

# *Musical Interludes*

HOTEL STAYS WITH PERFORMANCES BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA IN SOME EXCLUSIVE VENUES  
MALTA - ITALY - IRELAND - CROATIA



NOBLE CALEDONIA

# Jewel of the Mediterranean



Marsamxett Harbour

**AN ESCORTED EXPLORATION OF  
BEAUTIFUL MALTA AND GOZO,  
STAYING AT THE THE FIVE-STAR  
PALACE HOTEL WITH  
LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA  
21st to 27th April 2012 &  
13th to 19th October 2012**



Blue Grotto



Valletta from Marsamxett Harbour

The Maltese Islands are quite literally one big open-air museum. During our week long stay, we will spend time exploring the 7000 years of history. Visit palaces and cathedrals, wander along cobbled streets and soak up the timeless atmosphere. Our excursions have been arranged to allow adequate time to explore Malta's heritage with excellent local guides.

We have chosen some very special venues for London Festival Opera to perform in such as the Carmelite Priory and the Vilhena Palace in the heart of the 'Silent City' of Mdina and the 18th century Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar. These stunning locations make truly magical settings for our week of music and this combined with a stay at one of the most luxurious hotels in Malta makes for a very special week.

## *The Itinerary*

**Day 1 London to Malta.** Fly by scheduled flight, arriving in the afternoon and transfer to the Palace Hotel in Sliema. In the early evening, meet your fellow travellers at our welcome cocktail party, followed by dinner at the hotel.

**Day 2 Valletta.** Morning tour of the capital city, including a visit to St John's Cathedral, the Presidential Palace and the Manuel Theatre. Return to your hotel, or stay on in Valletta to explore further. An afternoon shuttle will be available to transfer you back to Sliema. Early evening recital of sacred music by London Festival Opera at the exquisite chapel of the Carmelites in the city of Mdina. Following the recital, there will be a short presentation of the priory, after which we enjoy a sumptuous dinner in the Friars refectory.

**Day 3 Mdina.** Morning tour of the old capital of Malta, a picturesque medieval city still confined within its ancient walls. Lunch will be in a local restaurant before returning to your hotel in the late afternoon for an evening at leisure.

**Day 4 Three Cities & Marsaxlokk.** Morning tour to visit the Three Cities, a collective description of the three fortified cities of Cospicua, Vittoriosa, and Senglea, enclosed by the massive line of fortification created by the Knights of St John. We will also visit the traditional fishing village of Marsaxlokk. In the early evening transfer to the Palazzo Vilhena in Mdina, built in 1730 and designed as the Grand Master's summer residence. This evening enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera, followed by dinner.



Mdina Cathedral

**Day 5 Gozo.** Spend today at leisure or join our full day trip to the delightful island of Gozo. Depart your hotel after breakfast and travel to Mellieha and on to Cirkewwa. From here we take a 30 minute boat ride across to Gozo. On arrival at Mgarr harbour we begin our guided tour of the island, which will include the Ggantija temples and the Azure window. Lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a wine tasting session. Later, visit the Rabat and the Citadel before returning in the late afternoon. Evening at leisure.

**Day 6 Rabat & Blue Grotto.** Depart from the hotel after breakfast and travel west of the island to visit Rabat, followed by St Paul's grotto, Dingli cliffs, Hagar Qim and finally the Blue Grotto. Afternoon at leisure. This evening your farewell dinner will be at the magnificent Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar, beginning with drinks and a final performance in costume by London Festival Opera.

**Day 7 Malta to London.** Morning at leisure and an early lunch will be included before you depart to the airport for your return scheduled flight.

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy    Tour Code: LAMALTA

|                            | 21st April 2012 | 13th October 2012 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Deluxe room                | £1995           | £2195             |
| Superior room              | £2145           | £2345             |
| Deluxe room for sole use   | £2245           | £2445             |
| Superior room for sole use | £2395           | £2595             |

## Included in your escorted tour:

- Economy class scheduled air travel from London
- Airport assistance at check-in
- Six nights accommodation at the The Palace Hotel on bed and breakfast basis
- Lunches on days 3 and 5
- Dinner on days 1, 2, 4 and 6
- Guided excursions
- English-speaking local guides
- Performances by London Festival Opera
- Services of a tour manager
- Transfers
- Airport taxes.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, gratuities, excursion to Gozo, meals not stated in itinerary.



