



Sing in Italy!

Wonderful North of Italy
Mialna, Parma, Bologna, Venice, Verona



Concert Tour in Northern Italy

08 days / 07 nights

Itinerary: Milan (arrival) - Parma (01 n) - Bologna (01 n) - Ferrara - Mestre (02 nts) - Venice - Verona - Milan (departure)

Concerts:

Parma - Bologna - Venice - Verona

Guided Tours:

Milan - Parma - Bologna - Ferrara - Venice - Burano and Murano Islands - Verona

Highlights:

Northern Italy, a symphony of culture and passion, beckons music lovers to its enchanting embrace. Picture a landscape where rolling hills echo with the timeless melodies of centuries past, where every cobblestone seems to hum with the rhythm of a rich musical heritage. This region is not just a destination; it's a crescendo of musical bliss that resonates through its very soul.

Milan, a city that pulsates with the beat of high fashion and economic vitality, is also a maestro in the world of classical music. La Scala, the iconic opera house, stands as a hallowed temple of the performing arts, inviting aficionados to lose themselves in the emotive arias that have graced its stage for centuries.

We visit and sing in **Parma** which holds a distinct allure for music lovers due to its rich musical heritage and contributions to the world of classical music. Famous composer Giuseppe Verdi was born near Parma. Verdi is one of the most celebrated figures in Italian opera, and his compositions, such as "La Traviata," "Rigoletto," and "Aida," continue to be staples in the classical repertoire. We shall see Teatro Reggion, an esteemed opera house that has hosted numerous world premieres of Verdi's operas. The theater, with its opulent architecture and historical significance, serves as a testament to Parma's commitment to the arts. After Parma, our tour brings us to **Bologna**, home to the Conservatorio di Musica di Bologna, one of the oldest music schools in the world. We shall go on a guided tour of Bologna so that you can see a historic Basilica di San Petronio stands tall, a testament to the city's medieval grandeur. We shall wander through the narrow cobblestone streets and discover the city's iconic Two Towers – Asinelli and Garisenda – which have proudly watched over Bologna for centuries.

Then we reach **Venice**, the floating masterpiece, where we shall have an honour to sing and explore. You will see St. Mark's Basilica which served as a prominent venue for musical innovation. The acoustics of the basilica influenced the development of the Venetian polychoral style. Both world-renowned composers, Claudio Monteverdi and Antonio Vivaldi, worked in Venice. We shall be carried away by a medieval charm of **Verona**, a city steeped in Shakespearean romance, known to music enthusiasts for its summer opera seasons. You can plan your visit in time to attend a brilliant opera performance in the ancient Roman amphitheater, where the stars overhead seem to harmonize with the impassioned voices echoing through time.

This isn't just a choir tour; it is a time travel for passionate music lovers. It's an opportunity to create unforgettable moments, to be part of something bigger than yourselves, and to share the universal language of music with audiences from all around the world.

DETAILED ITINERARY

1st day – Arrival: Arrival in Milan. Evening guided visit of Milan with a professional guide. Overnight in hotel Milan area.

2nd day – Parma: Breakfast in the hotel. Transfer to Parma. Guided tour of Parma. In the evening a concert in San Vitale Church. Overnight in hotel in Parma.

3rd day – Bologna: Breakfast in the hotel. Transfer to Bologna. Guided tour of the city. In the evening a concert in church San Bartolomeo e Gaetano. Overnight in hotel in Bologna.

4th day – Ferrara: Breakfast in the hotel. Transfer to Ferrara. Guided tour of Ferrara and free time in Ferrara. Transfer to Mestre and overnight in hotel in Mestre near Venice.

5th day – Venice: Breakfast in the hotel. Transfer to Venice. Guided tour of Venice. In the afternoon a concert in Church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli in Venice (a participating Italian local choir will start the concert with the welcome song). Free time in Venice. Overnight in hotel in Mestre.

6th day – Venice: Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to Venice. Visit of Murano and Burano Islands in Venetian Lagoon (a boat tour). Free time in Venice to explore. Overnight in hotel in Mestre.

7th day – Verona: Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to Verona. Guided tour of Verona. In the afternoon a concert in Church of San Giorgio in Braida in Verona. Overnight in hotel in Verona.

