreams ... and take Venetians back to their roots ... that's the special meaning behind Nativity Scenes that you see in the Venetian homes and churches, practically everywhere ... even in pastry stores ... as you will see in this blog post. I publish this article in time for January 6, which is the REAL Christmas Festivity day, the ancient, traditional one celebrated in Venice. And it's the day when you should make sure to take a closer look at the Torre dell'Orologio (Bell Tower) in Piazza San Marco ...



The Piazza with the outside tables of Caffé Lavena, and the Torre dell'Orologio which plays a major part in Venice on January 6

January 6 is dedicated to the Re Magi - Wise Men - visiting the presepio (Nativity Scene). On the other hand, this is the time when Befana visits Venetian homes and brings little presents to children (also to adults, thanks to our pastry stores). Children in Venice hang up stockings on the evening of January 5 - much like is done with Santa Clause in other countries - and in the morning of January 6, these stockings are filled with little presents, usually sweets - like il carbone della Befana (cookies - which will be described in my blog on Breakfast in Venice - Colazione A Venezia, with Befana and the Roghi - wood fires built of cataste di legna in the Veneziano (Province of Venice) to be able to tell the future from the direction the smoke takes ...

Christmas in Venice is different



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▼ 2015 (I)

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- D 2014 (15)
- D 2013 (38)
- D 2012 (33)

About Me



Furbizia Herbs and Spices

setting a stage ..

Last year I came across a story published in the Gente Veneta Magazine, on how children in the Veneto used connect to Nativity scenes ... told in a book "Ricominciamo da Gesù" by Gianni Ferraresi, published by Marcianum Press.



Excerpt from the Book on Nativity Scenes Creating and childhood memories in the Veneto by Gianni Ferraresi

In the book you can read how Venetians adore creating their *presepi*, they love creating landscapes, and they start doing that well ahead of Christmas. Children were gently led by parents in the discovery of life - so my grandmother told me, to get creative and make up the *presepi* with what was available. The children who were allowed to create the Nativity Scene were actually proud to do so.



Nativity Scene, from the shop window of Libreria Studium, Venice

Venetian children these days (me too, when I was a child) get Christmas books to learn about the history of *presepi*, and usually parents buy them at Libreria Studium next to the Piazza.

The bookshop offers do-it-yourself-templates of Nativity Scenes and lots of colorful magical books ... enlarging the horizon of children and adults alike as you can train and express yourselves in



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Statistica

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