

NORTH AMERICAN MEETING, VENICE, ITALY

31 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2016

This year the COMBAR North American Meeting will take place in Venice. There has been a good take up. The meeting is now closed and no further registrations are being taken. As in previous years, we shall register the meeting for 9 CPD points.

The Theme

"... the trade and profit of the city consisteth of all nations"

(The Merchant of Venice: 3.3.30-31)

From the 12th to the 15th Century Venice held a unique position at the centre of international trade and investment. China's 2013 "One Belt, One Road" initiative once again offers Venice the opportunity to flourish as the end point for both the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road. More prosaically Venice was (by some measure) the most popular choice of next venue for the participants at our meeting in Washington DC.

Over the course of the first day of the conference we intend to explore 3 specific topics. As the reputed (but disputed) location for the first established bank, the conference will commence with a review of recent banking cases on both sides of the Atlantic. Reflecting Venice's heritage as a maritime republic, the conference will then turn to consider the influence of shipping cases on the development of modern commercial law. Separately we will examine issues concerning the enforcement internationally of judgments and arbitration awards. At the conclusion of Thursday we anticipate holding a debate or discussion to examine the varying approaches to trial preparation and the examination of evidence.

We have made a change to the first panel session on Friday 1 April, which will now consider issues relating to Bribery and Corruption. We are enormously grateful to Lord Thomas, the Lord Chief Justice for agreeing to attend the meeting. He will host the final session of the meeting on Friday, 1 April at which we will discuss current matters of concern for those in commercial practice.

There will be Powerpoint facilities at the meeting. For those who wish to manage presentations through their Apple portables, please bring an adaptor to connect to the video projector which works on a VGA input.

The Conference Hotel

The conference hotel is the Belmond Hotel Cipriani. Located on the tip of Giudecca Island, this luxury hotel commands unrivalled views of the lagoon and Doge's Palace. Steeped in Venetian style, it is known for interiors decorated in exquisite local artefacts, classic cuisine and the most fabulous swimming pool in the city.



The hotel is now full. There are alternative options on Giudecca including [Bauers Palladio Hotel & Spa](#) and the [Hilton Molino Stucky](#). We are not holding any rooms in those hotels.

On the mainland there are numerous hotels. Please click [here](#) for a list of other 5* hotels or [here](#) for hotels offered by booking.com that caters for all budgets. Delegates are asked to make room bookings themselves.

COMBAR members not staying at the Belmond Hotel Cipriani will be able to use the 24- hour free shuttle service that runs from St Mark's Square to the Hotel Cipriani, a four minute ride by private launch.

Social Events

Social events are at the heart of the North American meeting and as ever partners and children are welcome to attend.

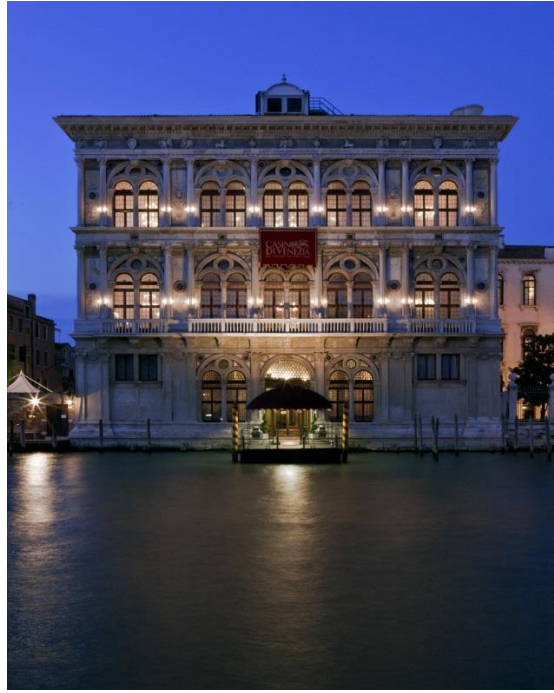
On the evening of Wednesday 30 March, the meeting will start with a Welcome Reception at the Belmond Hotel Cipriani from 6pm – 7.30pm in the Longhi Ballroom at the Granaries of the Venetian Republic. The evening is then free for people to make their own dinner arrangements.

On Thursday, 31 March, after the first day of the meeting, water taxis will carry guests to an optional cocktail reception at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco from 6.30pm – 8.00pm. The Scuola Grande was recognised by the Council of Ten in 1478 and dedicated to fighting the plague. It is famed for its incredible collection of works by Tintoretto and is recognised by the Michelin Green Guide as including some of the finest Mannerist works ever painted.

Dinner – black tie

On Friday 1 April, after the final day of the meeting, water taxis will carry guests to the set piece dinner in The Great Hall, Ca Vendramin Calergi. The new location for the dinner is the site of Wagner's apartment in Venice and of the Casino and will, we hope, provide a splendid location in which to conclude the meeting.

In line with the change in location, **the dress code for the dinner will be black tie.**



Ca Vendramin Calergi

Spouse/Partner/Family Programme

For those not attending the meeting, there will be a private walking tour on **Thursday 31 March**. Full details will be emailed separately to delegates.

Dress Code

Delegates often ask about the dress code for the meeting and the social events. The welcome reception and conference meetings are fairly informal, so we suggest smart casual. We suggest business suits for the reception at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco and it will be black tie for the dinner at Ca Vendramin Calergi

Meeting registration

We have attempted to keep the meeting fee as reasonable as possible with a reduction for junior members. The meeting fee includes tea/coffee breaks and lunch on both days. There are additional costs for (a) the welcome reception and reception at the Scuola Grande di San Rocco and (b) the dinner at Ca Vendramin Calergi

If you have any queries, please contact Veronica Kendall at admin@combar.com
