

Verdi Requiem Performance Tour
July 5 – July 18, 2024
Rome, Florence, Vicenza, Venice, Asiago, ITALY
Conductor: Maestro Gregory Buchalter
Tour Manager: Monica Viviani
Assistant Tour Manager: Loriana Giusti

Day 1: Friday, July 5 – Departure for Rome

Departure from the USA to Rome, Italy

Day 2: Saturday, July 6 - Arrival in Rome

Group to land at Rome Fiumicino Airport at various times throughout the day and evening hours. Participants make their way to Grand Hotel Fleming, Rome independently (address: Piazza Monteleone di Spoleto, 20 - 00191 Roma). No airport transfers are arranged through Varna International from the airport, as the participants arrive throughout the day and evening.

2:00 pm onward - Check-in to the hotel and take some time to settle in the rooms and rest prior to the welcome dinner.

8:00 pm - Welcome Dinner at the hotel (included). The menu served this evening will be:

- First course: Turkey slices, rocket salad, cheese and balsamic vinegar glaze
- Second course: Pork loin with herbs, served alongside green beans and roasted potatoes
- Third course: Chocolate pudding
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

Overnight in 4-star Hotel in Rome at [Grand Hotel Fleming****](#) (phone: +39 06 333 7264; address: Piazza Monteleone di Spoleto, 20, 00191 Roma)

Day 3: Sunday, July 7 – Rome

Breakfast at the hotel

10:00 am – Bus transfer from Grand Hotel Fleming to Rome city center for a guided tour

10:30 am – 12:30 pm – Guided tour of Rome, including the Spanish Steps, Piazza del Popolo, Piazza Navona, Pantheon, and Trevi Fountain. Our tour guide's name is Maria Evangelista.

12:30 – 1:30 pm - Lunch in Rome (not included).

1:30 – 3:00 pm – Free time in Rome!

3:00 pm – Bus transfer from Rome City Center to Grand Hotel Fleming

3:00 – 4:30 pm – Rehearsal for soloists with the Maestro at Hotel Palace 2000 (only Maestro and soloists). Pianist: Leonardo Angelini. Choristers and instrumentalists are not called to this rehearsal!

4:30 – 5:30 pm - Violin sectional rehearsal at Grand Hotel Fleming to be led by Michael Emery, Concert Master & Sheng-Ching Hsu, Second violin Principal.

6:00 pm: Dinner at Grand Hotel Fleming (included). The menu served this evening will be:

- First course: Smoked ham, Spianata Romana (typical Roman salami), Finocchiona (typical Tuscan salami) and cherries of mozzarella cheese
- Second course: Roasted chicken served with potatoes and broccoli
- Third course: Tiramisu
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

7:00 - 9:30 pm - Orchestra rehearsal with the Maestro at Grand Hotel Fleming conference room.

7:10 pm - Bus transfer for the choir from Grand Hotel Fleming to Hotel Palace 2000

8:00 - 10:00 pm - Evening choral rehearsal with the Choir Master: Mike Short, at Hotel Palace 2000. Pianist: Leonardo Angelini

10:00 pm - Bus transfer for the choir from Hotel Palace 2000 to Grand Hotel Fleming

Overnight in 4-star Hotel Grand Hotel Fleming****

Day 4: Monday, July 8 – Rome

Breakfast at the hotel.

9:00 am – Bus transfer from Grand Hotel Fleming to Rome city center for a guided tour

9:30 am – 12:30 pm - Guided tour of the Colosseum and Forum Romanum (entrance tickets included), and free time to explore the area as suggested by our professional tour guides: Maria Evangelista and Sabina Sansoni.

12:30 pm - Lunch in Rome (not included)

2:00 pm – Bus transfer from Rome city center to Grand Hotel Fleming

3:00 pm - Bus transfer for the choir and Mike Short from Grand Hotel Fleming to Hotel Palace 2000

4:00 - 6:30 pm – Orchestra rehearsal with the Maestro at Grand Hotel Fleming conference room.

