

The Island Bookshop



Where Has the Time Gone?

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VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Something truly transcendent happens while thumbing through the pages of a captivating book. Any avid reader has experienced the special kind of moment when focus becomes streamlined, reading speeds up, and emotions become entangled with the words on a page that transform into vivid scenes, alive in our imagination. When we eventually return our attention to the world around us, we notice that what felt like minutes of time caught up in our reading was, in reality, hours of time well spent, lost in a good book. Swept away in the magic of storytelling, we quickly find it impossible to carry on our days without the books that bring us such joy.

At The Island Bookshop, owners Aimee Odette and Michael Rank have sought to bring literature enthusiasts the opportunity to immerse themselves in the latest poetry, fiction, sci-fi, romance, mystery, and more, in a place that feels just like home. From the couple's career as college professors and deep love of reading derived a longstanding dream of one day opening a bookstore. After residing in Venice for over seven years, Aimee and Michael maintained curiosity about the commercial property options that might be available, so when they had a chance encounter with a real estate agent, they decided to tell the agent of their bookstore dream. As Aimee explains, "The idea took off when we started talking about it and, within a couple months, it came to life."

Reflecting the tropical atmosphere of Venice, The Island Bookshop now shelves an intriguing assortment of classic, modern, and even, beach-themed reads. Aimee and Michael are committed to



"When we travel, the first thing we do is look for local bookstores," says Aimee. "You have a true connection to a community when you walk into their shop and begin browsing what the locals are reading," adds Michael.



inspiring the community by offering readers of any age a variety of genres. In the children's corner, early readers and crawling youngsters can ignite their imaginations and take flight through colorful pages of magical, whimsical, and adventurous short stories, several of which are perfect for bedtime and reading development. Young adults and mature readers are extended tales of epic battles, gripping love affairs, exciting journeys, frightening mysteries, and memorable characters, all certain to captivate their attention. Aimee shares, "We've worked hard to make sure there's something for everyone, but as our collection grows, we're happy to order something for a customer."

As your eyes scan the spines of endless titles, you'll also find many New York Times bestsellers alongside children's and adult books written by local authors. The ceramic sculptures, watercolor paintings, and professional photography by area artists

that decorate the store walls are also available for purchase. "We plan to schedule a monthly showcase where local writers can display their books and do signings in the store," tells Aimee. "As part of a community, we feel compelled to support and put forth their work," adds Michael.

Drop in this month at The Island Bookshop! Welcome Aimee and Michael to the Island, pick up new favorite reads, and discover art by wonderful local talent. As you carefully make your selections, reading and relaxing from a cozy chair, you'll see how time magically drifts away in this enchanting place.

For more information about this advertorial, call 941.416.5511 or log on to TheIslandBookshop.com. Located at 206 West Miami Ave. in the Merchants of Venice shopping plaza on Venice Island, The Island Bookshop is open 10 to 5 p.m. Mon. through Sat.

3 AMAZING VENICE WATERFRONT DINING EXPERIENCES

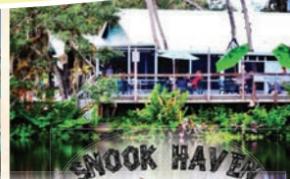
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