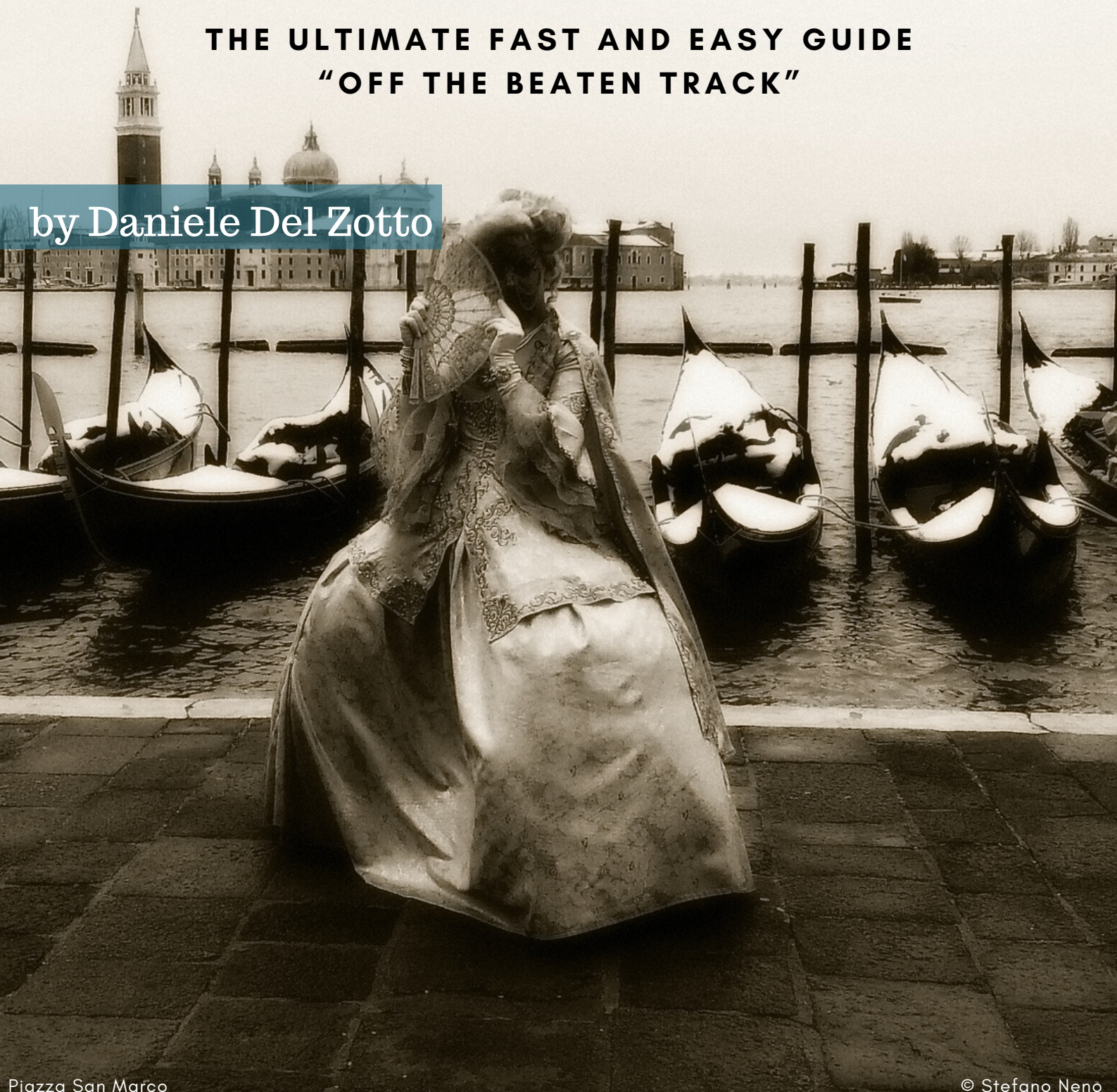


Venice

in a break

THE ULTIMATE FAST AND EASY GUIDE
"OFF THE BEATEN TRACK"

by Daniele Del Zotto





In traghetto a Venezia

© Stefano Neno

“You’re just arrived in Venice! can’t wait to step out...”