4:00 - 6:30 pm – Choral rehearsal with the Choir Master: Mike Short at Hotel Palace 2000. Pianist: Leonardo Angelini

6:30 pm – Dinner at the hotels (included). The choir will have dinner at Hotel Palace 2000. The orchestra and traveling audience will have dinner at Grand Hotel Fleming. The menu offered at Grand Hotel Fleming will be:

- First course: Plant-based quiche Lorraine
- Second course: Roasted turkey with cauliflower and potatoes
- Third course: Apple pie
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

**8:00 - 10:00 pm - Evening choral rehearsal with the Maestro - soloists to join, at Hotel Palace 2000.
Pianist: Leonardo Angelini**

10:00 pm - Bus transfer for the choir from Hotel Palace 2000 to Grand Hotel Fleming

Overnight in 4-star Hotel Grand Hotel Fleming****

Day 5: Tuesday, July 9 – Rome

Breakfast at the hotel

**10:30 am - Bus transfer from Grand Hotel Fleming to Basilica Sant’Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso, Rome
(Address: Via del Corso 437, Rome)**

11:00 am - 1:30 pm - Choral-orchestral rehearsal with the Maestro at Basilica Sant’Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso

Lunch in Rome (not included)

3:00 - 5:00 pm - Choral-orchestral rehearsal with the Maestro at Basilica Sant’Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso

5:00 pm - Bus transfer from Basilica Sant’Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso to Grand Hotel Fleming

6:00 pm - Dinner at Grand Hotel Fleming (included). The menu offered on this evening will be:

- First course: Salad with boiled eggs and cheese
- Second course: Meatballs with tomato sauce served alongside potatoes and peas
- Third course: Panna cotta
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

Overnight in 4-star Grand Hotel Fleming****

Day 6: Wednesday, July 10 – Rome

Breakfast at the hotel

10:30 am - Bus transfer from Grand Hotel Fleming to Basilica Sant'Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso, Rome

11:00 am - 1:30 pm - Choral-orchestral rehearsal with the Maestro at Basilica Sant'Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso

Lunch in Rome (not included)

3:00 - 5:00 pm – Dress rehearsal at Basilica Sant'Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso, Rome

5:00 pm - Bus transfer from Basilica Sant'Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso to Grand Hotel Fleming, Rome.

6:00 pm – Dinner at Grand Hotel Fleming (included. The menu served this evening will be:

- First course: Caprese salad
- Second course: Chicken with lemon served alongside green beans and potatoes
- Third course: Pear and chocolate cake
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

Overnight in 4-star Grand Hotel Fleming****

Day 7: Thursday, July 11 – Rome

Breakfast at the hotel followed by free time to explore the area independently.

Lunch (not included), followed by free time to rest prior to our evening performance of Verdi Requiem.

6:00 pm - Dinner at Grand Hotel Fleming (included). *Please plan to purchase a snack that you could have in your room after the concert, as eateries may not be open later.* The menu offered on this evening will be:

- First course: Grilled vegetables
- Second course: Pork loin with baked potatoes and broccoli
- Third course: Fruit salad
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

7:15 pm - Transfer from Grand Hotel Fleming to the concert venue: Basilica Sant'Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso. *Please plan to come dressed in your concert attire, and bring your music, folders, and music stands.*

8:30 pm - Performance of Verdi Requiem at Basilica Sant'Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso in Rome

10:00 pm - Bus transfer from Basilica Sant'Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso to Grand Hotel Fleming

Overnight in 4-star Grand Hotel Fleming****

Day 8: Friday, July 12 – Florence

Early breakfast and check out of the hotel.

8:30 am - Bus transfer from the hotel to Florence city center (approximately 4 hours ride)

12:30 pm - Arrive in Florence city center, followed by lunch on our own (not included). Restaurants will be suggested by our tour managers.

2:00 - 4:00 pm – Walking guided tour of Florence with our local tour guide. The name of our guide is Andrea Bregovic.

