

THE SOUVENIR

"GOOD ENOUGH FOR ELTON JOHN"

PICK UP SOME VENETIAN EYEWEAR IN THE HOME OF FASHIONABLE ITALIAN GLASS

VENICE MIGHT BE famous for its colourful Murano ornaments, but they're not the only form of stylish glass the floating city has pioneered – the Veneto region also has history as a world-renowned producer of eyeglasses. Legend has it that they were invented in Pisa in the 13th century and then Venice got in on the act. By the 14th century it was exporting its hot specs to countries around Europe.

Tucked away just off historic Piazza San Marco is Ottica Urbani, an eyewear shop that furthers the city's heritage. Opened in the 50s, its glasses have been good enough for Ernest Hemingway, Italian painter Emilio Vedova and even eyewear doyen Elton John. Walk in their footsteps and pop in for a pair of high-quality frames – we think the T2 Sun pair, handcrafted from acetate, are *bellissimi*.

€215, otticaurbani.com

