

# Untold Italy Episode 322: Venice - Travel Smarter and Make a Difference

Venice is a town surrounded by water, and yet it has a big water problem. Every day, 115 cubic metres of bottled water is shipped into the city despite the fact that in Venice, every public fountain is safe, free, and pours some of the best tap water in Italy. On episode 322, I am joined by a local Venetian on a mission to change one small habit that could make a big difference for his city, and yours.

Ciao a tutti and Benvenuti to Untold Italy, the travel podcast, where you go to the towns and villages, mountains and lakes, hills and coastlines of Bella Italia. Each week, your host Katy Clarke takes you on a journey in search of magical landscapes of history, culture, wine, gelato, and, of course, a whole lot of pasta. If you're dreaming of Italy and planning future adventures there, you've come to the right place.

Katy Clarke:

Ciao friends. Come stai? I hope you are well, wherever you are listening from today, and that your Italy plans are coming along nicely. Now, anyone who has been listening for a while knows that Venice holds a very special place in my heart. It is my favourite city in the world. Because it is unique, achingly beautiful and its citizens are creative, innovative and somehow are a beacon for the world/

So when local Venetian Marco Capovilla wrote to me about a project he started in his city, I wanted to share it with you straight away. Because here's the thing. Venice is a very special but fragile city and the way that you travel there really matters. There is one very small change you can make on your next trip to Venice that helps the city, the lagoon, your wallet, and the planet, all at the same time.

Marco is the founder of Venice Tap Water, a project he started back in 2019 after a sustainability meeting in Venice, where he realised that information about something as basic as knowledge about where free drinking water could be found was missing for visitors to the city. So he went about fixing that problem with an online resource. The Venice Tap Water website is a live, up-to-date map of nearly 250 public drinking fountains across Venice, showing you which ones are working and where to find them.

Italians and their more than 60 million visitors each year are the highest consumers of bottled water in Europe and one of the highest in the world. In Venice, the impact is concentrated in a way that is hard to ignore. Around 115 cubic metres of bottled water and packaging arrives in the city every single day in summer. Boats heavy with crates damage the foundations of the

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buildings. Garbage bins in San Marco erupt with empty plastic. And visitors pay around three Euros for half a litre of something they could get straight from a tap one block away.

Marco is not a politician or a business owner. He is a Venetian trying to do what is right for his city, and asking visitors to help. So today we are talking about why the project started, what it has taught him about Venice, and the one very small thing you can do on your next trip that makes a real difference. Andiamo, let's get started.

Katy Clarke:

Benvenuto. Marco, welcome onto the Untold Italy podcast.

Marco Capovilla:

Thank you, Katy, very much. I'm glad to join you in this podcast.

Katy Clarke:

It's lovely to have you join us from beautiful Venice, which is, as our long-term podcast listeners know, it's not just my favorite city in Italy, but it's my favorite city in the world. So, how is it there today?

Marco Capovilla:

Today is pretty good. Spring is coming, sunny day, so it's great. Is a new season.

Katy Clarke:

Lovely. It's beautiful. I miss Venice so much. And is it very busy at the moment?

Marco Capovilla:

Not much, actually, because of whatever is happening on the planet. We already know that probably this season will be less crowded than the last season. Even, actually, last year wasn't that busy. Much less than the previous one two years ago. This year we expect to have much less people around, I believe all over the planet, not just in Venice.

Katy Clarke:

Now Marco, you recently reached out to me about a specific project that you were championing in your city and we're going to dive into that a bit shortly, but before we do, can you please introduce yourself to our listeners and tell them about your connection to Venice and why you're so passionate about supporting your city.

Marco Capovilla:

Well, I'm just a Venetian. I'm born and raised in Venice, still living in Venice and I'm trying to do what is right. Just wherever I go, I try to bring some good ideas. I try to be good actually, basically. That's the point. Wherever you live, I believe is the right approach to behave properly, to bring some added value even in the small things if possible. That's really my approach. Not even Venice, all over in life in general.

