

# DISCOVERY

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 CATHAY PACIFIC

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## MASTER GLASS

Studios of the  
Venetian artists

威尼斯：  
琉璃內千姿

## NIAGARA ENTHRALLS

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the cascades

尼亞加拉：瀑布外品味

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best marathons

馬拉松：跑出新世界

DISCOVER ITALY  
發現 意大利

Murano glass takes on all shapes, colours and forms, and all exhibit the highest level of workmanship

穆拉諾的玻璃製品展現各式各樣的線條、顏色及形態，全都是最上乘的工藝結晶



Beauty can be seen in many guises in the Italian city of Venice – from the architecture to its numerous canals and famed art and glassworks

在意大利威尼斯，不論是建築、運河，以至知名藝術作品及玻璃製品，均展現各種美態



## 琉璃千姿 Master glass

by ERICA FIRPO

On the Venetian island of Murano, glassmakers are quietly preserving techniques that have produced works of art for centuries

在威尼斯的穆拉諾島上，玻璃工匠默默地承傳著多個世紀以來製作藝術品的精湛工藝



The glass chandeliers (above) hanging in Venice's Ca' Rezzonico, crafted by 18th-century Murano glassmakers, inspire many modern interpretations

掛於威尼斯雷佐尼科宮內的玻璃吊燈(上圖)於18世紀由穆拉諾的玻璃工匠製作，成為了許多現代吊燈設計的靈感泉源

### Where to see and buy glass

SEGUSO VIRO  
[www.segusoviro.com](http://www.segusoviro.com)

DOMUS VETRI  
D'ARTE  
FONDAENTA  
Vetra 82, Murano

PAULY & C.  
[www.pauly.it](http://www.pauly.it)

GALLIANO FERRO  
[www.gallianoferro.it](http://www.gallianoferro.it)

VENINI  
[venini.com](http://venini.com)

GALLERIA MARINA  
BAROVIER  
[www.barovier.it](http://www.barovier.it)

LU MURANO  
[www.lu-murano.it](http://www.lu-murano.it)

SALVIATI  
[www.salviati.com](http://www.salviati.com)

MUSEO DEL VETRO  
[museovetro.visitmuve.it](http://museovetro.visitmuve.it)

LE STANZE  
DEL VETRO  
[lestanzedelvetro.it](http://lestanzedelvetro.it)

**M**URANO IS a mystery, a jewel in the archipelago of Venetian islands. For centuries, this tiny island has produced the world's most beautiful glass pieces – goblets that grace the lips of popes and monarchs, chandeliers that light up palaces, and decorative

objects that add a glimmer to the everyday. Through rigid regulations and even threats of death, Murano has guarded its glassmaking industry for centuries, surrounding the island in lore just as nebulous as the mists off the Venetian Lagoon.

Only 15-minutes north of Venice, by water bus (*vaporetto*) and/or water taxi, Murano feels a world away from Venice's crowds; a place of quiet empty streets and closed doors, privacy is Murano's calling card.

Legend claims the islands' glass history began in the fifth century when locals fled barbarians to the

Venetian lagoon, bringing glassmaking techniques from imperial Rome. Venice officially dates its glassmaking legacy to 982AD when a certain Domenico signed witness to a deed, adding the term *filario* (bottlemaker) to his signature. With the cadence of ink, history was written. By the end of the 13th century, glassmakers became a powerful and exclusive guild of artisans known as *arte vetraria*. To protect its artisans, the Venetian government restricted all production of glass to Murano, with the guild declaring anyone caught practising glassmaking outside Murano be expelled or even killed.

