

# *Eyewitness Views*



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February 25–May 20, 2018

Use this guide to take a journey through the exhibition and get the most out of your trip!

**All the news that was fit to paint.**

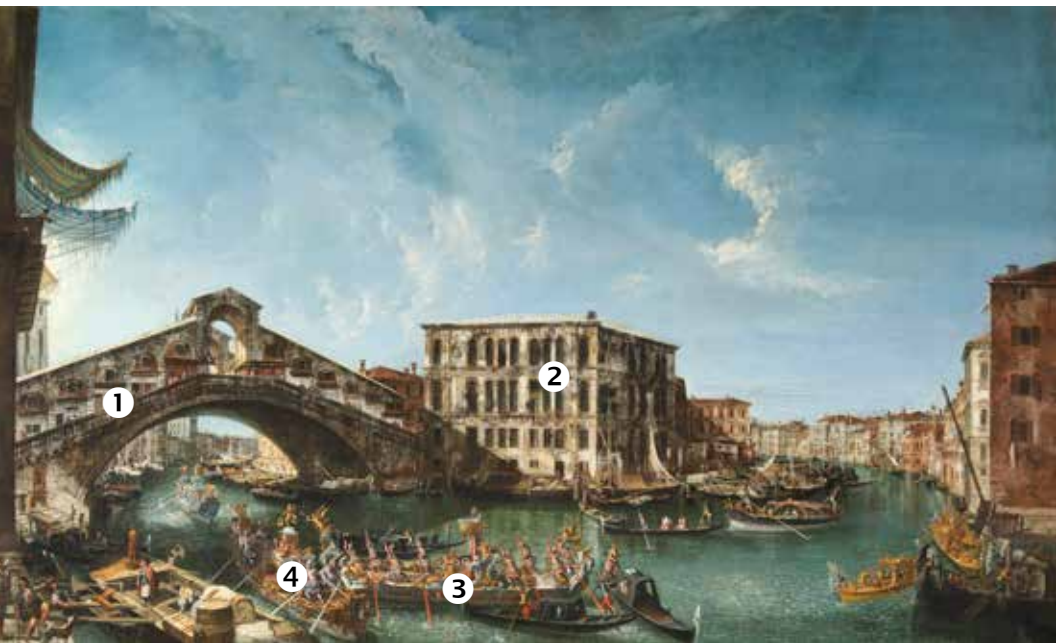
The first-ever exhibition focusing on historic events in Europe's most magnificent cities. Commissioned by rulers, princes, ambassadors and dignitaries, these paintings commemorate the most impressive spectacles and dramatic events of a remarkable bygone era.





## Spectacular Vistas

Check out this incredible view of the Grand Canal to see some of Venice's most famous landmarks. On this day, an important bishop is making his official entry into the city. The occasion is marked by a parade on the water, and spectators throng the banks and bridge to catch a glimpse. In order to create a more eye-catching view, the artist deliberately manipulated this portion of the Grand Canal to make it look like the waterway makes a 180-turn when in reality it does not.



**The Rialto Bridge  
with the Festive Entry  
of the Patriarch**  
Antonio Correr 1735

Michele Marieschi (Italian,  
1696–1743). Osterley Park,  
National Trust, 771297.  
Photo: National Trust Photo  
Library / Art Resource, NY

### ❶ Rialto Bridge

Looking for a higher vantage point? Get to the Rialto Bridge, the oldest bridge over the Grand Canal and one of the city's most well-known landmarks. You might also want to visit some of the exclusive shops lining the bridge!



### ❷ Palazzo di Camerlenghi

This magnificent palace, finished in 1488, was the location of many Venetian financial officials. It's easy to spot, located right next to the Rialto Bridge. Don't miss its tall windows and decorative columns, visible from the canal.



### ❸ Patriarch

The guest of honor in this festive procession is Francesco Antonio Correr, the new patriarch of Venice. In the Catholic Church, patriarchs are the highest ranking bishops. Correr sits in his decorative barge beneath an elaborate canopy. He's about to disembark by the steps at the foot of the bridge to continue the procession on foot.



### ❹ Parade Gondolas

Head to the banks of the Grand Canal to see the decorated parade gondolas, each one rowed by attendants in matching costumes.





## People Watching in St. Peter's

Get to St. Peter's Basilica to see the Duc de Choiseul, the French ambassador to Rome. Spot his retinue in the cavernous space, and check out the chapels and decorations adorning the interior of the building.