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Marco Capovilla:

I care about Venice because it's my hometown. But if I should move somewhere else, I will have the same attitude.

Katy Clarke:

That's great. And you were born in Venice and you've lived there your whole life.

Marco Capovilla:

Except a few months abroad. Yeah, it's very difficult. That's probably the dark side of Venice. If you are born and raised in Venice, it's very difficult to get used to other places. Not because just of the beauty, but because the way you live. It's not perfect, of course, there's plenty of problems as any other place on the planet.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, it's so fascinating as a visitor to go there and especially I mentioned to you that we've taken our children there before and they just love even just going on vaporetto number one up and down the Grand Canal and seeing all the different boats and how people get their, you know, like goods for their shops around. If there's like the trash boat and the ambulance, and the fire brigade. It is so different. And I never really thought of it that way, that on the other side, how you would feel when you went to another city. But yeah, I can imagine it would be really confronting.

Marco Capovilla:

Yeah, probably to me the main difference is whatever I feel when I get out from Venice, but just at the car terminal. The smell of the air is totally different in Venice. A lot of people say as you step in Venice, you feel this, the air smelling of kind of rotten algae. Sea, you know, the edges on the rocks. When you go to the beach. It's a bit weird, but to me it's absolutely clear. And people not used to Venice as they step in and they feel immediately the difference.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, I love it, it's so great. And I love being around water as well. And I feel very - it makes me feel calm actually. So I don't know if that's a thing that you feel, but for me, being close to the water makes me feel like I'm connected to the earth more somehow. I don't know.

Marco Capovilla:

Yeah, it's relaxing. But keep in mind that it's not the water to relax, to chill, just to swim in. Venice canals - they are not really suitable for many activities. It's forbidden even for security reasons.

Katy Clarke:

Is there a favorite part of the city that you love? Is there somewhere that you go that you just feel, oh, this is my city, this is where I love to go?

Marco Capovilla:

Venice is so small, you know, it's less than 5km wide in the largest part. So not really a specific place, but probably some district, you know, Sestri area. I prefer to stay in Santa Croce, San Polo. I love a lot Campo San Polo because they have big trees, you know, Venice. What really is lacking Venice, the green areas. There are parks, big parks with trees, green. So wherever I find some green, I really enjoy to relax in the good season. Campo San Polo probably is the best.

Marco Capovilla:

Yeah, I was there a few minutes ago, so.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, yeah, it's. I mean, I love to go because they've all got a little bit of different character. If you go around the different sestieres. Like, even it's so small, but so different in each place.

Marco Capovilla:

Yeah, but you know, it's weird because even in such a small place we have. My home range is limited. I prefer to stay on this side of the Grand Canal. Let's say, before Santa Croce, San Polo, Dosduro - this area going on the other side, is already a big travel. Of course, for you it's quite sounds a bit ridiculous because you are in Australia. When you travel 200km, you are very close your home - but Venice is different.

Katy Clarke:

I do understand that it might be because it's a body of water. Because I live maybe 50 minutes from the river here in Melbourne. And I was just saying to someone today, I never go on the other side if I can help it. It's like they're different people over there. I don't know what's happening, but it's strange for some reason. It just is a natural barrier. So there's something that when I think about Venice, it stops me and I really try and think...

Katy Clarke:

So Venice is completely surrounded by water and yet for most of its history, drinking water was one of the hardest things to get. So paint a picture for us, like. So it's a very ancient city, but when you have people, they need water. So how did historically, how has Venice got water onto the islands?

Marco Capovilla:

I believe it was Marin Sanudo, that they used to say Venice is a town surrounded by water, but without water. Drinking water, sweet water. When you're in Venice, you cross all the different squares and almost in every square in the middle, there is a well. That was the first way of getting sweet water. They used to dig an underground facility made of layers of sand to filter the rainwater. And then the water used to converge in the middle because of the gravity and the steepness of the pipes, the facility. And then they used to drag the water. But this was okay till probably, I believe, 13th or 14th century.

