

# Sailing Ancient Waters

by Jost Geppert

The story we are about to recount takes place against a background of some of the most beautiful scenery in the northeast of Italy: the rivers and lagoons of the Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

We will travel only along the inland waterways connecting Venice to Trieste and the Istrian coast, which were at their glorious height in the days of La Serenissima. Like thousands of sailors of centuries past, we set off from the arsenals of Venice. Unlike most of them, we are not carrying cargo in our holds, but rather the desire to describe a piece of Italy that has increasingly faded from memory in recent decades.

a documentary by



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In the past, these waterways were essential for connecting the Roman Empire and later Italy to the East, a busy commercial route that was easier to navigate and safer than the temperamental Adriatic Sea. Like thousands of sailors of centuries past, we set off from the arsenals of Venice. Unlike most of them, we are not carrying cargo in our holds, but rather the desire to describe a piece of Italy that has increasingly faded from memory in recent decades.

Our voyage will follow the rhythms of our houseboat, a charming floating house whose name recalls a kind of homemade pasta, but which is also the name of a small island in the Venetian Lagoon: Torcello. Day after day of "passionate immersion" in the waters of the Litoranea Veneta, sitting in our "keeled home" pointing our insatiable lens somewhere "Across the River and into the Trees", we will tell the story of these enchanted places and of their population, in a paradise of History and Nature.

We left Venice carrying nothing in our holds but the desire to draw attention to a forgotten piece of Italy that exists in an unusual amphibian harmony between man and nature. We have arrived in Trieste, an ancient city on the sea, for us a symbolic portal for the circulation of goods and ideas, with a full load of images intended to instil a few drops of "topophilia", a love of place, a noble sentiment that transforms the tourist into a seeker of memories, affectionate and enduring feelings towards the thousand different landscapes found sailing ancient waters of the Litoranea Veneta.

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY:  
PHOTOGRAPHY:  
CAMERAMAN:  
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK:  
MIX:

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TOMMASO BICIOCCHI  
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ANDREA PANDOLFO  
ANTONIO MENDOLIA

AVAILABLE VERSIONS:

90 MINUTES  
2 X 50 MINUTES  
3 X 30 MINUTES

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