“Venice is like a fish; the Grand Canal is like a snake”: that’s what I use to say showing the map of the city where I grew up”
 “The best way to discover Venice is getting lost around the alleys!”

TO KNOW (ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TO GET TO KNOW VENICE)

Venice has 6 districts, named Sestieri, 112 Islands, more than 430 bridges and more than 3.000 alleys named “calle”:

San Marco: with the most important square, its Cathedral and Bell Tower.

Castello: with the large and busy Via Garibaldi, the Biennale’s Gardens and the Magnificent San Pietro’s Cathedral.

San Polo & Santa Croce: rather similar where you find the great Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari Church, and Rialto bridge.

Dorsoduro: with its modern and contemporary art galleries including the important Accademia Gallery.

Cannaregio: a popular area of Venice where you can enjoy sitting at the “Osteria” among the locals sipping a glass of wine or tasting the Spritz local venetian aperitif.

RIALTO BRIDGE IS ONE OF THE THREE OLD BRIDGES CROSSING THE GRAND CANAL.

Rialto bridge is one of the three old bridges crossing the Grand Canal.

The other two bridges being **Ponte dell’Accademia** leading you to the art district and **Ponte degli Scalzi** facing the **train’s station**. Crossing these three bridges will you allow to visit the heart of Venice.

A fourth bridge was built recently, by the international Architect Santiago Calatrava: it connects **Piazzale Roma** (car terminal) to the train’s station.

LET’S START FROM RIALTO BRIDGE AND SAN MARCO SQUARE

Overlooking the Grand Canal, you will find the historical **Fish Market** (07:00am/12:30am) where the Venetian housewives still go daily to buy **fresh sea food** (closed on Sunday and Monday). Have a look around and stop for a coffee at Ancòra Bar overlooking the Grand Canal.

Approaching the bridge, you will see a small church to the left: **San Giacomo’s** it is the **oldest Church**, even older than San Marco! The Rialto area was the very first to be reached by people from the mainland escaping from **Attila** during the **Barbarian Invasions**. Cross the Rialto bridge.

The view from left to right is incredible the busy canal with water buses, taxis, and locals is incredible! Leave the bridge and carry-on walking towards **San Marco’s** square. If the weather is clear we suggest you go up to the Bell Tower Campanile, this will help you to realize how small Venice is.

Situated in the middle of the Lagoon, between the Sea and Mountains the City appears like a “plastic model”, a mosaic of red roofs, squares, and canals.

Enter the Cathedral and visit the Altar and the crypt.

After that go and visit the **Palazzo Ducale** and its great halls, eventually you arrive in the room leading to the “Ponte dei Sospiri” (bridge of the sighs) which can be seen from the “Ponte della Paglia” disappointing most of the tourist as it is smaller than everyone imagines it to be.

“...this is a little taste of the tourist Venice” let’s now go off the beaten track and visit the real Venice!

CANNAREGIO DISTRICT

Stepping out from the train’s station Santa Lucia you will see the Ponte degli Scalzi on your left.
Leave the bridge on your right enter the Cannaregio district busy area populated by the local people.
Walk on “Lista di Spagna” a very busy street with lots of Souvenirs Shops, Hotels and Restaurants.
Have a coffee and a pastry at “Pasticceria Dal Mas” before starting the tour.
Go on to Ponte delle Guglie; after the bridge turn left and enter the Jewish Ghetto; keep going up to Sant’ Alvise and the Madonna dell’Orto two of the most interesting churches on the religious route with their paintings of Tiziano famous Venetian artist.
If you are around at lunch time, try one of any popular trattoria where you can eat among locals enjoying good homemade Venetian food for a fair price.
Every Fondamenta (the canal side street) has Osterie (Wine Bars) and Trattoria offering a good selection of Cicchetti (finger food) and Pasta.
During Spring and Summer evenings, lots of young people go to Fondamenta della Misericordia to drink a glass of wine hanging out.
Going down to East on the Fondamenta della Misericordia you can reach Campo dell’Abbazia and the Church of Santa Maria Valverde.
Hungry now? For a fast snack try Alla Vedova’s polpette (deep fried meat balls).
Keep going and get lost inside the arrows till you reach the small marble church “Chiesa dei Miracoli”.
Just a few steps and you will enter Castello district.

