

OPERA MAGNIFICA
A FEAST OF ITALIAN SUMMER OPERA FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE

TOUR LEADER: DEBORAH TRESISE, LINGUA MUSICA

LINGUA MUSICA TOURS feature classical performance, ranging from grand European Music Festivals to more intimate ones, for example, the Duszynski Chopin Festival. Enjoy opera, ballet and symphony in the great European music houses, or savouring world class music performances in ancient castles and churches throughout Europe. Each year our route is a different one, though we return to our favourites many times. We also incorporate into our tours many additional activities of cultural and historical interest, such as visits to Art Galleries, walking tours, full day excursions, stimulating lectures and visits to the homes of composers.

Opera Magnifica is a magnificent tour incorporating summer opera festivals of Italy - the Verona, the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and the Puccini, plus visits to some of the most beautiful opera theatres of Europe - Milan's Teatro La Scala and the Baths of Caracalla of Rome.

We will be indulging in breathtaking scenery, art, history and culture, visiting Italy's much loved major cities as well as the ancient regional towns of Lucca, Verona, Sirmione and San Gimignano. While the focus of our tour will be spectacular opera performance at Italy's most prestigious summer festivals, we will also be paying tribute to the Renaissance masters, Botticelli, Michelangelo and Raphael, and the Baroque geniuses Bernini and Borromini, artists and architects who had so much influence on the artistic development of this wonderful and inspiring country. We will be incorporating visits to both the major and lesser known cultural sites and artistic masterpieces in each location, such as Castello Sforzesco, The Vasari Corridor and the magnificent Villa d'Este, with its extensive cypress gardens and many fountains.

ITINERARY

Monday 9th July MILAN

Our tour commences in Milan, where we will be staying in the **HOTEL MILANO SCALA** situated in the Brera district, a few minutes' walk from Teatro alla Scala, the Galleria Vittoria Emanuele and the Duomo Milano. Our hotel is also a pleasant walking distance to one of Milan's most important galleries; the Pinacoteca di Brera, home to many masterpieces by leading Italian artists and the magnificent Castello Sforzesco, with its many museums and home to Michelangelo's last sculpture, the Rondanini Pietà. Meet fellow travellers later in the afternoon at our first tour meeting with Deborah Tresise, followed by a Welcome Dinner.

Tuesday 10th July MILAN

We commence our time in Milan with an early morning guided tour of this vibrant and artistic city, including a visit to Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper', situated in the Santa Maria Delle Grazie. (*pending availability)
After an afternoon at leisure we will meet for dinner before our opera performance at Teatro alla Scala, **Don Pasquale**, Giovanni Ruffini

Wednesday 11th July VERONA

We will take the afternoon train to the ancient Roman city of VERONA. Situated on the River Adige, Verona boasts ancient piazzas, forums and medieval castles. Our hotel in Verona will be the beautiful **HOTEL GABBIA d'ORO**, situated a minute's walk from Piazza Erbe. After relaxing at leisure, we will meet for dinner in our hotel before strolling to the ancient Verona Arena, originally built in the 1st century for gladiatorial conquest, for the first of our **Verona Opera Festival** performances, **AIDA**, Giuseppe Verdi



Teatro La Fenice, Venice

Thursday 12th July VERONA

Our local guide will introduce us to Verona, visiting many of the cultural sites, such as the Casa di Giulietta with its legendary balcony, Lamberti Tower, some of Verona's Medieval churches, a visit to the beautiful Renaissance style Giardino Guisti with its spectacular views over Verona, and the 14th century Palazzo Giusti, home to several frescoes which are the work of Francesco Lorenzi & Lodovico Dorigny. After a leisurely afternoon we will meet for an evening meal prior to our second Verona Opera Festival performance.

