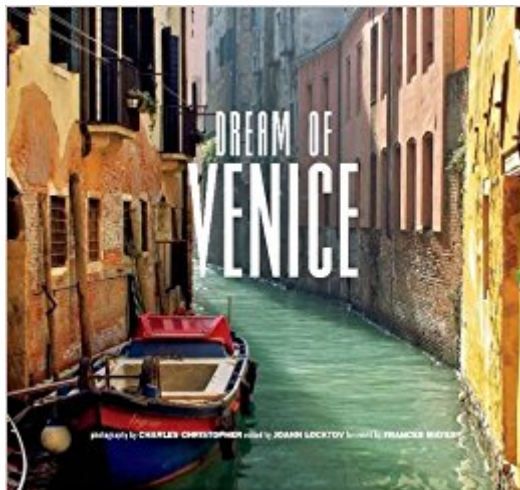


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# Dream Of Venice



## Synopsis

The mysterious allure of the ancient floating city of Venice is captured in this book of evocative photography and beguiling words of a diverse group of contemporary Venetophiles. The luminous photographs, in both color and black and white, compliment the intimate thoughts, memories, poems, and stories of notable contributors from the worlds of art, literature, design, cuisine, music, and filmmaking. Readers will want to listen to the silence of the canals and get lost in the ethereal mist of Piazza San Marco. Included are anecdotes and Venetian recollections from Woody Allen, Julie Christie, Diane Hales, Marcella Hazan, Erica Jong, Judith Martin, Linus Roache, and Nicolas Roeg.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is a beautiful book on Venice by the many writers who have fallen in love with the city. The photographs are intoxicating." — Erica Jong, author, *Fear of Flying* "If Venice is a dream state, then a new book about the city built on a lagoon is its vivid interpretation. *Dream of Venice* is a book full of visions. Some are reverential images captured by Charles Christopher, a copywriter-turned-photographer who spent two weeks there in 2011. Others are prose poetry from the likes of Frances Mayes, Peggy Guggenheim, Patricia Highsmith, Erica Jong, and Woody Allen." — J. Michael Welton, *Huffington Post*, Arts & Culture "These very original images remind me of the time I spent there far more movingly and personally than any perfect composition featuring a famous landmark, shot to death by guided tour groups. They capture the heart and sad reality of an extraordinary and unique city." — Nicolas Roeg, director "Dream of Venice is different

from the usual Venice gift or souvenir book. For one thing, it won't leave bruises on your thighs when you read it . . . it's more like an iPad than a 1990s-vintage laptop. You can mail it to your Venice-loving best friend, mother, or long-distance paramour without spending more on postage than you did on the book."Â â "Europe for Visitors, blog"

"You must have experienced and loved Venice to succeed in creating such a book . . . the result is, with this book you hold the keys to experiencing Venice with all five sensesâ "and that's what Venetians love about his book."Â â "Iris Loredana, blogger, A Garden in Veniceâ œDream of Venice, edited by Joann Locktov, contains none of the gondola shots we have seen a million times before . . . you can see the silence of the car-free city, breathe the characteristic mixture of wet building blocks and salty air, and feel the tiny pinpricks of moisture on your skin, just by looking at the pictures. It's almost like being there."Â â "Italian Notes, blog

Charles Christopher is a motion picture and TV still photographer for clients that include Hallmark, Lifetime, NBC, Syfy, and Universal Pictures. His architectural, travel, and cityscape photographs have been included in exhibits up and down the West Coast. He lives in Los Angeles, California.

JoAnn Locktov is the founder of Bella Figura Communications, a public relations agency that specializes in design and architecture. She is the author of *The Art of Mosaic Design* and *Mosaic Art and Style*. She lives in Mill Valley, California.

