

American Celebration of Music in Italy

Crescendo to Cremona Series

Custom Tour #2 (6 nights/8 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2

Rome

(D)

Arrive in

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

Morning guided walking tour of *Imperial Rome*, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also visit the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla, and Palatine Hill

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

Walking 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 Rehearsal*

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

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Florence / Montecatini

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Morning transfer to Florence

Lunch, on own

Afternoon 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 Baptistery with Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise*, the Campanile, and entrance to the Duomo and the Academia, the Academy of Fine Arts, to see Michelangelo's original *David* and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system)

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

Evening dinner and overnight in Montecatini



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

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning at leisure in Florence

Lunch, on own

Afternoon transfer to Cremona

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

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 6****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 free-time for shopping or additional sightseeing

Performance as part of the Crescendo to Cremona Series*

Evening dinner and overnight

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

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to the Cremona Luthier Shop

Lunch, on own

Afternoon free-time for shopping or additional sightseeing

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

**Day 8****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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