EVENING PERFORMANCE: DON GIOVANNI, W. A. Mozart

Friday 13th July VERONA

This morning we will take a pleasant drive to the ancient and fortified town of **SIRMIONE**, situated on **Lago di Garda**. Sirmione has a beautiful historic centre and is home to **Castello Scaligero**, one of the finest examples of a medieval fortification, including the very rare fortified port. We will take lunch at one of the many delightful restaurants in the Sirmione centre and arrive back at our Lucca hotel in time for a late afternoon siesta and refreshments at your own leisure before our third and final festival performance.

We understand that some may prefer to take our last evening in Verona at their leisure; as such this evening's festival performance is **OPTIONAL**.

EVENING PERFORMANCE: CARMEN, Bizet

****THIS IS AN OPTIONAL EXTRA - NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE**

Saturday 14th July VENICE

This morning we take the comfortable 2 hour fast-train journey from Verona to **VENICE**. We will be staying at the very central and luxurious **HOTEL BONVECCHIATI**. Located in the heart of Venice, the Hotel Bonvecchiati has the most privileged position of any 4-star hotel in Venice: situated in Calle Goldoni, just a 3-minute walk from Saint Mark's Square and 5 minutes from the Rialto Bridge, the Rialto stop of the vaporetto that takes you to the Grand Canal. The **Venice Lido** is also 5 minutes away via vaporetto. After checking in and refreshments at your leisure, we will meet our local guide, who will introduce you to all those things people love about this unique and vibrant city. Our afternoon will include visits to several of the many cultural sites of Venice, including the beautiful **Peggy Guggenheim** museum. Our stay in Venice coincides with the annual **Festa del Redentore**, a religious festival dating back to 1577, in celebration of the city's deliverance from The Plague which swept through Europe with devastating results. At dusk this evening there will be traditional Venetian food served in Piazza San Marco, followed by a magnificent fireworks display which will illuminate the spires, domes and bell towers well into the night. Pending availability there may be the opportunity to attend additional classical performances at one of Venice's many Chiesa

LINGUA MUSICA

Melbourne: 03 9589 0942 / Sydney: 02 9327 5733

Email: info@linguamusicatours.com

www.linguamusicatours.com

Sunday 15th July **VENICE**

We will meet our guide early this morning for a guided visit to the wonderful **Accademia Gallery**, situated in the Scuola Grande of Santa Maria della Carità, on the Grand Canal. The Accademia is home to a very rich collection of Venetian paintings, from the Byzantine & Gothic 14th century, to the artists of the Renaissance, Bellini, Carpaccio, Giorgione, Veronese, Tintoretto and Tiziano until Gianbattista Tiepolo and the Vedutisti of the 18th century ... Canaletto, Guardi, Bellotto, Longhi.

The afternoon will be at leisure before meeting for dinner, after which we will stroll to an evening opera performance in the grand **Teatro alla Fenice**, one of Europe's most beautiful and romantic opera houses.

EVENING PERFORMANCE: L'ELISIR d'AMOUR, Donizetti

Monday 16th July **VENICE**

This morning we will take an excursion to the island of Morano in the Venetian Lagoon to visit the famous **Morano Glass** factory. Afternoon and evening at leisure.

Tuesday 17th July **FLORENCE**

This morning we will take the vaporetto to the Venice Mestre Rail Station, in time for our fast-train to FLORENCE, arriving in time for lunch in our hotel, the very centrally located **GRAND HOTEL MINERVA**. After a rest and refreshments we will enjoy an introductory guided walking tour of this artistic Renaissance city. We will meet for dinner before our evening performance, the delightful one act opera, **Gianni Schicchi** at the **Teatro Comunale Firenze**. The work is the third and final part of Puccini's *Il Trittico*. Gianni Schicchi has been received with great enthusiasm since its premier at New York's Metropolitan Opera in 1918.

Wednesday 18th July **FLORENCE**

Morning: Guided walk via the historic Ponte Vecchio to the Pitti Palace and gardens for a guided tour. The remainder of the day is your own, for further exploration or to enjoy a relaxing afternoon at our hotel's magnificent roof-top swimming pool and panoramic terrace from where you can take-in one of the world's most beautiful 360 degree views across the façade of the Church of Santa Maria Novella, the Duomo, Giotto's Bell tower and the Palazzo Vecchio.