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Marco Capovilla:

Then, with the rising of population and demographic issue, the water wasn't enough. So they found a different way to increase the amount of drinking water. Sweet water. They used the aquaroline people carrying by boats, of course, rowing or sailing boats till the end of 18th century. 1884, I believe they built the first modern, let's say, aqueduct. The development of technology has improved. That's how it worked.

Marco Capovilla:

But yeah, the point of Venice was the lack of water. And you see how it's possible to build not even empire, but a kind of real civilization without sweet water. That's really weird. Just like, I don't know, building a city in the desert. The main issue to create a society civilization is water. Without water, it was impossible to build a city or human settlement, whatever it was. That's weird.

Katy Clarke:

It is weird, isn't it? But I mean, my understanding is that the people were trying to escape from being attacked by other tribes and people on the mainland and from the sea. So they sort of took shelter on the islands.

Marco Capovilla:

The most famous theory about the birth of Venice just people living near the lagoon, pushed by barbarians to survive the move in this archipelago of the Brenta river. The Brenta River. But yeah, they found a way. The people was much less spoiled, less showers, less issues with water.

Katy Clarke:

But Venetians have always been very, I guess, innovative and trying to figure out ways to address different problems. Just because of the fact that you're living on water. I just. I find it endlessly fascinating. So anyway, tell me about the Venice tap water project. So how did it all come about and what's the inspiration behind it?

Marco Capovilla:

The inspiration - probably the best idea of my life. The smartest, actually, idea of my life. It was. I remember clearly, it was mid-July 2019. I was at the meeting about ecology/sustainability organized by a very young group of Venetians. And they were talking about a different subject. Then a girl who recently graduated in chemistry showed a structured formula of sugar to make bioplastic and I say guys, but need to check the audience in front of you. All the people are not absolutely competent about this.

Marco Capovilla:

And then I thought I must set up something really that everyone can do to reduce the impact. And then I said, is there something about tap water in Venice to inform tourists? No. Then I did it two days later. The page is almost the same. Yes, it's the same page since that day. And

the project is rising because it's an information that's really interesting, because every year the number of visitors, new visitors on the website and the visualization of the map, they rise a lot. Really a lot.

Marco Capovilla:

So it means that the project is not just useful. People need this information. And yeah, we are trying to promote it as much as possible. There are some issues, but Italy is probably the second in Europe. We are the first bottled water consumers. The second one, Germany is really so much far from us. We use more than almost 260 liters per person per year is a huge amount.

Marco Capovilla:

Probably the first on the planet. Consumers are the Mexican and probably tourists behave. They are pushed the naturally to behave just like Italians. Because you see, at the restaurant, they just give you bottled water. You see everyone carrying water crates. So if you don't have the information, you go for what looks safer and easy. And then there are commercial - terrible - they push you to buy bottled water as much as you can.

Marco Capovilla:

But that's complicated. It's not just a Venice issue. Bottled water is a global issue. Because water is not really. Is not good. It's not a commodity to buy and sell what is just like. It's just like air. Would you buy a bottle of fresh air? No. Not so far.

Marco Capovilla:

At least we'll see in the future if we get that. But it's the same water and air, they are both the same value and there is no value. It's the right, universal. Right, That's a point.

Katy Clarke:

Unless it's packaged up in a nice packaging. And so people think that it. And they market it with health benefits. I know, like San Pellegrino and those brands, I guess they push that perception that it's healthier or it's, you know, better.

Marco Capovilla:

More than healthier is... I believe - it is a status. There are some brands, especially abroad, as you mentioned, there are very few brands that they give you the feeling that 'ah I drink this water - so I feel cool, fancy, glamorous' and stuff like that. That's probably the main key to sell that water. They made a huge branding about this feeling.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, and I mean, it is one thing that if you've been to Italy before, so we have a lot of people that listen that have been to Italy many times and other people that are new to Italy. But if you've been there, you know that it's really difficult, like Marco says, to avoid the plastic water bottles because it's everywhere, it's in the restaurants, people are walking

around the streets drinking from the water bottles and you can't escape it, really. It's a bit confronting, actually.