# THE PALACE



Situated in Sliema, The Palace is a stylish five-star boutique hotel with distinctive elegance. Rooms are brightly furnished with a classic and contemporary feel and beautifully appointed. The hotel prides itself on the luxury spa and leisure facilities on the top floor which include a freshwater indoor pool, an outdoor pool, fitness room and range of spa treatments. There is also a restaurant on this level offering stunning views of Valletta.



Indoor Pool



Talk of Town bar



Rooftop Pool

# Italian Lakes, Music & Gardens



Villa Balbianello

**A SEVEN NIGHT STAY AT THE  
GRAND HOTEL MENAGGIO ON THE  
SHORES OF LAKE COMO  
WITH MICHAEL MICHELI &  
PERFORMANCES BY  
LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA  
4th to 11th May 2012**

Come with us and enjoy some of the most beautiful Italian gardens at their springtime best as we explore Lake Como and Maggiore from our delightful lake-side base at the Grand Hotel Menaggio. During our week's stay we will visit some of the finest gardens and villas and be joined by London Festival Opera who will perform some marvellous opera in wonderful settings.

Italy has more than its fair share of beautiful places, but few would argue that the lakes that nestle in the foothills of the Italian Alps are one of its finest assets. The images stay with you forever. The early mist rising off the lake, church bells resonating off the water, flower-filled gardens reflected in the still, deep waters and numerous craft going about their business, crisscrossing the lake.

Our programme will include comprehensive sightseeing excursions, and some free time to relax and enjoy the lovely facilities of the hotel and appreciate the dramatic scenery of Lake Como.

We will be joined by horticultural expert Michael Micheli, who will provide talks and briefings during the week and accompany us on excursions.



Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore



Varenna

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 U.K. to Menaggio.** Fly to Milan from your chosen airport and transfer to the Grand Hotel Menaggio on the shores of Lake Como for a seven night stay.

**Day 2 Bellagio & Villa Melzi.** Our launch will take us across Lake Como to Bellagio where colourful gardens line the shore. Enjoy a visit to the Villa Melzi, a fine neo-classical villa. The garden is splendid with a Moorish temple, Japanese garden and watergarden at the edge of the lake. There will be some free time in Bellagio before returning back to the hotel by boat.

**Day 3 Lake Como.** Day at leisure to relax and enjoy your surroundings. There will be a late afternoon performance by London Festival Opera at the hotel.

**Day 4 Varenna & Villa Medici.** Morning departure by ferry to Varenna where there will be some free time for sightseeing. In the early afternoon, depart by coach to Villa Medici Giulini where hopefully the alternating colour of the azaleas will be at their best. Enjoy a piano recital with a musician at the Villa followed by an aperitif.

**Day 5 Villa Bagatti & Villa Cicogna Mozzoni.** Depart by coach to visit Villa Bagatti's garden. After your visit continue to Como for some time at leisure. In the early afternoon visit Villa Cicogna Mozzoni, a 16th century villa surrounded by exquisite gardens. Enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera at the Villa with an aperitif after the performance.

**Day 6 Lake Maggiore.** Full day excursion to Lake Maggiore. Our private launch will take us to the Borromean Islands of Isola Bella and Isola Madre. On Isola Bella, on a barren rock, see the vast palace built from the island's rock and its surrounding terraced gardens, inspired it is said by the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. The palace is decorated with fine furniture and some interesting paintings, but it is the ten terraces of the gardens with their English Garden, Italian Garden, Azalea Garden and Mosaic Garden which capture the imagination. In the afternoon we will sail across to the larger of the two islands, Isola Madre. Here, five gardens connect in a peaceful woodland setting.

**Day 7 Villa Balbianello & Villa Carlotta.** Morning free. Depart in the early afternoon by boat to the Villa Balbianello. See the interior and gardens of this



Varenna

lovely lakeside villa. Continue to the Villa Carlotta, built in 1747 with a superb garden laid out in 1850 by Princess Carlotta. The setting is idyllic and the gardens are full of contrast, particularly in the spring. Enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera at Villa Carlotta followed by a farewell dinner at the hotel.

