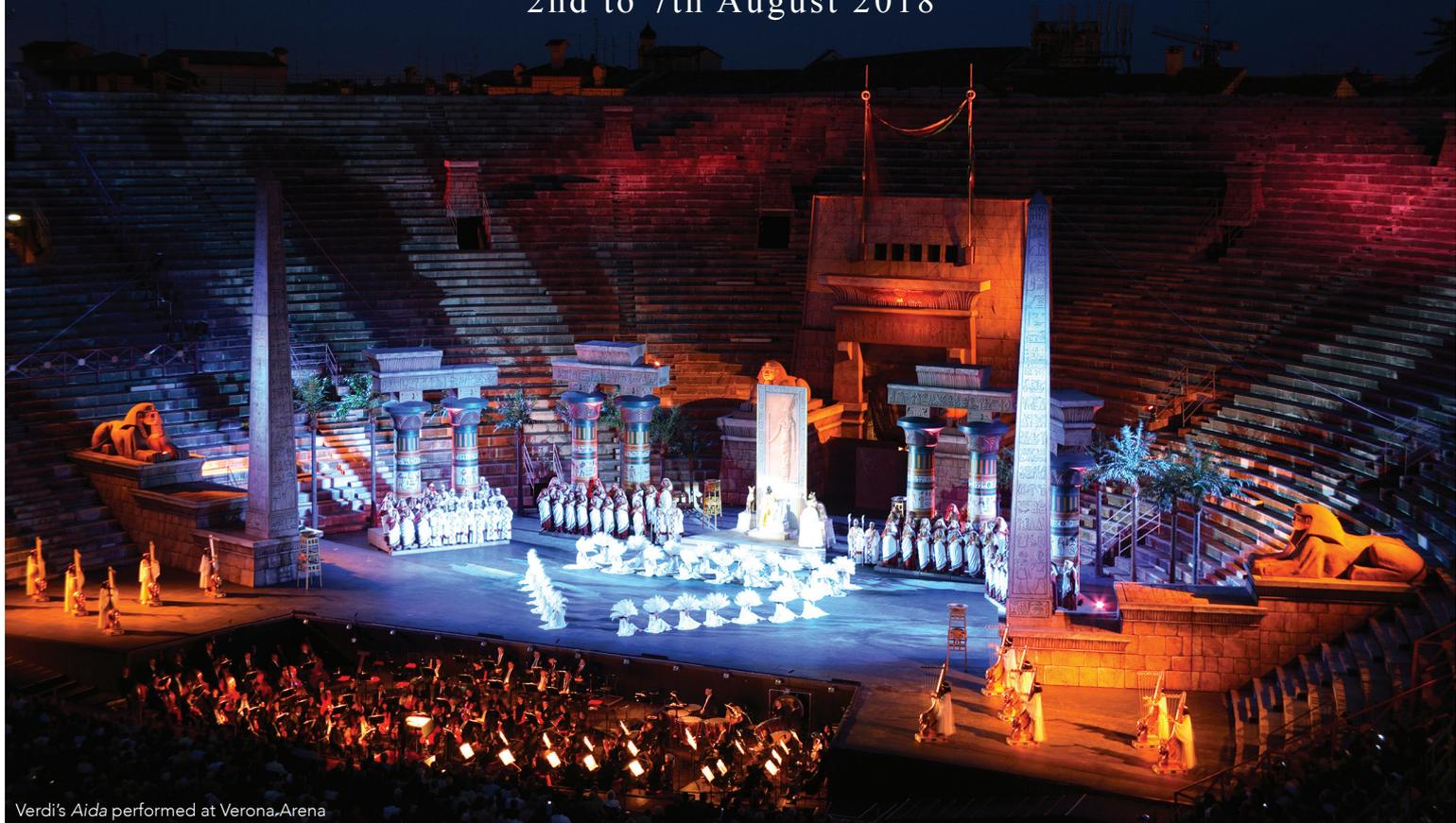


VERONA

OPERA FESTIVAL 2018

2nd to 7th August 2018



Verdi's *Aida* performed at Verona.Arena

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, except in 1915–18 and 1940–45, when Europe was convulsed in war. During our visit we will enjoy atmospheric performances of Georges Bizet's *Carmen* and Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida* 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.

For this unique tour we are once again delighted to be working with our associates 'Your Next Tour Sweden' who pride themselves in creating quality tours to the art and opera capitals of Europe and the USA, sourcing the highest level of classical entertainment for all their itineraries. They have been arranging tours to coincide with the Verona Festival for many years and with their assistance we are able to guarantee you the best tickets available for the opera.



