

Cremona

ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

Cremona Orchestra Festival Tour #2 (5 nights/7 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Milan, Italy

Day 2

Milan / Verona / Venice (D)

Arrive in Milan

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Half day guided tour of Milan includes entrances to La Scala, the best-known opera house in the world and the Duomo, the largest Gothic cathedral in Italy

Stop in Verona (of Romeo and Juliet fame) that includes the Casa di Giulietta (Juliet's House) with its famous Balcony in the inner courtyard. Also see the Arena, a Roman Amphitheater built in the 1st Century that is still used today

Continue on to Venice for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner included, and overnight in Venice

Milan is a storehouse of artistic treasures. Milan is also Italy's leading commercial and industrial center, located at the foot of the magnificent Alps. Surrounding the historic center, it is a fast-paced business city in which consumerism and the work ethic rule. Much of the city is a testament to the prestige-building of the Visconti dynasty and their successors, the Sforzas, who ruled here in Renaissance times

Day 3

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 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

Lunch, on own

Afternoon time at leisure in Venice

Performance in Treviso as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy*

Evening dinner included, 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 glorying 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 4 **Cremona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out

Morning transfer to Cremona

Lunch, on own

A half-day guided tour of Cremona includes the Civic Museum, Duomo (Cathedral), Town Hall, and most importantly, entrance to Stradivarius museum – Museo del Violino. There are galleries devoted to the origins of the violin, violin construction, and Stradivari's workshop tools, molds and drawings

Next, enjoy a visit to the Cremona Luthier Shop

Evening dinner included, and overnight

An agricultural town known for its medieval appearance, Cremona rises from the slope above the north bank of the historic River Po. Antonio Stradivarius and other noted violin makers perfected their art in Cremona during the 17th and 18th centuries; a school still transmits their skills. Claudio Monteverdi whose Orfeo is considered to have laid the groundwork for modern opera in 1607, was born in Cremona

Day 5 **Busseto / Cremona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel

Morning excursion to Busseto, which has ancient roots that date back to the 10th century. Visits include the Teatro Verdi Opera House, Verdi's birthplace, and Casa Barezzi (former home of Antonio Barezzi)

Lunch, on own

Afternoon Clinic/Workshop*

Evening dinner included, and overnight

Day 6 **Cremona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel

Morning time at leisure in Cremona

Lunch, on own

Rehearsal*

Evening Farewell Dinner, included

Evening Festival Concert in Cremona*

Overnight at the hotel

Day 7 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the Milan 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.

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