**Day 8 Menaggio to U.K.** Transfer to Milan airport for your return scheduled flight to your chosen airport.

#### Flights

Return flights are included in your holiday price and you may choose to fly from London Heathrow with British Airways or alternatively, from Birmingham or Manchester with Easyjet or Flybe. Please note that flight schedules are not available until October 2011 and regional flights are subject to availability.

*NB. Itinerary subject to change.*

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy Tour Code: LALAKES12

|                              | DOUBLE OCCUPANCY | SINGLE OCCUPANCY |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Standard Land View Twin Room | £1795            | £1995            |
| Standard Lake View Twin Room | £1945            | £2295            |
| Lake View Room with Balcony* | £2095            | £2495            |

\*Please note that rooms in this category have double beds

## Included in your escorted tour:

- Economy class return scheduled air travel from a choice of regional airports to Milan
- Airport assistance at check-in (London Heathrow only)
- Transfers
- Seven nights accommodation at the Grand Hotel Menaggio on half board basis
- Excursions by coach
- Private boat excursions
- Music performances in private villas and in the Grand Hotel Menaggio by London Festival Opera
- Entrance fees
- English speaking guides for all excursions
- Services of a Tour Manager
- Guest Speaker
- Airport taxes.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, lunches, gratuities.

*Please note that some of the villas and gardens visited have uneven terrain and the natural landscape can be quite hilly in places with slopes and steps.*



Menaggio

# GRAND HOTEL MENAGGIO

Our week long stay in the charming lake-side resort of Menaggio will be at the delightful four star, Grand Hotel Menaggio. Sited on the shores of Lake Como, this elegant 92 room hotel offers a high level of comfort, good food and service. The atmosphere is peaceful and the accommodation and public rooms stylish and comfortable. However, its greatest asset is its position. Situated in the most attractive central lake area, it is ideally placed for day excursions to some of the loveliest villas and gardens of Lombardy. Some of the rooms have views of the lake, as does the restaurant. The lawns and swimming pool on the water's edge are perfect for relaxing, reading a book or watching the waterborne activity.



Hotel room



Hotel pool



Terrace restaurant

# Passion for Puccini



Amalfi Coast

**A SEVEN NIGHT VISIT TO  
CAMPANIA IN SOUTHERN ITALY  
STAYING AT THE WONDERFULLY  
ROMANTIC AND HISTORIC  
PALAZZO BELMONTE WITH  
LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA**

**12th to 19th May &  
21st to 28th September 2012**

This little known corner of Magna Graecia offers some marvellous sightseeing. In addition to performances by London Festival Opera, our week will include three trips; a visit to the magnificent Doric Temples of Paestum, the enchanting hill town of Padula with its wealth of historic buildings and Velia, a village well away from the normal tourism path in the hills of Campania. For those who wish to visit the extraordinarily beautiful Amalfi Coast, transportation to Salerno harbour will be provided. From here the efficient hydrofoil service takes you along the coast to Amalfi.



Amalfi



Temple of Poseidon, Ancient Paestum

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London/Birmingham/Manchester to Naples.** Fly by direct scheduled flight from London Stansted or by indirect scheduled flight from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham. On arrival, transfer to the Palazzo Belmonte (approximately two hours). Remainder of day at leisure. Enjoy dinner this evening under the stars on the 'Belvedere'.

**Day 2 At leisure.** Relax, acclimatise and explore the gardens, beach and the charming small town of Santa Maria di Castellabate. You can walk for miles along the beach to nearby villages. Enjoy an after dinner performance by London Festival Opera.

**Day 3 Amalfi Coast.** Regarded by many as the most beautiful stretch of coastline anywhere in the Mediterranean. Transportation will be provided today to Salerno harbour for those who should like to spend some time in Amalfi. The hydrofoil tickets may be purchased at the harbour. Amalfi is a charming town and resort with a fascinating history. Climb the steep steps to the impressive Duomo, Sant'Andrea and explore the narrow alleys and lanes which cling to the cliff-sides. This is the ideal way to visit the Amalfi Coast avoiding the chaotic road traffic.

**Day 4 Paestum.** Morning guided excursion to the nearby ancient site of Paestum. Founded by the Greeks in 600 BC this well preserved and fascinating site was rediscovered in 1752. See the impressive Temple of Poseidon, the Basilica, Amphitheatre and Athenian. Later, spend some time in the museum, adjacent to the site. Afternoon free for relaxation. After dinner enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera.