Something more: The Casino of Venice is an amazing building which deserves a visit! You don’t need to spend money in games. You can just enjoy the bar in the garden inside or the old-style restaurant.

Some extra visits: Chiesa dei Gesuiti, Tiziano’s paintings are everywhere but one of the most original and unknown painting is here inside. Stepping into the Church, on your left-hand side you will see a painting of the “dark period” of Tiziano painted when he was almost blind. The Altar has unusual green marble twisted columns.

RESTAURANTS

The most romantic

Giubagìò, offers good food and candlelight summertime dinners on the terrace facing the lagoon; one of the most beautiful sunsets over the mountains can be seen on a clear spring or summer evening. Book your table to be sure to have a table on the terrace around 8:00 p.m.

Suggested: in Spring/Summertime

Food Quality: good

Service: good

Price: up-scale

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Campo della Maddalena

The most folk

NO FOLK RESTAURANT TO BE SUGGESTED, AT THE MOMENT!
PLEASE, DROP ANY RECOMENDATION

The gourmet

Anice Stellato offers best sea food cooked by a great chef. Italian and Venetian dishes in a good atmosphere. Some tables on the outside.

Suggested: all year around

Food Quality: very good

Service: very good

Price: mid-scale

BARS

Enoteca Misericordia, offers a very good wine list and best bar food named Cicchetti. You can seat outside among Venetian people.

Suggested: all year around

Drinks quality: good

Service: sufficient

Price: fair

CASTELLO

This is my district; I was born here. The buildings have remained same, to dry linen in the sunshine, washing lines are drawn across the alleys, lots of locals around especially at the bars having their morning coffee or their evening "spritz".

Going down from San Marco square keeping the lagoon side on your right, explore a little of inside alleys leading to San Zaccaria's Church and go up to Campo Santa Maria Formosa. Take the Calle Lunga Santa Maria Formosa walk to the end stopping at the most incredible Book Shop of Venice named "Libreria Acqua Alta" (Calle Longa Santa Maria Formosa Campiello del Tintor n.5176). Cross the bridge and carry-on walking to Campo San Giovanni e Paolo with the Cathedral and the amazing façade of the City Hospital.

On the square there's one of the best and oldest confectionery and pastry shop of Venice: "Rosa Salva". Enter the Hospital and explore the lobby going down to the cloister.

Get the Fondamenta dei Mendicanti and walk by the Hospital's walls to reach the lagoon side: facing you San Michele Island the Venetian monumental Cemetery in the middle of the Lagoon and to your left the mountains: one of the best views of the city! Turn right go till the end and turn into Calle Cavalli, keep going passing Campo Santa Giustina reaching San Francesco della Vigna Church which is one of the most ancient of the city, worth a visit! Carry on in the direction of Campo Arsenale. Cross the wooden bridge and go down to Riva San Biagio; turn left and you reach Via Garibaldi one of the most popular areas of the city. Many locals live here. Near the bridge della Veneta Marina you find the bar Antico Calice. Drink a spritz together with Venetian people enjoying the sun set over San Giorgio's Island.

Something more: If you are not too tired and time permitting, I suggest a visit to San Pietro Island you can walk to there; visit the Cathedral which is even older than San Marco's Cathedral.



Libreria Acqua Alta

© Stefano Neno



Libreria Acqua Alta

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Some extra visits: the Biennale Gardens every two years (odd years) one of the most important Contemporary Art exhibitions.

RISTORANTI

The most romantic

La Terrazza Restaurant on the top-floor of the Hotel Danieli offers gourmet food alfresco facing the lagoon and San Giorgio Island; Book in advance to be sure to have a table on the terrace around 8:00 p.m.

Suggested: spring/summer

Food Quality: good

Service: excellent

Price: very up-scale

The most folk

Al Giorgione, a typical Trattoria with Venetian dishes. The owner is a folk musician and most evenings he sings for the Clients Venetian songs accompanied with his guitar.

Suggested: all year around

Food Quality: good

Service: sufficient

Price: mid-scale

The gourmet

Al Covo offers best sea food cooked by best chefs. Italian and Venetian dishes in a good atmosphere.