NB! We will not visit the Uffizi Gallery, as originally planned, as the Gallery now accepts only small groups, and it will take our group several hours to enter. Those interested in visiting the gallery can do so in their free time tomorrow with the help of the tour manager.

4:00 – 5:30 pm – Free time in Florence.

5:30 pm - Bus transfer from Florence to the hotel in Montecatini Terme - Grand Hotel Francia & Quirinale** (approximately 90 minutes ride).**

7:00 pm - Check in at the hotel and take time to settle in our rooms.

8:00 pm - Dinner at the hotel (included). The menu served for this evening will be:

- First course: (Pasta) - Rigatoni alla matriciana
- Second course: Turkey rump with light vegetable sauce, served alongside Caponata di verdure
- Third course: Florentine Delight
- Served with water in jugs with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

Overnight in 4-star hotel [Grand Hotel Francia & Quirinale****](#) (phone: +39 0572 70271; address: Viale IV Novembre 77, 51016 Montecatini Terme)

Day 9: Saturday, July 13 – Montecatini Terme

Breakfast at the hotel

9:30 – 11:00 am – Guided tour of Montecatini Terme with our tour guide, Andrea Bregovic.

Free time to explore the charming city of Montecatini Terme on our own, under the guidance and suggestions of the tour managers. Our guide will give us a brief overview and introductory tour of the city and we will have the rest of the time to explore on our own, as the town is very small and would be best explored independently, while taking time to sit in the quaint coffee shops and taste some gelato.

Lunch in the city (not included)

Free time in Montecatini Terme and to enjoy the hotel amenities and hot spas, which this city is well known for.

7:00 pm - Dinner in Montecatini Terme (included). The menu offered on this evening will be:

- First course: Rich salad
- Second course: Chicken with balsamic vinegar, served alongside potatoes and peas
- Third course: Tiramisu
- Served with water in jugs with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

Overnight at 4-star Grand Hotel Francia & Quirinale****

Day 10: Sunday, July 14 – San Gimignano and Vicenza

Breakfast at the hotel.

9:30 am - Transfer from the hotel to San Gimignano (approximately 2 hours ride).

This charming UNESCO World heritage site is famous for its well-preserved 14 towers and incredible ancient architecture featuring buildings of the Romanesque and Gothic styles. After our guided tour of this extraordinary town, we will enjoy some free time, wondering about the streets, savoring Italian coffee and gelato, and acquiring souvenirs in the quaint small shops of this amazing Medieval town.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm - Guided tour of San Gimignano. The name of our guide is Andrea Bregovic.

12:30 – 3:00 pm - Lunch (not included), followed by free time to explore this charming town on our own.

3:00 pm – Bus transfer from San Gimignano to Best Western Aries Hotel, Vicenza (approximately 4 hours ride).

Check-in to Best Western Aries Hotel and Hotel Victoria, Vicenza.

8:30 pm - Dinner (included) at Best Western Aries Hotel. The menu offered this evening will be:

- First course: Norwegian salad
- Second course: Grilled veal served alongside mushroom and avant potatoes, with string beans, served in a cream sauce
- Third course: Tiramisu
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

Overnight at 4-star [Best Western Aries Hotel****](#) (phone: +39 0444 239239; address: Viale Leonardo da Vinci, 28 Vicenza) and [Hotel Victoria****](#) (phone: +39 0444 912299; address: Str. Padana verso Padova, 52, 36100 Vicenza)

Please see the attached rooming list for more information.

Guests in Best Western Aries Hotel will be accompanied by our Tour Manager: Monica Viviani.

Guests in Hotel Victoria will be accompanied by our Assistant Tour Manager: Lorian Giusti.

Day 11: Monday, July 15 – Asiago

Breakfast at the hotel.

10:30 am - Transfer from Best Western Aries Hotel to Asiago (approximately 1.5 hours). *Please plan to come dressed in your concert attire (or bring it with you), and bring your music, folders, and music stands.*

12:00 pm - Walking guided tour to explore the city of Asiago. Our tour guide's name is Valentina Constantin.

