

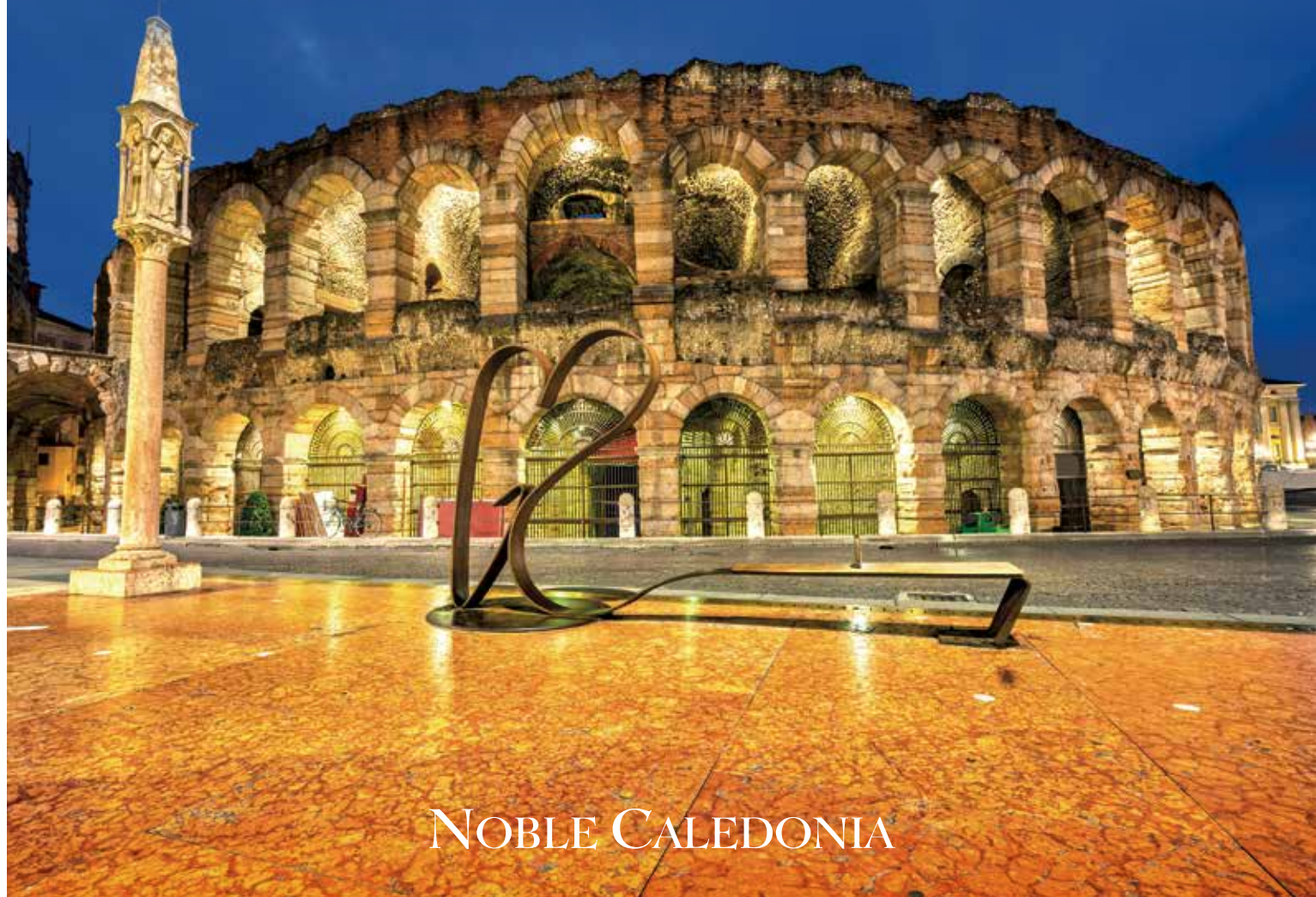
OPERA AT THE ARENA

A five night stay in Verona at the Hotel Indigo
including two musical performances

27th June to 2nd July & 4th to 9th July* 2024

Join us for five nights in Verona and experience the joy of listening to opera in the open air of the Verona Arena. The 'Arena di Verona' is a magnificent ancient Roman amphitheatre which was built to hold 30,000 spectators and is one of the best preserved structures of its kind. The first operas were performed at the arena in 1913 in celebration of the centenary of the birth of Giuseppe Verdi. Musical luminaries such as Puccini and Mascagni were in attendance and so began a tradition which has launched the careers of many operatic singers. Since 1913, summer seasons of opera have been mounted continually at the arena, pausing only for wartime and the recent pandemic.

In addition to two magnificent opera performances, both of which take place after dark, we have included ample time to explore Verona, city of Romeo and Juliet, which is full of architecturally striking piazzas, churches and museums, evidence of its Roman and Medieval past. We will also enjoy a day on the shores of Lake Garda and a day spent in the viticulture district of Valpolicella



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Opera Performances

Both of our departure dates will feature a performance of 'Aida' at the Arena. For our 27th June departure, the second included opera performance will be 'Turandot' and for our 4th July departure it will be 'The Barber of Seville':

Aida – The role of Aida was written for the soprano Teresa Stolz. Aida is a story of forbidden love - the Egyptians have captured and enslaved Aida, a Nubian princess. An Egyptian military commander, Radames, struggles to choose between his love for her and his loyalty to the Pharaoh. To complicate the story further, the Pharaoh's daughter Amneris is in love with Radames, although he does not return her feelings.