**Day 5 Velia.** On our morning excursion, drive into the hills of Campania, an enchanting area of hill villages. Visit Velia the 'Village of Philosophers' and enjoy some time exploring its peaceful streets. Afternoon at leisure. Perhaps, hire a boat and take a picnic lunch to nearby, privately owned Punt Lycos, a four-mile stretch of coastline with beautiful untouched beaches and excellent swimming and snorkelling. In the late afternoon meet for drinks in the garden and then drive to the Licosa Palazzo for a performance by London Festival Opera in the lovely private gardens.

**Day 6 Padula.** Join the full day excursion to Padula and the Cerates di San Lorenz, one of the largest and richest monasteries in southern Italy. The Cerates has been closed for over a century, but in its heyday it accommodated hundreds of Cartesians in a building laid out in the form of a gridiron.

**Day 7 At leisure.** Enjoy a day of relaxation in the beautiful grounds of the Palazzo. This evening meet for farewell drinks in the courtyard and enjoy a gala concert by London Festival Opera followed by a sumptuous dinner on the 'Belvedere'.

**Day 8 Naples to London/Birmingham/Manchester.** After breakfast transfer to Naples airport for the return scheduled flight to to your chosen airport.

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy Tour Code: LAPUCCINI4

### PALAZZO BELMONTE

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Double room/Duplex                 | £1895                                    |
| Superior double room with sea view | £2195                                    |
| Junior suite with partial sea view | £2195                                    |
| One bedroom suite with sea view    | £2395                                    |
| Apartment                          | £2095 (per person based on four sharing) |

### VILLA BELMONTE

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Single room                            | £2195 |
| Double room with garden view and patio | £1995 |
| Double room with sea view and terrace  | £2195 |



Cerates di San Lorenz Monastery, Padula



London Festival Opera performing at Palazzo Belmonte

## Included in your escorted tour:

- Economy class return scheduled air travel from London, Birmingham or Manchester with airport assistance at check-in at London
- Seven nights accommodation at the Palazzo Belmonte on half board
- Guided excursions
- Transfer to Salerno harbour
- Tour manager
- Performances in the Palazzo Belmonte and Licosa Palazzo by London Festival Opera
- Entrance fees
- English speaking local guides
- Transfers
- Local taxes
- Airport taxes.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, lunches, optional hydrofoil ticket to Amalfi.

*Please note that accommodation is spread over the grounds of the Palazzo and there are a number of steps to access some of the rooms.*

*For those wishing to make their own flight and transfer arrangements a credit of £175 per person applies.*

# PALAZZO BELMONTE

Such gems as the Palazzo are rare to find. Situated in a picturesque and untouched area of southern Italy, this privately owned hotel is the only Italian Palazzo situated directly on a beach. Built for the family of the present Principe di Belmonte who still reside in a private wing, this truly romantic building offers an idyllic retreat with a five-acre walled garden which gives way to a white sandy beach. Dominating the estate is the beautiful Palazzo and hidden away in the lush gardens is the newly built Villa Belmonte. You have the choice of staying in either building in a range of rooms and suites. The accommodation is beautifully appointed with luxurious bathrooms and stunning views of the gardens or sea.

Lunch and evening meals may be taken open-air in the 'Belvedere', a beautiful terrace in the gardens and at night candles are lit to add to the magical atmosphere.



Belvedere dining



One bedroom suite with sea view



Pool



Bantry House

# Opera & Gardens in the Kingdom of Kerry

**A SIX NIGHT ESCORTED VISIT TO THE BEAUTIFUL PARKNASILLA RESORT WITH LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA  
4th to 10th June 2012**

## The Itinerary

Our search for wonderful places where for a few days you can lose yourself amongst marvellous scenery, explore splendid gardens and listen to uplifting music continues with our latest find, the delightful Parknasilla Resort on the 'Ring of Kerry'.

All the best ingredients are here; magical scenery, gardens at their late springtime best, opera performances in stunning settings and warm Irish hospitality in one of Ireland's most renowned hotels. Together with our good friends at London Festival Opera we can offer seven days of absolute bliss. There will be time to relax and enjoy the hotels excellent facilities as well as some guided trips to some of Kerry's and West Cork's famous gardens. We will explore the Ring of Kerry and drive over the mountains to Bantry House and Gardens. Here after a guided tour of the gardens we will enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera in the grand setting of Bantry House.

