



# Viva Italia!

## Food, Art and Opera in Northern Italy

**March 14 - 25, 2012**

**Limited to 25 participants**

**An exclusive presentation by Classical KUSC**

**Join** popular KUSC host, Alan Chapman, on an exciting 10-day, culture-filled odyssey this spring across the heart of northern Italy. We'll be surrounded by masterpieces of Italian art as we enjoy wonderful meals at top restaurants in city and countryside and tastings of the local wines, cheeses and prosciuttos. And of course, our visit will be highlighted by opera, with performances at Florence's Teatro Comunale, the small gem of the Teatro Luciano Pavarotti in Modena and the most famous opera house in the world, La Scala in Milan. Food, art and opera – three pillars of Italian culture, and you will revel in all three!

Our tour begins in the breadbasket of Italy along the ancient Roman road, the Via Emilia, where our base will be in the charming town of Reggio Emilia. Then it's on to Florence, a city unrivaled in the West as a treasure of art and architecture, and a favored stop on The Grand Tour for centuries. Our journey ends in the great city of Milan, and a performance at La Scala of a legendary production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* with a stellar cast. To top it off, we'll visit Leonardo's great Last Supper in the refectory of Santa Maria delle Grazie.

Deluxe accommodation in historic hotels, fine cuisine, stirring opera, plenty of free time, and the commentary of Alan Chapman make this an unforgettable trip you won't want to miss!

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- 3 performances at leading opera houses of Italy, including Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* at La Scala
- Private guided tours to major sites in Florence, Parma, and Milan, including the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and Leonardo's Last Supper in Milan
- Visits to the homes of Verdi, Puccini and Toscanini
- Fine dining at some of the region's best restaurants
- Exclusive wine tastings, and tastings of parmesan cheeses, prosciuttos, and olive oils
- Commentary by Classical KUSC's Alan Chapman
- Deluxe accommodation in Florence, Reggio Emilia and Milan
- Private air-conditioned motorcoach for all excursions
- Plenty of free time to relax, shop and sightsee!



**Alan Chapman** is the host of his popular weekday morning program on KUSC, in addition to two weekend programs: *Modern Times* and *Thornton Center Stage*.

After receiving his undergraduate degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he earned a Ph.D. in music theory from Yale University. He is currently a member of the music theory faculty of the Colburn Conservatory. He was a longtime professor at Occidental College and has also been a visiting professor at UCLA and UC Santa Barbara.

Alan is also known as a pre-concert lecturer, as the programmer and host of the inflight classical channel on Delta Airlines, and as a composer/lyricist.

**TOUR COST: \$5,795 pp, ground only;**  
**Group limited to 25 participants**

The Italy tour is an exclusive presentation by KUSC and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire, Calif. Lic.: 2088711-40

# Daily Itinerary

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

The optional group flight leaves Los Angeles for the flight to Milan, with arrival the following day.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 15

### Benvenuto!

After arrival, we transfer by private motorcoach to the town of REGGIO EMILIA, and the Albergo delle Notarie in the medieval center. Our **welcome dinner** is nearby.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 16

### Parma and Violetta

Each day you will enjoy a buffet **breakfast** at the hotel. Today we travel to PARMA to tour the artistic and musical riches of this elegant city. We'll visit the Duomo and Correggio's stunning fresco in the cupola and the Palazzo della Pilotta which contains a good art gallery and the reconstructed 17th century Teatro Farnese.

**Lunch** is at the Gallo d'Oro, where we will sample different varieties of Parmesan cheese. After lunch, we visit the home of the famed maestro Arturo Toscanini, one of the great conductors of the 20th century, born here in 1867. In the evening, we'll see a new production of Verdi's great opera, *La Traviata*, in Modena's small opera house, built in 1841.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 17

### Viva Verdi!

Today we go to Verdi country, the region where he was born and passed most of his illustrious life as composer and patriot. You will tour the Villa SANT'AGATA, his home for nearly 50 years (and where you can still see his copies of Shakespeare by the bed). For **lunch** we'll dine at *Il Cavallino Bianco* owned by makers of one of the finest prosciuttos in the world and sample the famous "culatello de Zibello" an Italian specialty made only here in the Po valley. After lunch, we'll visit the town of BUSSETO, where the Casa Barezzi, the home of Verdi's early patron, is the site for a private concert exclusively for the group.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 18

### Puccini, too!

We depart for Tuscany via two towns important in the life of Giacomo Puccini: TORRE DEL LAGO and LUCCA. In Torre del Lago, Simonetta Puccini, the composer's granddaughter and last surviving heir, will be our private guide through the Maestro's villa. We'll stroll through the pleasant city of Lucca, before visiting the house where Puccini was born in 1858. **Lunch** is at La Buca di San Antonio, where he often dined. We arrive in FLORENCE and check-in at the charming Hotel Monna Lisa, a beautiful Florentine *palazzo* with old world salons and a lovely garden. Your evening is free.

