

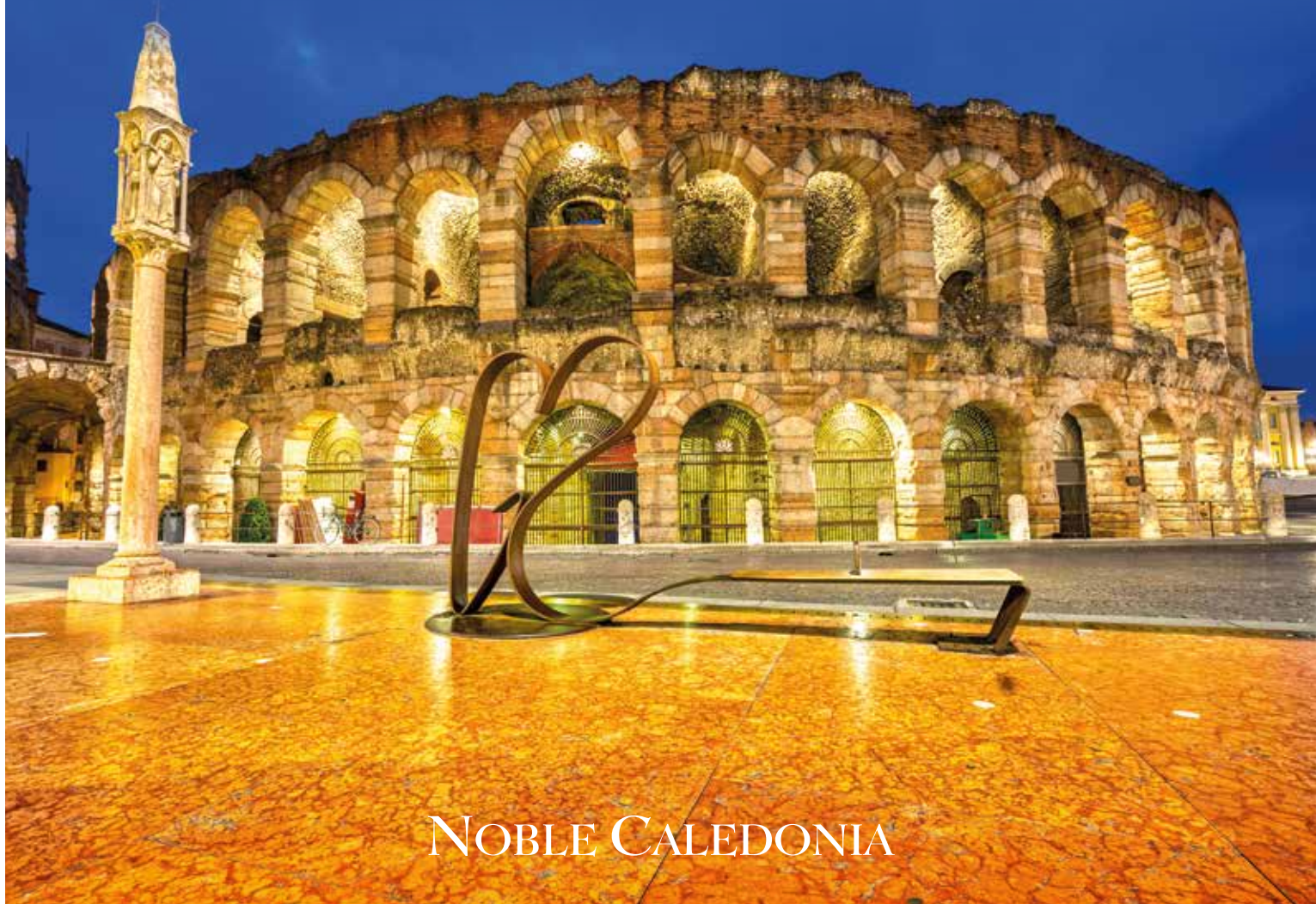
OPERA AT THE ARENA

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

7th to 12th September 2027

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.

During our visit we will enjoy two opera performances, Verdi's 'Nabucco' and Bizet's 'Carmen', both of which take place after dark. In addition to the two magnificent opera performances, 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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The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Verona, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival, transfer to 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 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 at leisure. (B, L)

Day 3 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 'Nabucco'. (B, L, D*)

'Nabucco' – Nabucco tells a dramatic story of power, faith, and redemption set during the Babylonian captivity of the Hebrews. Nabucco, king of Babylon, conquers Jerusalem, taking the Hebrews prisoner. His daughters, the noble Fenena and the ambitious Abigaille, believed to be his heir but actually of slave origins, are rivals, both in love and power. Fenena loves the Hebrew Ismaele and converts to his faith, while Abigaille burns with jealousy. When Nabucco declares himself a god, he is struck with madness, enabling Abigaille to seize the throne and order the execution of the Hebrews and Fenena. Meanwhile, the exiled Hebrews express their longing for their homeland in the famous "Va, pensiero" chorus. Nabucco regains his sanity,

renounces his arrogance, and embraces the God of the Hebrews. He returns to defeat Abigaille, who poisons herself in despair. The opera ends with the liberation of the Hebrews and restoration of justice.

Day 4 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 Georges Bizet's 'Carmen'. (B, D)

'Carmen' - Carmen is a passionate opera by Georges Bizet set in Seville. It follows Carmen, a free-spirited cigarette factory worker who seduces soldier Don José. Obsessed, José abandons his duty and his devoted lover Micaëla to join Carmen. Her fickle nature soon shifts toward the charismatic bullfighter Escamillo, igniting José's jealousy. As Carmen asserts her independence and refuses to return to him, José becomes increasingly desperate. Outside the bullring, during Escamillo's triumph, José confronts Carmen and pleads. She stands firm, valuing freedom over love. In a tragic moment, José kills her, sealing the opera's fate of passion, obsession, and fatal desire.

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)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Standard Room:	£3995
Premium Room:	£4195
Standard Room for sole occupancy:	£4495

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' gold 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.

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. 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.