YOUR TOUR LEADER - LENA NORDIN

Lena became a member of the soloist ensemble of the Royal Opera in Stockholm after a successful debut in Verdi's *Luisa Miller*. Among the many roles she has performed there are Cleopatra, Donna Anna, Contessa Almaviva, Antonia and Sophie. But first of all she has been acknowledged as a true Italian singer; the audience and the critics have highly praised her Violetta, Norma, Maria Stuarda, M. Butterfly, Tosca, and Lady Macbeth. For many years she was a regular guest at the Royal Opera in Copenhagen, mostly for Mozart roles, and she has also sung in Dresden, London, Salzburg, Berlin, Moscow, Wexford Festival, Savonlinna Festival, Finnish National Opera, Drottningholm Court Theatre, Darmstadt, Venice, Marseille, Lisbon, Miscolz and Sevilla. Concert engagements include performances in the USA, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and Scandinavia. In 1999 Lena Nordin was appointed "Royal Court Singer" by H.M Carl Gustaf, and in June 2003 she was presented the royal medal "Litteris et Artibus".



Verona panorama



Juliet's Balcony, Verona



Malcesine on Lake Garda

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Verona, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight to Milan. On arrival, transfer to Bergamo where we enjoy lunch before continuing to Verona where we check in to the Hotel Giberti for our five night stay. The hotel is conveniently located within walking distance of the Arena. After some time at leisure, meet with your fellow travellers this evening for dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 2 Verona. After breakfast at the hotel enjoy a guided walking tour of this fascinating Medieval city. 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. The Basilica of San Zeno Maggiore features a 72 metre high bell tower and is mentioned by Dante in Canto 18 of the Purgatory in *The Divine Comedy*; San Zeno being the patron saint of Verona. We end our city walk with lunch at the Ristorante Torcolo. Spend the afternoon at leisure and this evening we meet up again for the short walk to the Verona Arena. The Arena, which holds 15,000 spectators, was completed in the year 30 A.D and is the third largest in Italy after Rome's Coliseum and the arena of Capua. Our performance tonight is Georges Bizet's *Carmen*. The opera was first performed at the Opéra-Comique in Paris, on 3 March 1875, and at first was not particularly successful. Its initial run extended to 36 performances, before the conclusion of which Bizet died suddenly, and thus knew nothing of the opera's later celebrity. The opera, tells the story of the downfall of Don José, a naive soldier who is seduced by the wiles of the fiery Gypsy, Carmen. José abandons his childhood sweetheart and deserts from his military duties, yet loses Carmen's love to the glamorous toreador Escamillo, after which José kills her in a jealous rage. The depictions of proletarian life, immorality and lawlessness, and the tragic death of the main character on stage, broke new ground in French opera and were highly controversial.

Day 3 Lake Garda. This morning we drive to Lake Garda. On the way we will stop at the

picturesque town of Malcesine on the eastern shore of the lake with Monte Baldo towering in the background. Enjoy a walk around the town and visit the Medieval fortress Castello Scaligero with its excellent historical museum. Close to the harbour is another important building in Malcesine, the Palazzo dei Capitani, one-time residence of the Venetian rulers, Capitani de Lago. After lunch in a local restaurant we will take a boat trip to the northern tip of Lake Garda to Riva del Garda, the largest town of the lake. Riva also features a fortress with historical museum, the Rocca. Enjoy a short walk around the town before returning to Verona for an evening at leisure.

Day 4 Verona. Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Verona independently. Once again this evening we gather at the hotel and walk to the Arena for the performance of Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida*, a large-scale opera unusually well-suited for a magnificent outdoor arena like the one in Verona. The role of *Aida* was written for the soprano Teresa Stolz and although she did not perform it in the opera's world premiere in Cairo 1871, she did create it in the European premiere in Milan the year after. *Aida* is a story of forbidden love - the Egyptians have captured and enslaved *Aida*, a Nubian princess. An Egyptian military commander, Radamès, 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 Radamès, although he does not return her feelings.

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 which is usually made from the three grapes Corvina Veronese, Rondinella, and Molinara. We stop at the Villa Mosconi Bertano where we will enjoy a late lunch and taste some local wines. We return to our hotel in Verona for an evening at leisure.

Day 6 Verona to London. After breakfast we transfer to Milan airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

HOTEL GIBERTI

For our stay in Verona we will be based right in the centre of the city at the four-star Hotel Giberti, perfectly situated for exploring the historical sights as well as for the enjoyment of the cultural events of the city. The prestigious hotel is characterised by its elegant atmosphere and refined details. The 80 rooms at the hotel were recently renovated and feature air-conditioning, mini bar, safety deposit box, satellite television, tea and coffee making facilities, internet access and en-suite bathrooms. The hotel also features an American bar, room service, complimentary bicycles and the opportunity to enjoy breakfast in the inner courtyard. A huge advantage of the location of our hotel is that after our two performances which end at around midnight, we are only a short walk from the amphitheatre.



Hotel Giberti lobby

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin Room: **£2495** Single Room: **£2985**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, five nights accommodation at the Hotel Giberti with breakfast daily, one dinner, four lunches with wine, beer and soft drinks, excursions as detailed, local English speaking guides, two 'Poltronissime' tickets to the Verona Opera Festival, Tour Manager and a *Your Next Tour* Tour Leader.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE

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



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