Suggested: all year around

Food Quality: excellent

Service: good

Price: up-scale

BARS

Al Vecio Calice offers a very good wine list and the best bar food called Cicchetti. You can sit outside among Venetian people drinking Spritz enjoying the sun setting behind San Giorgio Island. Michele, the owner speaks very good English too.

Suggested: in Spring/Summer and early Fall time

Drinks quality: very good

Service: easy and friendly

Price: fair



Chiesa di Santa Lucia © Stefano Neno

DORSODURO DISTRICT

Art, art, art! From classic to contemporary you will enjoy lots of private **Galleries** showing and selling paintings of the well-known modern artist.

Accademia bridge cross the Grand Canal leaving the area of San Marco enter the **art district**. Down the bridge on your right-hand side there's one of the best classic art Museum: **Accademia Gallery**. You shouldn't miss the **Peggy Guggenheim Gallery** or the **Pinault's Collection** at **Magazzini del Sale**.

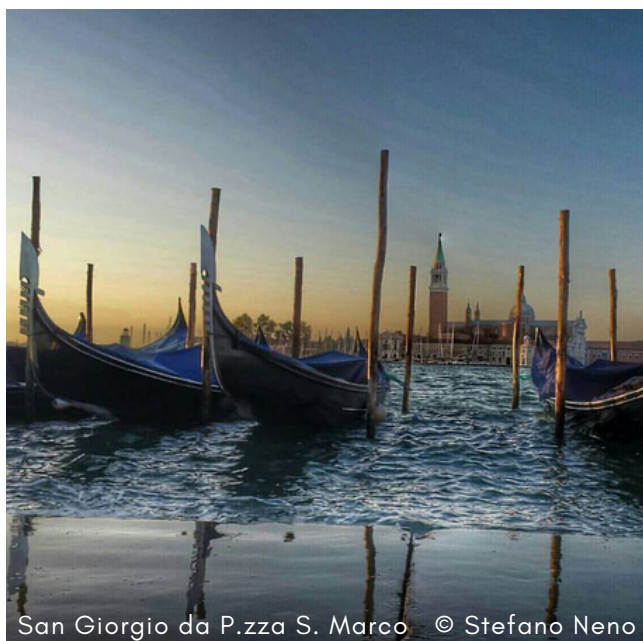
One of the best views can be seen from **Punta della Dogana** after a visit to the **Madonna della Salute Church** which appears to surface from the Lagoon. If you are in Venice around Nov. the 11th don't miss the **Madonna della Salute Celebration!**

Have a walk along the **Zattere** and buy an **Ice cream** from **Nico: Gianduotto** is my favorite: a brick of chocolate and hazels immersed inside a glass whipped cream; get one to-go and turn onto the **Fondamenta Nani** and you'll see a **Mountain Cottage** on the canal named **Rio San Trovaso**: that's the only shed left where they build **gondolas!** Cross the small bridge and explore the nice old green square behind the **Church of San Trovaso**.

Go to **Campo San Barnaba** and take **Calle Longa San Barnaba** a very tiny alley with small shops and Venetian wine bars and restaurants. Carry on to **Scuola Grande dei Carminiand** if you are around on Tuesday or Saturday you could enjoy a **Concert of Classical Music**.

In the evening **Campo Santa Margherita** is the best place to chill with a Spritz!

Some extra visits: **Ca' Rezzonico** is one of the best Palazzo of Venice. On the first floor a total of eleven rooms contains paintings, sculptures, ceilings with beautiful affresco and collections of eighteenth-century furnishing.



San Giorgio da P.zza S. Marco © Stefano Neno

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Mercato del pesce di Rialto

© Stefano Neno

RESTAURANTS

The most romantic

Linea d'ombra, candlelight dinner on the terrace facing the largest Canal of Venice, **Canale della Giudecca**; sunset being the most romantic moment to say, "I love you"! Book in advance to assure a table on the terrace, ask for a table near the water.

Suggested: in Spring/Summertime

Food Quality: very good

Service: excellent

Price: up-scale

The most folk

La Bitta, a typical Trattoria with Venetian dishes in the tiny alley Calle Lunga San Barnaba it is a very small place where they cook Venetian dishes.