Other highlights will include a visit to Garnish Island in West Cork, a spectacular garden of almost sub-tropical splendour and Muckross House by the Lakes of Killarney. In the main the tours will be limited to half days in order that you may enjoy the Parknasilla Resort and its breathtaking beautiful position.

**Day 1 London to Cork or Manchester to Kerry.** Fly by scheduled flight from your chosen airport. Drive to the Parknasilla Hotel, Sneem. Welcome drinks and dinner.

**Day 2 Ring of Kerry.** After breakfast depart on a morning drive along the Iveragh Peninsula with its dramatic coastal scenery to Kells Bay Gardens. Dating back to the 1840s, these mature gardens overlooking Dingle Bay are a plant enthusiast's delight. Explore the Primeval forest, bamboo glade, walled garden and river walk. Return to the hotel for a few hours of relaxation. In the late afternoon there will be a performance by London Festival Opera followed by afternoon tea.

**Day 3 Derrynane House & Kenmare.** This morning visit Derrynane House, the ancestral home of Daniel O'Connell. The house is a museum commemorating one of Ireland's leading historical figures. In the afternoon a bus transfer will be provided to the local town of Kenmare for time to explore and shop at leisure.



Innacullin Gardens, Garnish Island

**Day 4 Garnish Island & Bantry House.** Drive over the mountains to Bantry Bay on a full day excursion that will include a morning visit to Garnish Island and the beautiful Innacullin Gardens. These remarkable gardens owe their existence to the creative partnership, some seventy years ago of Anna Bryce, then owner of the island and Harold Peto, architect and garden designer. The

sheltered position and Gulf Stream is favourable to the growth of ornamental plants, many normally only found in sub-tropical or Mediterranean climates. Continue to Bantry House, overlooking Bantry Bay. We will explore the house, one of the finest historic houses in Ireland along with the gardens. After lunch, London Festival Opera will perform in one of the grand rooms. Return to Parknasilla in the afternoon.

**Day 5 Parknasilla Resort.** It would be unforgivable to come to such a place as this and not have a complete day to enjoy the hotel and its extensive



Muckross House, Kerry

grounds. For the energetic there will be a choice of a guided short or long walk through the grounds and along the coast. Otherwise, relax with a good book in one of the many vantage points scattered throughout the grounds.

**Day 6 Lakes of Killarney & Muckross House.** Morning excursion to the Killarney National Park and the house and gardens of Muckross House. Tour the gardens or house which was once owned by the Herbert family who entertained Queen Victoria here in 1861. The setting by the lake shore with its mountain backdrop is stunning. Afternoon at leisure. In the late afternoon London Festival Opera will perform their farewell concert followed by afternoon tea.

**Day 7 Cork to London or Kerry to Manchester.** Transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to your chosen airport.

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy Tour Code: LAPR040612

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| West Wing Standard Double/Twin           | £1395 |
| Main House Executive Double/Twin         | £1595 |
| Main House/West Wing Junior Suite        | £1695 |
| West Wing Parknasilla Suite with balcony | £1995 |
| Princess Grace Suite - Main House        | £2095 |
| West Wing Standard Single                | £1595 |
| West Wing Superior for single occupancy  | £1795 |

## Included in your escorted tour:

- Economy class scheduled air travel
- Airport assistance at check-in (London only)
- Six nights at the Parknasilla Resort with full Irish breakfast and dinner from a la carte menu daily
- Two afternoon teas at Parknasilla Resort
- Guided excursions
- Performances in the Parknasilla Resort and Bantry Bay House by London Festival Opera
- Tour managers
- Transfers
- Airport taxes.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, lunches, gratuities.

*Those wishing to make their own way to the Parknasilla Resort by car and ferry receive a credit of £100 per person.*

# PARKNASILLA RESORT



Situated in 500 acres, Parknasilla Resort is in the middle of some of Kerry's finest scenery. Once a grand house, Parknasilla has grown gracefully into her life as a hotel. The ground floor of the original main house is where you will find a number of delightful sitting rooms, all offering wonderful views. Here also is the Pygmalion dining room where gourmet food is provided using many locally sourced fine meats and fish.

