



COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION

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The Sights, Sounds and Artistry of Italy in Grand Central Terminal

Region of Veneto Open House in Vanderbilt Hall Showcases Venice, Verona, Murano Glass, Romance and Innovation

Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York
Part of 2009 Columbus Celebration

October 6 through October 17, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Daily
(Except Oct. 9: See Below)

New York, NY, September 25, 2009 – The historic grandeur of the *Piazza San Marco* and the soaring beauty of the Dolomites will come to life this October in an exhibition in Grand Central Terminal's Vanderbilt Hall as part of the 2009 Columbus Celebration.

Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York will highlight the Veneto region's timeless beauty and its vibrant culture (www.veneto.to). From the opulence of the architecture of the Doge's Palace and canals of Venice to the Region of Veneto's unsurpassed artisans, the exhibition will inform and delight visitors hungry for a sampling of this land of natural beauty, historic sites, and thriving culture.

The exhibits will feature displays of **Murano glass**, exquisite **hand-crafted miniature shoes** replicating contemporary and historic styles, and **free jazz performances**.

And throughout the run of the exhibit, Veneto and companies from the region will provide **complimentary espresso and bottled water** between the hours of 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Among the highlights of ***Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York*** will be an imposing replica of the façade of the Doge's Palace, instantly recognizable for its Gothic arches. Two golden winged lions – symbols of St. Mark, the patron saint of Venice – will welcome the visitors recreating the glamorous atmosphere of the enchanted city and its internationally renowned film festival. A brilliantly lit 14-foot tall steel tree high will be blanketed with hundreds of unique examples of **Murano glass** creations that illuminate Venice's long tradition of exceptional glass blowing. The tree will be donated to the City of New York by Region Veneto and the Promovetro Consortium, an association of Venetian glass artisans and craftsmen.

The outstanding workmanship of Veneto artisans will be evident in a small exhibit, *Piccoli Passi (Small Steps)*, a **unique collection of miniature shoes**, entirely made by hand by Pietro Martello, a skilled artisan from the Riviera del Brenta. The collection illustrates fashions in footwear over the span of several centuries recreated in two- to four-inch miniature.

A giant screen will continually display images of the fascinating cities, mountains, lakes, beaches, castles, churches, rivers, vineyards and of Veneto, in a breathtaking kaleidoscope of images, accompanied by Italian classical and popular music.

Veneto's famed hospitality will be sampled from October 8 through 12 with **free, authentic Italian espresso** and the refreshing **San Benedetto water**, both products of Veneto. The bar/cafe service will be available from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Veneto Jazz, a cultural association that promotes jazz in Italy and around the world, will present a series of regularly scheduled free performances by some of Venice's leading jazz musicians. The times of these free performances will be posted in Vanderbilt Hall.

Exhibitors and sponsors, all coming from Veneto, will include **Uvive**, a consortium of Veneto wine growers (<http://www.uvive.it>); the **Bisol** vineyards, which makes one of the world's finest proseccos (<http://www.bisol.it/eng/azienda.htm>); **Grana Padano**, the famous Italian cheese makers; **Vicenzaoro**, an association of master goldsmiths and jewelers and the host of one of the world's largest gold and jewelry fairs (<http://www.vicenzaoro.org/uk/index.php>); **Benetton** (www.benetton.com); **Venezia Marketing**, which promotes the cultural, historic and sporting events that take place in the city, the city's museums, restaurants, hotels, transportation and its famous Carnevale the Venice Casino (www.veniceconnected.com); the city of **Verona**, birthplace of the story of Romeo and Juliet and site of the house where the historical Juliet's family lived and where today couples can hold weddings (www.sposamiaverona.it); Verona is also the home of the third-century Roman amphitheater, the Verona Arena, which can hold 22,000 people and is the location of the Verona Opera Festival (<http://www.arena.it>); **Ditech Biometrics**, which creates the fastest, most accurate fingerprint identity verification algorithms available (www.biogatech.com); **Elle** (www.elle-international.biz) has supported from Italy the technical organization of the exhibit.

The exhibitions are part of the 2009 Columbus Celebration, which includes the Columbus Day Parade, held on October 12 on Fifth Avenue, 47th to 79th Streets from 11:45 AM until 3:00 PM. Also part of this year's celebration is a **raffle of a Maserati Quattroporte S**, which will be on view in Grand Central Terminal. Proceeds of the raffle will go to the Columbus Citizens Foundation scholarship fund, which this year is providing scholarship assistance in the amount of \$1.8 million to over 600 students. For full information, visit www.columbusraffle.com.

Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York is sponsored by the **Region of Veneto** and is organized by the **Columbus Citizens Foundation**. The Foundation is a non-profit organization in New York City committed to fostering an appreciation of Italian-American heritage and achievement. The Foundation, through a broad range of philanthropic and cultural activities, provides opportunities for advancement to deserving Italian-American students through various scholarship and grant programs. The Foundation organizes New York City's annual Columbus Celebration and Columbus Day Parade, which has celebrated Italian-American heritage since 1929.

What: *Veneto: A Bridge Between Venice and New York*
Where: Vanderbilt Hall, Grand Central Terminal, 42nd St. and Park Ave.
Dates: October 6 through October 17
Hours: 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM daily – *closes at 5:00 on Oct. 9*
Admission: Free

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