

Sing Australia Italy Concert Tour 2018

Day 1: Wed 26 Sep 2018

WELCOME TO ROME!

Welcome to Rome! On arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel. This evening, join your Tour Director and fellow guests for a welcome dinner. (DW)

Hotel: Dei Borgia Hotel Rome – 2 nights

Day 2: Thu 27 Sep 2018

ROME SIGHTSEEING

In the morning, you will be joined by a local expert to lead you through the priceless art collection of the Vatican Museum, culminating beneath Michelangelo's famous ceiling in the **Sistine Chapel**. More of Michelangelo's genius is on display next door in **St Peter's Basilica**.

Rome is about art, antiquity and piazzas and our included walking tour this afternoon has this in abundance. Toss a coin in the **Trevi Fountain**, see the Pantheon, the best preserved monument from the Roman period and the Colosseum.

This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)



Day 3: Fri 28 Sep 2018

ROME – FLORENCE

Travel north through glorious Tuscan landscape to reach the medieval town of Orvieto. Enjoy a pasta making demonstration with lunch and washed down with a glass of local wine. Then continue to Renaissance Florence. (B, L)

Hotel: Albani Hotel Florence- 3 nights

Day 4: Sat 29 Sep 2018

FLORENCE SIGHTSEEING

Join a local art historian to meet **Michelangelo's David in the Accademia Museum**. Next, walk on to the multicoloured marble cathedral, bell tower and baptistry, adorned by Ghiberti's 'Gates of Paradise'. You will also visit the open-air gallery of Renaissance masterpieces in **Signora Square**, the political heart of the city.

The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace. This evening, dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)



Day 5: Sun 30 Sep 2018

TUSCANY EXCURSION

This morning we depart for a Winery Experience to the Chianti Region: one of the most celebrated areas in Tuscany famous for their wine.

The Chianti area in Tuscany is one of the most beautiful in the whole region, as well as the most well-known and appreciated by visitors from across the world.

Chianti offers a unique landscape; with green gentle hills covered with wide fields of vineyards and olive groves; small stone villages; characteristic parishes and countryside homes built in stone.

With your Sommelier, you will be able to discover some of the most prestigious Italian wines and experience a private wine tasting followed by a private lunch in the winery cellar.

After lunch, we return to Florence where the rest of the day is at leisure. (B, L)



Your private Experience in the Chianti Region.

Day 6: Mon 01 Oct 2018

FLORENCE – PORTOVENERE

In the morning, you will meet the driver in the lobby and start the short 2 hour journey to Portovenere where the grand terrace of the hotel overlooking the sea and the charming village of Portovenere await you. Portovenere is a UNESCO World Heritage Site along the Cinque Terre.

The hotel is suspended between the modern luxuries of a boutique hotel and the ancient past of the Franciscan Convent, the inimitable landscapes of Portovenere, Palmaria Island and the Gulf of Poets.

Mediterranean flavours and aromas will ignite your senses this evening while you enjoy dinner at the hotel restaurant. Details like the vaulted red-brick ceilings take you back in time. (B, D)

Hotel: Grand Hotel Portovenere– 2 nights



Grand Hotel Portovenere: the external façade, lobby, the hotel's restaurant, Venus Bar, the breakfast, your Executive sea view room.

Day 7: Tue 02 Oct 2018

PORTOVENERE & THE CINQUE TERRE

Today is set aside for a full day exploration of the Cinque Terre, or five lands. We arrive by rail or boat and join your expert guide for your full day tour of the spectacular Cinque Terra.

The **Cinque Terre** (the five lands) is a string of five fishing villages perched high on the Italian Riviera which until recently were linked only by mule tracks and accessible only by rail or water. An ancient system of footpaths is still the best way to visit the five villages; **Monterosso; Vernaza; Corniglia, Manarola** and **Riomaggiore**.

The Cinque Terre is noted for its beauty. Over centuries, people have carefully built terraces to cultivate grapes and olives on the rugged, steep landscape, right up to the cliffs that overlook the Mediterranean Sea.

The breathtaking views of harbours far below the wild but hospitable coastline along with the medieval fortresses and plentiful vines and vibrant colours make this a memorable destination.

