

## Itinerary May 17th- 19th, 2019

### **May 17th**

- 2:00 pm - Meet at The Ritz Paris - Luggage check in and high tea/cocktails
- 4:00 pm - Depart to Gare de l'Est to board Venice Simplon-Orient-Express
- 5:00 pm - Train departs for Venice
- 6:30 pm - Dinner first seating
- 8:30 pm - Dinner second seating
- 8:00 pm - After dinner party starts in Bar Car '3674', till late

### **May 18th**

- Morning - Enjoy a leisurely breakfast as we pass through the Swiss/Italian Alps
- 11:45 am - Lunch first seating
- 1:45 pm - Lunch second seating
- 4:00 pm - Arrive Venice and transfer to Cipriani hotel for check in
- 7:30 pm - Celebrate Philip's birthday with a Masked Ball at The Granaries of the Republic on the grounds of the Cipriani
- 12:00 pm - Afterparty at the Cipriani poolside bar

### **May 19th**

- Some guests depart for work Monday
- OR - Spend the day relaxing by the pool or seeing the sights of Venice
- 7:00 pm - Casual dinner in the Cipriani Gardens

### **May 20th**

- 11:00 am - Check out of Cipriani





*The thought of turning Sixty is not something I have embraced very well. So I decided as I can't avoid it I should celebrate it in the best way I know how; throw a party, invite ones friends and make it last the weekend.*

*Everyone who has agreed to give up their weekend to share in this little adventure has added something to my life and as a result this is my thank you to you as friend or family. I hope you will enjoy the weekend, meet a few friends on the way, and help me embrace the fact that I now start qualifying for selective seniors' discounts.*

*Philip*





## Gifts

Philip asks that you kindly do not give him gifts. If you wish, donations can be made to: Rainbow Club Australia, which both Philip and his son Oli support, which does a wonderful job helping children with a disability learn to swim. See the event website for details: [www.spanton.party](http://www.spanton.party)





## Weather

As many of you will be coming a long way we hope you will have the time to linger a little beyond the weekend. Spring weather in Europe is typically fine but can vary from hot and sunny days to cool evenings and occasional rain. Venice and Paris in May can be quite warm. Daytime temperatures reach a pleasant 21°C, on average, dipping at the start and end of the day towards nightly lows of 11°C. We recommend the ladies pack a wrap for potentially cool evenings.









## Luggage / Security

Please note that space on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is very limited and **each guest is asked to bring on board only one small overnight bag and one suit/dress bag**, which will be placed in your cabin. Your main luggage (all other items) will be sent directly to the Cipriani Hotel and inaccessible until we reach Venice. Please advise us in advance if your main luggage will weigh more than 23 kg.

Please hand carry: passport, tickets, jewellery, money, camera, fragile items and any medication. Please ensure you do not carry or include in your luggage items that are prohibited in any of the territories through which we pass. Note that luggage may be X-rayed or hand-searched for security purposes during the journey.

**Please keep your tickets and passports with you when you board the train. Do not pack them in your cabin luggage or stored luggage.**





## Passport / Visas / Health

Our journey takes us through France, Switzerland and Italy. Please ensure that you comply with all passport, visa, customs and other formalities and regulations including obtaining vaccination certificates where necessary.

If you are a citizen of the EU, Australia or the US, no visa or health formalities currently apply for the three countries we pass through. However, you may be requested to show onward travel upon arrival. Please note that passport, visa and health regulations do change, and you are advised to check with the appropriate embassy or authority. Any visa requirement for Switzerland applies in full, even though we will only be passing through. Visas cannot be obtained at border crossings. If you do not have all the correct documentation, you may be refused permission to board the train. Please double check.

## Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out adequate insurance in respect of your trip.





## Dietary Requirements

We will make every effort to cater for food allergies/intolerances, or any other special dietary requirements throughout the journey. However, if we have not received your requirements prior to departure, we may not be able to accommodate your specific needs. We regret we cannot provide meals requiring strict religious observance in the preparation.

