

Musical and Tasting Notes 2021

Venezia, Verona, Parma, Modena, Lucca, Firenze, Chianti Region, Nocera Umbra, Roma



Day 1 Welcome to Italy - Mestre

Upon arrival at Venice Airport, we will be greeted by our English speaking tour manager who will be with the group during the entire stay in Italy. We will board the private deluxe bus and transfer to our hotel in Mestre. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (D)

Day 2 Mestre - Venezia and Vivaldi - Mestre

Today, we will discover the magical city of Venice, the birthplace of the famous composer Antonio Vivaldi. Unfortunately little of his life is left in the city. We will visit the Golden Basilica of San Marco, known for the great mosaics that depict the Old and New Testament of the Bible. Then we will enjoy a walking tour which includes a visit to St. Mark's Square, the largest square in the city and the site of many government buildings; the Bridge of Sigh and the Doges' Palace (from outside), which served as the seat of the Government for the Republic of Venice during centuries. Free afternoon for shopping or to enjoy a gondola ride. Return to Mestre for dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 3 Verona - Parma

After breakfast we will reach the UNESCO World Heritage site of Verona, famous for being the setting of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." We will enjoy a walking tour of its narrow streets. We will see Piazza delle Erbe, the town's forum in Roman times; San Zeno Basilica with its fresco-filled interior and medieval bronze doors; and the famous Roman Amphitheatre (Arena) where every year Arena Verona Opera Festival takes place. After lunch, we will visit a winery in the Franciacorta wine Region. Then we will continue to Parma to set into our hotel. Dinner and overnight (B, D)



Day 4 Parma: Parma Ham and Verdi

After breakfast, we will visit the historical city center of Parma, with the astonishing romanesque religious complex of the cathedral and the baptistry, UNESCO world heritage, and the imaginative sculptures of Benedetto Antelami (12th century). We will admire beautiful frescoes from renaissance artists such as Correggio and Parmigianino in the Cathedral dome, in the church of St. John Baptist Monastery and the Convent of St. Paul, and the huge Pilotta Palace with the Farnese theatre. Following a delicious tasting of Parma ham and "culatello", we will continue in the afternoon by visiting the old town of Busseto, birth place of the Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi, with the Verdi theatre, Villa

Verdi, the country house where he was born and the parish church where he was baptised. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Modena: Balsamic Vinegar and Pavarotti

Following breakfast, today we will visit Modena, the city of Pavarotti and the UNESCO world heritage of Wiligermo's Cathedral and bell tower called "La Ghirlandina". Ten centuries ago, Wiligermo was the most incredible, visionary, genial master and sculptor of European Middle Ages, working in partnership with the architect Lanfranco, a great gifted professional. We will continue by a walking tour in the narrow streets of the old town. Then we will drive to a country farm for tasting invaluable local gastronomic products such as Balsamic Vinegar and Parmisan, with some good glass of Lambrusco wine. In the afternoon we will drive to the house of Pavarotti, a beautiful ancient country dwelling- museum full of pictures, memories, stage costumes, furnitures and heirlooms of the greatest tenor in the music history. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, L, D)

Day 6 Marble Cave - Lucca and Puccini - Florence

Following breakfast and check out, we will drive towards west to reach a marble cave located in the heart of the marble quarries of Carrara. At the end of the tour we will have lunch in a local restaurant where we will taste the real lardo di Colonnata I.G.P., the traditional herbed backfat that is left to age into white marble vats in the near village of Colonnata. In the afternoon we will tour the historic centre of Lucca, the birthplace of the composer Giacomo Puccini, appreciated for the well-known Madame Butterfly. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Florence (B, L, D)



This is a suggested itinerary:

We will be glad to customize a program that meets your specific needs, requirements and budget. You may also choose your own travel dates and city of departure.

For information on our Fund Raising Program and benefits for your group please email: anton@travelwithus.com

Day 7 Firenze

Today we will enjoy a full day in Florence. We will start our walking tour of Florence from the Church of the Holy Cross, where many nobles and important persons are buried, such as Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli. We will continue to walk by Piazza Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio, Uffizi, Ponte Vecchio. Then we will reach Santa Maria del Fiore. This Cathedral is an iconic piece of architecture of the city of Florence. After lunch at Mercato Centrale, we will have the opportunity to visit Galleria Accademia to see the works from artists such as Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, and the ever famous sculpture by Michelangelo, David. Some free time for shopping before going back to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 8 Walking day: the Chianti wine region (4.8 miles)

After breakfast, we move by coach into the village of Panzano, then by walk, across the impressive Chianti region, down to the village of Greve. Typical Tuscan lunch in Greve with Chianti tasting into a traditional local cave. In the afternoon we will reach by coach the fortified village of Monteriggioni. Dinner and overnight in a charming country guest house. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Monteriggioni - Nocera Umbra - Roma

Following breakfast we will board our motor coach and drive to Nocera Umbra, a town that will enchant us with incredible views over the Umbrian countryside. We will visit an Artisan Brewery located inside a Monastery Farm. It is famous for craft beer production with the technique of re-fermentation. Here you will enjoy also a beer tasting with some local products accompanying the beers. In the afternoon, we will continue to Rome. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)

Day 10 Vatican Museums - Baroque Squares

After breakfast, we will start our tour with a visit of Vatican Museums where we will see the magnificent rooms painted by Raphael as well as the Sistine Chapel, followed by a tour of the Basilica of St Peter. In the afternoon, we will enjoy a downtown walking tour of Rome including Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Trevi and Spanish Steps. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 11 Imperial Rome - Free afternoon

This morning we will tour the Colosseum (inside visit). Then we will continue to the Roman Forum, the religious, political, and commercial center of ancient Rome, and for centuries, the entire civilized world. We see the Arches of Constantine & Titus. We will reach also Aventino Hill for a special photo stop of the panoramic view from the Garden of Orange Trees. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore Rome on our own. Tonight we will enjoy a farewell dinner in a local restaurant with a Tenori Show. Overnight in Rome. (B, D)

Day 12 Departure

After an early breakfast, we will leave by motor coach and transfer to Rome airport for return flight home. (B)