In its heyday, the Venetian Republic fleet dominated the Mediterranean and the prestige of Murano glass was exhibited by its place on Europe's finest tables. Painters such as Titian and Bellini celebrated its beauty with brush strokes. "To see an unmistakably Venetian piece of glass in an unmistakably Venetian painting is to experience the wonder of the city anew," explains Dr Letha Chien, art historian at the

Glassblowers wait for the moment when silica gets molten – that's when the magic can happen (above left)

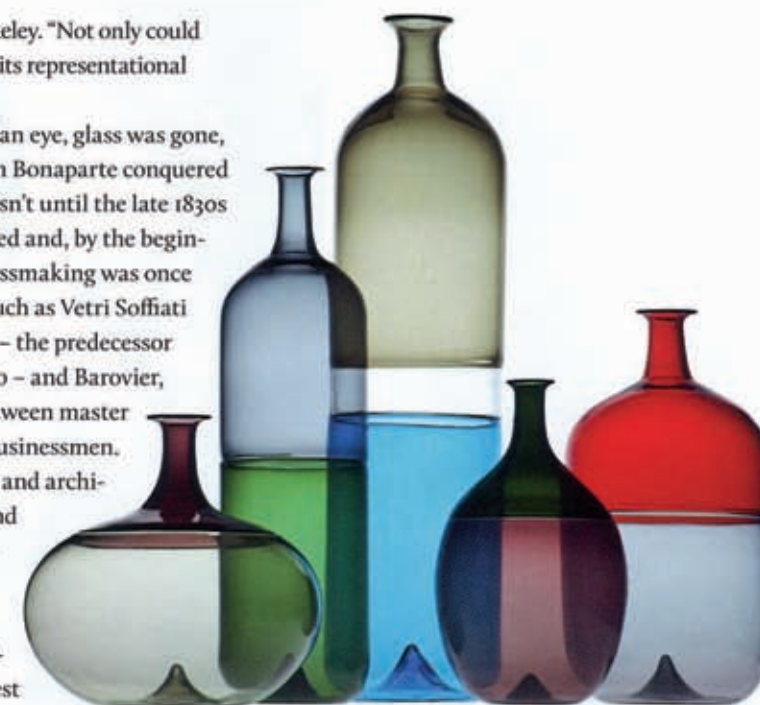
玻璃吹製師(上左圖)等待玻璃的原料矽砂熔化，創作的神奇時刻隨之來臨

The jewel tones of Murano glass (right) are inspired by the island's myriad colours (above)

穆拉諾玻璃那珠寶般的色調(右圖)源自島上的繽紛色彩(上圖)

University of California, Berkeley. "Not only could one possess the painting, but its representational contents as well."

But almost in the blink of an eye, glass was gone, and just as quickly, Napoleon Bonaparte conquered the Republic of Venice. It wasn't until the late 1830s that glass production resumed and, by the beginning of the 20th century, glassmaking was once again an enterprise. Firms such as Vetri Soffiati Muranesi Cappellini Venini – the predecessor to world-famous Venini & Co – and Barovier, were created by alliances between master glassmakers and Milanese businessmen. Renowned artists, designers and architects such as Carlo Scarpa and Napoleone Martinuzzi were recruited to helm creative direction, designing both original and modern reinterpretations of history's greatest



Photos: Murano canal and Rezzonico Chandeliers: Getty Images



Murano glassmakers love experimenting with form and colour – such as, clockwise from top left: Fabio Fornasier's gravity-defying chandeliers; detail of Geacolor Vase by Gae Aulenti for Venini; Giampaolo Seguso's glass art; and the flame sculpture by Denise Gemin of Fornace Mian

穆拉諾的玻璃工匠勇於創作，以求在形狀和顏色上突破極限。例如(左上圖起順時針方向)：Fabio Fornasier的反地心吸力吊燈、Gae Aulenti為Venini設計的Geacolor花瓶細節、Giampaolo Seguso的琉璃藝術品，以及Denise Gemin為Fornace Mian創作的火焰雕塑

pieces, such as the wide-mouthed Libellula vase and Rezzonico chandeliers.

Murano has always been a tiny and tight-lipped community, and the same applies now. Its 1,000 glassmakers represent centuries of glass dynasties such as Barovier, Salviati, Zecchin, Toso and Seguso, and some just a few decades old, such as Galliano Ferro. But they aren't easily approachable, despite what some of the more garrulous shop owners would have you believe. "Immediately upon your arrival, multilingual show openers greet you, ready to take you to studios," says Franco Regina, veteran gallery owner and manager to Fabio Fornasier, one of Murano's most avant-garde master glassblowers. His advice is to keep walking as visits to the best foundries and showrooms are usually by appointment.

