

## Sing Australia Italy & Spain 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 Terre.

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

The big day has arrived. This for Sing Australia is a significant and historic occasion. In 1983 Colin Slater participated in an Opera Workshop in Asolo led by the famous opera singer, Tito Gobbi, the internationally renowned opera singer.

From 4pm to 8pm every day for a period of 6 weeks, Tito Gobbi ran a master class in the Teatro Elenora Duse Theatre. It was at this workshop in an environment of intensive study and being so fully immersed in the Italian culture that Colin was inspired to conceive an idea that led to the creation of Sing Australia. We have always included Asolo in our Italy tours for that reason but on this occasion we are staging a concert in the famous Theatre. This will be a first.

The Mayor of Asolo has given permission for us to use the Theatre which is wonderful. It will coincide with Colin's 10<sup>th</sup> visit to Asolo and it will be the 9<sup>th</sup> visit for Sing Australia. Tito Gobbi is now deceased and this concert will be a tribute to him and to the residents of Asolo.



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.

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 Farewell 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. (Airfare not included in the cost and will be advised upon confirmation of the tour)



**Day 13 Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018**

### **ARRIVE BARCELONA**

Welcome to Barcelona! On arrival, you are met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. This evening join your Travel Director for a Welcome reception and dinner

Hotel: Hilton Barcelona – 2 nights (B, DW)

**Day 14: Tue 09 Oct 2018**

### **BARCELONA SIGHTSEEING**

Join a local expert to explore the narrow lanes and old squares behind the cathedral. See the lively Las Ramblas as you head along the Passeig de Gracia. Continue through the Eixample district for a visit inside Gaudi's extraordinary masterpiece, the Sagrada Família, to see the central nave with its giant, tree like pillars and spectacular vaulting. The rest of the day is at leisure for you to explore.  
(B)



**Day 15: Wed 10 Oct 2018**      **BARCELONA – VALENCIA**

Follow the sunny Costa Dorada to stop by Pensicola and see the sea-lapped castle. Then pass through the famous orange groves towards Valencia. Stop at a local winery for a tasting before continuing onto Valencia for a two-night stay. (B, D)

Hotel: Barcelo Hotel Valencia or similar - 2nights

**Day 16: Thu 11 Oct 2018**      **VALENCIA SIGHTSEEING**

We tour the town with a local guide. Valencia is home to one of the world's greatest dishes, paella. Learn the authentic recipe in a fun cookery demonstration and savour this classic dish for lunch, with a glass of sangria. The rest of the day is at leisure (B, L)



**Day 17: Fri 12 Oct 2018**      **VALENCIA – GRANADA**

Drive along the Costa Blanca, past the castle at Lorca and troglodyte dwellings hollowed out of the soft rock, at Purullena. Enjoy views of the Sierra Nevada from the distance as you reach glorious Granada. (B, D)

Hotel: Abba Hotel Granada – 2 nights

**Day 18: Sat 13 Oct 2018**

**GRANADA SIGHTSEEING**

Overlooking the town stands one of the most remarkable fortresses ever built – the Alhambra. Explore the palace (tickets are strictly subject to availability), built as a citadel by the Moors in the 13th Century. Also stroll through the exotic water gardens of the Generalife, the Royal Summer residence. Then explore the labyrinth Albaicin Quarter – from the Church of St Nicholas there is one of the most superb views of the Alhambra. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)



**Day 19: Sun 14 Oct 2018**

**GRANADA – SEVILLE**

This morning drive to Seville, past gleaming white villages and olive groves that stretch as far as the eye can see. This stunning capital of Andalusia is simply one of Spain's most charming jewels. At night, enjoy the flavours of Andalusia and share in the passion of Spain's most fiery region at a Flamenco Show with dinner (B, DW)

Hotel: Melia Hotel Seville - 2 nights



**Day 20: Mon 15 Oct 2018**

## **SEVILLE SIGHTSEEING**

Seville has a distinctive character and presence that is best revealed by a Local Expert. During your stay, visit the Plaza de Espana in Maria Luisa Park.

Then stroll through the fashionable Santa Cruz Quarter with its flower bedecked wrought iron balconies. Emerge by the Alcazar – a Moorish fantasy in stone, set in richly scented gardens. Visit the massive cathedral, burial place of Christopher Columbus and enriched with the spoils of the New World.

The energetic can climb Giralda Tower, former minaret of the great Mosque and enjoy views over the city.

The afternoon is at leisure. (B)



**Day 21: Tue 16 Oct 2018**

## **SEVILLE – MADRID**

Set off along the Guadalquivir Valley, passing villages and towns studded with Moorish towers and fortresses. Stop in the perfectly preserved city of Cordoba. See the famous 2000 year old bridge and meet a local historian for a visit to the magnificent Mezquita, an 8th Century mosque with a Christian Church built inside it.

Afterwards there is free time to stroll through the narrow streets of the old Jewish Quarter. Follow in the footsteps of Don Quixote as you travel through the Mancha and on to the capital of Madrid.

(B, D)

Hotel: Barcelo Torre hotel Madrid or similar - 2 nights.