**The Interior of St. Peter's during the Visit of the Duc de Choiseul**  
1756-57

Giovanni Paolo Panini (Italian, 1691-1765). The Collection of the Boston Athenaeum, Purchase 1834 (UR12)

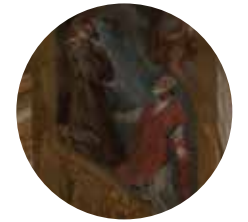
### 1 Kneeling Parishioners

A side chapel in the foreground, dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple, is a gathering place for parishioners to kneel and pray.



### 2 Heraldic Flags

Look up! Painted gonfalons, heraldic flags or banners, were hung from the balcony of the basilica to mark the holy year of 1750.



### 3 Baldacchino

Don't miss the bronze canopy, or *baldachin*, sitting over the high altar of St. Peter's Basilica! The *baldachin* is directly under the dome of the basilica. Designed by the Italian artist Gian Lorenzo Bernini, it marks the place of Saint Peter's tomb underneath.



### 4 St. Teresa

Although Panini painted the interior of St. Peter's many times, he kept up with changes to the building's décor. This statue of St. Teresa of Avila was installed in 1754.



### 5 Duc du Choiseul

Check out the French duke leading his retinue across the expanse of St. Peter's Basilica. With their matching green coats, looks like they're a lively group!



### 6 Public Space

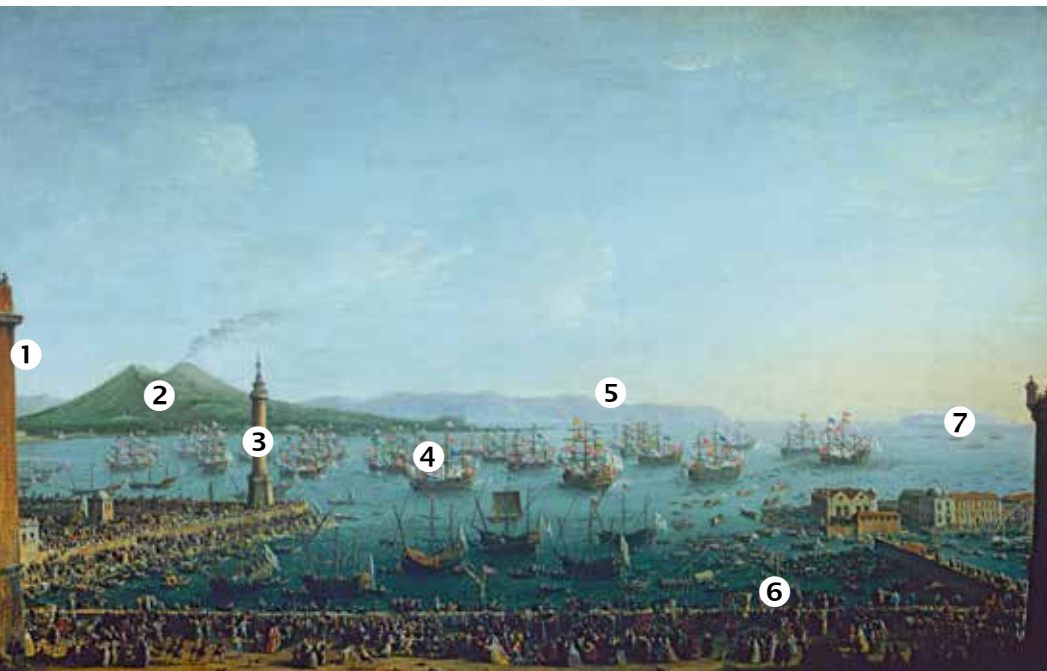
If you like to people watch you've come to the right place. This interior view of St. Peter's includes people of different social classes who've come to this public space of worship. Here two people ask for offerings while one appears to reprimand them and two others ignore the interaction altogether.





## A Sailing Spectacle

Get a place at the waterfront to see King Charles III sail off to Spain with the Spanish armada! After the death of King Ferdinand VI of Spain, Charles, his half-brother, resigned from his position as King of Naples to assume the Spanish throne, leaving from the bay of his adopted home with much fanfare.



**The Departure of Charles III from Naples to Become King of Spain** 1759

Antonio Joli (Italian, 1700–1777). Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, P00232. Image © Museo Nacional del Prado / Art Resource, NY

### 1 Castelnuovo

For a bird's-eye view of the king's departure, climb the steps to the top of Castelnuovo. This medieval military fortress was built on the Bay of Naples in 1279.