This evening we will enjoy a choral performance at the historic Anglican Church of St Marks.

Thursday 19th July **FLORENCE**

Departing early, we will walk through the beautiful quieter streets of Florence to the Accademia Museum where we will meet our Guide. We will also visit the Medici Vasari Corridor*, which provides excellent views across Florence from its elevated passages which stretch from the Palazzo Vecchio to the Palazzo Pitti. (Pending availability.) The afternoon and evening will be free for independent wandering through this magical city with its endless Renaissance art and architecture, beautiful scenery and elegant shopping.

Friday 20th July **LUCCA**

This morning we take a pleasant drive through the Tuscan countryside in our private coach to the Medieval walled town of **LUCCA**, arriving in time for lunch at your leisure at one of the many elegant restaurants around **Piazza Napoleone**, home to a marble statue of Elisa Bonaparte Baciocchi, sister of Napoleone Bonaparte, who ruled Lucca from 1805 to 1815. The afternoon will be your own for a siesta or further exploration.

We will meet for dinner before our transfer to **TORRE del LARGO** for our first **Puccini Festival** performance, held in the open air theatre a short distance from the villa where the great composer lived and worked.

EVENING PERFORMANCE: TOSCA, Giacomo Puccini



Duomo, Milan

Saturday 21st July **LUCCA**

This morning we will take an excursion to the 10th century hill-top walled town of **San Gimignano**, situated some 350 m above sea level and dominating the Elsa Valley. Once the centre of '**Via Francigena**', the flourishing trading and pilgrim's route, San Gimignano has an established cultural importance and is home to many 14th century paintings of the Sienese School and 15th century paintings of the Florentine School, examples of which can be seen in the Duomo and the Palazzo del Popolo. We will lunch at one of the many San Gimignano restaurants. We will return to Lucca in time for an afternoon siesta, before our second Puccini Festival performance, **MADAMA BUTTERFLY**, Giacomo Puccini.

Sunday 22nd July **ROME**

After a leisurely last morning in Lucca, we will return to Florence by private coach in time to catch the high speed train to **ROME**, arriving in the late afternoon. Our Rome hotel will be the beautiful and tranquil **VICTORIA HOTEL ROMA**, situated by the 2000 year old Aurelian Wall in the historical centre of Rome facing the beautiful Villa Borghese Gardens, just minutes walk from Via Veneto and Villa Borghese. The remainder of the day will be a restful one, giving you time to stroll through our hotel's marvellous surrounds. During our time in Rome we will see **one or two operas** of the **Teatro Alla Roma**, at the **Baths of Caracalla** where summer operas are staged, depending on their schedule. Dinner will be served beforehand.

Monday 23rd July **ROME**

This morning our guide will collect you from our hotel for a guided walking tour, introducing, or re-introducing you to Rome's most significant sights, including the **Piazza di Spagna**, **Fontana di Trevi**, **Il Pantheon**, **Campo de' Fiori**, **Piazza Navona**.

Tuesday 24th July **ROME**

Departing early, we will visit the **UNESCO World Heritage** site, **Villa d'Este**, Tivoli, set in splendid and mesmerising gardens of cypresses and fountains. Commissioned by Cardinal Ippolito II d'Este (1509-1572), son of Alfonso I d'Este and Lucrezia Borgia and grandson of Pope Alexander VI, the Villa d'Este is a masterpiece of Italian architecture and especially garden design. We will also visit the magnificent **Hadrian's Villa**, built as a private summer retreat for the Emperor of the same name between AD 118 and 134. Lunch will be included before returning to our hotel during the afternoon.

