

[For RESEARCH section]**Beneath the Basilica of San Marco: new light on the origins of Venice**

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The origins of Venice have been of great interest to Venetians and to scholars more generally for centuries. Long shrouded in myth and legend due to the dearth of pre-ninth-century AD evidence, recent archaeological research is now illuminating how the famous city built on water began. Using high-resolution AMS dating of peach stones (pits) from below the Basilica of San Marco, the authors provide the first evidence for human activity at what is now the location of Piazza San Marco. Dating to between AD 650 and 770, this activity included canal in-filling and ground consolidation intended to create an area that was to become the city's civic centre in the early ninth century.

Keywords: Venice, Piazza San Marco, Basilica of San Marco, AMS dating

Table S1. This table provides further information on the AMS dates presented in Figure 2 in the main article. The lines of evidence are indicated at the top of the respective columns. The OxCal method that was used for calibrating the ¹⁴C dates is given at the bottom of the table.

Radiocarbon Lab code	Site	Core	Sample ID	Elevation (m)	Material	Un-calibrated age BP	Error +/-	Calibrated age range* 95.4%	Dating notes
OxA-4521	Mariciana Library	2	15	-2.50	Wood: Ash	1400	60	540-767 CE	<i>Terminus post quem</i>
OxA-4522	Mariciana Library	3	23	-3.14	Reed	1340	50	608-772 CE	Short lived material
OxA-4525	Mariciana Library	3X	14	-4.00	Reed	1305	50	643-866 CE	Short lived material
OxA-4524	Mariciana Library	3X	8B	-3.36	Wood: Oak	1295	55	647-875 CE	<i>Terminus post quem</i>
OxA-4523	Mariciana Library	3	24	-3.15	Wood: Elm	1260	55	661-886 CE	<i>Terminus post quem</i>
OxA-5208	Piazzetta	S6	8	-2.38	Wood chip	1325	55	606-863 CE	<i>Terminus post quem</i>
OxA-5323	Piazzetta	S6	331	-2.42	Bone	1325	40	645-770 CE	Short lived material
OxA-5324**	Piazza (in front of the Basilica)	B5	435	-3.55	Wood: Elm	1325	45	625-775 CE	Worked, 88 rings, 4 rings sapwood present - close to cutting date
X28622**	Piazza (in front of the Basilica)	B5	435	-3.55	Wood: Elm	1292	41	651-778 CE	Worked, 88 rings, 4 rings sapwood present - close to cutting date
OxA-5209	Piazza (in front of the Basilica)	B5	510	-4.30	Wood: Oak	1300	55	645-873 CE	<i>Terminus post quem</i>
X29589	Basilica San Marco	BS4	390	-2.49	Wood: Elm	1326	21	653-764 CE	Neither pith nor bark. Towards the outer edge of a fairly short lived sample.
X29596	Basilica San Marco	BS4	FS1	-2.77	Peach pit	1311	25	658-768 CE	Short lived material
X29597	Basilica San Marco	BS4	FS2	-2.75	Peach pit	1310	21	660-767 CE	Short lived material

*Using OxCal v.4.2.4, Bronk Ramsey (2013); R:5; IntCal 13 atmospheric curve (Reimer et al, 2013)

** Same sample, approximately same outermost years, different labs.

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