Glassmaking begins early in the morning, in studios or factories where furnaces operate 24 hours a day, every day of the week. In a choreographed ballet of movements – heating, blowing, reheating, pulling, stretching, cutting and detailing – master glassblowers and assistants focus on the delicate moment when silica becomes molten and magic can happen.

Fornasier represents one of the smaller studios, LU Murano, where he is master glassblower. "To me, this is an artist's atelier, where anything is possible. It is an area of mystery," he says as he pulls on molten glass. After an hour spent talking with Fornasier and watching him make his gravity-defying chandeliers,

you understand. This space is much more than a workman's studio – it is ongoing, kinetic invention. The only sounds are the crisp cutting of hot glass that has been blown and stretched in impossible directions, but the air is filled with energy.

The second-generation glassblower chose to veer from the norm – "In Murano, many do the same thing, the Rezzonico chandelier, etc." – instead combining traditional techniques with whimsical, experimental designs. "I believe I am an artist and thus must follow my instincts," he says. Fornasier's luminaries are enlightened art objects, and he produces fewer than 100 pieces annually. His handcrafted chandeliers hang in contemporary art shows with the same ease as they do in private residences, hotels and casinos.

Workmanship is just one of the factors that makes Murano's glass authentic. The fronds of a chandelier or a goblet are handmade by artisans. As Regina explains, this contributes to the high cost of the glass. "Cheap trinkets are ready-made and can be found anywhere and in multiples but true Murano glass means workmanship and uniqueness."

The colour of Murano glass is also incomparable. "The particularity of [our] colours comes by virtue of the environment, extraordinary colours that exist in



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國泰航空  
米蘭：每日均有航機

## What's hot – Venice

**EAT**  
**ANTICHE CARAMPANE**  
One of Venice's most popular trattorias renowned for its delicious fish dishes.  
[www.antichecarampane.com](http://www.antichecarampane.com)

**BUSA ALLA TORRE DA LELE**  
Local Murano restaurant, perfect for an afternoon bite.  
Campo Santo Stefano 3,  
+39 041 739 662

**OSTERIA DEL CASON**  
A wine bar/osteria counterpart to the renowned Al Cason fish restaurant on the mainland.  
Fondamenta del Forner,  
+39 041 244 0060

**IL RIDOTTO**  
Close to Piazza San Marco, this small restaurant with exposed-brick interiors serves excellent modern Venetian cuisine.  
[www.ilridotto.com](http://www.ilridotto.com)

**SHOP**  
**LEGATORIA PIAZZESI**  
Opened in 1851, this is considered to be Venice's oldest paper shop, and sells beautifully handcrafted marble paper and leather books.  
[www.legatoriapiazzesi.it](http://www.legatoriapiazzesi.it)

**DO**  
**PALAZZO GRASSI AND PUNTA DELLA DOGANA**  
French entrepreneur François Pinault's two contemporary art museums in Venice showcasing works from his personal collection as well as from other institutions and artists.  
[www.palazzograssi.it](http://www.palazzograssi.it)

**CA' REZZONICO**  
Once the private home of the Rezzonico family, the palazzo is now a museum dedicated to 18th-century Venice with

impressive chandeliers and Tiepolo frescoes, most notably the charming Pulcinella room.  
[carezzonico.visitmuve.it](http://carezzonico.visitmuve.it)

**STAY**  
**BAUERS HOTEL**  
A family-run group with four fabulous hotels in Venice: il Palazzo, a 16th century palace and its adjacent l'Hotel; and on the Giudecca, Villa F, a lavish 11-residence palazzo; and Palladio, a hotel and spa in a Palladio-designed palace.  
[www.bauervenezia.com](http://www.bauervenezia.com)

For full listings, visit [cathaypacific.com/discovery](http://cathaypacific.com/discovery)

nature around us, like the sunset, sunrise and in the reflections of the lagoon," says Giampaolo Seguso, head of Seguso Viro, who should be considered a colour expert – for 22 generations, secret colour formulas have been passed down from father to son. His family dominates Venetian history. Since 1397, there has been a Seguso in a workroom, factory, gallery or museum, as master glassmakers or innovators, such as Artemide Seguso, Giampaolo's father and impresario of inimitable colour and filigree techniques.

