

## *The history of the Redentore celebration*

This is the city's most characteristic celebration and the best-loved by Venetians.

The Met Restaurant offers a truly unique evening on the elegant Metropole terrace on the Riva degli Schiavoni.

The origins of the Festival of the Redentore go back a very long way.

In 1576, Venice was devastated by a terrible plague. The Senate of the Serenissima voted to build a temple in honour of Christ the Redeemer ("Redentore") to drive out the plague which was crushing the city.

The church of the Redentore was built on Giudecca to a design by Andrea Palladio. The Doge decreed that from then on, the festival of the Redentore should take place each year on the third Sunday of July.

At sunset, boats decorated with coloured balloons converge on St Mark's Basin and the Giudecca Canal. An abundant dinner based on traditional Venetian dishes is eaten on board.

The illuminated shore and balconies of the mansions are thronged with a great crowd to watch the firework display which lasts 45 minutes, creating highly evocative coloured reflections in the water. Enjoying the display from a privileged position such as the waterside of the Metropole is simply an unforgettable experience.

Details of the evening will be available shortly.