



Over The Alps at 17,000'

If Venice is *"the most beautiful city in the world"* (Lord Byron), then the claim on the airports website of **Giovanni Nicelli Airport, Venice [LIPV]** (quoting the BBC) that *"this is the third most beautiful airport in the world"* must add, for pilots, a reason to visit - if they still need one.



I had long waited for the opportunity to make the trip: I had the airplane; I had the qualifications; and I'd done the planning. All I wanted was the excuse to go! Therefore when I received an invitation to join a 'EuroGA Fly-In' at Venice, I decided the time had arrived.

The Notes below give information that will be obvious/familiar to most. But I write them hoping that they might encourage some *'newly-minted'* IR's (and even some well-briefed and carefully-planned VFR pilots using the GAFOR routes through The Alps which are clearly shown on *SkyDemon*) to make the trip; demonstrating that you do not need an over-sophisticated Airplane or Equipment: Just careful planning; attentive flying; and watchful navigation.

Airplane: N2CL is a standard PA28 Turbo RT Arrow with a basic Century 21 Autopilot & a simple S-TEC



Sixty Alt Hold. It has three useful additions: GAMInjectors which results in a very balanced and economic fuel-burn. A JPI 830 Engine monitor which, as well as giving one reassurance with monitoring 24 parameters four times a second, has a phenomenally accurate fuel-flow meter. And thirdly, considered by some to be

rather 'old' now, a Garmin 430W. For IFR, one must have the current data base installed.

I am basically an EFB [Electronic Flight Bag] person: Using an iPad with *SkyDemon* (with a back-up of the programme on my iPhone). In *SkyDemon* one can easily moving from IFR to VFR charts whilst continuing to show Waypoints. It makes planning a 'diversion' - especially over The Alps - very practical. The only paper I carried were *Jeppesen* 'Lo' Level charts 3/4 & 11/12 and print-outs of my landing plates at my Destination and Alternate. I carry an Icom 8.33 kHz hand-held radio since I have only one 8.33 kHz