



PERFORMANCE TOUR OF ITALY & FRANCE: May 22-June 5, 2023

Preliminary Program

Estimated Tour Rate, Land-only price - \$4599

Estimated Air Cost - \$1400

**based on 45 paying travelers; at time of contract a re-evaluation of inflation, exchange rates, air, and fuel may affect estimated quote*



TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1: MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023 - OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

Overnight trans-Atlantic flight from New York to Italy. Dinner is served on the plane.

Non-stop round-trip flights on Delta Air Lines will be requested, with assistance provided for those interested in upgrading

DAY 2: TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 - ASSISI (D)

Arrive in Rome and meet your full-time bilingual **tour manager**, and private through **coach** and **driver**. Explorations begin right away as you travel north to the sun speckled hillsides of Umbria, and the hill town of Assisi - birthplace of St. Francis, patron saint of animals and environment. Enroute there is a stop in Orvieto for an independent lunch, and time to enjoy this regional gem, well known for its Etruscan roots, colorful cathedral, and Classico wine. **Headsets** are distributed today, for use throughout the tour. Arrive in Assisi, check-in to your hotel, refresh, and relax from your journey. Enjoy an included private **welcome dinner** and drinks at a local restaurant.

Assisi hotel: Giotto Hotel & Spa, main building - 3 nights

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023 - ASSISI (B)

Breakfast is served at the hotel this morning and throughout your tour; anticipate a full breakfast buffet with a variety of food and beverage offerings. Join a **local guide** this morning for a walking tour of Assisi and an in-depth guided visit to the magnificent **Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi**. Included is access to exclusive and lesser known areas of the Basilica and Sacred Convent, with their extraordinary musical history and archives. The remainder of the day is at leisure; your tour manager will assist with free time activity and restaurant suggestions.

Assisi rehearsal -

This afternoon is reserved for a two-hour rehearsal at the hotel conference room, with use of a fully weighted 88-key clavino.



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DAY 4: THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 – ASSISI (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel. For those interested, there is an optional excursion to a nearby restaurant for a **cooking class and lunch**. In smaller groups, learn the pasta making process and make your own meal, including tagliatelle and tiramisu; beverages included. Alternatively, the day is free to further enjoy Assisi, and rest in advance of your performance.

Assisi joint concert –

Planned for this evening, together with the Cappella della Basilica di St. Francesco Choir, in the Upper Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, featuring the frescoes of Giotto and Cimabue. Included is use of a fully weighted 88-key clavino, and/or their mobile organ. An exchange and shared rehearsal are arranged prior to your performance. Professional on-site assistance provided.

DAY 5: FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023 – LUCCA (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Your travels through Italy continue, as you make your way by coach into neighboring Tuscany and the medieval hilltop town of Montepulciano. The colorful traditions and history of this region make it a destination for every enjoyer of wine. Included is an area **vineyard tour and tasting**, before arriving in Montepulciano for free time to enjoy an independent lunch, browsing the artisanal shops, and perhaps visit of one of the characteristic underground wine cellars on your own. Continue to the charming and artistic city of Lucca, with its full enclosure of 16th and 17th century ramparts, and check-in to your hotel. Join a **local guide** for an introductory walking tour of the city of Puccini, including the former Roman amphitheater of Piazza del Anfiteatro, and St. Martin's Cathedral—just one of the reasons Lucca is nicknamed the town of a hundred churches. Enjoy the evening and opportunity to explore Luccan fare, considered by some to be the best in all of Tuscany.

Lucca hotel: Grand Universe Lucca, Autograph Collection – 4 nights

DAY 6: SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023 – LUCCA (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. For those interested, there is an optional excursion to nearby **Pisa** including a **local guide** and walking tour of the Square of Miracles, with entrance to the **Cathedral, Baptistry, and Leaning Tower**. Alternatively, the day is free to further enjoy Lucca, and rest in advance of your performance.

Lucca joint concert –

A shared performance and exchange are planned this evening with a local choir, with time for rehearsal and a moment of friendship together. Your venue will be custom selected for Con Brio, and examples include two churches in Lucca, San Martino Cathedral and Santa Maria Corteorlandini (Sant Maria Nera), along with two nearby theatres, Montecarlo di Lucca's Teatro dei Rassicurati and Castelnuovo Garfagnana's Teatro Alfieri. Included is use of a fully-weighted clavino. Professional on-site assistance provided.

DAY 7: SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2023 – LUCCA (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy a full day's excursion to Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance. Upon arrival, the coach will stop at Piazzale Michelangelo for the stunning views. Meet your **local guide** for an introductory tour of the city that is home to many of the world's greatest artistic treasures. Stroll through the historic center to see the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore – Florence's **Duomo**, Piazza dell Signoria's copy of Michelangelo's **David**, and the Arno River's **Ponte Vecchio**, among other highlights. Free time is scheduled to enjoy the "outdoor museum" nature of the city.



DAY 8: MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023 – LUCCA (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning your tour manager will take you to visit two highlights of Lucca, the **Puccini Museum** and **Guinigi Tower**, testimony of the more than 250 towers that enriched the city in medieval times. The remainder of the day is at leisure, to further enjoy the town, shop along the via Fillungo, or taste a buccellato sweet bread. The city walls are famously popular for strolling and cycling, and offer lovely views over the rooftops, alleyways, churches, and elegant palazzos; for the daring, rental bikes are readily available if you prefer to navigate on wheels.



