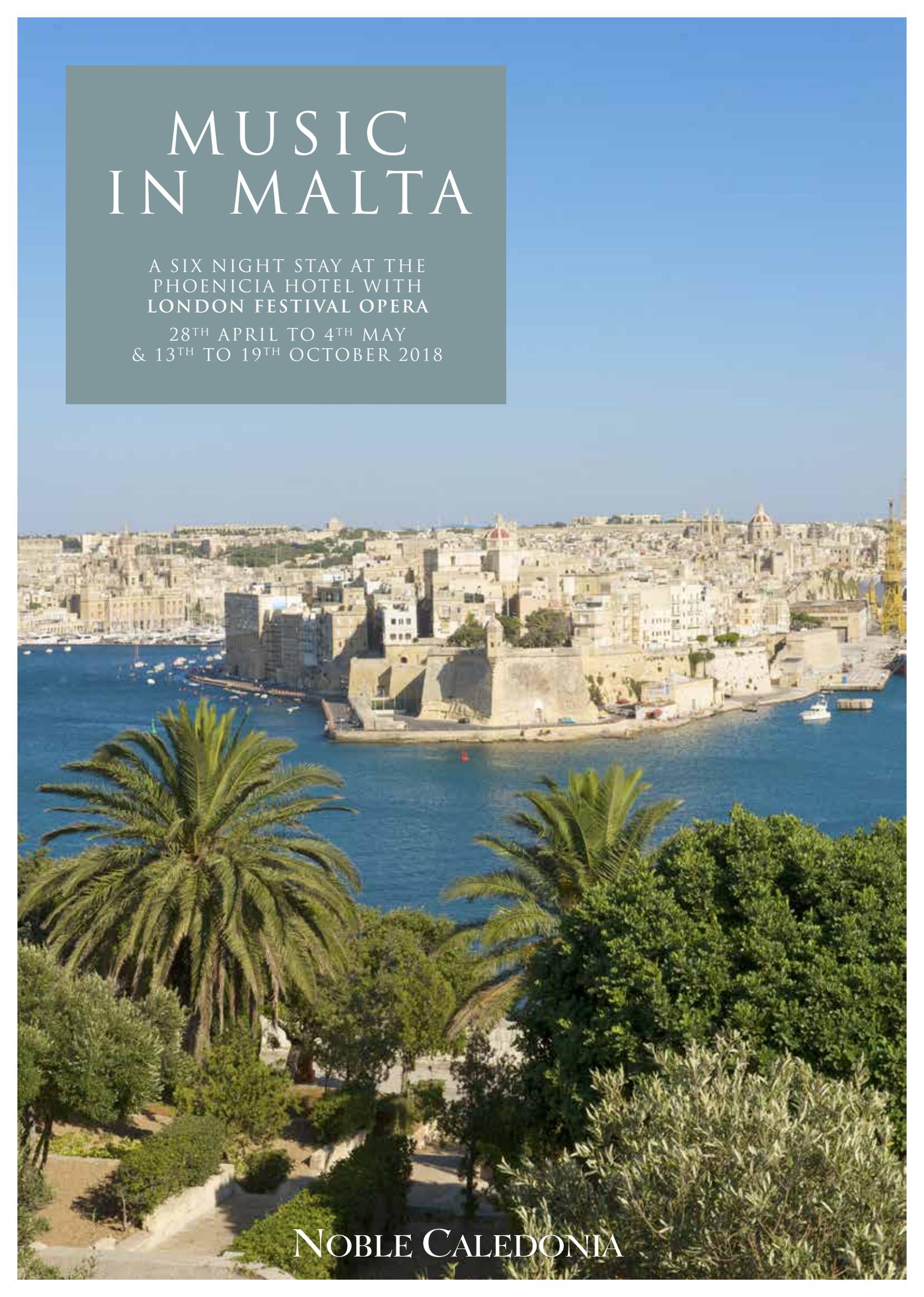


MUSIC IN MALTA

A SIX NIGHT STAY AT THE
PHOENICIA HOTEL WITH
LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

28TH APRIL TO 4TH MAY
& 13TH TO 19TH OCTOBER 2018



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Valletta skyline

Regular travellers with us will be aware that each year we offer a number of trips with a strong musical theme and for 2018 we are delighted to reintroduce Malta to our musical tours repertoire. The Maltese Islands are quite literally one big open-air museum and 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 guided excursions have been arranged to allow adequate time to explore Malta's heritage with excellent local guides.

Joining us in Malta will be London Festival Opera who are familiar with the Maltese opera scene having performed for the President of Malta at the palace in Valletta on four occasions, presenting Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, Verdi's *La Traviata*, Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Madame Butterfly*. Their three programmes on this tour will include arias and ensembles from these great operas in addition to other celebrated repertoires.

