

ITALY OPERA TOUR



operatunity

Travel

Opera, Food, Art, History, Culture

27 JUNE ~ 25 JULY 2017



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Italy is the home of opera, great food, incredible cultural and historical landmarks, wine, sunflowers, art, gardens & architecture.

We encompass all this in our 2017 opera tour of Italy. We experience seven great operas or opera concerts including *Placido Domingo* in a Gala concert (confirmed) at the Verona Arena, plus *Rigoletto* and *Aida* at Verona, Lucca Puccini Festival, chamber versions of *La Boheme* and *Madame Butterfly* in Florence and *La Sonnambula* at La Fenice, Venice, as well as numerous concerts and restaurants with music.

Our Italian trip is packed with other exceptional experiences: gliding through Venetian canals to the serenade of gondoliers, wandering the small lanes in Rome and Florence, marvelling at the art and sculpture in galleries and the beauty of Renaissance gardens, being captivated by Sorrento and the Isle of Capri, wondering at the historical splendour of Pompeii and the Forum, delighting in the flavours of Tuscany and basking in the tranquility of Lake Stresa.



Portofino



Amalfi



St Peter's Basilica, Rome

PLACES WE STAY

Saturnia & International Hotel enjoys a strategic position in town as it is located on one of the main streets in the heart of Venice, five minutes from the famous St. Mark's Square.

The Hotel Pierre Florence is housed in a 13th century historic building and is situated in the heart of the historic centre of Florence, just a few steps from Ponte Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, the Duomo and Uffizi Gallery.

Royal Sporting Hotel, Portovenere occupies a stunning beachfront location, perfect for exploring the Cinque Terre and the surrounds of this magnificent region.

Grand Hotel Vesuvio, Sorrento offers a breathtaking sea view: in front is the enchanting Gulf of Naples dominated by Mount Vesuvius and from behind Punta Campanella.

Marriott Grand Hotel Flora Roma is a 5 star historic hotel, located in the heart of Rome, close to the Borghese Gallery & Park. Its breakfast terrace enjoys sweeping views over Rome.

Regina Palace Hotel, Stresa, located beside Lake Maggiore, was built in 1908. This beautiful, elegant hotel is centrally located only 5 minutes walk from the town and is surrounded by parkland.

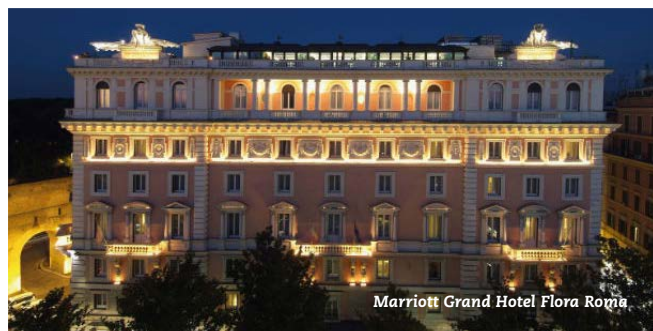
Due Torri Hotel, Verona is a 5 star historic hotel set in the heart of Verona and situated a short walk from the famous Verona Arena.



The Hotel Pierre Florence



Grand Hotel Vesuvio, Sorrento



Marriott Grand Hotel Flora Roma



Regina Palace Hotel, Stresa



Due Torri, Verona



Highlights and special flavours of this musical travel extravaganza:

- A grand 24 day extensive guided musical tour of Italy• (plus 4 day stopovers in Dubai includes early check in).
- 7 operas on some of the most famous opera stages in the world, including *Rigoletto* and *Aida* (confirmed) in the Verona Arena, a 1st century Roman amphitheatre, plus Bellini's beautiful opera, *La Sonnambula* (confirmed) in the magnificent newly restored La Fenice Opera House, Venice and *Madame Butterfly* and *La Boheme* at St Mark's Church Florence (confirmed).
- A highlight of the trip is the chance to hear *Placido Domingo* in a "one night only" Gala concert (confirmed) at Verona Arena. We also enjoy a concert at the Puccini Festival in Puccini's birthplace, Lucca, plus a dinner and concert in the Chianti Hills, Florence, a folklore concert in Sorrento, a gondolier serenade on our gondola ride and music at special dinners (please note: all musical events and concerts are subject to availability unless "confirmed" but will be replaced with other options if unavailable).
- Numerous guided tours with special flavours including tour to Vatican Museum/Sistine Chapel, cruises in Venice, Burano, Lake Maggiore, Cinque Terre, Isle of Capri plus Amalfi Coast and Italian Riviera and all other tours listed in our itinerary.
- Reserved entrances, therefore no long queues, to the Borghese Gallery, Uffizi Gallery, Accademia, entrance to the Baptistry, Cathedral & Leaning Tower, Pisa, guided tour of Padova including the Scrovegni Chapel with its Giotto Frescos, Villa d'Este & Hadrian's Villa, Isola Bella & Isola Madre and all guided tours listed on our itinerary.
- Fabulous food experiences including 8 dinners, plus wine tasting and picnic in Tuscany and cooking demonstration.