The accommodation in the main house is either superior grade or suites which are furnished with antique furniture and luxurious fabrics. The standard rooms are in a newer wing as are the recently added modern style suites. The health spa with a magnificent swimming pool is a new addition and the views from the pool across the sea have to be seen to be believed. Ultimately, what makes a great hotel is its staff. Here, you will find some of the best in the world all dedicated to making your stay in Kerry a most memorable and joyful experience.

**For more images and information on the hotel visit [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)**



Terrace



Restaurant



Standard room

# Music & Gardens on the Dalmatian Coast



Dubrovnik

## A SEVEN NIGHT STAY AT THE FIVE-STAR GRAND VILLA ARGENTINA IN DUBROVNIK WITH LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

**29th September to  
6th October 2012**

'If you want to go to paradise on earth, go to Dubrovnik', so said George Bernard Shaw. If he was making a return visit today we are sure he would still hold the same sentiment. This corner of Croatia is simply one of the most beautiful coastal areas in Europe. The combination of enchanting architecture, a dramatically green mountain hinterland, a verdant coastal strip with forests of pine and cypresses bordered by a turquoise sea create a landscape of extreme beauty.

To spend a week in this most perfectly preserved maritime city is a joy and as usual on our trips with the London Festival Opera, we have a planned a week of music and exploration that will see us enjoying the delights of Dubrovnik as well as the coast to the north and south of the city.

During excursions with our local guides we will learn more about the complex history of the region. The Greeks established colonies and in Roman times it became the province of Illiria. The medieval period was dominated by Venice and Hungary and in the 19th century it became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After the First World War it became part of Yugoslavia and in 1990 experienced one of Europe's bloodiest conflicts and is now an independent state with an opportunity to join the EEC.

So, in essence this region has it all. Endless vistas which are truly breathtaking and a history so fascinating and complex that lives up to all you would expect of a Balkan country.

## *The Itinerary*

**Day 1 London or Manchester to Dubrovnik.** Fly by scheduled flight. A short drive takes you to the Grand Villa Argentina for your seven night stay. Welcome drinks and dinner.

**Day 2 Dubrovnik Walled City.** Morning guided walk will include the major points of interest and assist you with orientation for future individual exploration. Transportation to the city gate will be provided for those who prefer not to walk. Highlights will include the Renaissance Rector's Palace, the cathedral - a gem of Venetian Baroque architecture with an altarpiece by Titian, and the Dominican Monastery with a fine collection of Croatian and Italian art. Afternoon free, perhaps return to the old city for a walk along the fortifications, lined with homes, shops and cafes and affording views across the pantiles and out to sea. In the early evening we return to the city for a performance by London Festival Opera in the historic Sponza Palace.

**Day 3 Sipan, Lopud & Kolocep.** After a leisurely breakfast we board the sleek 'Sea Star' motor launch and cruise to the island of Sipan. Here we walk through olive groves to the gardens of Villa Skokibuha. Return to 'Sea Star' for lunch and continue cruising to the islands of Lopud and Kolocep. This evening prior to dinner we will be entertained by local singers and musicians on a terrace in the hotel. Croatian folk music is very much alive and to our ears a delightful mix of Croatian songs with influences of Greek and Italian melodies and rhythms.

**Day 4 Gruda & Cavtat.** Morning free. Depart around midday for Gruda. Our destination is the Konavoski Dvori restaurant situated in some enchanting countryside. Here rivers and streams tumble down from the mountain. Amongst the woodland scenery and surrounded by water is a famous restaurant where we will enjoy speciality food which is slow cooked over charcoal in large vats which are buried under the coals. There will be some



Trsteno

free time for those who wish to wander around the waterways. Later, drive to nearby Cavtat, one of Croatia's most picturesque fishing villages. Take a walk around the harbour and the medieval village. Before leaving we will enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera in the harbourside church. Return to the hotel by private launch for dinner.

**Day 5 Dubrovnik.** A day of rest and relaxation. Our tour guides will be happy to organise any optional excursions you may care to make. In the evening we will return to the old town for a performance by London Festival Opera in one of the historic and intimate churches.