We have chosen some very special venues for London Festival Opera to perform in such as the Palazzo de Piro, a 17th century Palazzo in the heart of the 'Silent City' of Mdina. The final opera gala in the magnificent setting of the Palazzo Parisio will be in period costume for an added visual impact. 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.



MUSIC VENUES



Palazzo De Piro

Palazzo De Piro
Palazzo de Piro is a 17th century Palazzo nestled in the bastion walls of the Medieval city of Mdina, Malta's Silent City. In 1868, Alexander de Piro D'Amico Inguanez and his new wife Orsola took up residence here soon after their marriage. Orsola, as a great Maltese matriarch, managed both her family and considerable works of charity with energy and enthusiasm, and continued to do so after the untimely death of her devoted husband. Orsola's son Giuseppe, who was born in the house, founded the Missionary Society of St Paul and is considered for sainthood. The Palazzo de Piro we know of now as an existing structure was originally three separate houses, the oldest parts of which date back to the second half of the 16th century. The emblem in what is now the main entrance hall indicates that they were built by Malta's most famous architect Girolamo Cassar or his equally renowned son Vittorio.



Palazzo Parisio

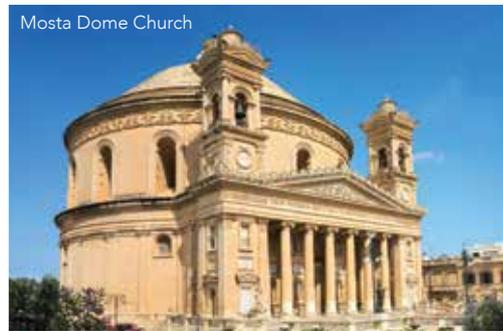
Palazzo Parisio
The Marquis Giuseppe Scicluna bought Palazzo Parisio in 1898 and it is through him that the property received its greatest renovation which fortunately still survives till today largely in its original form. The Marquis Scicluna, a wealthy Maltese banker and merchant created a showcase for Maltese art which closes the eclectic style of the 19th century propagated by Italian artists on the island. Located in the heart of picturesque Naxxar, this stately home is a place of wonder that begs to be explored. On your visit you will discover the intricate nuances of Malta's historic nobility and their enchanting way of life. Touring this stately home offers great insight and sparks the imagination – whether you find yourself seeking inspiration from the Grand Ballroom, the detailed Family Chapel or the fabulous walled Gardens and Orangerie, you will find it.



Ggantija temples, Gozo



Barrakka gardens, Valletta



Mosta Dome Church



Mdina



Harbour



Dwejra, Gozo

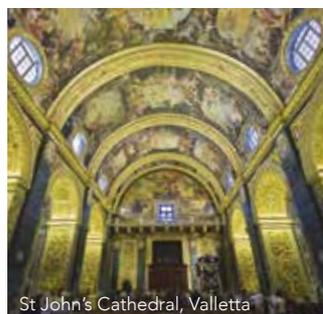
THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in the afternoon and transfer to the Phoenicia Hotel. In the early evening, meet your fellow travellers for an aperitif, followed by dinner at the hotel.

Day 2 Three Cities & Marsaxlokk.

This morning there will be a guided tour to 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 then visit the southern fishing village of Marsaxlokk where we will enjoy a walking tour of this seaside village which is memorable for the many colourful, traditional fishing boats called luzzu. The painted eyes on these luzzus are believed to protect the boats from danger. There will be some free time in this picturesque town for photo opportunities of the bay filled with colourful fishing boats, a plethora of seafood restaurants and the very busy market that sells everything from fish, fruit and vegetables, delicatessen goods and groceries to souvenirs. Following the morning tour of the south, we drive northwest to Dingli cliffs. The area provides open sea views over the tiny, uninhabited isle of Filfla, but is also a good vantage point over Malta. From these cliffs one cannot help but notice the views inland of nearby Buskett Gardens and Verdala Palace. We continue to Attard, stopping at San Anton Botanical Gardens for a visit of their magnificent gardens. We return to

the hotel with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. This evening London Festival Opera will perform in the C Lounge Hall which will be followed by dinner in the hotel.



St John's Cathedral, Valletta

Day 3 Valletta. Morning tour of the capital city including a visit to St John's Cathedral, the Barrakka gardens and a visit to the Manoel Theatre which is Europe's third oldest working theatre and home to the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. This afternoon return to your hotel or stay on in Valletta to explore independently. Early this evening we will enjoy our first performance by London Festival Opera at the Palazzo De Piro, which is a fabulous late 17th century property uniquely located within the historic, noble and silent city of Mdina, the old capital city of Malta. Here we will be greeted with a welcome drink and canapes on the bastions (or indoors if weather does not permit), followed by the recital and dinner in the Sala Panoramica at Palazzo De Piro.

