

# VERDI FESTIVAL IN ITALY - 2019

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## *Milan, Florence, Parma, Visit Mantova - 12days*

Departure: September 20, 2019

Return: October 1, 2019

*We offer you a unique opportunity to see Verdi's operas in the heart and soul of Italian operas in each of the fabulous cultural cities of Milan, Florence and Parma. From the house near Parma where he was born to where he was buried in Milan, you will experience what an exiting long, creative life he had. We have selected the most centrally located Hotel de la Ville in Milan, the deluxe Hotel L'Orelogio in Florence and the centrally located Hotel Stendal in Parma. Join us on this extraordinary tour.*

### *Opera Performances*

In Milan:

September 22 – **Rigoletto**

In Florence:

September 24 - **La Traviata**

In Parma:

September 26 – **I Due Foscari**

September 27 – **Luisa Miller**

September 29 – **Nabucco**

Friday, September 20. (D)\* DEPART FOR MILAN

Depart this evening aboard any airline of your choice to Milan, Italy. Dinner and light breakfast served on the plane.



## Saturday, September 21. (B,D). MILAN

Independent arrival at Milan Malpensa Airport. Take a taxi to the centrally located HOTEL de la Ville where we stay three nights. We will reimburse you the taxi fare. Briefing and cocktails at the hotel. Gala Welcome dinner at a gourmet restaurant.

## Sunday, September 22. (B). MILAN

Morning sightseeing of this dynamic city. Among the sights to see is the beautiful Duomo, the world's largest Gothic Cathedral and the third largest Catholic Church in the world - after the Vatican and Seville, Spain. Afternoon free. This evening we will see the opera **Rigoletto** by Verdi at La Scala opera house.

*MILAN is just not very Italian. All the Milanese do is work to make money and they refuse to indulge in the myth of la-dolce-vita. The city has its origin from Celtic settlements, which were subdued by the Romans in 222 B.C. In 312 A.D., Emperor Constantine published the Edict of Milan making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. On Christmas day, 800 AD, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as the Holy Roman Emperor in the Cathedral of Milan. To the Milanese people, all that is just history.*

## Monday, September 23. (B). MILAN

This morning we will visit the Villa Reposa which Verdi funded and had it built for retired musicians and singers to live free for the rest of their lives. Afternoon free to take in the Pinacoteca di Brera or any other museums in the city.

## Tuesday, September 24. MILAN - FLORENCE

Today we drive from Milan to Florence where we stay two nights at the deluxe HOTEL L'ORELOGIO. This evening we will see the opera La Traviata by Verdi at the Teatro del Maggio Fiorentino.

*FLORENCE is one of the world's greatest artistic capitals and a testament to the Italian capacity for genius. The city was the cradle of the civilization which nurtured the humanistic movement and the Renaissance in the first half of the 15 C. In March of 1436, the architect-engineer genius Filippo Brunelleschi completed building the stupendous dome of the Cathedral out of a double layer of brickwork. Today the multi-colored Cathedral is breathtaking, next to the marble-clad Baptistery with its famous gilded bronze doors.*



## Wednesday, September 25. (B,D). FLORENCE

Morning sightseeing of this city dense with art and culture will include the Piazza del Duomo close to our hotel. You will see Brunelleschi's Cathedral with the largest dome in the world, even today, built with bricks and mortar. Across from it is the Baptistry with its famous bronze doors with relief sculptures. The east door is renowned as the Gates of Paradise. This afternoon you will visit Uffizi Museum with its fabulous collection of ancient fine art where you can spend hours on your own to see Botticelli's Birth of Venus, Leonardo da Vinci's Adoration of the Magi, Titian's Venus of Urbino, Raphael's Madonna of the Goldfinch, Michelangelo's Donatello, and Peter Paul Ruben's paintings. Dinner at a gourmet restaurant.

## Thursday, September 26. (B). FLORENCE - BOLOGNA - PARMA

Today we drive northwest to Parma, stopping first in Bologna to see this city built predominantly of red bricks. Among the sights to see are Piazza Major, Neptune's Fountain and the Basilica of San Petronio. We continue our drive this afternoon to arrive in Parma where we stay four nights at the centrally located HOTEL STENDAL. This evening we will see the opera I Due Foscari by Verdi at Teatro Regio.

*PARMA was founded by the Etruscans in 525 BC. It became a roman station on Via Emilia in 183 BC and flourished under the French Bourbon rulers in the 18th and 19th centuries. Today it is famous for its prosciutto (ham), cheese, architecture, music and the surrounding countryside. The famous person in the musical world we know of, Arturo Toscanini was born here in 1867.*

## Friday, September 27. (B). VERDI SITES - PARMA

This morning we drive west to see Verdi sites, in Roncole where he was born, Busseto where he grew up and Saint ' Agata where he built an elegant home with extensive ground where he planted exotic trees. This evening we will see the opera Luisa Miller by Verdi at Teatro Regio.

## Saturday, , September 28. (B,D). PARMA

Morning sightseeing of the Arturo Toscanini Museum to see exhibits of his early life in Parma, his conducting career in Italy and many letters he received including one from Prof. Albert Einstein. Afternoon free.



## Sunday, September 29. (B). PARMA

Morning is free to take in the National Gallery of Parma with its fine arts collection of printings by Canaletto, Corregio, Leonardo da Vinci, Tintoretto and others, or see other palaces. This evening we will see the opera Nabucco by Verdi at Teatro Regio.

## Monday, September 30. (B). PARMA - MANTOVA - BOLOGNA

Today we drive east to visit MANTOVA to see the 'House of Rigoletto'. See the Ducal Palace where the pioneer in the development of opera, Claudio Monteverdi started his career. His opera L'Orfeo premiered in 1607 at the court of Mantua. We continue our journey to arrive in Bologna where we stay one night at the deluxe HOTEL BAGLIONI. Gala Farewell Dinner at the hotel.

## Tuesday October 1. BOLOGNA - BACK HOME

We will provide transfer from the hotel to the Bologna Airport for departure aboard your airline back home, arriving the same afternoon. Arrivederci. See you on another H.A.T. Tour.

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\* B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner (including wine



## LAND COST

DOUBLE: \$6,950 PER PERSON

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,250

DEPOSIT: \$2,000 PER PERSON

BALANCE DUE: JUNE 20, 2019

## TOUR INCLUDES

- 1<sup>st</sup> Category orchestra level seats in theatres
- Five operas
- Deluxe centrally located hotels
- Buffet breakfast daily, and 3 dinners with wine in gourmet restaurants
- Welcome reception with cocktails
- Private sightseeing in each city
- Experienced English speaking guides
- Entrance fees to museums
- Transportation to and from theatres
- Baggage handling
- Guide, driver and bellboys gratuities
- Travelling with the owner at your service
- Complete package with details of operas listed
- Transfers from and to airports on published arrival and departure days only

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H.A.T. Tours

Address: PO Box 46876, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33741, USA

Phone: (727) 367 3973

Fax: (727) 360-8459

Toll free: (800) 472-4448

E-mail: [operas@hattours.com](mailto:operas@hattours.com)

Website: [www.EuropeanOperaTours.com](http://www.EuropeanOperaTours.com)