## Wheelchair Access and Mobility

The VSOE can accommodate passengers with slight walking difficulties but it is recommended to be accompanied by an able-bodied passenger. If this applies to you, please let us know so we can allocate you a cabin closer to the Restaurant Cars. Travel on the VSOE is subject to the service's conditions of carriage, which are available on request or at [belmond.com](http://belmond.com).

We regret that the dimensions and layout of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train cannot accommodate wheelchairs.

Ritz

PARIS

EL



## The Ritz Paris

The Ritz Paris is located in central Paris, overlooking the octagonal border of the Place Vendôme at number 15. The hotel was founded in 1898 by the Swiss hotelier, César Ritz. The hotel was constructed behind the façade of an 18th-century townhouse, overlooking one of Paris's central squares. It was among the first hotels in Europe to furnish each room with en suite bathroom, a telephone and electricity. It quickly established a reputation for luxury, by 1920 it was filled with clients including royalty, politicians, writers, film stars and singers. Several of its suites are named in honour of famous guests of the hotel, including Coco Chanel, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, with the latter also immortalised in the hotel's Bar Hemingway. L'Espadon is a world-renowned restaurant, attracting aspiring chefs from all over the world who come to learn at the adjacent Ritz-Escoffier School. The grandest suite of the hotel, called the Suite Impériale, has been listed by the French government as a national monument in its own right.







## Arrival

As you arrive at the Ritz we have a private entrance to the right of the main hotel entrance. There you will be greeted by our staff who will be able to direct you either to our reserved suite where you can change and freshen up, or directly to check in and join other guests for a standing high tea.





## The Suites

Upstairs we have reserved suites – one for ladies, one for gentlemen – where you may change and freshen up before checking in. Once we depart the Ritz we will board the train directly, so this is a good opportunity to ensure that you have all that you need for the train journey in your overnight bag and that your main luggage is ready to be sent directly to Venice. It is also good timing for you to change into your 1920s attire for the evening.





## Check-in

At check-in you will be given your allocated coach number for transfer to the train station, your train compartment number and your hotel room number for the Cipriani Venice.

Bags will be received and separated, with main bags conveyed directly to the Cipriani and small overnight bags and suit carriers taken to your compartment on the train. Please ensure you pack what you will need for the train in a small separate case as the train compartments offer very limited space for luggage.







## Standing High Tea

After check-in we will gather for cocktails and light refreshments, allowing guests to become acquainted as the party starts.



STRASBOURG

GARE DE L'EST



## Transfer To Gare de l'Est

We will transfer to Gare de l'Est train station in six coaches. As the coaches are ready to board, our conductor will announce your coach number. Please be prepared and ready for boarding by 4:00pm. Guests' overnight bags for the train will be delivered directly to their train compartment, main baggage will be transported directly to Venice.





## Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is a beautifully restored train that captures the magic of the original Orient Express as launched in 1883 by Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits. An icon of art deco design and enduring symbol of luxury, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is a true classic. With its polished wood, sumptuous upholstery and antique fixtures, the train epitomises the opulence and elegance of the golden age of travel. The train comprises the original sleeping cars of the 1920s and 30s, along with three dining cars and an elegant bar car replete with baby grand piano.







## Meet your Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Team

**Cabin Steward:** The steward responsible for your carriage will be available at all times and may be called by the bell in your cabin. He will take care of your passport during the journey, change your cabin from day to night configuration, and serve breakfast and other refreshments in your cabin as required.

**Maitre d'Hotel:** The Maitre D' will visit your cabin after you have boarded the train to take your lunch and dinner reservations. In principle there are two sittings for lunch and dinner. The Restaurant Cars have tables for parties of two and four. During busy periods, the Maitre D' may ask you to join other passengers to complete a table.

**Train Manager/Chef du Train:** The Train Manager will be on hand throughout the journey to assist with any queries. If you wish to speak with your Train Manager, please tell your steward.



ENT-EXPRESS

BARMINGER  
35-3974



## Train Layout

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express consists of 17 carriages. The Restaurant Cars and Bar Car '3674' are situated at the centre of the train and your sleeping cars will be located either side towards each end of the train. To reach the Restaurant Car or Bar Car '3674', you will need to walk through other carriages. If a slight walking difficulty and would benefit from having a cabin near the restaurant and bar cars, please contact us in advance.

