

Cremona

ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

Cremona Orchestra Festival Tour #4 (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2

Rome

(D)

Arrive in Rome

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for transfer into Rome. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, including stops at Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Rome - Popes, Vandals, the Borgias and Napoleon, Garibaldi, Michelangelo and Mussolini and, of course, the ancient Romans themselves all have left their physical and spiritual mark on Rome, but though she keeps the glory of an ancient day about her, she remains a wellspring of creative energy; in short, she really is the Eternal City

Day 3

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast 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

Afternoon time at leisure (*with Coach and Tour Manager at groups disposal*)

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning 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

Afternoon time at leisure (*with Coach and Tour Manager at groups disposal*)

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

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5

Siena / Montecatini

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Morning transfer to Montecatini via Siena



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Excursion to Siena includes the famous Piazza del Campo (famous for its harmony and the famous horse races during the festival Palio delle Contrade), the Town Hall, built in the 13th century, and the Duomo (cathedral). Walking through the streets of Siena reminds one of the glorious Renaissance and the rich history of this city

Lunch, on own

Continue to Montecatini

Evening dinner and overnight

Montecatini is a characteristic medieval village, abounding in historical events culture and illustrious 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 6 **Florence / Montecatini** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A guided 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, the Duomo and entrance to the Academia, the Academy of Fine Arts, to see Michelangelo's original *David* and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system)

Lunch, on own

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

Evening dinner and overnight in Montecatini

Day 7 **Cremona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Morning transfer to Cremona

Lunch, on own

Enjoy an orientation tour of Cremona upon arrival, followed by a visit to a local Cremona Luthier Shop or Academia Cremonensis

Evening dinner 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 8 **Busseto / Cremona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast 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* as part of the Cremona Festival

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 9 **Cremona** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A half-day guided tour of Cremona includes the Duomo (Cathedral) 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

Lunch, on own

*Afternoon Rehearsal**

Evening Farewell Dinner

*Evening Festival Concert in the Municipal Square of Cremona**

Overnight at the hotel

Day 10

Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast 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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