



# Coronavirus lockdown eases pollution in Venice

March 18, 2020

*The onslaught of coronavirus across Europe is taking its toll but the deadly pandemic is having some unexpected positive side effects. Venice canals, usually bogged down with tourists in gondolas and motorboats are now crystal clear.*

1. Venice's canals are enjoying \_\_\_\_\_

2. The lagoon city is \_\_\_\_\_

3-1. Last year, the canals were \_\_\_\_\_

3-2. but this year authorities canceled the festival at the end of February \_\_\_\_\_

4. As Italy now goes into a nationwide lockdown for the second week, \_\_\_\_\_

5-1. Cruise ships and motorboats that caused pollution \_\_\_\_\_

5-2. and empty alleys are a common feature \_\_\_\_\_

6. Those who dare to leave their homes \_\_\_\_\_

VENICE RESIDENT, SERGUEI MICHCHENKO, SAYING:

"The canal is definitely clearer, you just have to look at the canal when water is very calm. There are no boats, there is no traffic. Definitely it is cleaner."

7. Italy is Europe's \_\_\_\_\_

8. Its death toll \_\_\_\_\_

9-1. The government has approved a 25 billion euro - or \$28 billion - package \_\_\_\_\_

9-2. and act as a lifeline to families and firms \_\_\_\_\_

[Vocabulary]

- canal:** an artificial river; a long, narrow stretch of water that has been made for boats to travel along or to bring water to a particular area.
  - *The canals of Venice are popular with tourists.*
  - *Canals were dug to connect England's industrial cities with the ocean.*
- side effect:** a situation is something unplanned and usually unpleasant that happens in addition to the main effects of that situation.
  - *One side effect of modern life is stress.*
  - *An ability to understand and appreciate other cultures often has the welcome side-effect of making us less judgmental.*
- lockdown:** a situation in which people stay in a locked indoor space during an emergency in order to remain safe
  - *The lockdown lasted for about an hour until the intruder was arrested.*
  - *The prison was put on lockdown after riots broke out.*
- lagoon:** an area of the ocean that is separated from the rest of the ocean by sand or rocks; an area of fresh water, especially a small one beside a larger one
  - *In time the marsh will turn into a shallow, muddy lagoon.*
- lagoon city:** the lagoon city of Venice
  - *Hotel occupancy rates in the lagoon city are down to 1%-2%.*
- bog down:** to be unable to move further
  - *Their research bogged down because they lacked the laboratory expertise.*
- swarm with:** to be filled or covered with a huge number of people or things
  - *The station swarmed with college students last Sunday.*
  - *I nearly died of fright to discover our trashcan was swarming with cockroaches.*
- Carnival:** the most famous carnivals of Italy are those that include sophisticate masquerades and parades. The carnival in Venice was first recorded in 1268. The subversive nature of the festival is reflected in the many laws created over the centuries in Italy attempting to restrict celebrations and often banning the wearing of masks.
- crystal clear:** completely transparent and very bright
  - *crystal clear glass/water/air*
- cruise ship:** a passenger ship used commercially for pleasure cruises; a large ship that stops at different ports and carries passengers who are traveling for pleasure
- alley:** a narrow street or passage between or behind buildings
  - *The attack occurred in a dark alley.*
  - *The narrow alleys are lined with iron balconies and lively with the chatter of drinkers and shoppers.*
- feature:** an important part or aspect of something

- *common feature*
- *The most famous feature of the Mona Lisa is her smile.*
- **spot**: to notice someone or something
  - *Mara spotted the book she gave Ed for his birthday in the trash.*
  - *He left the party seconds before smoke was spotted coming up the stairs.*
- **death toll**: the number of deaths resulting from some particular cause such as an accident or a battle or a natural disaster
  - *The death toll from the tanker fire rose to 100.*
  - *There are fears that the death toll will rise as the weather worsens.*
- **approve**: to give official agreement or permission to something
  - *The proposal was approved by the board.*
  - *This year's budget package has been formally approved by the legislature.*
- **package**: a set of proposals that are made by a government or organization and which must be accepted or rejected as a group.
  - *a package of measures aimed at improving child welfare.*
  - *They put together an economic aid package.*
- **fragile**: used about a situation, agreement, or relationship that can easily be damaged or destroyed
  - *A fragile ceasefire is now in place.*
  - *fragile economy*
- **lifeline**: a person or thing that you depend on very much; support that enables people to survive or to continue doing something (often by providing an essential connection); A lifeline is something that enables an organization or group to survive or to continue with an activity.
  - *The airlift provided a lifeline for Berlin.*
  - *Information about the job market can be a lifeline for those who are out of work.*
- **firm**: a business or company
  - *She works for a large firm.*

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia]