

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 the Palazzo Victoria 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 £1,090 per person



Verona arena



Palazzo Victoria

THE PROGRAMME FOR 2016

Carmen

June 24
July 1, 6, 13, 16, 29
August 5, 11, 17, 20, 23, 27

Aida

June 25, 30
July 3, 7, 14, 17, 24, 28, 31
August 7, 9, 14, 18, 21, 24, 28

La Traviata

July 2, 5, 8, 12, 15, 22, 26, 30

Turandot

July 23, 27
August 12, 19, 25

Il Trovatore

August 6, 10, 13, 26

Prices

Ticket prices for the performances vary from about £30 per person for an unreserved stone step to £225 per person for a 1st sector stall Gold on a Friday and Saturday. Most people opt for at least a numbered seat on the steps at about £90 per person or a 2nd sector stall at about £130 per person. Prices are cheaper if tickets are bought before 25 December 2015. Tickets are non-refundable once bought.

Inside the 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 at San Giuliano Terme or the Hotel San Luca Palace in Lucca (both hotels are about 30 mins drive from Torre del Lago) for four nights and let us book you 2nd sector seats for one performance. We also include flights with British Airways from London to Pisa, Group A hire-car and bed and breakfast. Additional performances can be arranged on request.

Prices from about £1,050 per person.

THE PROGRAMME FOR 2016		Prices
Tosca July 15, August 6, 11	August 12 La Boheme July 16, 22, August 5	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 non-refundable once bought.
Madama Butterfly July 29, August 10	Turandot July 24, 31 August 13	
Turandot July 23, 30		



Statue of Giacomo Puccini in Lucca

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. (Performances extra).

Prices from about £1390 per person.



Concert in Ravello

UMBRIA JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Umbria Jazz Festival takes place every year in July amongst the Roman ruins, mediaeval ramparts and elegant churches of Perugia. Stages are set up in its streets of pale stone houses in this University city overlooking the valley of the Tiber. The festival lasts for ten days and has a mixture of jazz legends and new talents. Quite a treat for all music lovers.

Suggested Umbria Jazz holiday

Stay at the charming Villa di Monte Solare, about 20 miles from Perugia, for seven nights in July during the festival. Flights with British Airways London to Rome return, Euro Traveller and use of a Group B hire-car. Bed and breakfast included. Half-board can be booked as an optional extra.

Prices from about £1380 per person.