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# NORTHERN ITALY: VERONA, LAKE COMO & LA SCALA

Tuesday, June 25th through Wednesday, July 3rd



*Verona on the Adige River*

Following a hiatus of two years due to the pandemic, our early summer Tour to Northern Italy was completely sold out in both 2022 and 2023. We have already fixed our dates and program for 2024, when **Verona** will mount three major operas which overlap with the end of La Scala's season.

Our itinerary will begin with **four nights in Verona** for a trio of spectacular operatic events in the ancient outdoor **Roman Arena** – Franco Zeffirelli's grandiose staging of Puccini's **Turandot**, Rossini's 'bel canto' comedy **Il Barbiere di Siviglia**, and the Festival's unmissable signature production of **Aida**. Next will be a **two-night** respite in the idyllic village of **Moltrasio** on the shores of **Lake Como**, where we will relax without any performances. For anyone who has not discovered the beauty of Lake Como, this is always the favorite destination of our Italian Tour. Finally, we will conclude with **one night** in the Lombardian capital of **Milano**, where a performance of Massenet's romantic French opera **Werther** will take us into Europe's most prestigious opera house, **La Scala**.

Tuesday, June 25th, departure from New York's Kennedy Airport at 5:25 pm on Lufthansa flight #411, arriving in Munich at 7:30 am on the morning of the 26th. This connects with Lufthansa #9464, departing Munich at 12:00 noon and arriving at Verona's Airport at 12:55 pm. Or independent travel to Verona.



*Verona Arena*

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## VERONA: JUNE 26TH - 29TH

Our accommodations for **four nights** (with **buffet breakfast included**) are at Verona's five-star **NH Palazzo Hotel**, which enjoys a central location not far from the charming **Piazza delle Erbe** and **Via Mazzini's** prime shopping street. We are fortunate to have confirmed reservations within comfortable walking distance of the **Arena** and a wide choice of cafés and restaurants. Verona rose to prominence during the Renaissance and is a walker's paradise. Of particular appeal during our free time are the **Piazza delle Erbe** (the central square with its colorful herb market); the 12th century Romanesque **Duomo** (Cathedral); the 14th century **House of the Capulets** (Verona was the historical home of Romeo and Juliet); and the **Old Castle and Bridge** across the picturesque **Adige River** (the **Castello Museum** contains an intriguing collection of Italian painting and sculpture in beautifully designed modern galleries overlooking the **Adige**).

On our first evening, Wednesday the 26th, a **cocktail reception** in the hotel will provide an opportunity to meet other members of the Tour. *No performance.*

Thursday morning, June 27th, an introductory **walking tour** will familiarize you with the major Renaissance piazzas and monuments of Verona. The afternoon is left free to shop along the **Corso**, visit museums, and stroll through the many charming side streets which characterize Verona. *(You will also be grateful for our free time in Verona because of the very late opera performances which begin after*



dusk at 9:30 pm. Bedtime is usually between 1:00 and 2:00 a.m.

Thursday evening, we will walk to the **Verona Arena**, a vast Amphitheater which ranks as the third largest in the world. To share an opera with 20,000 enthusiastic Italians is an unforgettable experience! The productions emphasize expansive staging on the tiers of steps and platforms of the Arena, usually accompanied by the **biggest names in opera** to fill the huge demands of the environment. The arena is also renowned for its perfect acoustics, which enable pianissimo phrases to reach all sections of the orchestra (where we will be seated in the **'poltronissime' premium locations**) and surrounding 'bleachers'. Our first performance at 9:30 will be Gioachino Rossini's **Il Barbiere di Siviglia**, the most popular and melodic of all Italian operatic comedies by virtue of the seamless stream of 'bel canto' arias, duets and ensembles. The **Hugo de Ana** production captures the froth of Rossini's sparkling virtuoso score. *All Verona casts will be announced at a later date.*

Friday evening, June 28th, a pre-opera **dinner** of Veronese dishes will be served at **Il Torcolo** or **La Griglia**. Both of these inviting 'ristorantes' have been favorites with our former travelers.



Piazza delle Erbe, Verona

sistently inspired Verona's directors and designers to create an unforgettable experience of 'grand opera'.

At 9:30 on Saturday evening, June 29th, we will return to the Arena for the acclaimed **Franco Zeffirelli** production of Giacomo Puccini's beloved final opera, **Turandot**. The scenic grandeur capturing legendary China compares with Zeffirelli's sensational MET staging, and Puccini's melodic score is replete with soaring arias and choral ensembles.



Grand Hotel Imperiale;  
Moltrasio

## LAKE COMO: JUNE 30TH - JULY 1ST

On Sunday, June 30th, a leisurely bus ride across the rolling northern Italian landscape (stopping for independent lunch en route) will bring us to the village of **Moltrasio** on the shores of Lake Como.