Marco Capovilla:

Yeah, but you. It's easy to avoid the bottled water in general. Even less bottled water doesn't make any difference really in terms of pollution, transportation, all the lifecycle of the product. But if normally you are used to drink that water, you look for it, you go for it.

Katy Clarke:

That's true.

Marco Capovilla:

If you are not, and you are, you don't have information it becomes complicated, it really does.

Katy Clarke:

So just tell me, just let's back up a bit. What is the impact of all these plastic bottles on - I mean, we could talk about Italy, but let's just talk about Venice. Like what, what is the impact of all of these? I think we can all logically come to a conclusion in a place so small, with so many bottles that there's going to be a disposal problem. But what are some of the other impacts of the use of water bottles in Venice?

Marco Capovilla:

Well, let's start saying that we calculate, we estimate the amount of bottled water entering everyday Venice. That's the average really. Then, of course, in summer, the numbers are much higher. But that's an average of 90 cubic meters of bottled water. If you add the volume used by crates and stuff like that, the amount is about 115 cubic meters of material. And tubanes every day is a lot. It's a lot because probably in summer this amount is doubled.

Marco Capovilla:

So even more because of rain. The impact is in terms of transportation. Transport by boat is very polluting in terms even of exhaust from smoke pollutants. In terms of motion damage to the lagoon, to the foundation of the building. Because a very heavy boat moves a lot of water underneath and is damaged. There is even not just pollution. In terms of bottles falling into the canals. Is even a problem of management of waste.

Marco Capovilla:

Even a problem of image of the town. If you see or these garbage bins full of plastic of garbage is really unpleasant. Because you see, you are in San Marco Square and you see this bin erupting with garbage. And most of this garbage in the good season is made of plastic bottles is unbearable. Of course, they clean it. But you could avoid the problem just promoting tap water. You would save money. The town would be much tighter.

Marco Capovilla:

And that's important. Everyone more or less prefer to live in a tidy place is good.

Katy Clarke:

And I guess I mean, from people who live there must be so frustrating as well. Because you know, then all the services are directed towards moving this waste and not doing other things that could be useful for the city as well.

Marco Capovilla:

Yeah, that's the point. There should be a new approach to management. Actually, the point is not just in Venice, everywhere. Cut the waste at the source, reduce the waste at the source. So it's much easier to manage all the rest. That's the right approach.

Katy Clarke:

And the solution is really simple, isn't it? Like, that's the thing and that your idea that you had in 2019.

Marco Capovilla:

That's simple. Because the work is not made by the public administration. Just a small part. Most of the work is made by visitors drinking water. That's the point. If you give the right information, then it's easy. There is an important issue about our project. Let's say the public administration should make a revamping of the fountains.

Marco Capovilla:

They are not really in the best possible condition. Some of them, they are very rusty. If something is not appealing, in our case the fountains. If you don't know that it's drinkable, you don't trust it. If something is really tidy, neat and perfectly maintained. Ah, it's good. It's so perfectly maintained. So I go for it another percent sure it's good.

Marco Capovilla:

And then there is even another issue about the flow rate. The flow rate in most of, let's say more or less all the Venice fountains, is not enough to serve all the visitors in summer when they're 35 or more degrees, super moist. You see, even 30 people in line to fill the bottle takes one minute to fill half a liter. No, no way. It is a torture, you know. And it would take really very few money to get a huge positive feedback result. That's the point.

Katy Clarke:

Yes. I'm thinking back now when you think it's a simple solution. So tell me, how many fountains are there in Venice that are on your map?

Marco Capovilla:

All the fountains we met there are a bit less than 250, kind of a bit less. The 50% of them a bit less in town more or less. Half of them is working. But the point is that I was saying just a while ago, if the fountain is not. The flow rate is not sufficient. Sometimes I think I should

mark as closed because the flow rate (on the map - mark it as closed) because the flow rate is this poor, this low is useless.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah. So, have you been able to convince the local authorities to make some improvements on the fountains?

