

Beethoven and Cremona Festival Tour (7 nights/9 days)

**Day 1 Wednesday, June 24, 2020**

Depart via scheduled air service to Vienna, Austria

**Day 2 Thursday, June 25 Vienna (D)**

Arrive in Vienna

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

Stop at the Vienna City Cemetery to visit the graves of Beethoven, Strauss, Brahms, Schubert and the Mozart Memorial

Take a short panoramic tour of Vienna that acquaints visitors with the main attractions and landmarks

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

*Vienna is still considered the music capital of the world. It is a city of refined tastes, grace, style and unmatched artistic accomplishments. For a thousand years, Vienna was the capital of the far-flung Holy Roman and Hapsburg empires. Though its people and ways have changed, Vienna has retained its imperial monuments, not as reminders of past glories, but as living symbols of its present freedom*

**Day 3 Friday, June 26 Vienna (B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel

Half-day guided tour of Historical Vienna includes the Ringstraße, Imperial Palace, State Opera, Town Hall, Burgkapelle (home of the Vienna Boys Choir), Palace Stables, Strauß Monument, and entrance to Schönbrunn Palace, built by the Hapsburgs in imitation of Versailles

Lunch, on own

Afternoon half-day guided tour of *Musical Vienna* includes entrance to the Haus der Musik (House of Music), a modern interactive sound museum, with floors dedicated to the Vienna Philharmonic and The Great Composers. The *Musical Vienna* tour concludes with a visit (entrance included) to the Beethoven Heiligenstadt apartment

Evening dinner included, and overnight

**Day 4 Saturday, June 27 Vienna (B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel

***Rehearsal in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein***

Excursion to Kahlenberg to walk the “Beethoven trail” (a route he often walked), and visit the Vienna woods

Lunch, on own

Next, visit the Pasqualati House (Beethoven residence) and Museum

Evening dinner included, and overnight

**Day 5 Sunday, June 28 Vienna (B,D)**



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Breakfast included at the hotel

*Warm-up in the Grand Hall of the Musikverein*

Lunch, on own

Afternoon time at leisure

Evening dinner included

*Festival Concert in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein*

Overnight at the hotel

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**Day 6 Monday, June 29 Treviso (B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Treviso via coach

Lunch, on own

Evening dinner included, and overnight in Treviso

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**Day 7 Tuesday, June 30 Cremona (B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Cremona

Lunch, on own in Cremona

A half-day guided tour of Cremona includes the Civic Museum, Duomo (Cathedral), Town Hall, and 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 & drawings

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*

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**Day 8 Wednesday, July 1 Busseto / Cremona (B,D)**

Breakfast included at the hotel

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

Lunch, on own

Return to Cremona for afternoon visit to the Cremona Luthier Shop

*Rehearsal\**

Evening Farewell Dinner, included

*Evening Festival Concert in Cremona\**

Overnight at the hotel

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**Day 9 Thursday, July 2 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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