

'VIVA VERDI & LA SCALA!'

VERDI FESTIVAL & LA SCALA!

Presented by **OPERATIF!**

2nd - 22nd October, 2018
- 16 NIGHTS IN ITALY
- GUARANTEED OPERA
& CONCERT SEATS
- CENTRAL 4 * HOTELS
- 7 DINNERS, 2 LUNCHES
- SPECIAL VISITS
- DUBAI STOP-OVERS



VIVA VERDI TOUR

2nd - 22nd October, 2018

Our spectacular tour includes Dubai stopovers...then a series of magical performances and experiences, enjoyed from our four bases - Reggio Emilia, Bologna, Parma & Milano.

Enjoy great seats to the main operas in the Verdi Festival, Parma PLUS seats to Ernani and La Finta Giardiniera at the world's most iconic house, La Scala!! There will be opportunities to add optional extra operas/concerts once the 'fringe' performances are announced. These ones are not expensive and we all opted to take them in 2017.

Our professional Tour Director will ensure we move from place to place in seamless fashion and expert local guides will place their own stamp on local history and specialities of all sorts. Visits to the birth home and country estate of Verdi, his mausoleum and 'Casa di Riposo' in Milan, plus the home of Pavarotti and Renata Tebaldi Museo are moving experiences, full of insights.



Indulge in the cuisine of 'the stomach, of Italy,' and enjoy charming smaller towns!

"I will give you the world, if I may have Italy!" Giuseppe Verdi

Join Jennifer & Stewart on this opera 'trip of a lifetime' based in the unspoilt region of Emilia Romagna then elegant Milano! See operas at the 2018 Verdi Festival in Parma and at La Scala



Stay in simply delightful 4 & 5-star hotels right in the centre of our four bases. Tour and enjoy our activities, visits and performances at a leisurely pace as you immerse yourself in this welcoming, "non-touristy" heartland of Italy. Return flights with Emirates Airlines with Dubai stopovers both ways are included in our comprehensive package.

A big thank you is not enough for all of your care and dedication during our unforgettable tour in Italy. Everything...the Operas, Concerts, Hotels, Restaurants, and many activities... were 1st Class. The whole tour far exceeded my expectations. Truly it was a dream! Estela - Sydney, Oct '17

Contact us for pricing information and to book.

VIVA VERDI + LA SCALA - 2018 ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Flying on an Emirates A380 from our various states we meet at Dubai airport. We've a 24 hour stopover to unwind and to meet our fellow travellers over a convivial lunch. We fly straight into Bologna next morning, meet our coach and drive to our Grand Majestic Hotel hotel, (literally!). It's right in the centre of town. There will be time for a walk around or to rest up before we dine on the famous local cuisine at a delightful restaurant. (NO spaghetti Bolognese. It's a myth!) In Bologna for 2 nights we will take a guided walking tour of the old city with highlights, including the oldest University with its Anatomical Theatre, the main churches and little Music Museum. You'll then be free to explore this gorgeous Medieval town... Our next 4-nights are spent in the utterly charming small town of Reggio Emilia, where our beautiful hotel is just off the main square... En route we stop near Modena to visit the very atmospheric home of the late Luciano Pavarotti. Much is just as he left it but with more memorabilia and displays added. It's wonderful. Our first night in Reggio Emilia we enjoy a robust dinner which we can walk off in the morning as we are guided around the sights of the Old Town, including the room where the Italian flag, the Tricolori (or 3 colours) was born. We will spend a day in the hills visiting a family-owned Balsamic Vinegar property. After a tour and tasting we settle in for a fabulous long lunch, with wine. We will also visit the Castle and territories of the legendary Medieval Queen Mathilde of Canossa. Another day we drive to explore the unspoilt town of Mantua with its famous statue of 'Rigoletto', Theatre and Palace. With Verona nearby, we feel Shakespeare (and Verdi!) looking down! You'll have free time to just enjoy little Reggio Emilia too ! Our next stop, for 5-nights, is the home of the Verdi Festival, Parma, with it's lovely Teatro Regio. Here we take a Guided Walk about the Old Town (and again, our hotel is right in the middle!) We also spend a very important day walking in Maestro Verdi's footsteps, from his humble birth place in Le Runcole, to his home, estate, Villa Verdi, in Sant' Agata. We also visit the museum of this region's Italian diva, Renata Tebaldi. The Toscanini museum is in Parma too!

During our time here we'll attend our Verdi Festival operas which are presented in three main theatres, the main, Teatro Regio, the Farnese with it's wood interior and in nearby Busseto, the tiny Teatro Giuseppe Verdi (300 seats!) We will have much sought-after tickets to the three main operas, Un giorno di Regno, Le Trouver (Trovatore in the original French) and the big one....Macbeth! There is also the option to add some of the secondary performances announced nearer to the time. (The cost of optional ones is very reasonable and we all opted for as many as we could in 2017 !)

When it is time to leave Parma we head to Milano for 5 nights, visiting the small town of Cremona on the way to see it's quite magnificent Duomo (cathedral) and charming square but also, to visit the workshop of a violin maker and observe the process. (Cremona is home to the Stradivarius and other famous violins). There is a large violin museum to visit too...and you can do this before Milan beckons!

Once in Milan, we spend our first night enjoying dinner together at a little restaurant, adjacent to our hotel. The hotel is lovely....and right near the famous Galleria or 5mins walk to La Scala or the Duomo! Whilst based here, we see two operas at La Scala, Verdi's Ernani and Mozart's La Finta Giardiniera. Wow! We'll also take a fascinating tour of the theatre to hear all about its history as well as popping behind the stage to learn of incredible technical facility which enables sets to be changed so quickly and efficiently from performance to performance on one day! We will tour the magnificent Duomo, the Roman excavations beneath and enjoy the thrill of walking around on its high terraces among the statues on the roof! (lift access.) Finally we visit and tour Verdi's famous 'Casa di Riposo', a home for retired opera singers and musicians, which Verdi considered his 'greatest work.' The final resting place of Verdi and his wife, Giuseppina is here too.

The finale of our tour will be a fabulous dinner to say farewell and savour our rich and full time together! Heading home we spend the night at Dubai Terminal Hotel, with our luggage checked through from Milan to home.... Bliss! You'll have only the treasured memories of all we have seen, heard and done to carry with you!!