Marco Capovilla:

We tried and we're still trying. You know, Italy is Italy. Bureaucracy rules. The country is. It's complicated. Yeah, we keep on doing it, but it would take really such a small investment to get a huge income. But at least I hope that with our project we can spread a different habit worldwide. If a visitor, maybe gets used to trying tap water in Venice - will maybe go for tap water all over Italy.

Marco Capovilla:

But it will probably be the most eco-friendly person - they might think that, okay, there's no need of bottled water. So when I go back home, I will start a new life, a new habit. I don't know, it's complicated. You know, I had the idea of an instant portal. But it's weird because weekly I buy a crate of bottled water, sparkling water for my father. But I don't waste time convincing an elder of 84 years old to change his habits. He likes sparkling water.

Marco Capovilla:

But the point is there's people that can be convinced because they are nothing. That's the main issue. We give the information, you have this information, then you decide. You go for tap water or you go for bottled water is your choice. But keep in mind that tap water is absolutely good and safe. It Venice - all over the country, all over Europe.

Katy Clarke:

I've got an idea that I just thought of. So I hadn't briefed you on this before, but maybe if you know someone like me who can reach a large audience and if - do you know of any hotels that are helping you with this project? Because we can help raise their profile too. Do you know what I mean, so if people that you can go and stay in a hotel in Venice and they will give you like a water bottle and you can go fill it up, I think that would be a great way for everyone to support each other, to make a difference.

Marco Capovilla:

That's a good point. You know, from our website, you can download the flyer of there is a QR code leading you to the Venice fountain map and the reader to use the fountains. The point is that often the facilities - they are using a lot the Venice fountains because it's convenient for them. They reduce the waste. The management, the cleaning of all the facilities, Hotel B and B, whatever it is, is useful, gives objective help in managing the facility. To me is a bit complicated, but let's say it is a fiscal issue. If you produce less waste, you should pay less fees for the garbage service. That's a positive use of taxes.

Marco Capovilla:

You pollute less, you pay less. That's really a good approach. This is an issue that should manage the proper office of the city council. But this is a great approach. You make a discount of your normal garbage collection fee when you produce less. The problem with the... actually with the hosting facilities, there's no problem because a lot of people has already downloaded and keeps on downloading and delivering our flyer in the rooms. The main issue we are struggling with is with the day trip as daily visitors. Because we cannot afford a communication campaign to inform all these day trips.

Marco Capovilla:

Even with the big flyers on the walls. You know, it's complicated because there should be really a proper big campaign made by the city council to promote really strongly the use of that water. Even restoring the fountains, increasing the number even in the main water bus station. You know very well. Then it's obviously like the Train station, the car terminal, San Marcos and Santa Lucia. There are vending machines, plenty of bottled water, of course, but there are even selling hot drinks like coffee, you know, well, drinks tasting like coffee or tea, something really. But those machines, they are connected to the drinking water pipeline. So why not to put a fountain in the main refilling point in the main water bus station. That really with such a small investment, could deliver the message really to thousand people every day.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, what a great idea. It's a very expensive city to visit, right? For lots of different reasons. If you can cut costs for day trippers, I mean, you can pay... how much is a bottle of water anyway?

Marco Capovilla:

Now I should know, but I don't know. But if you go in the supermarket, if you buy a six-pack of water bottles, 1.5 liters each, so 9 liters in total, they have the same price of the same six-pack of half a liter is unbelievable. You pay the same amount for 9 liters and the same amount for 3 liters. It's absolutely ridiculous. Because the market... they sell more with visitors, they sell more half-liter water bottles. Absolutely. That's absolutely crazy. And even if you buy the same half-liter water bottle, the same brand, if it's room temperature, as a cost, if it's in the refrigerator, the price is twice.

