

Passion for Puccini

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*



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Amalfi

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.



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 the medieval courtyard of the Palazzo Belmonte.

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.





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.



Cerates di San Lorenz Monastery, Padula



Castellabate harbour

Prices per person

Based on double occupancy Tour Code: LAPUCCINI4

PALAZZO BELMONTE

Double room/Duplex	£1995
Superior double room with sea view	£2295
Junior suite with partial sea view	£2295
One bedroom suite with sea view	£2495
Apartment	£2195 (per person based on four sharing)

VILLA BELMONTE

Single room	£2295
Double room with garden view and patio	£2095
Double room with sea view and terrace	£2295



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.

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 some have 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.

Due to the layout of the hotel and grounds, we do not recommend this holiday for those with walking difficulties. The hotel is spread out over a large area and many rooms are only accessible by climbing a number of steps.



Belvedere dining



Villa Belmonte



Palazzo Belmonte - One bedroom suite with sea view



Fresh water pool



Villa Belmonte - double room with sea view and terrace



The imposing entrance

Front Cover: Courtyard of the Palazzo Belmonte; Amalfi coastline; London Festival Opera

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

2 CHESTER CLOSE, BELGRAVIA, LONDON SW1X 7BE
info@noble-caledonia.co.uk Fax: 020 7245 0388



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