The Spanish Synagogue, built in the second half of the 16th century, is the largest in the Ghetto.
Ghetto is an old Venetian word, once indicating the area of the town where foundries were located. But since March 29th 1516, it indicates the area where all the Jews living in the city were forced to live. On that very day, the Senate of the Most Serene Republic of Venice decided that Christians and Israelites didn’t have to share the town together. The resolution was considered and then quickly applied in dozens of other European cities, so ghetto became one of the most known Italian words – for sure Jewish people know it well, as for centuries it represented their forced home in half Europe.

This is a trip, during the five-hundredth anniversary of the oldest ghetto in Europe, among Chabad Lubavitch ultra-orthodox Jews, old artisans and synagogues well concealed in the unique Venetian architecture.

Text: Giacomo Acunzo, Filippo Triola
Rabbi Rami Banin near an image of Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson. After Schneerson’s death, the Lubavitch movement divided into two: a part identified the rebbe as the Messiah and now waits for his return.
Book of Esther
Emilio Piacentini, woodcarver and artist, has worked in the Ghetto of Venice from more than 35 years.
Kids playing in front of the Jew rest home in Ghetto Nuovo (New Ghetto)
Volpe’s bakery, selling kosher specialties
The buildings in the Ghetto area had to host a high number of Jews, so they’re the highest in Venice.
The Torah ark of the Canton Synagogue. The Schola Canton represents an unicum in Europe with its eight wooden panels showing biblical episodes from the book of Exodus.
Yehuda Cristofoli in the atelier of Israel artist Michal Meron. Ms Meron makes handpainted Torahs sold all over the world.
A student in the rabbinical school of the Lubavitch community.
One of the old entrance of the Ghetto near the Gam, a kosher restaurant owned by Rabbi Rami Banin.
Carlo Rossi, restorer. He has worked in the Ghetto of Venice for about 50 years.
The bridge that used to connect Venice with Ghetto Nuovo (New Ghetto)
A class visiting the Jewish Museum of Venice
The canal separating Ghetto Nuovo (New Ghetto) from Ghetto Vecchio (Old Ghetto)