**Day 6 Kotor, Montenegro.** Drive south across the border into Montenegro for a visit to historic Kotor. The drive will take us around the scenic Kotor Fjord, an incredibly picturesque route in the shadow of towering hills. In Kotor we will enter the charming walled old town with our guides for a walking tour. It may not possess the sharp classical lines of Dubrovnik, but its unspoilt streetscape is unique. After lunch in Kotor we head back into Croatia, stopping en route at Perast to admire the medieval and Baroque mansions as well as two small island churches.

**Day 7 Lapad & Trsteno.** We start the morning tour with a visit to Villa Sorkocevic with its elegant garden and ancient trees and then drive north to Trsteno to explore the 500 year old arboretum set in a Gothic-Renaissance park with its summer villa and Baroque fountain. Return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure. This evening attend a gala concert by London Festival Opera in the enchanting Marin Drzic theatre. Built in the 1820's it is a wonderful example of a small elegant theatre and a charming setting for our farewell concert.

**Day 8 Dubrovnik to London or Manchester.** Transfer to the airport after breakfast for your return scheduled flight.

## Included in your escorted tour:

- Economy class return scheduled air travel from London or Manchester
- Airport assistance at check-in (London only)
- Seven nights accommodation at the Villa Argentina on half board basis
- Lunches on days 3, 4, and 6
- Excursions with English speaking local guides
- Performances by London Festival Opera in a selection of exclusive venues
- Tour managers
- Transfers
- Airport taxes.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, meals not stated in itinerary, gratuities, optional excursions.

*N.B Minimum numbers required.*

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy    Tour Code: LADUBROV12

|                            | TWIN  | SINGLE |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| Standard room              | £1995 | £2695  |
| Sea view room              | £2195 | £2995  |
| Sea view room with balcony | £2395 | £3495  |
| Deluxe room                | £2795 | £4495  |
| Suite                      | £3295 | £5495  |



Kotor

# GRAND VILLA ARGENTINA



We have selected this marvellously located five star hotel as our base for the week. It comprises of two wonderfully romantic vast villas which are connected by a more modern building. Built on the side of a cliff, you enter the hotel from the road on the sixth floor and most of the rooms and public areas are in descending order down a series of terraces offering lovely views of Dubrovnik and the offshore islands. What make this character hotel particularly special are the garden terraces, perfect for reading and enjoying the surrounding vistas.

The location is ideal; in a quiet area just fifteen minutes walk from the old town. Its position and peaceful quality makes this hotel perfect for a week long stay. Breakfast is usually taken on an outside terrace and dinner can be inside or alfresco. In addition there are attractive café and bar areas all with delightful views. The guest rooms are a good size and well furnished in a traditional style but with all the amenities you would expect to find in a five star hotel.



Hotel room



Hotel beach area



Lounge



# London Festival Opera

We have long been associated with London Festival Opera and each year our music themed cruises grow in popularity so we are delighted to be offering clients who have enjoyed a cruise with London Festival Opera, the opportunity to see them perform in these marvellous hotel settings.

London Festival Opera have achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera in palaces, castles, country houses, theatres, concert halls, embassies and private homes and gardens. Recent engagements have been throughout the UK, Europe and as far afield as Barbados, Marrakech and Moscow.

Particular attention is given to the design and quality of their costumes which are as authentic as possible. Whether it is a period evening dress, such as Regency or Victorian to enhance a gala performance or a full production, the costumes will be of the highest quality and style.

Bringing together artists from the major British opera companies including the Royal Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera, the company has a considerable reputation and has appeared in some of the world's leading venues including as a guest company in one of the Italy's greatest opera houses, La Fenice in Venice.

## London Festival Opera

*It is with great pleasure, as always, that we continue our association with Noble Caledonia. I am particularly looking forward to creating some entertaining new programmes for the exciting new destinations, which include the beautiful city of Dubrovnik and the island of Malta. These are in addition to the return visits to Lake Como, the Palazzo Belmonte in Italy and the Parknasilla Resort in Ireland.*

*Philip Blake-Jones*  
(Artistic Director, London Festival Opera)



FRONT COVER: Bantry House; Dubrovnik; London Festival Opera; Villa Balbianello, Lake Como

**Call 020-7752 0000**

Reservations: Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Brochures: 24 hours a day/7 days a week



**NOBLE CALEDONIA**



[www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)

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