



### *The appeal of the 19th Century of the Venice Lido.*

From the Hotel Ortolanella to the elegance of the Des Bains has changed the gateway to the island of gold. A postcard sent in 1902 that appears to date from the late 1800s shows a small church at the center of a rather narrow square, where a boat is about to dock on an antique landing with houses in the background. One of these houses was an inn where we many went to eat tasty snacks served with good local wine, and that a few years later was expanded into the Hotel Ortolanella.

The Ortolanella was managed by the Flight Ladies, who measured everything, customer by customer, purchase for purchase, delivery to delivery, against the Hotel Des Bains, for the feel of a grand hotel in in a smaller space near the church, where families could hear the vespers. In this manner, the Ortolanella and the Des Bains grew together and made the Lido what it became, with its ups and downs. Only the sea remained constant, its moods slowly building, wave by wave, over time.

This striking location provided a backdrop for a horse-drawn tram and sun-shielding curtains that lined the Gran Viale ("Great Avenue"), from its beach establishments to the Hotel Des Bains. A few years later, the Ortolanella was renovated, raised two floors and renamed Pensione Hotel Riviera. Today, the Riviera Hotel is an elegant period building located on the Gran Viale of Venice, about twenty yards from the boat terminal in Piazzale Santa Maria Elisabetta.

The Riviera Hotel's large veranda has a spectacular view of Piazza San Marco easily seen from most rooms, all the better to relish the gorgeous sunsets that dip behind domes and bell towers. This three-star hotel overlooking the Superior lagoon is embellished with fine Venetian-style furnishings and a vast assortment of carefully selected masks for rich and uniquely Venetian ambiance,

Hotel guests have access to a multi-purpose meeting room, and the hotel is particularly apt for social gatherings. The Hotel Riviera often hosts cultural association gatherings such as painting and photography exhibits and book launches common to the Lido.