

SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS

There is something utterly magical about the intoxicating sight and sounds of opera performed in a warm summer's evening under the Italian sky. Italy is renowned for its opera and its summer music performances outdoors. From the grandeur of the Arena in Verona and the Puccini festival at Torre del Lago, to the dramatic stage of the Ravello festival and the street stages in Perugia for the Umbria jazz festival, there is an array of splendid sounds for music lovers.

VERONA FESTIVAL

The Verona Festival is the highpoint of the Italian opera lover's year. Verona's Roman Arena, where gladiators once battled, has been the magnificent setting for the most famous opera festival in the world since 1913. The stage is the biggest in the world and the arena holds 15,000 spectators during its season from the end of June until the end of August. There is a great choice of ticket prices according to the location and comfort of you seat.

Suggested Verona Opera holiday

Stay at one of a choice of central hotels in Verona for three nights during the festival and let us book you seats in the 2nd sector stalls for one performance. Flights with British Airways from Gatwick to Verona both ways, Euro Traveller included and a private transfer from the airport to the hotel and back. Bed and breakfast included.

Prices from about £1,180 per person in a 3 star hotel (eg Hotel Giulietta e Romeo), to about £1,480 per person in a 4 star hotel (eg Hotel il Sogno di Giulietta) to about £1,690 per person in a 5 star hotel (eg Hotel Gabbia d'Oro).



Verona arena



Hotel Gabbia d'Oro



THE PROGRAMME FOR 2020

La Traviata

August 1, 7, 15, 21, 27 | September 2

Aida

June 20, 25 | July 5, 10, 14, 18, 24, 30 | August 2, 5, 9, 12, 20, 29 | September 1, 5

Cavalleria rusticana

June 13, 19, 26 | July 3, 8, 17 | August 8, 13, 22

Nabucco

July 4, 9, 15, 25 | August 6, 11, 19, 28 | September 4

Turandot

June 27 | July 11, 16, 31 | August 14, 26 | September 3

Jonas Kaufman Gala Event

June 28

Placido Domingo opera night

July 7

Tosca

August 10, 16, 23, 29 September 6

Gala Beethoven

Symphony No 9

August 23

Roberto Bolle and Friends

July 20, 21

The Stars of Opera

July 23

Prices

Ticket prices for the performances vary from about £30 per person for an unreserved stone step to £225 per person for a 1st sector stall Gold on a Friday and Saturday. Most people opt for at least a numbered seat on the steps at about £90 per person or a 2nd sector stall at about £130 per person. Prices are cheaper if tickets are bought before 25 December each year. Tickets are non-refundable once bought.

Expressions will tailor-make your holiday around whatever number of concerts or performances you want to attend. The performance itself may be the main reason for the holiday or you may just want to incorporate a visit to the opera as part of a longer holiday. We can accommodate both very easily and will secure you tickets in advance where necessary.

PUCCINI FESTIVAL

Puccini was born in nearby Lucca in 1858 but from about 1891 and covering his most productive years, he spent most of his time at Torre del Lago, a small community about fifteen miles from Lucca. By 1900 he had acquired land and built a villa on the lake, now known as the 'Villa Museo Puccini'. He lived there until 1921 when pollution produced by peat works on the lake forced him to move to Viareggio, a few kilometres north. After his death, a mausoleum was created in the Villa Puccini and the composer is buried there in the chapel, along with his wife and son who died later. The 'Villa Museo Puccini' is presently owned by his granddaughter, Simonetta Puccini, and is open to the public. His works included *La Bohème*, *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly*. Each year in July and August his life and works are celebrated with a festival of opera at Torre del Lago.

Suggested Puccini Festival holiday

Stay at the Hotel Bagni di Pisa, an elegant hotel dating from the 18th Century in a large park, featuring its own spa and wellness centre for four nights during the opera festival and let us book you 2nd sector seats for one performance. The hotel is about 30 minutes away by car from Torre del Lago, and about 15 minutes' drive from the historic town of Lucca. Flights with British Airways from Heathrow or Gatwick to Pisa, Euro Traveller, are included and use of a Group B hire-car during your stay. Bed and breakfast included at the hotel. Half-board can be booked on request.

Prices from about £1,320 per person.

2020 PROGRAMME

Aida (G. Verdi)
August 2

Balletto
August 13

La Bohème
August 1, 9, 22

La Fanciulla del West
July 12, 26

Madama Butterfly
August 14, 23

Manon Lescaut
July 25 | August 7

Tosca
July 17, 24 | August 2, 21

Turandot
July 18, 31 | August 8, 16

Prices

Ticket prices vary from about £40 per person for a 4th sector seat to about £180 per person for a Gold seat. Many opt for a 2nd sector seat at about £95 per person. Tickets are non-refundable once bought.

RAVELLO FESTIVAL

The well-established Ravello Festival is held over two months every summer. The concerts take place in the Villa Ruffino, the villa that inspired Wagner's *Parsifal* and also at a venue in the coastal village of Conca dei Marini. The main venue includes a suspended stage, built in the gardens of the villa, with panoramic views over the coast and the sea. Top calibre artists and musicians perform here. A superb occasion in stunning scenery.

Suggested Ravello Festival holiday

Stay at the Hotel Palazzo Avino for three nights during the summer. Flights with British Airways from Gatwick to Naples both ways, Euro Traveller included and private transfer from Naples airport to your hotel and back. Bed and breakfast included in a queen double room mountain side. Ticket for one concert performance. (Other performances extra).

Prices from about £1,830 per person.



Concert in Ravello



Statue of Giacomo Puccini in Lucca