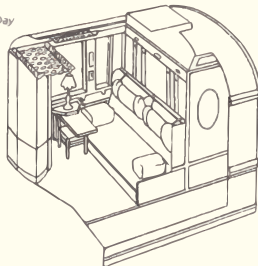
Your Venice Simplon-Orient-Express carriage and cabin are identified by a letter and a number, eg B5, which you will be given when you check in. We regret that we cannot accommodate facing engine seating for the entire journey on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express as the train's direction changes several times.



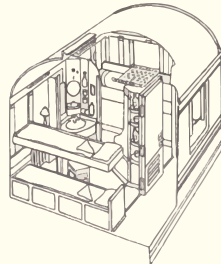
## Cabins

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express cars are the original 1920s models. Most cabins are twins with upper and lower berths. There are some single cabins with one lower berth. During the day, the berths are transformed to offer comfortable banquette seating from which to enjoy the passing scenery. Each cabin has its own washbasin cabinet, hot and cold water, towels, soap, a dual voltage plug, 220/110 volts for electric razors and three 220-volt continental sockets. For travel hair appliances, the maximum power availability is 1000 watts. Robes are available in your cabin for use on board along with complimentary slippers. Robes may also be purchased separately. A lavatory is situated at the end of each carriage. There are no shower or bath facilities. Heating and air-conditioning are centralised and can be individually controlled from your cabin. Electrical power is supplied by the railway networks; occasional outages may occur during the journey.

*Twin Cabin - Day*



*Cabin Suite - Day & Night*







## Onboard Dining

Table d'hote dinner and lunch will be served in the dining cars. These meals will be in two sittings with dinner served at 6:30pm and 8.30 pm. Breakfast will be served in your compartment at your leisure. Lunch on the 18th will also be in two sittings, at 11:45am and 1:45pm. Dinner sittings will be preassigned, please let your steward know your preference for your lunch.

Post-dinner drinks and entertainment will be available in Bar Car '3674' as well as our own 'Champagne Car' and 'Magic Car' until late.







## Bar Car '3674'

Our train's chic bar stays open as long as you wish but services may be temporarily suspended at frontiers for customs formalities or at the Train Manager's discretion. Drinks may be ordered in your cabin through your steward.







## Entertainment

After dinner, the evening's entertainment options – across three different cars – range from the mellow vibe of cocktails and conversation, to sparkling live music and dancing, to mystery and magic. And with no one needing to head home early, there will be plenty of opportunity to move between them all.





## Dress Code

You can never be overdressed aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. We ask all our guests to get into the spirit of the event by donning 1920's "Gatsby" attire. Men may choose to wear black tie and suit/tuxedo for dinner, with women opting for stylish cocktail/evening dresses. Whatever you choose to wear for the evening, during the day, smart clothing is the norm for all passengers, including, for example, jacket and tie for men. Kindly refrain from wearing jeans, shorts or trainers at any time on board.





## Customs and Immigration on the Train

On the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express your passport will be held by your cabin steward, as this (normally) allows you to remain undisturbed as we cross frontiers, including at night. Your passport will be returned to you immediately before disembarking.

## Train Speed

The train travels at an average speed of 130 kph but may reach speeds of up to 160 kph. The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express travels within the constraints of the national and international railway networks. Due to the age of the train and unforeseen track conditions, some turbulence and occasional strong braking may occur; please use caution when moving about the train. Our departure from Paris is scheduled for 5:00pm, with arrival in Venice the following day at 4:00pm.









## Mailbox

There is a mailbox in Bar Car '3674', from which mail will be posted in Venice. This is a complimentary service but, please note, not an express one and delivery delays may occur.

## First Aid

We carry first aid equipment for emergency use. If a doctor is required, please inform the Train Manager who will arrange for the passenger to alight at the next main station to receive medical attention.

## Mobile Phones and Computers

For the comfort of your fellow passengers, please use mobile phones, computers and other smart devices only while in your cabin. At all other times, kindly ensure these devices are turned off. WiFi service is available on board, but connectivity may be intermittent depending on reception coverage along the route.