DUBAI

(4 nights - stopovers return)

~ Sheraton Mall of the Emirates Hotel

We begin and end our Italy Opera Tour with flights to and from Dubai on Emirates.

As we arrive into Dubai early in the morning we have arranged another night's accommodation so we can go to our rooms immediately. On return we arrive into Dubai late at night so we will again have access to our rooms immediately.

VENICE (3 nights)

~ Saturnia and International Hotel

City of love, iconic buildings, San Marco Square, palazzi and canals.

HIGHLIGHTS in Venice include:

- Opera performance of Bellini's *La Sonnambula* (confirmed) at the newly restored La Fenice Opera House, one of the most famous opera houses in the world.
- Boat ride entrance to Venice.
- Dinner at local restaurant followed by a Gondola ride with serenade from our handsome Gondolier, we hope!
- Morning guided sightseeing tour including reserved entrances to Doges Palace and San Marco Basilica.
- Tour of La Fenice Opera House & stroll to Venice markets.
- Cruise to Burano, the Fishermen's Island for a superb lunch and time at leisure.
- Time to stroll and enjoy the beauty of this most romantic of cities.

FLORENCE (4 nights) ~ Hotel Pierre (with Tuscany countryside tour)

City of art, leather goods, markets, Ponte Vecchio, Tuscan food. To Florence via guided tour of Padova including the Scrovegni Chapel with its Giotto Frescoes, the old university and the markets.

HIGHLIGHTS in Florence include:

- Visit to Lucca, Puccini's birth place and opera concert at the Puccini Festival - The Best of Puccini and Mozart (confirmed).
- Opera performances of *Madame Butterfly* and *La Boheme* (confirmed) at St Mark's English Church.

- Guided city sightseeing with reserved entrances for the Uffizi, displaying some of the greatest paintings in the world from the Old Masters and Accademia Galleries, including Michelangelo's David.
- Tuscany Experience Day - Full scenic day in Tuscany, including a visit to San Gimignano, wine tasting and picnic highlight plus cooking demonstration.
- Chianti Hills excursion - Eat-alian banquet and music.
- Half day at leisure to explore the markets and sights including the Medici Palace.



SORRENTO (4 nights)

~ Grand Hotel Vesuvio

Neapolitan song, bays of shimmering light, Isle of Capri.
To Sorrento including a guided tour of Pompeii en route.

HIGHLIGHTS in Sorrento include:

- ☞ Amalfi excursion including Amalfi town and Ravello with farm lunch.
- ☞ Lunch in Italian Agriturismo restaurant on the breathtaking Amalfi Coast.
- ☞ Isle of Capri full day tour including lunch.
- ☞ Full day at leisure in beautiful Sorrento to wander with views over the bay of Naples.
- ☞ Folklore show at the Teatro Tasso.

ROME (4 nights)

~ Marriott Grand Hotel Flora Roma

Home of the Vatican, ancient ruins, historic churches, mad drivers and art. To Rome via the Commonwealth Cemetery at Cassino.

HIGHLIGHTS in Rome include:

- ☞ Numerous tours including guided tour of the Vatican Museums, St Peter's Basilica and Sistine Chapel and drive tour around Rome.
- ☞ Evening stroll in Rome including the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain with dinner in local restaurant.
- ☞ City guided tour with reserved entrance to Borghese Gallery, a jewel of a gallery housed in a palazzo.
- ☞ A guided tour and reserved entrances to ancient Rome including the Colosseum, Forums plus panoramic vistas from the top of the Campidoglio.
- ☞ Villa d'Este to marvel at Renaissance fountains and statues.
- ☞ Hadrian's Villa with its classical buildings built in the 2nd century AD by the Roman Emperor Hadrian.
- ☞ Full free day in Rome to enjoy your own exploring or simply wander and enjoy the incredible atmosphere.

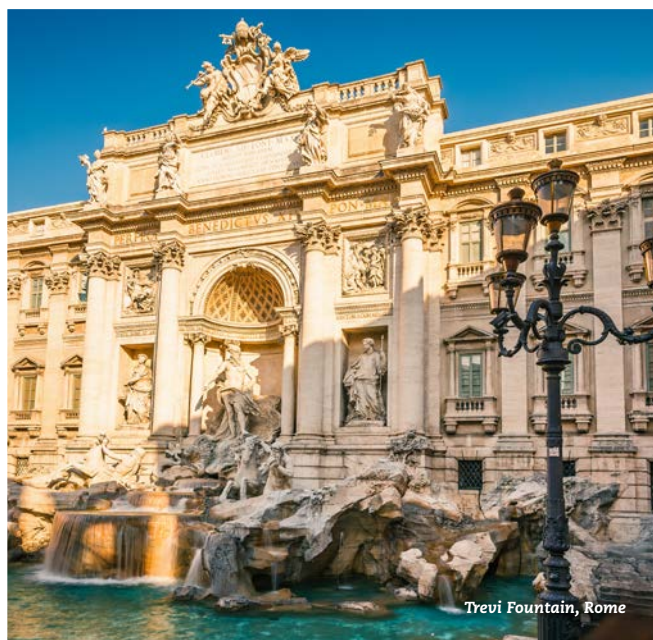
PORTOVENERE (3 nights)