1:30 pm - Lunch in Asiago (not included)

Free time in Asiago prior to this evening's concert

6:00 pm – Dinner at Restaurant Wunderbar in Asiago (included). *Suggestion: Please plan to purchase a snack that you could have in your room after the concert, as eateries may not be open later.*

7:30 pm - Sound check and change to concert attire (we do not expect that there will be much room at the church to change, so please take it into account).

8:30 pm - Verdi Requiem Performance in Duomo di San Matteo in Asiago.

10:00 pm - Transfer from Asiago back to the hotel

Overnight at 4-star Best Western Aries Hotel**** and Hotel Victoria****

Day 12: Tuesday, July 16 – Venice

Breakfast at the hotel.

8:15 am – Transfer by bus from the hotels to Venice Tronchetto

9:30-10:15 am – Transfer by private boat from Venice Tronchetto to the Zattere port and walk to the Accademia (25 minutes on the boat + 10 minutes on foot)

10:45 am– 2:00 pm - Guided tour of Venice. Our tour guide's name is Michela Barbisan. During the tour, we will visit the ACCADEMIA, and the San Marco Square.

10:45 am – Visit the Accademia (entrance tickets included).



The ACCADEMIA is a great way to cross centuries of Venetian history through its wonderful painting. Each room is dedicated to a different century and there are several paintings where we will see ancient musical instruments of the highest documentary interest. After our tour of the ACCADEMIA and San Marco Square, time permitting, we will visit the Church of San Sebastian or La Pieta.

Lunch (not included), followed by free time in Venice.

6:30 pm – Walk with the tour managers to meet the boat that leaves from Cornoldi which will take us back to Venice Tronchetto (25 minutes on the boat + 10 minutes on foot)

7:15 pm – Transfer from Venice Tronchetto to our hotel in Vicenza.

8:30 pm - Dinner (included) at Best Western Aries Hotel. The menu served this evening will be:

- First course: Baked lasagna
- Second course: Grilled chicken served alongside rice & steamed vegetables
- Third course: Eclairs
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

Overnight at 4-star Best Western Aries Hotel**** and Hotel Victoria****

Day 13: Wednesday, July 17 – Verona and Vicenza

Breakfast at the hotel.

9:30 am - Bus transfer to Verona city center (approximately 1 hour ride)

10:30 am – 12:30 pm - Guided tour of Verona with our tour guides: Graziano Magnabosco and Antonella Cantele.

Lunch in Verona (not included), followed by free time.

3:30 p.m. – Bus transfer from Verona city center to the hotel (approximately 1 hour ride)

6:00 pm - Farewell Dinner (included) at Best Western Aries Hotel. The menu for our Farewell Dinner will be:

- First course: Greek salad
- Second course: Grilled fish served alongside garlic sauteed potatoes with dill & steamed veggies and string beans in a cream sauce
- Third course: Cheesecake
- Served with jugs of water with ice

**Vegetarian options available upon request*

6:30 pm – Instruments load in, by the orchestra personnel



7:00 pm – Transfer from the hotel to the concert venue: Duomo di Vicenza. *Please plan to come dressed in your concert attire, and bring your music, folders, and music stands.*

7:30 pm - Sound check

9:00 pm - Verdi Requiem Performance in the *Cattedrale di Santa Maria Annunciata, Duomo di Vicenza.*

10:30 pm - Transfer back to Best Western Aries Hotel

Overnight at Best Western Aries Hotel**** and Hotel Victoria****

Day 14: Thursday, July 18 – Departure

Breakfast and check out of the hotel.

7:00 am - One group bus airport transfer from the hotel to the Venice Marco Polo International Airport for our return flight back home. Participants are leaving from the Venice Airport during various hours from early morning until late afternoon. This bus transfer is only for participants whose flights depart between 10:45 am – 12:15 pm. Participants whose flights depart later are welcome to join the airport transfer and just be prepared to wait at the airport for their flights check-in time.

Participants depart from the Venice Marco Polo International Airport to the USA.

Welcome home!