Wednesday 25th July **ROME**

Today we will take the metro further afield to **St Peter's Basilica**, **Vatican Museum** and **Sistine Chapel**, ending at **Castel Sant Angelo**, originally built as a mausoleum for the Emperor Hadrian (AD130-139). It is the famed setting for the last act of Puccini's *Tosca*. Here one can admire the beautiful views across Rome over coffee or cocktails in one of its rampart tower terraces. We will return to our hotel via the ancient **Trastevere** district, with its rich history and character, often referred to as the 'Village within the City'. In the evening we meet for our Farewell Dinner.

Wednesday 25th July **ROME**

Our wonderful Italian tour concludes after breakfast.

BOOKING DETAILS - LINGUA MUSICA TOUR 2012

TOUR PRICES:

Standard Tour: **AUD\$8,950** per person twin -share
Single Supplement: **AUD\$1,400** per person

Experience has shown that if you are travelling alone you will be much more comfortable with the Single Supplement. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this with us.

DEPOSIT: AUD\$2,500 per person due 18th MARCH 2012 with completed Booking Form* mailed to:
ROMA RANGLES
LINGUA MUSICA
1/430 BALCOMBE RD.
BEAUMARIS VIC. 3193
AUSTRALIA

BALANCE: Due 8th MAY 2012

AUD\$6,450 + Single Supplement + Optional Performance Tickets
Cheques to be made out to Lingua Musica
Payment may also be made by Bank Deposit or Cheque. Details on request.

****Early payment is necessary in order to secure performance tickets.**

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 17 nights' accommodation in centrally located 4* hotels
- 9 Operas plus additional classical music performances
- Comprehensive sight-seeing with local English-speaking guides
- All breakfasts, plus 12 meals as indicated in the Itinerary
- All admissions, bus & metro tickets when on guided tours
- Services of the Tour Escort
- European train travel (1st Class) Milan-Verona
- European train travel (1st Class) Verona-Venice
- European train travel (1st Class) Venice-Florence
- European train travel (1st Class) Florence-Rome
- Land travel by private, air-conditioned coach
- Hotel Porterage - one bag per person, where available. All tips & taxes

PERFORMANCE DETAILS:

Any details of performance programs not available at the time of producing this brochure will be posted to our website, www.linguamusicatours.com

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:

International flights and airport transfers are not included in this tour. Please contact us if you would like assistance with your travel arrangements. We will be happy to assist.

ENQUIRIES:

If you have any queries, please contact us by telephone or email.

LINGUA MUSICA:

Melbourne: 03 9589 0942

Sydney: 02 9327 5733

info@linguamusicatours.com

www.linguamusicatours.com

TOUR ESCORT DEBORAH TRESISE

Deborah developed a passion for all things European from family vacations to many exciting locations as a child during a period of six years living in London. After graduating from university, she enjoyed a successful sales and marketing career, eventually managing her own technology consultancy for many years whilst raising her family.



Always a great lover of the Arts, Deborah became involved in Lingua Musica as time permitted, originally as a consultant. She manages the multitude of organisational tasks that constitute a successful tour and is very much hands-on in all aspects of "behind the scenes".

Deborah has travelled extensively in Europe, indulging in her combined passions of art and opera. She has undertaken a great many Music Lover and Arts courses and is looking forward to experiencing her most favourite operas with like-minded friends.

ROMA RANGLES Dip. Mus.; B. Mus.; Dip. Ed. (University of Melbourne) TOUR DIRECTOR

Roma Rangles is a highly qualified and experienced musician and music educator with a lively personality, who has had very much success for more than twenty years, with European tours of this kind. She incorporates into her tours many events beyond the norm, and perhaps that is what makes them so special. Experts and guest lecturers in many fields are an annual feature. Roma's tours have a proven record for excellence of both content and organisation.



On ground arrangements are in the hands of tried and trusted local operators, and there is no area of the first class accommodation and content not personally experienced by her many times. Having lived for eight years in Europe, and having since continued to travel extensively, Roma knows well and loves the chosen locations of her tours. This is obviously why some participants have returned two, three and four times to travel with her.

Roma Rangles regards her tours as being a return to her favourite European places accompanied by a group of friends.