Suggested: all year around

Food Quality: good

Service: sufficient

Price: mid-scale

The gourmet

Rivierafacing the widest area of the Canale della Giudecca. Book your table to be sure to sit alfresco. it has only a few tables on the street; sunset is the greatest moment, start the dinner with a Spritz.

Suggested: in Spring/Summertime

Food Quality: very good

Service: excellent

Price: up-scale

BARS

Al Bottegone, offers Ombre (glass of wine) and very good bar food named Cicchetti. You can sit outside at one of the three tables among Venetian people drinking Spritz.

Suggested: all year around

Drinks quality: good

Service: easy and friendly

Price: fair

SAN POLO AND SANTA CROCE DISTRICT

Rialto and his famous **Ponte di Rialto**, the area of **Frari** with the second church of importance **S. Maria Gloriosa dei Frari**, **San Rocco** and the wonderful ceiling of **Tintoretto** inside the **Scuola Grande San Rocco** are just three of the great attractions in these two rather similar districts. Get lost around the alleys and reach **Scuola Grande S. Giovanni Evangelista** go up to **Campo San Giacomo dell'Orio** to see children playing and locals reading the newspaper sitting on an old bench. Go to **Campo San Polo**, one of the largest squares. Before the bridge of Rialto overlooking the Grand Canal there's the **Fish Market**, do not miss it! It's one of the **oldest markets in the world** and the housewives still go to buy fresh fish in the morning. The small **church of San Giacomo** is the very first church of Venice. Stop to chill out sit at one of the bars on the Grand Canal behind **Campo della Concordia**. Don't miss a visit to the Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista and the Church.

RESTAURANTS

The most romantic

La porta d'acqua, a romantic Trattoria. Fresh seafood and attentive service. Very close to Rialto bridge ideal for a quiet walk after dinner.

Suggested: all year around

Food Quality: very good

Service: attentive

Price: mid-scale

The most folk

Da Ignazio, a typical Trattoria where to taste the real Venetian kitchen. Best "Spaghetti al nero di seppia" and when in season "Spidercrab".

Suggested: all year around

Food Quality: very good

Service: good

Price: mid-scale

The Gourmet

Osteria Da Fiore, Prestigious and exclusive premises welcome you offering high quality cuisine served in elegant and refined rooms. Ask for a window seat with a view of the canal.

Suggested: all year around

Food Quality: excellent

Service: excellent

LA TUA
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QUI.

Price: up-scale

BARS

La Bottiglia, local Osteria for a wine and a fast lunch.

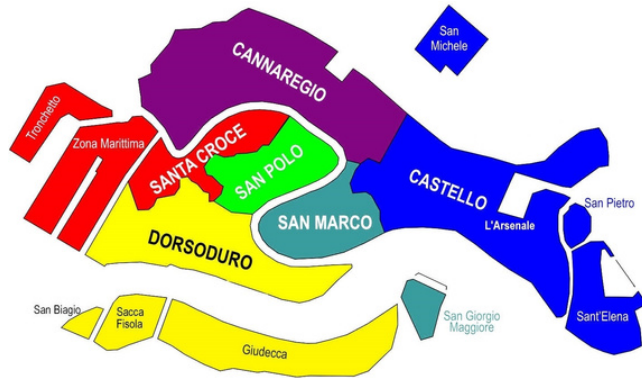
Suggested: all year around

Food Quality: average

Service: average

Price: fair

The six districts of Venice



USEFUL NUMBERS

- Tourist Reception: 041 2424
- Coast Guard: 1530
- Municipal police: 041 2747310
- State Railways: 892021
- Railways lost property: 041 785531
- Town of Venice: 041 2748111
- Venice Hospital: 041 5294111
- Water Ambulance: 118
- Marco Polo Airport: 041 2606111
- Airport flight info: 041 2609260
- Airport Lost property: 041 2609222
- Port Authority: 041 5334111
- Piazzale Roma Carabinieri: 041 5235333
- Tides Center: 041 2411996
- Railways lost property: 041 785531
- Border Police: 041 2692411
- Lido Municipal Police: 041 5260395
- Tourist information office: 041 5298711
- Passport Office: 041 2715772
- Passenger Terminal: 041 2403000

In www.sinaviga.it you will find many other useful information thanks to its Homepage entirely dedicated to Venice.

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