



1-3. THE CAPANNA TABLE LAMP, VENERE SCONCE, AND VETRO DI MARE CHANDELIER FROM WARD + GRAY'S NEW LIDO LIGHTING COLLECTION. 4. FIRM FOUNDERS STAVER GRAY (LEFT) AND CHRISTIE WARD IN THEIR NEW YORK CITY STUDIO WITH A LUNA SCONCE FROM THE LINE.



LIGHTING

## Water Mark

A new line of handblown glass fixtures by Ward + Gray takes inspiration from the colors and craft of Venice

**W**hen Christie Ward and Staver Gray, founders of the New York City-based interior design firm Ward + Gray, began developing their own line of handblown-glass lighting, they knew exactly where to produce it. “Our first thought was to work with the family-run company from Venice who we’ve collaborated with for years,” Ward says of the Italian atelier that has long produced custom pieces for their residential and hospitality projects. But the duo also found inspiration in the Lido, the seven-mile Venetian barrier island, famed for its laid-back resort feel. Explains Ward: “It has such an interesting juxtaposition of coastal style and historic charm.”

Atmospheric and nostalgic scenes from the isle now inform the collection’s palette and silhouettes. The Capanna table lamp, with its domed top and fluted base, nods to the cabanas that dot Lido beaches, while the scalloped Abalone sconce was conceived during a long lunch overlooking a shell-strewn beach. Several pieces, like the Venere sconce, take cues from Roman mythology. And the showstopping Vetro di Mare chandelier features the same shimmering blues and easygoing greens of the Mediterranean.

“They’re colorful, patterned, and relaxed,” Gray says of the line, christened—what else?—Lido. “But at the same time, there’s a level of sophistication that comes from the high-quality materials and handmade nature.” The fixtures have a sun-faded appearance, evoking the timeworn look that she and Ward seek out in vintage and artisanal objects. “We’re both collectors, and we love taking inspiration from the things we see traveling or at flea markets,” Gray continues. “We hope these are heirloom pieces that someone can have forever.” [wardandgray.com](http://wardandgray.com) —KATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN