

OPERA & GARDENS IN IRELAND & ITALY

Escorted tours to the beautiful Parknasilla Resort in Kerry
& Grand Hotel Menaggio on Lake Como
with London Festival Opera



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Bantry House and Gardens

Opera & Gardens in the Kingdom of Kerry

A six night escorted visit to the beautiful Parknasilla Resort
with London Festival Opera

1st to 7th June 2015

Due to the popularity of this tour and the exceptional feedback we receive each year, we are once again returning to the beautiful Parknasilla Resort on the 'Ring of Kerry' for a week of marvellous scenery, splendid gardens and uplifting music. All the best ingredients are here; magical scenery, gardens at their early summer 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 breath taking beautiful position.

LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

For our stays in both Kerry and Lake Como we are delighted that we will be joined by members of London Festival Opera who will perform both at the hotel and in some wonderful locations such as the 16th century Villa Cicogna Mozzoni in Italy and Bantry House in Ireland. Bringing together artists from the major Opera companies including the Royal Opera House, London Festival Opera have achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera in some of the world's leading venues.





Innacullin Gardens, Garnish Island



Muckross House



Dingle Peninsula



Bantry House interior

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Cork. Fly by scheduled flight. Drive to the Parknasilla Resort. Welcome drinks and dinner this evening.

Day 2 Derreen Gardens & Beara Peninsula. After breakfast depart on a morning drive to Derreen Gardens. Designed and planted by the fifth Marquis of Lansdowne in the 1870s, it is now owned and managed by his great-grandson, David Bigham, and his wife Anthea. Derreen is famous for its tree ferns as well as azaleas and rhododendrons. Enjoy the magnificent views across Kilmackilloge Harbour to the Cahal Mountains before we 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.

Day 4 Lakes of Killarney & Muckross House. Morning excursion to the Killarney National Park and the house and gardens of Muckross House. Tour the gardens and 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 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 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 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 a light lunch, London Festival Opera will perform in one of the grand rooms. Return to the Parknasilla Resort later this afternoon.

Day 7 Cork to London. Transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

OUR VIEW

The impressive Parknasilla Hotel is one of the most charming accommodations in the area offering a high quality of cuisine, excellent service and sumptuous afternoon teas. The large pool and first class wellness centre are perfect for those relaxation moments. The many walkways overlooking the water offer stunning views close to the hotel. All combined with scenic excursions visiting a variety of gardens and guided tours of two heritage houses. Enjoy performances by the London Festival Opera both at the hotel and an outstanding gala performance in the family library at 'Bantry House'.

LAUNCH OFFER – FIRST TEN BOOKINGS RECEIVE COMPLIMENTARY UPGRADE TO NEXT ROOM CATEGORY

Prices per person

based on double occupancy

West Wing	Standard Double/Twin	£1895
Main House	Manor Sea View Double/Twin	£1995
Main House	Superior Manor Sea View Double/Twin	£2095
Main House	Manor Suite	£2295
West Wing	Balcony Suite	£2395
West Wing	Parknasilla Suite with Balcony	£2495
Main House	Princess Grace Suite	£2695
West Wing	Standard Single	£2195
West Wing	Small Parknasilla Superior Single	£1995

Price Includes: Economy class return scheduled air travel, 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 by London Festival Opera, tour manager, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, gratuities, lunches.

N.B. Those wishing to make their own way to the Parknasilla Resort by car and ferry receive a credit of £120 per person. All special offers are subject to availability and upgrade offer applicable to next grade of room only if available at time of booking.



Parknasilla Resort



Princess Grace Suite



Pygmalion Restaurant



Standard Room

Parknasilla Resort

For generations this very special place has captured the imagination of many including such literary luminaries as George Bernard Shaw. Pictures can only do limited justice to its location where water, islands and mountains create something spellbinding. Being the West Coast of Ireland, we cannot promise you long sunny days for your entire stay. In fact you are likely to experience the full spectrum of weather in one day, but it is this maritime climate and warming Atlantic influences that create the almost sub-tropical landscape. Situated in 500 acres, Parknasilla Resort is situated in the middle of some of Kerry's finest scenery. Here you will find interesting walks, tiny sandy coves and beach huts for those who wish to swim in the sea.

