American Celebration of Music in Italy

April 6 - 14, 2023 • Margy Sargent, Director
Melded from Greek, Etruscan and Roman civilizations, Italian (Roman) culture has influenced Western thought, art, music, literature and civilization more than any other. The senses almost reel from exposure to history, architecture, art (Italy is the repository of a large percentage of the world’s greatest art), and beauty unequaled anywhere else in Europe. The creativity, craftsmanship, artistic energy that made Rome great is still in full evidence in the New Millennium.

American orchestras, choirs, and wind ensembles are very popular in Italy. The American Celebration of Music in Italy provides performance opportunities in churches, piazzas, theaters, concert halls, and archaeological ruins, for American performers to share our own vibrant musical culture with enthusiastic Italian audiences. The American Celebration of Music is a special annual performance-tour program, co-sponsored by local governments, music associations, community organizations, and tourist boards around the globe. In many countries this has developed into a prestigious, recognized, year-long concert-series festival. Recognition of this festival and the ability to touch local cultures in a way that may not be done through other affiliations. This equates to more meaningful musical and emotional experiences for participating performance ensembles.

A concert and music festival experience in Italy is a return to the roots of Western Civilization. Italy presents a glorious feast of all the senses - sound, sight, smell, taste and touch. Regardless of one’s musical tastes - classical, church, ballad, opera, chant, symphonic, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Romantic, Baroque - these roots are all found in Italy. Our musical heritage certainly was born in Italy. Italians, with help from the French, invented the system of musical notation used today. Cremona produced violins by Stradivarius and Guarneri; the piano is an Italian invention. Palestrina, the master of polyphonic music, single-handedly saved sacred church music and composed over 93 masses and many madrigals. Italian composers like Verdi, Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Paganini, Vivaldi, Puccini and Rossini are household names. Select music ensembles are invited to share their talents with appreciative audiences in glorious venues and spectacular settings throughout Italy as part of this unique concert series.

Day 1 Thursday, April 6, 2023
Depart via scheduled air service to Venice, Italy

Day 2 Friday, April 7 Venice (D)
Arrive in Venice.
Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach.
Late afternoon hotel check-in.
Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight.

Venice is eternally preoccupied with the contemplation of its own beauty. Founded on marshes, it rose to dominate the Adriatic and hold the gorgeous East in fee. At the height of her power in the 16th century, Venice was a wealthy city-republic gleaming in feasts and pageants, reveling in the splendor of her painting, sculpture and architecture. Those days of glory are gone, but her art survives and the grace and refinement remain. A visit to Venice will fill your soul.

Day 3 Saturday, April 8 Venice (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel.
Transfer to the main island of San Marco via public boat. A morning walking tour includes St. Mark’s Square, with entrance to the incredibly rich Basilica of St. Mark and the Doge’s Palace where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire at its height during the 15th century.
Time permitting, visit a glass-blowing factory on one of Venice’s many islands.
Lunch, on own.
Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Venice.
Performance at Chiesa della Pietta in Venice as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy.*
Evening dinner included, and overnight.

Day 4 Sunday, April 9 Venice / Montecatini (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out.
Morning transfer to Florence.
Lunch, on own.
Visit the Academy of Fine Arts to see Michelangelo’s original David and other sculptures by the great master.
Transfer to Montecatini for hotel check-in.
Evening dinner included, and overnight.

Montecatini is a characteristic medieval village, abounding in historical events culture and illustrous personages. The Montecatini of today, a suggestive outdoor masterpiece, does not retain the image of a sole period. Instead, it is witness to a historical parable of intense experiences, filled with dark moments, almost total destruction and splendor.

Day 5 Monday, April 10 Florence / Montecatini (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel.
A half-day orientation tour of Florence includes the Piazza della Signoria, a lovely square in the heart of the city, towered by the lofty Palazzo Vecchio.
Visit the Ponte Vecchio, the bridge across the Arno. See the Baptistry with Ghiberti’s Gates of Paradise, the Campanile, and entrance to the Duomo.
Lunch, on own.
Performance at Santo Spirito in Florence as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy.*
Evening dinner included, and overnight.

Day 6 Tuesday, April 11 Florence / Montecatini (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel.
Performance at the Convent of San Marco in Florence as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy.*
Evening dinner included, and overnight.

Day 7 Wednesday, April 12 Montecatini (D)
Breakfast included at the hotel.
Free day, with luncheon included.

Day 7 Thursday, April 12 Montecatini / Venice (B)
Breakfast included at the hotel.
Transfer to Venice.
Evening dinner included, and overnight.

Day 8 Friday, April 13 Venice (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel.
Transfer to Venice.
Visit the Doge’s Palace, where the powerful and prosperous dukes of Venice ruled their far-flung empire at its height during the 15th century
Afternoon at leisure.
Lunch, on own.
Visit the Academy of Fine Arts and see Michelangelo’s original David and other sculptures by the great master.
Visit a glass-blowing factory on one of Venice’s many islands.
Evening dinner included, and overnight.

Day 9 Saturday, April 14 Venice / Depart (B)
Breakfast included at the hotel.
Depart Venice via scheduled air service to the United States.

Day 10 Sunday, April 15 (B) 
Breakfast included at the hotel.
Depart via scheduled air service to the United States.

INRITARY: APRIL 6 – 14, 2023 • 7 NIGHTS/9 DAYS

with the American Celebration of Music in Italy.

Toll-free: 800.395.2036  |  Fax 480.894.5137
1440 S. Priest Drive, Ste. 102  Tempe, AZ 85281-6952
Music Celebrations International

www.musiccelebrations.com | info@musiccelebrations.com

An Exclusive Concert Series
Day 6 Tuesday, April 11 Assisi / Rome (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to Rome via Assisi. Excursion to Assisi for half day guided tour.
The walled city of Assisi is beautifully spread across the slopes of Monte Subasio. A guided tour of Assisi, one of the most important places of pilgrimage in Italy, includes entrance to the Basilica di San Francesco, two superimposed churches.
Lunch, on own
Continue to Rome
Evening dinner included, and overnight
*Subject to confirmation.

Day 7 Wednesday, April 12 Rome (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel
Half-day guided tour of Imperial Rome, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla, and Palatine Hill
Lunch, on own
Performance at Sant’ Ignazio in Rome as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*
Evening dinner included, and overnight

Day 8 Thursday, April 13 Rome (B,D)
Breakfast included at the hotel
A half-day guided tour of Religious Rome includes Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo’s Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment) and St. Peter’s Basilica
Lunch, on own
Participate/Sing in Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica*
Evening Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Day 9 Friday, April 14 Depart for home (B)
Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out. Transfer to the Rome Airport for return flight home.

*Subject to confirmation.

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.