~ Royal Sporting Hotel

Italian Riviera, the west coast of Italy, Cinque Terre, Portofino. Rome to Portovenere via guided sightseeing tour of Pisa including the Baptistry, Cathedral and Leaning Tower.

HIGHLIGHTS in Portovenere include:

- ☞ We experience the Italian Riviera with beaches of sparkling blue waters, seaside towns and old-world ritzy and literary appeal. Byron and Shelley were smitten and so will we be!
- ☞ Visit the extraordinary, steep villages of Cinque Terre of coastal Liguria, by boat and train and including guided tour (our day today is organised so as to allow for different levels of fitness).
- ☞ Tours of San Margherita and boat to Portofino.
- ☞ Free time to enjoy this beautiful region.



STRESA (2 nights)

~ Regina Palace Hotel

The Italian Lake District, magnificent castles, islands, Lake Como, Lake Maggiore.

HIGHLIGHTS in Stresa include:

- Private boat transfer to 17th century Borromea Palace on Isola Bella for guided tour of palace, followed by gardens.
- Cruising on magnificent Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands.
- Boat transfer to the Fishermen Island.
- Boat transfer to Isola Madre with free time to admire the palace and gardens.

VERONA: (3 NIGHTS) ~ Due Torri Hotel

Verona Opera in the ancient outdoor Verona Arena, Home of Romeo and Juliet.

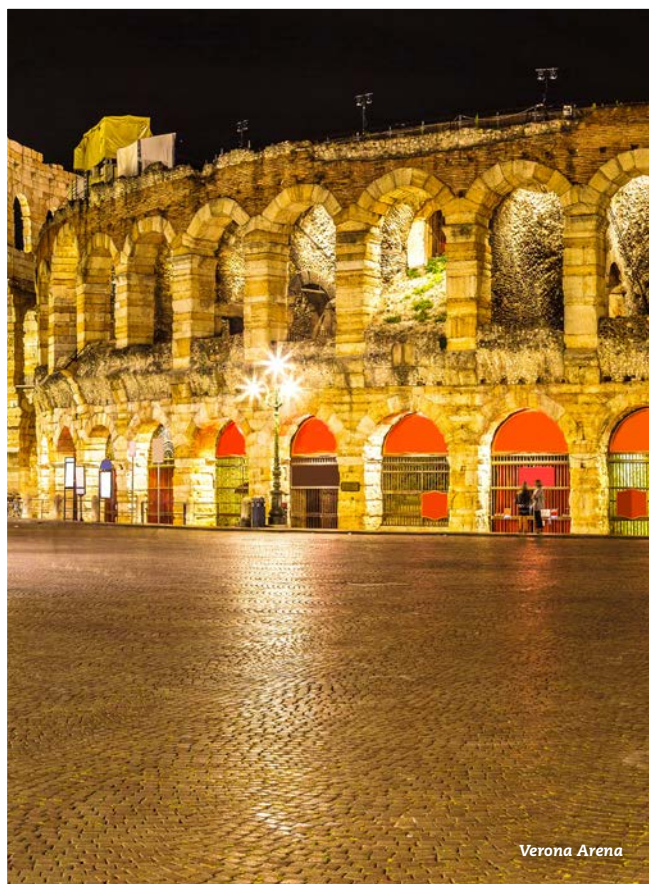
Drive to Verona via a lunch stop on the banks of Lake Garda. The Verona Opera is staged in a lovely pink marble Roman amphitheatre built in 1AD, which boasts wonderful acoustics. A truly magical opera experience!

HIGHLIGHTS in Verona include:

- Placido Domingo Gala* at the Verona Arena! (confirmed)
- Rigoletto*, Verdi's great opera at the Verona Arena! (confirmed)
- Aida*, Verdi's most spectacular opera, at Verona Arena! (confirmed)
- Half day walking tour of Verona including seeing Juliet's balcony.
- Free day to potter around this lovely town.
- Final night dinner with drinks in a wonderful restaurant, the walls of which are covered by photos of opera singers past and present..