Your Space

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 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.

Your Dining

Our stay at Parknasilla Resort & Spa includes breakfast and dinner daily in addition to two afternoon teas. The delightful Pygmalion Restaurant is decorated in an elegant Victorian style with high ceilings, impressive paintings and chandeliers and the bay windows provide a majestic view over Kenmare Bay. Begin your day with an Irish breakfast or continental style options. The dinner menu boasts imaginative cuisine highlighting the best of modern Irish cooking. Afternoon tea is served in the Doolittle Bar which has a casual atmosphere and offers Irish Beers and Stouts.

Your Accommodation

All rooms offer crisp white sheets and duvet, en-suite bathroom, hairdryer, selection of soft fluffy towels, bathrobe and slippers, luxury bath products, multi-channel TV, tea & coffee making facilities, mineral water, direct dial telephones and Wi-Fi.

Standard Double/Twin - West Wing. Rooms are decorated in soft colours with a view of Kerry Mountains and feature a large double bed, spacious seating area, chaise longue, writing desk and en-suite with bath and shower.

Manor Sea View - Main House. Rooms are designed in keeping with the period when Parknasilla was built with restored mahogany and walnut furniture. With breath-taking views of the Kenmare Bay, Parknasilla's lush grounds and the Kerry Mountains beyond, each room has their own character and style. These rooms feature a King size bed and en-suite with shower only.

Superior Manor Sea View - Main House. Rooms are beautifully spacious and open plan in design with a large sleeping area and relaxation space with awe inspiring view of Kenmare Bay and Kerry Mountains. These rooms feature a King size bed and en-suite with shower only.

Manor Suite - Main House. This suite exudes the air of understated elegance of a bygone era. Individually designed with breath-taking views of

the Kenmare Bay, Parknasilla's lush grounds and the Kerry Mountains beyond. Bathrooms with stucco lustro painted walls and elegant Thomas Crapper and Co Victorian/Edwardian fittings. Rooms feature a king size bed with bath and shower.

Balcony Suite - West Wing. Indulge your taste for contemporary luxury in the Balcony Suite with a large bedroom and separate sitting room. The Balcony Suite contains floor to ceiling windows leading on to a large balcony to ensure that the serene views of Kenmare Bay or the Kerry Mountains are truly memorable. Rooms feature a king size bed with bath and shower.

Parknasilla Suite with Balcony - West Wing. Situated in the newest part of the West Wing, the Parknasilla Suite with balcony rooms are open plan with soft couches and lavish furnishings. The Parknasilla Suite with Balcony feature floor to ceiling windows leading on to a large balcony to ensure that the stunning views of Kenmare Bay or the Kerry Mountains are truly memorable.

Princess Grace Suite - Main House. Parknasilla's most famous suite is the Princess Grace Suite and is made up of a large living area, double bedroom, spacious bathroom and separate toilet. The wonderful sea views and large wrap around balcony makes the suite extra special. This suite features a King size bed with bath and shower.



Villa Balbianello and Lake Como



Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore



Villa Meltzi and gardens

Italian Lakes, Music & Gardens

A seven night stay at the Grand Hotel Menaggio on the shores of Lake Como with Rosemary Legand & performances by London Festival Opera

30th April to 7th May 2015

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 Rosemary Legand, who will provide talks and briefings during the week and accompany us on excursions.

OUR VIEW

We are delighted to be repeating our hugely successful visit to the stunning shores of Lake Como. What could be more enchanting than a combination of wonderful music from London Festival Opera, beautiful gardens, magnificent views and delicious Italian food? Lake Como has seen many illustrious guests grace its shores over its long history including Queen Victoria and the locals today will almost certainly casually drop into their conversation that George Clooney is amongst many actors who own a villa there. Our base for our week-long visit, The Grand Hotel Menaggio itself has an enviable location with unforgettable views.