### 2 Vesuvius

Look out for Mt. Vesuvius across the bay! Artist Antonio Joli painted this scene in 1759, one year before Vesuvius erupted in 1760, but here the volcano is already showing signs of fiery activity.



### 3 Molo lighthouse

This picturesque lighthouse on the pier, or molo, was built by Ferdinand of Aragon in the 1400s. When the port of Naples was modernized in the 1930s the lighthouse was destroyed.



### 4 Spanish armada

Sixteen Spanish ships were sent to escort Charles III from Naples to Spain. The large number of ships was a demonstration of the power of Spain's mighty navy.



### 5 Sorrento Peninsula

Overlooking the Bay of Naples, you have the perfect vantage point to check out some of the region's geography. The land jutting out into the sea directly beyond Vesuvius is the Sorrento Peninsula, a popular modern tourist destination.



### 6 Prime Minister, Marquis of Tanucci

Get to the front of the crowd to see the Marquis of Tanucci, prime minister of Naples. The marquis has a cozy seat in an ornate carriage, protected from the roar of the crowd.



### 7 Capri

Off the western tip of the Sorrento Peninsula is the island of Capri. This serene spot has been a resort destination since the time of the Romans!







## An Artful Procession

August 16th commemorates the end of a major plague outbreak in Venice. Get to the church of San Rocco to see the doge's procession in honor of St. Roch, the saint celebrated for his help in ending the sickness. While you're at the procession, check out the outdoor exhibition of paintings.



**The Procession  
on the Feast Day  
of Saint Roch**  
about 1735

Canaletto (Giovanni Antonio Canal) (Italian, 1697–1768). The National Gallery, London, Wynn Ellis Bequest, 1876, NG937. Image © The National Gallery, London

### ❶ Doge's Retinue

Can you spot the doge, or elected chief of state? He's wearing gold, fur-trimmed ceremonial robes and carrying a parasol. He is flanked by the French ambassador on the right and the nuncio, or papal ambassador, on the left.



### ❷ Scuola Grande di San Rocco

The prominent building at the center of the composition is the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, the home of a major Venetian lay society dedicated to religious worship and charitable works. Its patron saint is St. Roch, who was thought to offer protection from plague. Artworks by the Italian Renaissance artist Tintoretto decorate its interior.



### ❸ Sun Shade

What's the best way to stay comfortable in the Venetian summer sunshine? A sun shade, held aloft by poles, protects the doge and his entourage from the searing August heat.



### ❹ Painting Exhibition

Don't miss the painting exhibition outside the Scuola Grande di San Rocco! This show of paintings is held annually on August 16th, St. Roch's feast day.



### ❺ Attendants

Two attendants walk ahead of the doge carrying his ceremonial stool and cushion. The stool is made of gilt wood and upholstered in luxurious fabric; the cushion matches.



### ❻ Nosegays

Many people hold nosegays, or small flower bouquets, which were sweet-smelling symbols of protection against the plague.





## A Royal Regatta

This special regatta, held in honor of King Frederick IV of Denmark's visit to Venice, is a must see event! Specially dressed oarsmen, luxurious barges, festive decorations, and the king himself make for fantastic people watching on the canal.



**The Regatta  
on the Grand Canal  
in Honor of  
King Frederick IV  
of Denmark**  
1711

Luca Carlevarij  
(Italian, 1663–1730.  
The J. Paul Getty  
Museum, Los  
Angeles, 86.PA.599

### 1 Musicians

Can you hear the festive music? A group of musicians, all dressed in green, play in front of the *macchina della regatta*, a temporary floating platform used for the prize ceremony.



### 2 Minerva

Check out the ornate barge owned by Girolamo Giustiniani, a prominent Venetian. Weapons at the ready, a statue of Minerva, goddess of wisdom and warfare, sits atop the stern.



### 3 Double-Headed Eagle

A double-headed eagle, the heraldic animal of the Giustiniani family, is perched on the prow of this luxurious vessel.



### 4 Rialto Bridge

Imagine watching this spectacular regatta from a bridge! The Rialto Bridge, the oldest of the bridges over the Grand Canal, is visible in the distance.



### 5 Frederick IV, King of Denmark & Norway

Don't miss the guest of honor among the crowd! Frederick IV, King of Denmark and Norway rides in a ceremonial barge powered by eight costumed oarsmen. The king is in the perfect position to watch the regatta held on March 4, 1709 in honor of his visit to Venice.