Frances Mayes is a preeminent poet, memoirist, essayist, and novelist. Her internationally best-selling books, including *Under Magnolia* and *Under the Tuscan Sun*, revolve around her life in Tuscany and her travels throughout the world. She lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

What could I possibly have in common with Woody Allen, Marcella Hazan, Erica Jong and Peggy Guggenheim? It turns out that we all have a great love for La Serenissima-Venice. That love is splendidly reflected in images and words in "Dream of Venice", the collaborative effort of photographer Charles Christopher and editor JoAnn Locktov. Christopher's images are, in a word, transporting. Turning the pages of this book, the reader will have the experience of exploring Venice - meandering through its ancient, winding passageways and experiencing that sudden, unexplainable, and insistent tugging at the corner of your eye that demands that you stop, turn your head, and discover something so fantastical that it makes you wonder, "Is that real?" And it is. This is Venice's gift to us all-a belief in the fantastic.

Locktov has lovingly gathered the revealing remembrances, musings, poems and stories of Venice of 37 luminaries from the worlds of architecture, letters, film, and art. She has thoughtfully placed each of these writings opposite a

corresponding photograph-creating a storybook for adults that is, in its 9"x9" format, custom built for bedside inspiration. This quote from Patrizia Gucci of the famous fashion house sums up the experience "Dream of Venice for me: "Una meraviglia-a wonder-in the only city that makes you wish, while closing your eyes, to relive each moment just as it has appeared." Thank you Christopher and Loctov for many moments relived.

"There is some kiss we want with our whole lives, the touch of Spirit upon the body." [Rumi] I have NEVER experienced goosebumps by simply holding a book in my hands...until today. As if the book itself was pulsating with the mysterious and beautiful Spirit of Venice itself. In Dream of Venice, JoAnn Locktov and Charles Christopher so eloquently capture the very essence of this magical, mysterious floating city. Opening the book unleashes a fantastic symphony for the senses--each page, each image, each passage seduced me further into the depths of my subconscious...transporting me to a state, a place, a dream where I wished I could remain forever. Seawater begs the pearl to break its shell. And the lily, how passionately it needs some wild Darling! At night, I open the window and ask the moon to come and press its face into mine. Breathe into me. Close the language-door, and open the love-window. The moon won't use the door, only the window. Words, however beautiful, are not adequate to describe the EXPERIENCE of this exquisite book. For a book to transport you to a place where you can literally FEEL your psyche unfurling as the pages turn, mingling your Soul with the Spirit of all that is Venice...is truly a DREAM. Thanks to Dream of Venice, I can return again and again and again...just by opening the book. Ci vediamo a Venezia!

Oh my gosh. The minute I opened up this velvety covered book and saw the very first image it revealed of Venice, I knew I was in for quite a treat. At the same time that this is not in any way like any other book that has been dedicated to Venice, it is so very full of the very spirit of what Venice is and imparts on the traveler. Unpredictable images show views of the city as if having just been discovered rather than 'staged' for hours, just as the city itself is experienced by the visitor; with each image inviting the reader to linger and wander through it, discovering something for themselves. This book shows that Venice, even in its contemporary form, even in its everyday, is extraordinarily beautiful and mysterious. Mary McCarthy writes that everything that can be said about Venice already has been. If that is so, then the words presented here lyrically shed new light onto this city and tell its story with poetry, depth and an honest look at what this city is today, revealing the kaleidoscope of experiences, emotions, and spaces that are the life of Venice.

Frances Mayes' introduction is an exquisite piece of writing-almost a different side to anything I have ever read by her-and it was so very wonderful to read one of my favorite Italy inspired authors write about this remarkable city.I love that the book gives back to the city that inspired it, by donating a portion of proceeds to Save Venice.The attention to detail and craft that went into the making of this book is also quite remarkable, from the high quality paper and binding, to the sizing that fits perfectly and gently in one's hand for dreaming while perusing. This is a book to be savored, and I know I will treasure it for a long time and return to it time and again, whenever I wish to dream of Venice from my little corner of the world.Beautiful debut book from Bella Figura Publications and I look forward to following their future work.

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