# 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.

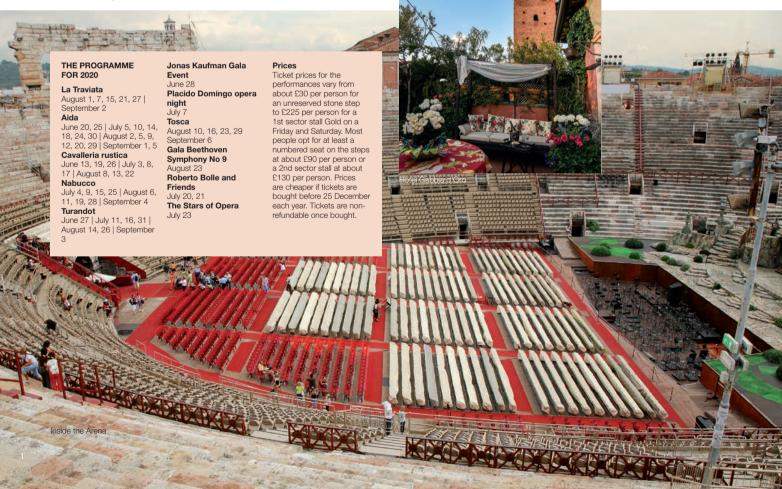
## Suggested Verona Opera holiday

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  $\mathfrak{L}1,180$  per person in a 3 star hotel (eg Hotel Giulietta e Romeo), to about  $\mathfrak{L}1,480$  per person in a 4 star hotel (eg Hotel il Sogno di Giulietta) to about  $\mathfrak{L}1,690$  per person in a 5 star hotel (eg Hotel Gabbia d'Oro).



Verona arena



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 Boheme, 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.

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 nonrefundable once bought.

Prices from about £1,320 per person.

#### 2020 PROGRAMME Aida (G. Verdi) August 2

Balletto August 13

La Boheme 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

# **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