Day 4 Gozo. Morning departure for our full day trip to the delightful

island of Gozo. We travel to Mellieha and on to Cirkewwa. From here we take a thirty minute boat ride across to Gozo. We arrive at Mgarr harbour and begin our guided tour of the island, which will include the Ggantija temples, the Cittadella and Rabat, Dwejra, Inland Sea & Fungus Rock. Lunch will be taken at a local restaurant before we return to the hotel in the late afternoon for an evening at leisure.

Day 5 Mosta, Mdina & Rabat including St Paul's Grotto.

Today we have a morning tour which commences with a visit to the Mosta Dome church with its stunning blue, gold and white interior. We then head to the old capital of Malta, Mdina which is a picturesque Medieval city still confined within its ancient walls. A walking tour will guide us through the history of this city and there will

be some free time to explore the silent city independently followed by a walking tour of Rabat which will also include a visit to St Paul's Catacombs and Grotto. We return to the hotel in the afternoon and the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 6 Valletta. Today is free for you to enjoy the facilities of our wonderful hotel or for further exploration. This evening we will gather for our Farewell Gala Dinner at the magnificent Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar. There will be a welcome reception on the upstairs terrace before our final performance by London Festival Opera in the lavish halls which will be followed by dinner.

Day 7 Malta to London. Morning at leisure before we depart for the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Category	April 2018	October 2018
Superior Room	£1895	£1995
Executive Room with Balcony	£2095	£2195
Harbour View Rooms	£2295	£2395
Superior Room for sole use	£2495	£2595
Executive Room with Balcony for sole use	£2695	£2795
Harbour View Rooms for sole use	£2895	£2995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, six nights hotel accommodation at the Phoenicia Hotel, breakfast daily, lunch including wine on day 4, dinner including wine on days 1, 2, 3 and 6, excursions and musical performances as detailed, English-speaking guides, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers, entrance fees.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



THE PHOENICIA HOTEL

Valletta icon, the Phoenicia Hotel dates back to 1935, when the idea was first conceived by Lord and Lady Strickland. It was to become Malta's first five-star hotel and provide luxury accommodation for a cosmopolitan clientele. The outbreak of World War II put a halt to construction and the building was taken over by the Royal Air Force, used by personnel on their days off. Despite enduring heavy bombing, the hotel celebrated its official opening in 1947. The Phoenicia has continued to open its doors to famed and powerful clientele, including Queen Elizabeth II. The Phoenicia is a fine example of the city's revered architectural traditions and offers five-star luxury within walking distance from the bustling restaurants and cafes in the city. It commands glorious views of the Grand Harbour and the city's skyline, which has changed remarkably little since the 16th century. Its seven and a half acres of mature gardens spread to the historic entrance of the capital, marked by ancient fortified walls. Nearby, countless other monuments reveal Malta's vibrant history, particularly the fascinating legacy of the Knights of Saint John. The hotel is the proud owner of the largest private collection of one of Malta's most prominent and gifted portrait painters, Edward Caruana Dingli which are on permanent exhibition on the ground floor of the hotel.

Your Accommodation

All 136 rooms at the Phoenicia Hotel have been lovingly restored and refurbished. Peter Young Design and Gordon Campbell Gray have ensured that original features, such as original tiles floors, suit the carefully chosen fabrics and new bathrooms with bathtub and overhead shower. The rooms measure between 23 and 28 square meters and benefit from astonishing views made possible by the hotel's vantage point overlooking the island's historic buildings, Grand Harbour and coastline. Rooms all feature either double or twin beds, air conditioning/heating, complimentary Wi-Fi, tea and coffee making facilities, safe, mini bar, hairdryer and international TV entertainment.



Your Dining

From cocktails and quick refreshments to a dining experience that is second to none, the restaurants and bars at the Phoenicia Hotel provide limitless options. Wake up to the lavish Phoenicia Breakfast Buffet and for lunch or dinner, sample Mediterranean and International cuisine at the award-winning Phoenix Restaurant. During the day, The Bastion Pool Bar and Restaurant offers delightful cuisine beside the hotel's stunning pool with beautiful views over the harbour. The Palm Court Lounge is perfect for speciality coffees, snacks and traditional afternoon tea while the Club Bar, established in 1952, is the perfect place to unwind after a long day, with a glass of single malt or a classic cocktail.

Your Space

The gardens, which are nestled between the imposing features of the Valletta historical fortifications, seem to be always in bloom. There is a great deal of variety, form and colour for the professional or amateur admirer of flora to enjoy. The shelter of the imposing Valletta bastions screen the plants from the scorching sun and the searing winds, thus creating the ideal setting for a truly exemplary Maltese garden. Located close to the Valletta bastions, the Pool Deck, which is accessible through the terraced gardens, is the ideal location to spend the day in total tranquillity and relaxation. Free Wi-Fi internet access is also available here.

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: View from Valletta to Vittoriosa