## Newspapers

Copies of The New York Times International Edition are available in Bar Car '3674'.

## Security

A discreet security presence is an essential part of the VSOE operation, and it may be necessary for passengers to make themselves and their luggage available for inspection. All cabin doors are fitted with a security chain. Your cabin should be locked upon leaving – please ask your steward for a key. Neither Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Ltd nor Philip and his event team are responsible for any loss of valuable items left unattended.

## Smoking

In accordance with European regulations, Venice Simplon-Orient-Express operates a no-smoking policy on board the train, including electronic cigarettes. Thank you for complying.

## VSOE FAQ

### ***Are there showers on board?***

No, the VSOE uses authentic 1920s sleeping-cars, built in an era when hotel rooms didn't have en suite bathrooms, people didn't have to take a shower every few hours, and Sunday night was bath night whether you needed it or not. The sleeper compartments have a washstand with hot and cold running water – a luxury for the period, when many hotel rooms didn't even have this.

### ***Can I smoke on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express?***

No. To comply with Italian and other European regulations, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train operates a no smoking policy, including of electronic cigarettes, on board. Thank you for complying.

### ***Dress code – what do I wear on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express?***

You can never be overdressed on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train. All guests are encouraged to dress in “Great Gatsby style”, you may find references on the event website. If still unsure what to wear, for dinner, men should wear a suit and tie and women dress in smart attire, but black tie or evening dress would suit the occasion. During the day, the dress code is smart-casual. At lunch, for example, a jacket and tie is suitable for men. Kindly refrain from wearing jeans, shorts or trainers at any time on board.

### ***What languages are spoken by staff on the train?***

Most stewards on board speak French, English and Italian.



***How long will the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express journey take?***

Our journey will last approximately 24 hours. Departure from Paris is scheduled for 5:00pm and we arrive in Venice at approximately 4:00pm the following day.

***Do I need insurance for the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express journey?***

As with all holidays and trips abroad, we strongly recommend travel insurance.

***Will there be room in my Venice Simplon-Orient-Express cabin for my entire luggage?***

Even with luggage racks in the cabins, space constraints require that luggage is limited, please, per guest, to: one suitable piece of hand luggage (plane cabin size), one suit carrier or overnight bag, with you in your cabin, and one suitcase to be stored in the baggage car, where it will not be accessible until we reach our destination.

***Is there a safe in the cabin?***

There is no safe in your cabin. Cabins are locked – you will have a key. Passports are looked after by your steward for border crossings. Please ask the Train Manager for assistance if required.

***Should I tip the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train staff?***

Any gratuities you wish to give are entirely at your discretion.





## Venice

Upon arrival in Venice we will be escorted from the station platform to a water bus that take us to the Cipriani Hotel. Please ensure you have all your carry-on luggage with you. The journey from the platform to the pier is a short walk of about 500 metres. Depending on the time it takes us to transfer from the train station, you should have about three hours to refresh and get ready for the Black Tie Masquerade Ball.







## Belmond Cipriani Hotel

The hotel was opened in 1958 by Giuseppe Cipriani, founder of Harry's Bar in Venice and inventor of the Bellini cocktail. His partners in the venture were the three daughters of the 2nd Earl of Iveagh, who provided the financing. The three sisters—Viscountess Boyd of Merton, Lady Honor Svedar and Lady Brigid Guinness—each had a suite designed for themselves and their families. In 1968, some adjoining land was purchased and an Olympic-sized swimming pool (the only pool in central Venice) was added among gardens. The Cipriani's size, service and location has firmly established it as part of Venice's modern heritage.





## Stay in style

The Cipriani rooms are decorated in a classic Venetian style with solid wood furnishings, Murano glass chandeliers, Fortuny fabrics and Venetian artworks. Many of the rooms have private balconies or terraces overlooking the serenity of the lagoon or the lush Casanova garden.

## Facilities

### SHUTTLE BOAT

A 24-hour private shuttle boat service operates between St Mark's and the Cipriani, with departures every 5-10 minutes.

