

Viva Verdi 2023 Operatif Music Lovers Tours October 2023

I have just returned home from this really outstanding tour. From the start when we were met at Bologna airport by the amazing duo Jennifer and Stewart, to the end when they farewelled my little group on a water taxi from the door of our Venice hotel, everything was exemplary.

The operas and concerts were all very special experiences, from the little theatres Fidenza and Busseto, through Parma and La Fenice in Venice, to the grandeur of La Scala in Milan. The extra music experiences sourced by Jennifer and Stewart, as well as by our incomparable Italian guide Paolo and wonderful local guides, were absolute highlights. Tours of Casa Pavarotti, Club of 27, Verdi's birthplace, Casa di Riposa, Tebaldi Museum, Cremona violin workshop and various opera houses to name a few, plus unforgettable tours of La Scala scenery and costume workshops, topped only by Bevilacqua Textiles and a master costumier in Venice.

But the tour was not only music-related. The city tours were made very interesting by our local guides who gave us enough history and plenty of interesting stories as we toured towns and cathedrals, palaces, islands, monasteries and libraries. Food was not forgotten as our delicious lunches and dinners were complemented by tours of a Balsamic cellar and Parmigiano factory.

We had free time to have leisurely lunches and dinners, visit museums or relax in piazzas or in our hotel room: something to suit everyone. All the people on the tour were interesting and fun music lovers. The group really seemed to gel.

It's always best to leave a place when there is more one wishes to do there. After each of our 5-night stays, I hope to return in the future. I can see why several of our guests have done this tour multiple times. Congratulations to Stewart and Jennifer for planning and executing such a superb tour for music lovers.

Suzanne H, Melbourne.