Despite the grand exterior of this 19th century Palazzo the atmosphere is friendly and relaxed and offers the ideal spot to totally unwind.

Guest Speaker – Rosemary Legand



Rosemary is a former nursery owner and daughter of the late George Hyde, who was a hybridist of azaleas and rhododendrons. Many of his award winning hybrid plants can be seen at the Royal Horticultural

Society's gardens at Wisley, Surrey, the de Rothschild rhododendron gardens at Exbury, Hampshire and the National Trust Gardens at Kingston Lacy in Dorset. Rosemary had the honour of presenting H M The Queen with a collection of her late Father's azaleas named after the Queen's former Head Gardener, Fred Nutbeam, at Chelsea Flower Show in 1996. Her enjoyment of photography is used to great effect in creating the atmosphere of the gardens she discusses in her range of illustrated talks. She has travelled extensively to gardens in many parts of the world to amass a substantial library of pictures. Rosemary is an experienced public speaker and has given presentations to a wide range of organisations since 1992. She is on the RHS Speakers Register, is a NAFAS Area Speaker, and wrote a number of contributions for the book, '1001 Gardens you must see before you die' and a recent article for the Royal Horticultural Society 'Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia 2014 Year Book'."

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Heathrow to Menaggio. Fly by scheduled flight from Heathrow to Milan 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 Como & Villa Medici. Morning departure by coach to Como 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 4 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, once 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 5 Villa Bagatti, Lugano & Villa Cicogna Mozzoni. Depart by coach to visit Villa Bagatti's garden. After your visit continue to Lugano 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 Villa Balbianello & Villa Carlotta. Morning at leisure. Depart in the early afternoon by boat to the Villa Balbianello. See the interior and gardens of this 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.

Day 7 Lake Como. Day at leisure to relax and enjoy your surroundings or perhaps take the ferry to Varenna. There will be a late afternoon performance by London Festival Opera at the hotel followed by a farewell dinner.

Day 8 Menaggio to London Heathrow. Transfer to Milan airport for your return scheduled flight to London.



Grand Hotel Menaggio



Lounge



Terrace Restaurant



Hotel Room

Grand Hotel Menaggio

The Grand Hotel Menaggio is situated on the most elegant of Italian Lakes, Lake Como. This refined and relaxed hotel, which was completely renovated in 2008 has 94 rooms and 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.

Your Accommodation

There are three choices of room type, you can choose to upgrade your room to overlook the swimming pool and lake and whether or not you would like the added advantage of a balcony. All the rooms are equipped with telephone, satellite television, safe deposit, air-conditioning, fridge, hairdryer, private bath or shower and complimentary Wi-Fi.

comfortable sun-loungers, a fitness room (extra charge for massage), lakeside garden area, large bar and terrace, comfortable lounge as well as complimentary Wi-Fi in all rooms and public areas. The lawns and swimming pool on the water's edge are perfect for relaxing, reading a book or watching the waterborne activity.

Your Space

The Grand Hotel Menaggio features a heated outdoor pool with pool towels provided and

Your Dining

Our stay at the Grand Hotel Menaggio includes breakfast and dinner daily. The restaurant offers beautiful views and dishes feature many local specialities. There is also a bar at the hotel where you can enjoy a pre or post dinner aperitif.

LAUNCH OFFER – NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ON LIMITED NUMBER OF LAND VIEW ROOMS

Prices per person

based on double occupancy

CATEGORY	DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	SINGLE OCCUPANCY
Standard Land View Twin Room	£1995	£2295
Standard Lake View Twin Room	£2295	£2595
Lake View Room with Balcony	£2495	£2795

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 7 nights hotel accommodation including breakfast and dinner daily, excursions with guide, 3 music performances by London Festival Opera, entrance fees, tour manager, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, lunches, gratuities, touristic tax (currently 2 Euros per person per day to be paid locally to the hotel upon departure).

NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE

+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.

Cover image: The Villa Carlotta on Italy's Lake Como