## MONDAY, MARCH 19

### Early Renaissance

Starting at the Gothic Franciscan church of Santa Croce, home to Giotto's groundbreaking frescoes, we cross the old city to the Dominican church of Santa Maria Novella, stopping along the way at the Duomo, Florence's cathedral topped by Brunelleschi's superb cupola. Lunch is on your own. The rest of your day is free today, with an option of attending a concert by the Pacifica String Quartet at the Teatro della Pergola, next door to the hotel.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 20

### The Uffizi and Tuscany

Today we tour the Uffizi Gallery, one of the world's greatest museums, with paintings by Botticelli, Piero della Francesca, Michelangelo, and Rembrandt. A special treat will be an exclusive guided walk across the Ponte Vecchio, via the private route of the Medici family former rulers of Florence, called "Vasari's Corridor", which leads to the magnificent Boboli Gardens. Lunch is on your own. Later in the afternoon, we will make an excursion into the Tuscan countryside to visit the Medici villa at Poggio a Caiano, the favorite country house of Lorenzo the Magnificent. Then we move on to a vineyard cantina in CARMIGNANO to enjoy a **dinner** of local products and taste one of Tuscany's best red wines.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

### Michelangelo and Donizetti

Our morning tour in Florence takes place with visits to the great Renaissance church of San Lorenzo, the Medici Chapels behind it, and finally a tour of the Accademia Gallery, home to the original *David* and Michelangelo's stunning *Prisoners*. **Lunch** is at Cibreo, where celebrity chef Fabio Picchi has created one of Italy's most famous restaurants. Tonight at the Teatro Comunale, a new production of Donizetti's stirring drama *Anna Bolena* awaits us, lead by Roberto Abbado and directed by Graham Vick. Star soprano Mariella Devia leads a fine cast.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 22

### Hills of Bologna

On our way back to Milan, we stop off for a sumptuous lunch near Bologna at the award winning winery of Umberto Cesari. We'll have a tasting of their excellent Sangiovese wines and a nice **lunch** before continuing on to MILAN. Our home in Europe's veritable capital of *la moda*, fashion, is the Grand Hotel et de Milan, a luxury hotel opened in 1836 and still the premier grand hotel of the city. It is famous as the city home for 30 years of Giuseppe Verdi who died there in 1901.



## FRIDAY, MARCH 23

### La Scala

Today takes us to most famous opera house in the world, the Teatro alla Scala, opened in 1778. In the morning we will tour its Museum with many mementos from its momentous history. **Lunch** is at Trattoria Milanese, a local favorite. In the evening you will attend a performance at La Scala. The legendary director, Giorgio Strehler, is an icon of Italian theatre and his production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* justly celebrated. The stellar cast of Mozarteans includes Fabio Capitanucci as the Count, Dorothea Röschmann as the Countess, and Ildebrando d'Archangelo in the title role, all led by the exciting young conductor Andrea Battistoni.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 24

### Last Supper(s)

Our final day features a morning visit to one of the most famous works of art in the world, Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*, painted in the refectory of the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie while the artist attended the ducal court of Ludovico Sforza. Your afternoon is free to relax, shop or take in Milan's famous museums. Our gala Last Supper, a **Farewell Dinner**, is at Don Carlos, the stellar restaurant of our hotel.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 25

The tour ends following breakfast and the group flight departs for LAX from Milan.

Itinerary subject to change. Meals in bold included in the price of the tour.

## TOUR COST

**\$5,795 per person, ground only, double occupancy**

**Single supplement: \$950**

**Optional group flight: \$988\***

\*Limited availability at this price

### DEPOSIT:

**\$1000 per person first come, first served**

(includes a tax-deductible \$500 contribution to KUSC)

**Balance deadline is January 27, 2012.**

After that date, call for availability.

Contact **Minnie Prince** at KUSC, 213-225-7534, [mprince@kusc.org](mailto:mprince@kusc.org) to reserve your place on the tour with a credit card deposit, or send a check for the deposit amount to: KUSC Italy Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458. Registration materials can be downloaded from [www.kusc.org](http://www.kusc.org)

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Minnie Prince of KUSC or The Grand Tour at 800-727-2995 or [info@thegrandtour.com](mailto:info@thegrandtour.com)