### SWIMMING POOL

Take a dip in the Olympic-sized pool, the only swimming pool in central Venice. Situated serenely among the gardens, it is filled with filtered, heated seawater. Towels available.

### CASANOVA WELLNESS CENTRE

Treat yourself to a rejuvenating treatment at the Wellness Centre in the gardens. Simply relax in the sauna and steam room. There's also a fitness room for staying in shape and a hair salon.



## **TENNIS COURT**

Play a match with friends on the hotel's red-clay tennis court or hone your skills with a private coach.

## **GOLF**

The hotel front desk can arrange a game for you on the breezy, 18-hole course at Circolo Golf Venezia on the Lido.

## **BOAT EXCURSIONS AND MOORING**

Ask at the front desk about hiring the hotel's classic wooden motor boat, "Shirley", for excursions round the lagoon. If you have a private yacht, mooring spaces may be requested through the hotel.





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## Arrival to the Cipriani

Upon arrival to the Cipriani Hotel, which is privately booked in its entirety for our group you may make your way directly to your pre-assigned room, advised to you at check-in in Paris. Hotel staff will be stationed at key locations throughout to guide you. You will find the key in the door. Hotel staff will visit you room to explain the functions and amenities.

Depending on the time it takes us to transfer from the train station you should have about three hours to refresh and get ready for the Black Tie Masquerade Ball.





## Black Tie Masquerade Ball

This formal event will be held onsite at the Cipriani hotel in the fabulous Granaries of the Republic, located through the garden on the lagoon side facing St Mark's Square. It will feature cocktails on the fondamenta followed by a four-course meal and dancing to a live band. After midnight Philip looks forward to welcoming everyone to a rather special after-party in Gambino bar near the poolside.

### Dress code

This event is 'black tie masquerade' so formal attire with a Venetian style mask is required. Masks will be provided and waiting for you in your hotel room. Should you wish to exchange your mask for a different colour, please visit our staff at the Trattoria restaurant before making your way to the party.





Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

**Daytime**

Breakfast will be available from 8:00am – 12:00 noon in the Trattoria or delivered to your room. Guests may opt to spend the day lounging by the pool or head into Venice to take in the sights.





## Evening

From 7:00pm we will join together again for a leisurely extended meal in the garden, in the classic Italian tradition of a well-appointed country house. There will be entertainments of course, in what is sure to be a convivial evening, full of laughter and surprises, to bring this celebration weekend - An Adventure - to a fitting close.

Dress for a comfortable evening in good company.







Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>

### **Departures and further options for your stay**

Check-out time at the Cipriani is 11:00am. Water taxis to the airport or St Lucia train station can be booked at the front desk. For domestic departures you should report to the check-in area at least one hour before take-off. For international departures you should report to the check-in area at least two hours before take-off. A water taxi to the airport costs approximately €100 and takes about 40 minutes. Alternatively, you may take the Alilaguna public water ferries (€15), departing every hour from Giudecca Zitelle or St Mark's. The trip to the airport is about an hour and a half. Tickets should be bought in advance either online (a voucher to be exchanged at a ticketing office) or at authorised shops, such as the Tobacco Shop at the Giudecca Palanca (ferry terminal). If you are looking to extend your stay at the Cipriani, and have questions, please ask the team, next page.





## Venice

Venice is the capital of the Veneto region. The city is situated across a group of 118 small islands that are separated by canals and linked by more than 400 bridges. Many areas of Venice are renowned for the beauty of their settings, architecture and artwork, and there are reminders of the city's titanic contribution to Europe's cultural, scientific and artistic heritage all around you. The lagoon and part of the city are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Venice remains a very popular tourist destination and a classic Italian city, and has been ranked the most beautiful city in the world.

For tips on things to see and do as well as information on the Venice Biennale, please take a look at the 'An Adventure' website.





*Thank you so much for agreeing to be a part of this weekend's celebration; for contributing to the memories I already have, and for helping to create what I know will be a memorable weekend, with you there.*





### Up-to-date information

[www.spanton.party](http://www.spanton.party)

### Questions, comments, just a chat?

[robert@spanton.party](mailto:robert@spanton.party)

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### Emergency contacts

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