### 6 Velvet

Luxurious velvet is draped over the king's boat. During the regatta, the expensive fabric was lowered into the water, ruining it. This ceremonial act of extravagance was an indication of the king's extreme wealth.



### 7 Nani Barge

This barge was owned by Venetian nobleman Giovan Battista Nani. The gilded figures of bearded men on the prow represent Denmark and the German county of Oldenburg, from which King Frederick IV's family originated.



### 8 Costumes

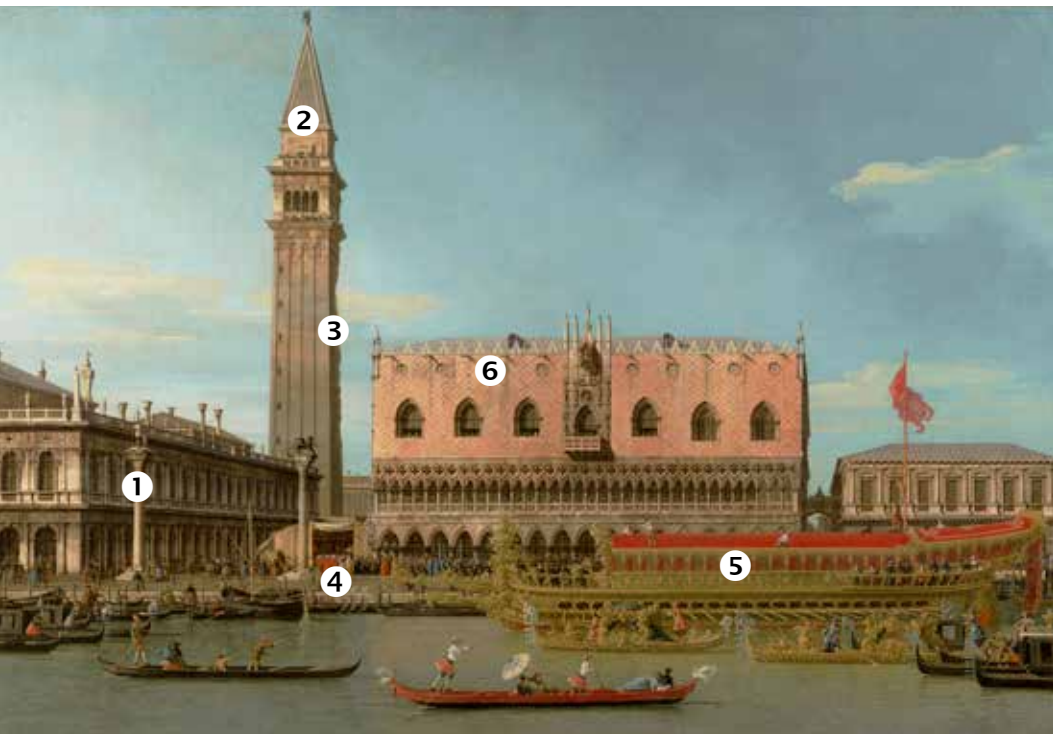
It's hard to miss these oarsmen dressed like soldiers from ancient Rome! In honor of Oldenburg, the king's home, the oarsmen's costumes are yellow and red. These colors are echoed in the tiny striped Oldenburg coat of arms at the prow of this boat.





## Feast Festivities

When in Venice, don't miss the Feast of the Ascension! Commencing on the fortieth day of Easter, this two-week celebration marks Jesus Christ's rise from earth to heaven. The festivities begin with the Marriage to the Sea Ceremony, a symbol of the water's importance to Venetian trade and power.



**The Bucintoro at the Molo on Ascension Day**  
about 1745

Canaletto (Giovanni Antonio Canal) (Italian, 1697–1768). Philadelphia Museum of Art, The William L. Elkins Collection, E1924-3-48. Image © Philadelphia Museum of Art / Art Resource, NY

### 1 Pillars

Look up to see statues of St. Theodore and the bronze lion of Venice atop these two pillars! The pillars act as a gateway to the city from the sea. The lion symbolizes St. Mark, a patron saint of Venice.



### 2 Campanile

Check out the campanile, or bell tower, that dominates this scene. Located in the Piazza San Marco, the 323-foot tall campanile is a prominent feature of the Venetian skyline.



### 3 Lightning Damage

Be on the lookout for inclement weather! On April 23, 1745 lightning struck the campanile. The artist included the damage in this painting. Can you see the jagged edge on the tower?