**Day 22: Wed 17 Oct 2018**

### **MADRID SIGHTSEEING**

Join a local expert for sightseeing along the nobles avenues. See the statue of Cervantes fictional hero, Don Quixote, in the Plaza de Espana. Continue past the Cibeles Fountain and the Parliament to cross the Puerta del Sol. Visit the Prado Museum, a magnificent palace housing works of Botocelli, Velazquez, Goya, Titian, Rubens and others. In the evening enjoy a celebration evening (private room) (B, DW)



**Day 23: Thu 18 Oct 2018**

### **FAREWELL SPAIN**

Your tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to the airport. (B)

\*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

#### **What's Included:**

##### Accommodation

Based on twin share in 4 star hotels for 22 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.

##### Transportation

Transportation by 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 (Tips)

Gratuities to Travel Director

**NOT INCLUDED:** Travel Insurance, Flights and items of a personal nature



## Further Tour Details

**Full 23 Day Italy & Spain Tour:** \$10,700 per person in Australian Dollars (based on twin share)  
\*please note that this is subject to change, should minimum numbers not be met or for reasons outside our control if there is a large fluctuation in currency exchange or the itinerary needs to be amended

**Single Supplement:** \$3248

**Deposit:** A non refundable deposit of AUD \$1500 is required at the time of booking no later than **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017** (As this tour is an extension of the Italy tour, no separate deposit is required, just the one \$1500 amount for both tours)

**Final Payment:** Due to Sing Australia by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Airfare Payment:** Payment for the group airfare will be advised in due course when group numbers are finalised. Any changes to airfares once booked do incur costs.

**GROUP AIRFARES:** A special group airfare will be arranged for you from major capital cities (Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Sydney) Other cities may incur an additional charge. Details will be advised in due course with times and airline details.

\*Flying into Rome and departing out of Madrid

\*If you are arranging your own airfare you will need to make your way to the start of the tour and transfers to and from the airport will not be included.

**PRE OR POST TOUR EXTENTIONS:** Please contact Alycia at Travelust, should you wish to add days before or after your tour or for any special amendments. [alycia@travelust.com.au](mailto:alycia@travelust.com.au)

**INSURANCE:** Insurance is required to travel on this tour. A special group rate has been organized and further details will be provided by Alycia at Travelust on request. Policy prices vary according to age and if you have any pre existing medical conditions. Please contact her for details on [alycia@travelust.com.au](mailto:alycia@travelust.com.au)

**VISAS:** A visa is not required for travel within the EU (Spain and Italy) for up to 90 days for Australian passport holders. For all other passport holders, please check your requirements. It is each individual's responsibility to ensure that they meet visa and passport requirements.

**PASSPORTS:** Must have at least 6 months validity from the date of travel and 2 free blank passport pages



## Terms & Conditions

**Price:** The advertised price is in Australian dollars and includes security & local taxes as per the itinerary. The price based on minimum passenger numbers and may increase if minimum numbers are not met. Sing Australia would advise in this instance of any changes.

### **Cancellation Fees:**

Deposit is non refundable (unless tour is cancelled due to minimum numbers not met)

Prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 : loss of deposit

Prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 : 35% of total tour cost

Prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2018: 50% of total tour cost

From 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 to departure: 100% of total tour cost

Cancellation fees for airfares vary, depending on airlines and their individual conditions. These are not included in the above cancellation fees

**Amendments:** A fee of \$100 may apply to any change made to your booking once confirmed

**Refunds:** No refund is available if cancellations occur after the tour has commenced or in respect of any tours, accommodation, meals or any other services not utilised.

**Itinerary Changes & Tour Cancellation:** Travelust and Sing Australia reserves the right to vary itineraries should circumstances dictate, as well as cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements, or circumstances beyond its control. The advertised tours require minimum numbers to depart. Should these not be met Travelust and Sing Australia reserves the right to cancel arrangements.

Hotels listed are to be used as a guide only, and are subject to availability unless otherwise stipulated. Travelust and Sing Australia reserve the right to alter or deviate from the tour itinerary, inclusions or hotels should circumstances dictate. Coach use is subject to Driver Regulations.

**Baggage Allowance & Portage:** Portage of one suitcase per person is included in the tour price for arrival & departure from hotels in Europe. Due to limited coach capacity the sum of the length, width & depth of the case should not exceed 160cm (63 inches), and weight should not exceed 20kg (44 Lbs). Charges may be levied in the event these limits are exceeded & the promise to transport you may be invalidated.

**What's Not Included:** Passports and applicable visa fees, laundry, phone calls, items of a personal nature, beverages, meals and sightseeing not detailed on the itinerary, tips and gratuities to the Tour Director, coaches drivers and local city guides, excess baggage, optional excursions and travel insurance. Please note that travel insurance is highly recommended. Please see your Travel Agent for further details.

**Documentation:** Will be sent out approximately 3 weeks prior to departure

### **Disclaimer**

In case of sudden price increases or surcharges levied by suppliers such as, but not limited to, fuel surcharges, government tax increases or other unforeseen price increases, Sing Australia and Travelust reserves the right to alter the price quoted in this document or the conditions mentioned. Travelust also reserves the right to change any arrangement (including tours, programs, prices and services) in the best interest of its Client, with or without prior notice.

**Booking Terms and Conditions:** These conditions incorporate the basis upon which bookings are accepted the Sing Australia member and Travelust. By making a booking you are agreeing to these terms & conditions. These must be studied prior to making the commitment of paying the deposit as they must be referred to. Additional terms and conditions may be applicable to group bookings and will be advised as they become known