LINGUA MUSICA EUROPEAN TOUR 2012

OPERA MAGNIFICA

COMMENCING MILAN, ITALY ON 9TH JULY 2012

BOOKING FORM – ONE BOOKING FORM PER PERSON

Title: _____ **Given Names:** _____ **Surname:** _____
(Please show your name EXACTLY as it appears in your passport)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: YES / NO, I will be travelling on a Twin Share basis and SHARING with _____

OPTIONAL VERONA FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE - CARMEN: YES (please circle) I would like to attend this performance at an additional cost of AUD\$230.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

PASSPORT DETAILS:

Nationality: _____ Number: _____ Expiry: _____

NOTE: Passports must be valid for a period of SIX MONTHS after the date of the END of your travel.

PERSONAL DETAILS:

Have you travelled with Lingua Musica previously? _____ If Yes, which year? _____

Date of Birth: _____

Next of Kin (emergency contact):

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ After Hours: _____

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL: Are you are intending to travel before or after the tour? Please let us know if we can assist.

OTHER:

Please let us know if you have any Special Dietary Requirements. We will do our best to attend to your needs at all times:

Please let us know if you suffer from any health condition.

I have read, understood and fully accept the Tour Conditions stated overleaf. I enclose my deposit of AUD\$2,500 and understand that the balance of AUD\$6,450 plus Single Supplement (AUD\$1,400) plus additional performance charge (AUD\$230) if required, is to be paid by 8th MAY 2012.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

LINGUA MUSICA BOOKING CONDITIONS

1. It is necessary to pay the deposit and balance by the due dates.
2. It is a condition of this tour that you take out Travel Insurance. Lingua Musica must be advised in writing full details of your policy by one month before travel.
3. It is a condition of this tour that Lingua Musica needs to be advised of any health problem you may have and any on-tour medication you will be carrying for the duration of the tour. Lingua Musica cannot accept responsibility for providing or handling medications on tour.
4. Whilst our tours are conducted in a relaxed manner it needs to be understood that participants need to be reasonably fit and able to cope with their own luggage in public places (such as airports and rail stations) and to be able to negotiate stairs, uneven surfaces (like cobble stones) and such like where necessary. Guided walking tours are usually of 2 hours duration and our qualified guides require assurance from Lingua Musica that participants are happy to keep up at a reasonable pace.
5. The Lingua Musica Tours are offered as a total package (unless specifically stated) and whilst we aim to cater for everyone's individual interests, we are unable to refund for any components on tour which are not used.
6. This tour will not be viable with less than 10 participants and will be cancelled.
7. If, for any other reason, Lingua Musica must cancel this tour, all tour monies paid would be refunded in full. Lingua Musica would never cancel a tour within 60 days of departure unless forced to do so because of war or similar circumstance affecting the tour.
8. Cancellation Policy for participants after formally booking on this tour:

8th March 2012 – 8 th May 2012:	Loss of Deposit*
9 th May 2012 – 5 th June 2012:	50% of Full Tour price
After 5 th June 2012:	100% of Full Tour price

Please note:

*Performance tickets and some hotel deposits are not refundable.

Your Full Tour price includes the additional Single Supplement and any additional optional performance tickets which have been requested at the time of booking.

These are the Cancellation conditions imposed upon Lingua Musica. You may consider it wise to have your travel insurance in place to cover any such possibility.

9. Lingua Musica asks you to accept that very occasionally, in unforeseen circumstances over which Lingua Musica has no control, it may be forced to slightly alter or modify arrangements but that substitution would always be of the same value. Lingua Musica cannot be held responsible for the failure of any contracted and pre-paid foreign organisation to deliver services /arrangements and would always make necessary and appropriate alternative arrangements.
10. Lingua Musica will not be held responsible for any illness or misadventure affecting any participant nor for any portion of the tour lost because of this.
11. This tour has been costed according to international exchange rates at 22nd January 2012. If this rate changes negatively by more than 2 1/2 % this addition must be passed on to the consumer. No additional charges can be applied after payment of the final balance.