Katy Clarke:

I think we've gone a little bit crazy, haven't we? When it's something that is just like a basic human need and requirement that we've made it so complicated somehow.

Marco Capovilla:

Sometimes, looking at things in a cynical way gives you the right approach. The world is ruled by money. If you follow the money, you understand that's how things are. Just think always in terms of money and you find probably the right way to approach a problem. Not to live, because it's not my way of living. But if you try to switch it to change my point of view, then

in this way you climb up all the chain and you see where is the issue. Follow the money. And then - yeah, that's the point.

Katy Clarke:

Someone's making a lot of money out of drinking water. That should be something that's freely available. Kind of like a metaphor for everything that's going on right now.

Marco Capovilla:

The problem is that a huge income for very few people, the owners of the water company, becomes a huge problem for everyone. In terms of pollution, that's really complicated. Even in terms of cost of living, because if you drink every day bottled water for a normal family, if you have a family of four, you pay more or less €800 per year, and then you have to pay money to collect the garbage. How do you call it? A circle, a dark circle.

Katy Clarke:

That's crazy.

Marco Capovilla:

And water is really just like, I don't know, a fancy car, fancy jacket, whatever it is. Water is a universal right? That's the point. Just like carrots. People should think about this because if we keep on going this way, way, our civilization will really probably start to buy bottles, to have - just to bring some fresh air.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, yeah, fresh air. I mean, as always, Venice is a city that is always, like I said, innovating. And so there's a problem and you're trying to fix it. And I think it's really fantastic that you've put together this website and all this information so people can actually make a difference when they travel and maybe take some of that learning home. And so Marco, for anyone listening right now? What's the one thing that you want them to take away from this conversation when they go to Venice and what should they do first?

Marco Capovilla:

Basically, just use the fountains, but just think about not just when you're in Venice, behaving the same way everywhere. Try to think a bit. If you think of small things and then you can do it practically in your daily life - that's probably a good approach. You don't have to turn upside down your life to reduce your impact. The problem is that we should make small, small changes. But in a lot of people, that's the point. This issue doesn't take.

Marco Capovilla:

Well, it doesn't take a lot to reduce your impact. Just a bit of common sense. I know it's even more complicated to find the right information because on the web is plenty of garbage. Is really, if you don't have a normal, decent education, you are really in danger because of the fake information the web is full of. If your followers, they are outgoing enough, they should

try to ask for tap water in the restaurant. They will find probably a lot of excuses. No, it's not good. We cannot just go for it. Ask them! Be part of the movement.

Katy Clarke:

That's exactly right. Like you said, I mean, it probably took only a few little things and you know, small changes that to get us here to this point where we are now. So we can roll it back with a few small changes. And the tap water in Venice tastes good, doesn't it?

Marco Capovilla:

Yeah, it tastes good, absolutely. But tastes good all over Italy. 99% of the places drink tap water. If you are not just in Venice everywhere, just change this habit. It's plenty of people working on this. But the problem is that without we don't have the power. We are small, we are very small. So it's very complicated to face the power of the producers.

Marco Capovilla:

In the prime time... if you are coming to visit Italy or Venice, wherever you go, for sure you will not switch on the TV. But if you want to have an experience of what I'm saying about how profitable and important is bottled water in Italy, just switch on the TV between 6 pm and 10 pm during the prime time and you see plenty of commercials about bottled water. And that's really an issue because I was saying just a few seconds ago, water is a right. There should be absolutely a campaign, public campaign to promote tap water, even on TV, because water is water. It's not really a Ferrari, I don't know, a Porsche.

Katy Clarke:

And you definitely don't need a Porsche in Venice because, as you said, there's no vehicles. So, Marco, Grazie Mille! This has been such a great conversation, and I think it's a really important one. When we travel, we really do have a responsibility to look at where we're going and hopefully not make a negative impact on the places we're going. And if it's a little - like a small change, like you say, like, you know, asking for tap water and taking a bottle and filling it up at the fountains, then I think that's something that everyone can do.