Turandot – Puccini's Turandot is an opera in three acts set in China and follows the Prince Calaf, who falls in love with the cold Princess Turandot. In order to win her hand in marriage, a suitor must solve three riddles, with a wrong answer resulting in their execution. Calaf passes the test, but Turandot refuses to marry him. He offers her a way out: if she is able to guess his name before dawn the next day, he will accept death.

The Barber of Seville – Rossini's Barber of Seville is considered to be one of the greatest masterpieces of comedy within music. The opera first premiered in 1816 and it recounts the events of the first of the three plays by French playwright Pierre Beaumarchais that revolve around the clever and enterprising character named Figaro, the barber of the title.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Verona, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight to Venice. On arrival, transfer to Verona and the Hotel Indigo for our five night stay. The hotel is conveniently located within walking distance of the Arena. This evening meet with your fellow travellers for dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2 Verona. After breakfast at the hotel enjoy a guided walking tour of Verona. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000, Verona is a fascinating Medieval City. Visit Piazza Bra with the Arena, famous all over the world for the concerts and operas in this stunning location. The Arena, which holds 15,000 spectators, was completed in the year 30 AD and is the third largest in Italy after Rome's Coliseum and the arena of Capua. We will also see the nearby Piazza delle Erbe, the bustling city square. Other points of interest during our tour will be Juliet's balcony and many examples of Romanesque architecture including Ponte di Pietra, Porta Borsari, a third century gate in the original city walls, and some of the city's magnificent Romanesque basilicas. We end our city walk with the famous Spritz aperitif and lunch at a local restaurant. Spend the afternoon at leisure and this evening we will meet for a pre-opera snack and drinks in the hotel before we make our way back to the Arena. Our performance tonight is Giuseppe Verdi's "Aida". (B, L, D*)

Day 3 Verona. Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Verona independently. Perhaps have a walk along the River Adige, see the Museum inside Castel Vecchio or reach San Zeno Church. We meet this evening for an early dinner and once again we walk to the Arena for a performance of Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot". (B, D)

Day 4 Lake Garda. After a leisurely breakfast we depart for a full day excursion to Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake. We will visit the town of Sirmione, a small jewel suspended in the middle of southern Lake Garda, which has a thermal springs and was a spa destination even in Roman times. The town is dominated by a thirteenth-century castle, the Rocca Scaligera, defended by a moat patrolled by swans and ducks. We then take a brief ferry ride to Lazise, situated on the eastern coast of Lake Garda and one of its most picturesque towns. It has a beautiful waterfront and a Medieval centre full of shops and pastel buildings, and the port was once important during the dominion of the Venetian Republic. After lunch in

a local restaurant, we visit the historic centre, which dates to the same period and maintains its alluring narrow lanes, and the 13th century castle is an enchanting sight. Return to the hotel for an evening and dinner at leisure. (B, L)

Day 5 Valpolicella. After breakfast we drive north to the viticulture district of Valpolicella, east of Lake Garda. Valpolicella ranks after Chianti in Italian wine production and is usually made from the three grapes Corvina Veronese, Rondinella, and Molinara. We stop at a local winery for a late lunch and a tasting of local wines. Return to our hotel in Verona for an evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 6 Verona to London. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

*Please note that the performances and the order of days differ for the 4th July itinerary. Full details can be viewed online.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

	June	July
Standard Room:	£3395	£3395
Standard Room with balcony:	N/A	£3495
Premium Room:	£3595	£3595
Standard Room for sole occupancy:	£3895	£3895

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Five nights accommodation at Hotel Indigo • Meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner, D* - Light pre-event buffet) • Wine, beer or soft drinks with each included lunch and dinner • Excursions as described with local guide • Two 'Poltronissima' silver category opera tickets at the Arena • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Group Size: We are restricting the group size to just 25 participants.

NB. The transfer time between Venice and Verona is approximately 90 minutes.

HOTEL INDIGO VERONA

For our stay in Verona we will be based right in the centre of the city at the Hotel Indigo. This charming boutique hotel is characterised by its refined, elegant atmosphere and Verona's Roman heritage with distinctive 16th-century Italian craftsmanship that can be seen throughout. The 62 rooms all feature air-conditioning, television, tea and coffee making facilities, complimentary Wi-Fi and an en-suite bathroom with a rainfall shower and luxury toiletries. Standard rooms have a view of the city, garden or the internal courtyard and feature a double queen size or king-size bed and standard rooms with a balcony have a city view, with double queen-size beds. Premium rooms have city or garden views and king-size or twin beds. The hotel also features a bar and a secluded courtyard garden where breakfast can be enjoyed or an evening aperitif.



Premium Room

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.

Cover image: Roman amphitheatre, Arena di Verona.