8th Day – Milan: Breakfast in hotel. Transfer to airport of Milan

Tour includes:

Accommodation in a shared double room in hotels as follows:

7 nights accommodation in hotels 3/4 stars as indicated in the program,

Breakfasts are included,

Transportation in a comfortable coach included (transfer to Venice from and to hotel by train, tickets included),

Boat excursion to Islands of Murano and Burano with a guide,

Licensed English-speaking guides in Rome, Parma, Bologna, Ferrara, Venice, Verona,

4 concerts as indicated in the program (each concert will have an opening welcome singing by a local Italian choir)

Note

All concert venues will be reconfirmed at the moment of tour confirmation with specific dates. There can be other venues proposed depending on availability in certain periods.

The tour can be modified to include participation in the Rimini International Choral Competition (Rimini, 1-3 November 2024) or in the Claudio Monteverdi International Choral Competition (Venice, 19-21 February 2025). Moreover, the tour can be extended to visit Turin, with or without concert.

Price

The price of the tour depends on the chosen period and type of accommodation. We are very flexible to find the best possible solution according to your budget.

Extras

Earphones for the tour euro 21,00 per person.

City taxes to be paid directly in hotels (from 2 to 5 euro per person per day depending on the city).

Information about the Venues

1. Church of San Vitale in Parma

A Baroque style church in center of Parma. A religious building at the site existed in the 9th century, dedicated to San Vitale, tradition holds it was founded by King Pepin of Italy. The present layout dates to a reconstruction that took place from 1651 to 1658 by the architect Cristoforo Rangoni, also called Ficarelli. Domenico Valmagini reinforced the dome in 1676. In 1913, the property was appropriated by the town. The façade was decorated by the sculptor Felice Pascetti and has six statues attributed to Pietro Sbravati depicting Saints Vitalis and Valeria above, with Valeria's bride and children under the external sides, as well as Saints Gervasius and Protasius, and in the niches Saints Gregory Magnus and Ambrose.



2. Santi Bartolomeo e Gaetano Church in Bologna

The Church of Santi Bartolomeo e Gaetano stands along Strada Maggiore and has remote origins dating back to the 11th century. After welcoming a community of Cluniac nuns in the 13th century, in 1516 the church was demolished with the aim of erecting one that was more imposing. In fact, its superb porch dates back to this period. At the end of the 15th century, it passed to the Theatines who, in 1653-88, had the church rebuilt, providing it with a new bell tower and a new dome, and who added to the original title of San Bartolomeo that of the founder of their order, San Gaetano Thiene. The bell tower, in particular, is 52 metres high and stands in via San Vitale. The interior preserves work by Ludovico Carracci, Guido Reni and other masters of the Bolognese school of the 17th century.



3. Church Santa Maria dei Miracoli in Venice

The church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli was originally built to house a small miraculous image of the Virgin and Child painted around 1409 that is traditionally attributed to Nicolò di Pietro. Over seventy years later, miracles began to be credited to the image. Both religious and political officials agreed that a small chapel should be built to house the painting, and thanks to offerings left by those who visited the miraculous Madonna and Child, funds were readily available to build such a structure. Pietro Lombardo was contracted to begin construction between 1481 and 1485. Both the interior and exterior were sheathed with colorful marble, and these marble slabs were surrounded by intricately carved cornices and several reliefs of saints and prophets, many of which can be attributed to Pietro Lombardo himself. The coffered ceiling of the Miracoli, of painted and gilded wood, was likely added in later phases of the church's construction, but prior to 1520. A staircase leads to the raised high altar where the original votive image is displayed, decorated with sculptures by Tullio Lombardo, Alessandro Vittoria, and Girolamo Campagna.



4. Church San Giorgio in Braida, Verona

The Church San Giorgio in Braida is a majestic church located in Verona and overlooking the river of Adige. It is easily recognizable for its characteristic dark dome. "Braida" seems to derive from the Lombard term "brei" or "breit", which meant "enclosed meadow". In ancient times, the monastery was located in a grassy area outside the city walls: these areas were called "braide". The altarpiece of the main altar depicts the martyrdom of Saint George: it is the work of one of the most famous artists of the city, Paolo Caliari known as Veronese. Inside, you can also find paintings by the renowned painters Felice Brusasorzi, Giovanni Francesco Caroto, Jacopo Tintoretto, Girolamo dai Libri, Romanino and Moretto da Brescia.



Info Tour:

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