Recognised in 1997 by the UNESCO Mankind's World Heritage, are today a National Park and Protected Marine Area with the aim of protecting this great cultural heritage and natural environment. (B, D)



Day 8: Wed 03 Oct 2018 LERICI - VERONA – BASSANO DEL GRAPPA

We head inland and travel first to the town of Parma, famous for parmesan cheese for a cheese tasting. Continue to the elegant city of Verona. See the ancient Roman Arena and stand beneath Juliet's balcony before heading to our destination, Bassano Del Grappa. (B, D)

Hotel: Bonotto Hotel Belvedere - 3 nights

Day 9: Thu 04 Oct 2018

BASSANO DEL GRAPPA, ASOLO

Tour Bassano del Grappa with a local guide see the Piazza Maggiore with its beautiful Renaissance fountain, the Via Roberto Browning with long arcades and wall frescoes from the 15th century and the Palazzo della Ragione with the City Museum. Visit the cathedral of Santa Maria di Breda, which is built on the foundations of a Roman bath complex, where you will see the masterpiece by Lorenzo Lotto: the altarpiece "The apparition of the Virgin."

The rest of the day is set aside for scheduled practices and performances in Asolo. (Details TBA). The coach will be available today to transfer you to and from rehearsals (B, D)



Day 10: Fri 05 Oct 2018 ASOLO FOR PERFORMANCES

Today we have scheduled practices and the big day has arrived. Our performance in Asolo! We will be performing in the **Teatro Elenora Duse Theatre**, where the inspiration for Sing Australia began and our director, Colin Slater took his master classes with Tito Gobbi, the internationally renowned Italian operatic baritone.

What an incredible opportunity and a once in a life time experience to perform in this charming theatre.



Asolo is a small town with some 7,000 inhabitants, and is situated 40 miles north-west of Venice, in the lower Dolomite hills. Asolo has maintained a suggestive medieval look, sited between the very old walls and dominated by the millenary "Rocca" on the top on the hill, protecting the City. The old streets are gorgeous. Gothic arcades and porticos, facades decorated with frescos and beautiful balconies.

The main sight is the **Castle**. Around 1500 it was the Palace of Caterina Cornaro; it is an old massive construction which has been often altered; its typical tower with the clock is original. The **Eleonora Duse Theatre** is inside.

The theatre has been housed in the castle since 1798, first as created by Antonio Locatelli, a simple wooden structure and then rebuilt to the design of architect Martignago in 1857. The new theatre had three orders of boxes and was embellished with figurative reliefs by the Aster brothers and paintings by De Marchi. During the Nineties, the castle complex and the clock tower underwent radical revamping that, among other things, restored the theatre in a form reminiscent of the original structure.

(Further details of the performance to be advised in due course)
The coach will be available today to transfer you to and from rehearsals. (B)

Day 11: Sat 06 Oct 2018 BASSANO DEL GRAPPA – VENICE

After a late start we travel to Venice. After settling into the hotel, we are serenaded through the atmospheric canals by gondola. This evening is free for you to wander yourself around Venice. (B)
Hotel: Starhotels Splendid Venice - 2 nights



Day 12: Sun 07 Oct 2018

VENICE SIGHTSEEING

A private launch ferries you past canals lined with ornate palaces to St. Mark's Square. See the Basilica, the Doges' Palace and Bridge of Sighs. An historical walk, with a local guide, takes you through some of the lesser known quarters of Venice. Discover some of the secrets of other quarters of the Venetian labyrinth.



The rest of the day is at your leisure to shop and discover some of the secrets of other quarters of the Venetian labyrinth

Tonight we have a special Farwell dinner in a private dining room. We will have the opportunity to share our favourite memories from the trip, sing songs and enjoy newly made friendships.

(B, DW)

Day 13: Mon 08 Oct 2018

FAREWELL ITALY

Farewell Venice with a transfer by boat to the airport for onward flight to Barcelona or home.

What's Included:

Accommodation

Based on twin share in First Class hotels for 12 nights. Hotels quoted are to be used as a guide only and are subject to availability and change at the time of booking. If the quoted hotel is unavailable, we will secure another hotel in the same category as similar as possible.

Sightseeing & Meals

All included as per the itinerary.

Travel Director

Services of a professional English speaking Travel Director throughout.
Local expert guides where required and as noted on the itinerary.

Service Charges

Tips to restaurants where a meal is included in the itinerary
Service charges and local taxes on services provided on tour.
(Except local airport and border taxes).

Transportation

Transportation by deluxe 49 seater air conditioned coach. Arrival and Departure transfers are based on one group arrival and one group departure transfers. Should members of the group require transfers outside these times, they will have to make their own transport arrangements.

Porterage

One piece of luggage per person, in and out of hotels included on tour.

Gratuities

Gratuities/Tips have been included to Tour Guide

Please note - The itinerary and hotels are subject to change should circumstances dictate.

Meal Key: (B) = Breakfast, (L) = Lunch; (DW) = Dinner with Wine, (D) = Dinner