### 4 VIPs

See if you can spot the doge, shaded by a fancy gold *ombrellino*, or umbrella. To his right is the papal nuncio, a Vatican diplomat, dressed in a purple mozzetta, or short cape. On the doge's left is the French ambassador, in a black cloak and hat.



### 5 Bucintoro

Head over to the waterfront to catch the procession of Venice's officials and elites. From the waterfront, known as the Molo, the procession boards the Venetian ship of state, the Bucintoro. Decorated in gold and red, this two-deck barge requires 168 oarsmen to propel it! The doge only used this ornate ship for the annual Marriage of the Sea ceremony.



### 6 Doge's Palace

Make sure to visit the Doge's Palace! Once the residence of the doges and the center of Venetian government, this building opened to the public as a museum in 1923.





## The Party of the Year

Party preparations are underway! When the heir to the king of France was born in 1729, the French ambassador to Rome, Cardinal Polignac, threw a huge celebration. The party ended with fireworks in the Piazza Navona. This painting shows the cardinal, front and center, directing the elaborate preparations in the piazza.



**The Preparations to Celebrate the Birth of the Dauphin of France in the Piazza Navona**  
1731

Giovanni Paolo Panini  
(Italian, c. 1692-1765).  
National Gallery of Ireland,  
NGI.95, Purchased 1871.  
Photo © National Gallery  
of Ireland

### 1 Wine Fountains

Don't miss the two wine fountains on either end of the square! Dispensing both red and white wine, these fountains were the most popular decorations among party-goers.



### 2 Fountain of the Four Rivers

The Fountain of the Four Rivers by Italian sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini is at the center of the piazza. Four men represent rivers on four continents. Here we can see the Ganges on the left and the Nile on the right.



### 3 Peace & Justice, Faith & Valor

On either side of the Fountain of the Four Rivers are two temples housing imitation bronze sculptures, part of the temporary party decor. On the left, two figures representing peace and justice embrace. Valor and faith are on the right.



### 4 Sant'Agnese in Agone

Visit Sant'Agnese in Agone to see architecture by Italian artist Francesco Borromini. Serving as a stunning backdrop to this celebration-in-the-making, this church marks the site of the martyrdom of St. Agnes.



### 5 Cardinal Polignac

Even in this crowd the cardinal stands out because of his bright red stockings! If you look closely, you can also see a blue ribbon and star-shaped badge around his neck. These tell us he is a member of the elite Order of the Holy Spirit.



### 6 Scottish Royalty

Even royalty came out to check out this party prep! James III of Scotland is here with his two small sons, Charles Edward and Henry Benedict. They all wear the blue sash of the Order of the Garter. The man between the boys is their guardian, who wears the green sash of the Order of the Thistle.







## Volcanic Adventure

Get to the Bay of Naples to see the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius— but make sure to keep your distance! The volcano spewed lava and ash for weeks beginning in the spring of 1771, and French artist Pierre Jacques Volaire captured the beauty and power of the event.



**The Eruption of Vesuvius**  
1771

Pierre-Jacques Volaire  
(French, 1729–1799). The Art  
Institute of Chicago, Charles  
H. and Mary F. S. Worcester  
Collection, 1978.426. Image:  
The Art Institute of Chicago,  
IL / Bridgeman Images

### ❶ Vesuvius

Watch out for the erupting Mt. Vesuvius! This volcano on the Bay of Naples began its fiery eruption on May 1, 1771 at 4 a.m. Lava continued to flow throughout the month of May, and ash fell on nearby areas through the autumn. The volcano's most famous eruption buried the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in AD 79.



### ❷ Gentlemen observing

Feeling brave? Spot the well-dressed gentlemen watching the eruption. They seem calm and collected in the face of this natural disaster—one even brought his pet dog along!



### ❸ Eyewitness view

Artist Pierre Jacques Volaire was an eyewitness to this event—and he wanted to make sure we knew it. Look very closely! He signed this painting, “View of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius on 14 May 1771 painted onsite by the Chevalier Volaire.”

Vue de l'Eruption  
du mont Vesuve du  
14 may 1771 peinte  
Sur le lieu par le  
Che Volaire.

### ❹ Bay of Naples

Don't miss the beautiful Bay of Naples! Located along the southwest coast of Italy, Naples offers stunning views like this one, the bay sparkling in the moonlight. In the distance is the island of Capri.



We gratefully acknowledge the following friends whose support makes the exhibition possible.

Presenting Sponsors



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