Accommodations for **two nights** with a generous **buffet breakfast** included at the **Grand Hotel Imperiale**. Our confirmed 'executive' rooms enjoy a view of the



Lake from the Western shore. **Lake Como** is celebrated as the most beautiful of the romantic Italian lakes, surrounded by dramatic mountain scenery, and has been immortalized by such writers as E. M. Forster, Henry James and Edith Wharton. The hotel boasts a spacious outdoor swimming pool.

Sunday evening, **dinner** will be served in the hotel's main dining room.

Monday, July 1st, is free to relax at the hotel and to stroll through the center of Moltrasio. There are many shops and cafés, and a variety of charming 'trattorias' for independent lunch and dinner.

## MILAN: JULY 2ND

On the morning of Tuesday, July 2nd, a two-hour drive south from Lake Como will bring us for **one night** to Milan's **Hotel de la Ville** (**buffet breakfast** included). The stunning Gothic spires of the Duomo are viewed from the hotel's higher floors, and dining facilities include the Visconteo Bar and a fashionable restaurant named Il Vizio. The premises also offer a fitness club and solarium roof terrace with a small swimming pool. *(We have chosen the Hotel de la Ville because of its ideal location near La Scala and the city's major sights and museums.)*

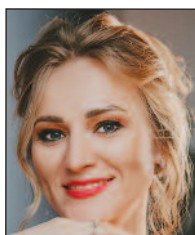
Our limited time in Milan is left free for you to enjoy the city center on your own. Italy's exclusive designer boutiques and up-scale leather stores are conveniently



Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, Milano



**Benjamin  
Bernheim**



**Victoria  
Karkacheva**

accessible throughout our neighborhood.

At 8:00 pm on Tuesday, we are fortunate to attend a performance at the **Teatro alla Scala**, Italy's famous opera house. Our opera will be a *new production* of Jules Massenet's 19th century French landmark, **Werther**, based on Johann Goethe's eponymous romantic novel which was the most widely read book of its era. In the demanding title role (highlighted by the passionate aria, *Pourquoi me réveiller*), we will hear the MET's exciting new star tenor **Benjamin Bernheim**. Opposite him as Charlotte will be mezzo-soprano



*Duomo di Milano*

*Our choice is to conclude our Tour with the highlight of La Scala and to return for the July 4th holiday. If you wish to have more time in Milan, we are happy to extend your stay for the extra night of July 3rd.*

**Victoria Karkacheva**, with **Francesca Pia Vitale** as Charlotte's sister Sophie and **Jean Sébastien Bou** as her

husband Albert. The conductor is **Alain Altinoglu**, and the staging is by the team of director **Christof Loy** and set designer **Johannes Leiacker**. *Sung in French with English titles.*

Wednesday, July 3rd, departure from Milan's LINATE Airport (not MALPENSA) at 12:40 pm on Lufthansa flight #273, arriving in Frankfurt at 1:55 pm. This connects with Lufthansa #404, departing Frankfurt at 5:10 pm and arriving at New York's Kennedy Airport at 8:05 pm. Or independent departure.

#### Northern Italy

Price per person, based on double occupancy	\$ 7,380
Single room supplement	\$ 1,500

**Airfare NOT included.**

**IMPORTANT:** *You should expect to walk four or five blocks to participate in this Tour, as it is impossible for a bus to reach some of our destinations any closer.*

## BOOKING INFORMATION

**Please contact us by telephone or e-mail to reserve your space.**

(212) 580-1400      info@greatperformancetours.com

We will send you a Registration Form and Tour Conditions.

**RESERVATIONS:** *Please note changes to our deposits and payment dates.*

A deposit of \$2,000 per person per Tour is required for International Tours and \$1,500 per person for U.S. and Canadian tours. The remaining balance is due 90 days prior to the tour departure, unless otherwise specified. We accept all major credit cards, checks and money orders. Deposits, minus a \$300 per person handling fee, are fully refundable until 90 days prior to departure. Canadian clients pay by credit card or in U.S. dollars by International Money Order.

All prices for international tours are based on present currency exchange rates. In the event of a significant reduction in the value of the dollar relative to any currency, we reserve the right to alter the price of the tour prior to departure.

**All cancellations must be received in writing. All requests for additional hotel nights must be received in writing.**

*All tickets subject to availability. Casts and programs subject to change.*

**VACCINATION POLICY** Great Performance Tours is not able to accept reservations from anyone who is not fully vaccinated.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS** Airfare is NOT included.

**For International and U.S. Tours Air Travel:** Please contact our agent Linda Botros for current fares.

Prices are subject to change. Linda Botros, Ovation Travel, 71 Fifth Ave, 10th fl, New York, NY 10003

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