

October 12 to 18, 2026

Venice

Titian & Tintoretto, Rivalry and Brilliance in the 16th century Venice

with author and historian Ross King & Paola Vojnovic

Venice in the sixteenth century was a fiercely competitive artistic arena. At its heart stood two towering and radically different figures: Titian and Tintoretto. This journey explores Venice through their lives, their masterpieces, and the rivalry that shaped the city's greatest age of painting.



Titian, the undisputed master of Venetian colour, rose from provincial beginnings to become the most celebrated painter in Europe, sought after by popes, princes and emperors. His art—rich, sensual and profoundly humane—redefined what painting could achieve through colour and light. In the Frari, we will stand before his monumental *Assumption of the Virgin*, a work that announced a new vision of sacred art, as well as later masterpieces that reveal his unmatched psychological depth and painterly freedom.

Tintoretto, by contrast, was a restless and audacious outsider: ambitious, volatile and determined to challenge Titian's supremacy. Where Titian worked slowly and luxuriously, Tintoretto painted at speed and on a heroic scale, driven by drama, movement and theatrical intensity. Nowhere is this more powerfully experienced than in the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, where his vast cycles unfold like a cinematic vision of faith, humanity and salvation.

Moving between churches, confraternities and the winding *calli* of Venice, we will trace



not only two extraordinary careers, but two competing ideas of art itself. This is Venice seen through rivalry and brilliance—a city where genius was forged by competition as well as by water and light.

I AM INTERESTED IN THIS TOUR!