



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

THE LAST ONE FOR THE ROAD (15)

Director: Francesco Sossai

Starring: Filippo Scotti, Sergio Romano, Pierpaolo Capovilla, Roberto Citran
Italy/Germany, 2025, 1 hour 40 minutes, Italian + English subtitles

Set in Northeast Italy, Veneto, *The Last One for the Road*... I know you're already picturing the gondolas of Venice, the Shakespearean backdrops of Verona, the Dolomites, and a glass of wine overlooking Lake Garda. This is the image that director Francesco Sossai is challenging in his faithful landscape film of where he lives, not trying to make anything look beautiful, just as it is. The Italian Tourist Board won't poach this one.

This charming film follows two fifty-something men, Carlobianchi (Sergio Romani) and Doriano (Pierpaolo Capovilla), on their way to meet longtime friend Genio (Andrea Pennacchi). On their, at times, confusing travels, hopping from rundown bar to rundown bar, they meet shy architecture student, Giulio (Filippo Scotti), adrift in life, taking him under their wing - all whilst searching for a long lost buried treasure.

The idea of the road trip across Veneto had only one fixed location - the Brion Tomb (seen as the Emperor's Garden in *Dune: Part Two*). The tomb was inspired by Venetian and Japanese architecture, combining differences rather than eliminating them.

Sossai, a graduate from the Berlin Film School, gives a fresh take on Italian Cinema and looks at the relationship between audience and plot. What happens when you break this and see what's left? This unexpectedness, spontaneity, and unscripted magic - absent of expectation, and in the trio's case, is there really ever a last drink?

Confronting this nostalgia for his eternally beautiful country, so tied to its rich history, Sossai tries to look to its unknown future. How do they honour their past whilst advancing and providing hope for their future? This is an homage to special places that live in our memory - bars and streets from our youth, now demolished in the name of "progress".

Notes compiled by Tom Morris (Shropshire Young Curator)

Preview courtesy of Bulldog Film Distribution

If you like **The Last One for the Road**, you may enjoy:

LA GRAZIA Sorrentino (*The Consequences of Love*, *The Great Beauty*) reunites with actor Toni Servillo in this chamber-piece about the final months in office of an Italian president.

TUNER In his first fiction feature, Roher channels comedy, romance and crime thriller around a gifted piano tuner's meticulous skills.