Marco Capovilla:

Yeah, that's very simple, small stuff. Just common sense. Where we go when it's available. Just go for tap water. That's the right approach. Not just in Venice.

Katy Clarke:

100% agree. We should do it everywhere. But, you know, I do think that sometimes people forget these things when they get on the plane, you know, and I would say sometimes I've been guilty of that myself. So it's a good reminder that if we're going somewhere, we need to take those habits that we have at home, wherever we go as well.

Marco Capovilla:

I had another recommendation that is stop buying takeaway coffee or drinks. Stay at the counter to get a coffee, cappuccino, whatever it is, it's unbelievable how many disposable

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coffee cups there are. Not just in Venice, all over the planet. That's really terrible. It's great because I see people just getting tourists getting the coffee, the cappuccino in the takeaway mode, and they drink it right outside the coffee shop. What the hell are you doing? Stay inside.

Marco Capovilla:

And to me, the feeling of putting my lips on a ceramic cup instead of using a plastic cup is totally different. Stay at the counter. Nothing will happen.

Katy Clarke:

Yeah, slow down, have a nice coffee and meet some people. Have a chat with someone at the bar and enjoy your coffee. Say, buongiorno. Then it will taste better.

Marco Capovilla:

When I'm in my favorite coffee pastry shop having my breakfast, when I see people "Two coffees - takeaway," Guys, you are wasting - that's the wrong way to start my day. But I understand that habits, what is obvious for me, for a person in general, is not obvious for someone else. That's even another huge lesson of life. What is really simple, basic to me, is really an alien language for someone else.

Katy Clarke:

Yep. And that's why I believe traveling is so important. Because, you know, if people can come to your city and see, you know, how you do things and how you enjoy life, then maybe they'll take some of that home. And I do think that that happens, actually. So I do think people have more of an awareness of, like, you know, those simple pleasures in Italy. Like, why would you take your coffee away when you could sit at the bar and or sit in the piazza or outside and just enjoy a few moments of silence without rushing around everywhere? I mean, it's a different way of living. And it's really lovely, actually. Well, Marcus, Grazie Mille, thank you so much for coming on the show and letting everyone know.

Katy Clarke:

And we will definitely be sharing all the details of the Venice tap water project with our listeners. So. And it's also, we're going to put it on our app so people can find the details on the Untold Italy app. So it's all there, ready for everyone when they head to Venice. So thank you, Marco. Grazie Mille.

Marco Capovilla:

Thank you, Katy. It's been a pleasure. I really appreciate this opportunity.

Katy Clarke:

Listeners, I really enjoyed my conversation with Marco, a Venetian quietly building something useful for his city. I hope this episode has given you something to think about for your next trip, not just to Venice, but anywhere you go. You know what they say, money talks, so if we

as consumers demand change and stop buying bottled water, commercial behaviour will follow.

A quick recap of what to do. Pack a refillable water bottle. When you get to Venice, head to [venicetapwater.org](http://venicetapwater.org) or the Untold Italy app, where you will find Marco's live map of every working fountain in the city. Fill up wherever you go. Ask for tap water at restaurants. And take that habit home with you. Because, as Marco said, water is a universal right, and small changes by a lot of people add up. You will find these water fountains all over Italy. Rome also has an incredible network of free drinking fountains that have been flowing for around 2000 years, give or take.

For the show notes to this week's episode, links to Venice Tap Water, and Marco's flyer with the fountain map QR code, head to [untolditaly.com/322](http://untolditaly.com/322). You will also find everything loaded into the Untold Italy app, so it is right there on your phone when you arrive. If this episode resonated, please share it with a friend who is heading to Venice. It is one of the simplest ways to help us, and to help Marco's project reach more travellers.

That's all for this week, next week we are chatting about active holidays in Italy. I know many of you have asked about this and I've finally found the right person to talk to. So tune in next week for some hiking and bike riding inspo, but until then, it is "Ciao for now!"