Lake Como



Verona Arena

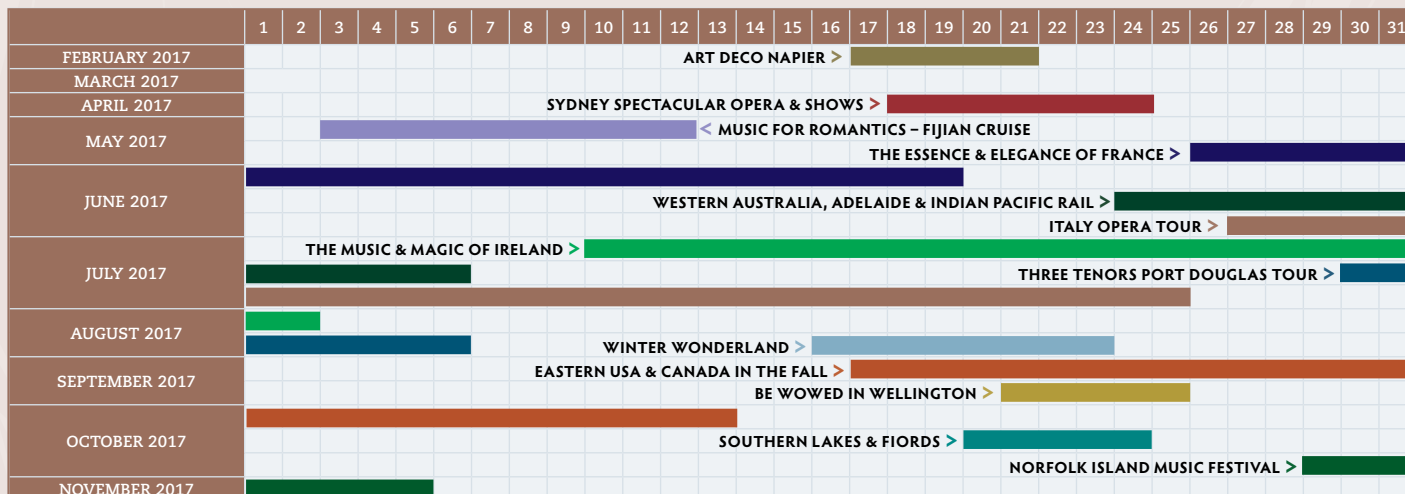


IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- For further information please ring our office or visit our website.
- All trips are subject to change but any changes will be of equal or greater value.
- All deposits are refundable up until final payment date minus any costs that the company has incurred.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions on our booking form.
- While we carefully plan our trips to be well paced, all travellers need to possess a certain level of fitness. Some trips are more arduous and carry an advisory note in the itinerary that a specific level of fitness is required.
- Operatunity Travel requires all travellers to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. Please be sure to ring our office if you require any information or clarification about insurance or any questions regarding travelling with Operatunity Travel.

For your travel bookings call our Travel Department toll free on 0508 886 489 or email travel@operatunity.co.nz

THE YEAR AHEAD



\$18,529 per person
twin share

Single Room supplement add \$4,930

Initial Deposit on booking \$2,000
 Second Deposit due 16 January 2017 \$3,000
 Final Balance due 20 March 2017

Deposits refundable (less costs incurred) prior to FINAL BALANCE DUE DATE. Itinerary details are subject to change, however any changes will be replaced with a comparable or better option. All our trips are specifically designed for our core market but this trip does contain travel challenges, either because of the region visited or the walking distances or uneven surfaces that arise at some sites. We do advise that you and your doctor evaluate your level of fitness before you consider booking this tour.

THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- Return airfares, Auckland Venice return, via Dubai on Emirates, including taxes.
- Music content includes 7 operas and opera concerts as follows: *La Sonnambula* (confirmed) at La Fenice, Venice; *Rigoletto* and *Aida* at Verona Arena; *Placido Domingo Gala* (confirmed), Verona Arena; *Puccini Festival Concert*, Lucca (confirmed); *La Boheme* and *Madame Butterfly*, Florence (confirmed); music at Eat- Alien, Florence; Folklore concert, Sorrento.
- Accommodation in 4 or 5 star hotels in Venice (3 nights), Florence (4 nights), Sorrento (4 nights), Rome (4 nights), Portovenere (3 nights), Stresa (2 nights), Verona (3 nights), 4 nights (includes early check in) Dubai stopovers.
- Numerous guided tours with special flavours including Tuscany Experience day with Tuscan picnic and wine tasting, reserved entrance to the Borghese Gallery, Uffizi Gallery, cruises on Lake Maggiore, tours to the Amalfi Coast and the Italian Riviera.
- All tours, boat cruises, coach transfers included as listed on itinerary plus reserved entrance and entrance fees to all sights and sites as listed in itinerary.
- All breakfasts, 8 dinners and 6 lunches, tips, portorage and taxes included.
- Limited to 30 people. Escorted by Sue and John and our European guide, the fabulous Fred.