DAY 9: TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 – NICE (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today brings you a journey through Italy, and beyond to the French Riviera. Along the way enjoy an excursion to the Cinque Terre; a collection of five sleepy fishing villages, amongst a gorgeous coastal landscape. Make the most of this experience with a **local guide** and a stroll through one of the villages to introduce you to this unique destination. There are walking paths and trains between the villages, and included is a **boat ride** to experience the captivating views from the Ligurian Sea. Rejoin your coach and driver later this afternoon, and continue onward where your day ends in the most famous of Provence and Cote d'Azur cities, Nice.

Nice hotel: Hotel Aston la Scala – 3 nights



DAY 10: WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 – NICE (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. A **local guide** will meet you this morning for a walking tour of the city, including the bustling Cours Saleva marketplace, the famous Promenade des Anglais, and the narrow alleys of Vieux Nice. Art abounds with dedicated collections across the city including the Musee Matisse and Musee Renior; enjoy a guided tour of the **Marc Chagall National Museum**. The remainder of the day is at leisure.



Nice worship service –

Participate in the mass of a local church, such as the Basilique Notre Dame de L'Assomption. Included is use of a fully weighted 88-key clavino, or possibly the church organ. Subject to scheduling, an alternate venue or opportunity will be provided during your tour.

DAY 11: THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 – NICE (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. For those interested, there is an optional excursion to nearby **Monaco** including a **local guide** and walking tour of the Old Town and its narrow medieval streets and picturesque sites including Place Saint Nicolas and Placette Bosio, Chapel of Mercy, Palais of Justice, and the Cathedral, before reaching the Place du Palais where every day at precisely 11:55AM the changing of the guard occurs. Entrance is included to the 13th century **Prince's Palace** for a guided tour. Alternatively, the day is free to further enjoy Nice, and rest in advance of your performance.

Nice joint concert –

A shared performance and exchange are planned this evening with a local choir, with time for rehearsal and a moment of friendship together. Your venue will be custom selected for Con Brio, and examples include two churches in Nice, Cathedral Saint-Reparate and Eglise Saint-Pierre d'Arene, along with the village of Mougins' Ecole de Musique de Mougins. Included is use of a fully weighted 88-key clavino. Professional on-site assistance provided.

DAY 12: FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023 – AIX-EN-PROVENCE (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Explorations of Provence continue, as you make your way to the tiny village of Mougins, where Picasso spent the last 12 years of his life. Meet your **local guide** at the outskirts of town at the **Notre-Dame-De-Vie** chapel and hermitage museum to learn of Picasso's time and prolific years. Continue to the center, and enjoy a guided stroll through the alleyways and squares to discover its rich history and heritage. There is leisure time to enjoy an independent lunch and browse the galleries before continuing your journey. Your day ends in the small Provencal town of Aix-en-Provence. Check-in to your hotel, and refresh from your travels. Meet a **local guide** for an evening walking tour to introduce you to this celebrated university town, birthplace of painter Paul Cezanne, and home to lovely squares and tree lined streets.

Aix-en-Provence hotel: Grand Hotel Roi Rene Aix-en-Provence Centre MGallery – 3 nights

DAY 13: SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023 – AIX-EN-PROVENCE (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is at leisure to meander the popular and diverse Saturday markets as you weave through town. Begin with the beautiful square Place de l'Hotel de Ville and their flower market, before strolling toward Place Richelme's farmer's market, the arts and crafts of Place du Verdun's stalls, selling pottery, handmade baskets, local lavender products and soaps, and the French wares along the Cours Mirabeau, mingling alongside second hand books, antiques, and artwork. For those interested, there is an optional excursion to explore olive tourism to discover the Provencal landscape and traditions. Visit a local mill for a guided tour, introduction to the method of extraction, and an initiation to **olive oil tasting**. Alternatively, the day is free to enjoy Aix-en-Provence, and rest in advance of your performance.

Aix-en-Provence joint concert –

A shared performance and exchange are planned this evening with a local choir, with time for rehearsal and a moment of friendship together. Your venue will be custom selected for Con Brio, and examples include two local churches, Cathedrale Saint-Sauveur (Aix Cathedral) and Eglise de la Madeleine. Included is use of a fully weighted 88-key clavivna. Professional on-site assistance provided.

DAY 14: SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 – AIX-EN-PROVENCE (B/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today's excursion provides additional exploration of Provence, with visits of Avignon and Chateauneuf-du-Pape. Ringed by well-preserved 800 stone ramparts, Avignon's turn as the seat of papal power bestowed the city with a treasury of art and architecture. A **local guide** will lead your walking tour, highlighting the **Pont d'Avignon**, Rocher des Doms, **Palais des Papes**, and Place d'Horloge, and there is free time for an independent lunch. Continue to Chateauneuf-du-Pape, a peaceful village surrounded by vineyards, with an **ancient castle** overlooking the town. Site of the world-famous symphony of the thirteen varieties which go into the making of Chateauneuf-du-Pape wine, you will be introduced to several of its famous grapes on a **wine estate tour and tasting**, at Domaine de Beaurenard, or similar. See the vineyards and cellars while learning about the region's viniculture from your **guide**. Return to Aix-en-Provence, and refresh. This evening there is an included private **celebratory dinner reception**, featuring wine and French fare.

DAY 15: MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023 – DEPARTURE (B)

Enjoy one last **breakfast** at the hotel, before transferring to the Nice airport for your return flight to the U.S. Your tour manager will assist with airline check-in, and there is time for one last good-bye. Lunch is served on the plane.