Much like Fornasier, Giampaolo is the new embodiment of glass artisan. He is an entrepreneur, dedicating the past 25 years to upgrading the company's vision with contemporary designs and cutting-edge, international designers. He is a poet, working with master glassblowers on art pieces that he then inscribes with his poems. And he is a historian, researching and preserving the archived, early-20th-century Seguso designs for personal records and reinterpretation in his product line.

Authentic Murano glass is not hard to find on the island or in Venice's many boutiques, souvenir shops, restaurants and bars. Pieces come in every technique and incarnation – vases, goblets, lamps, figurines,



Giampaolo Seguso's family has passed its colour formulas down from father to son for 22 generations  
Giampaolo Seguso的家族調色秘方世代相傳，至今已至第22代

candelabras, dishes, paperweights, jewellery and more – pieces that bear the Veneto region's official trademark "Vetro Artistico Murano", a tamper-proof sticker that authenticates the product. But for Regina, that isn't enough. "Before coming to Venice, you need to inform yourself in advance on artists, styles and galleries. And you need to ask questions when you are looking at glass."

After just a single day of studying Murano's glimmering legacy, it becomes clear that its colourful, inimitable glass is a reflection of Venice's vibrancy. ■

## 【琉璃千姿】

位於威尼斯以北的穆拉諾 (Murano) 小島猶如威尼斯群島中的一顆神秘寶石。幾百年來，小島上出產全球最美麗的玻璃及琉璃製品，從教宗及君王使用的高腳杯、照耀皇宮的吊燈，以至點綴平常百姓家的裝飾品，款式琳瑯滿目。

由威尼斯乘坐水上巴士 (汽艇) 或水上的士前往穆拉諾只需15分鐘，卻遠離威尼斯擁擠的人群，恍若來到另一個世界；島上街道人煙稀疏，門戶緊閉，私隱對小島極為重要。

相傳穆拉諾的玻璃製作史可上溯至公元五世紀，其時，當地人為躲避外族入侵逃至威尼斯潟湖，並將玻璃製作技術從羅馬宮廷帶到島上。在威尼斯的鼎盛時期，威尼斯共和國艦隊叱咤地中海，穆拉諾的玻璃製品陸續在歐洲的華美餐桌上出現，奠定了穆拉諾玻璃製品的尊貴地位。

時至今日，穆拉諾保留了昔日隱秘小社區的模樣。島上約1,000名玻璃工匠，有些承襲玻璃製造王朝多個世紀，如Barovier、Salviati、Zecchin、Toso及Seguso家族，有些創立不過數十年，如Galliano Ferro。但要參觀玻璃作坊並不容易，島上最好的玻璃廠及陳列室通常需要預約。

玻璃製作從大清早開始。玻璃工作室或工廠的熔爐全年24小時運作，當製作玻璃的原料砂被燒熔時，創作的神奇時刻亦隨之來臨。玻璃吹製大師及助手團隊全神貫注工作，加熱、吹製，再加熱、拉展、切割、鑲以細節……連串流暢的動作猶如輕精心編排的芭蕾舞步。

精湛工藝是穆拉諾玻璃成為藝術品的關鍵之一，吊燈或高腳杯的每個細節均由工匠精心製作，因此索價不菲。

穆拉諾玻璃製品的色彩同樣舉世無雙。其中Seguso Viro的主管Giampaolo Seguso是其家族調色秘方的第22代傳人，他表示：「這些色彩的獨特性來自我們四周的優美環境——日出、日落及潟湖折射均是存在於大自然的瑰麗色彩。」

正宗的穆拉諾玻璃及琉璃製品在島上或威尼斯的專門店、禮品店、餐廳或酒吧隨處可見。產品採用不同技術製造，形態千變萬化，包括花瓶、高腳杯、檯燈、塑像、燭台、碟子、紙鎮及珠寶等。這些產品都附有防偽冒的威尼托區官方商標「Vetro Artistico Murano」，證明商品非贗品。

旅客只需花一天的時間去了解穆拉諾瑰麗的歷史傳承，自會明白這些瑰麗而舉世無雙的玻璃製品，折射出的是威尼斯的活力和光芒。