



MAESTRO  
PERFORMANCE  
TOUR SPECIALISTS

Italy

curated  
itineraries

for your touring  
performance and  
budgetary goals

800 223 4664

www.maestro-performance.com

## Sample Tour Program

featuring Milan, Cremona, Busseto, Cinque Terre,  
Lucca, Pisa, Florence, Assisi, Rome, and Vatican City

### day 1 – Overnight flight

The beauty, culture, and musical history of Italy await, as you begin travels with an overnight trans-Atlantic flight.

### day 2 – Cremona

Arrive in Milan, the global capital of fashion and design and meet your **full-time bilingual tour manager**. A **local guide** will lead an introductory panoramic and walking tour of the city center, to include **La Scala Museum** and a view of the celebrated **Teatro alla Scala Opera House**, featuring some of the best acoustics in the world. Wander through the pioneering architecture of the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, home to the likes of Prada and Gucci; this is Italy's oldest active shopping mall, and a major landmark of the city. The neighboring historic Piazza del Duomo features many cafes and restaurants that line the square and border the magnificent Gothic Duomo, and is the perfect destination for people watching, shopping, and lunch. This afternoon transfer to the delightful, passionate, and inspiring small city of Cremona and check in to your centrally located hotel. A **local guide** will share the city's Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Neoclassical history, along with its significant contributions to music and stringed instruments. Renowned as a center of innovation and manufacture, Cremona's history features the violins of the Amati, Guarneri, and Stradivari families. Enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant, and a restful evening after your journey.

### day 3 – Cremona

**Breakfast** is served at the hotel, and each morning for the remainder of your trip. Visit the 12th century **Duomo di Cremona**; the city is birthplace to composer Claudio Monteverdi, and it was here that he first learned about music as a member of the choir. Not for the faint of heart, entrance is included to climb the adjacent **Torrazzo**, Cremona's symbolic bell tower housing the largest medieval astronomical clock in Europe. It is the tallest campanile in Italy, and allows for tremendous views of the city and beyond. Sightseeing of Cremona continues at the **MdV/Museo del Violino** for a **guided tour** of their collection, including the opportunity to attend a short **recital** given by a local musician performing with one of their historic and rare instruments for your ensemble. There is free time to soak up the atmosphere of the Cremona Street Market; located in the piazza Sant'Antonio Maria Zaccaria, it is stacked full of Italian goods, artwork, accessories, and fresh produce, baked treats, and delicious street food. You might try the area's torrone—the famous desert toffee dating from the 15th century. **Present an area concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! There is the opportunity to make this an exchange and joint concert with a local ensemble. A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** Enjoy a **dinner** of local specialties.

KUONI  
TUMLARE

## day 4 – Cremona

**Breakfast** at the hotel. The ensemble is divided into small groups, as guests at local luthier shops to learn the creative process of violin making, with a detailed **demonstration** of how the traditional tools and fabrications are still utilized today. This afternoon's excursion brings you to nearby Busseto and Le Roncole, land of Verdi. A **local guide** will join you for an introduction of the sights and sounds of art, culture, and music. Highlights include the multi-media **Birth House of Giuseppe Verdi**, the Casa Barezzi, where Verdi lived with his wife and now a museum featuring precious memorabilia and Verdi's pianoforte, along with the **Renata Tebaldi Museum**, standing as an homage to Italian melodrama, and dedicated to the soprano that Arturo Toscanini described as having "the voice of an angel". **Prepare for your concert this evening at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is provided at a local restaurant, before returning to Cremona for the overnight.

## day 5 – Lucca

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Your journey through Italy continues, as you travel south toward the sun speckled hillsides of Tuscany. A highlight of today's touring is your visit to the Cinque Terre, a group of five villages along the Italian Riviera and a UNESCO World Heritage Site; connected by rail, paths, and ferry service. Dependent upon weather either a **boat ride** is included, or a **Cinque Terre card** for train travel through these beautiful hillside Mediterranean communities. Enjoy free time this afternoon for exploration and hiking between towns with your tour manager. Your coach will drop you off at Levanto, and pick you up in La Spezia after your excursion. Continue to the musical town of Lucca, check-in and enjoy **dinner** at the hotel this evening.

## day 6 – Lucca

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Join a **local guide** for a walking tour of Lucca's old town. Birthplace of famous composers Giacomo Puccini, Luigi Boccherini, Alfredo Catalani, and Gioseffo Guarni, your guides will provide insight into this Tuscan jewel. Included is the unique Piazza Anfiteatro, entrance to the **Puccini Museum**, and a hike along Lucca's 16<sup>th</sup> century ramparts; originally constructed for protection, they currently provide approximately three miles of paths and park allowing for strolling and biking, with views of gardens, towers, and streets. This afternoon visit nearby Pisa. A **local guide** joins you for a walk through the Piazza dei Miracoli, with entrance to the **Duomo**. There is free time scheduled for exploration, souvenir shopping, and photo opportunities with the celebrated **Leaning Tower**, with entrance included. **Dinner** is served in Lucca.

## day 7 – Lucca

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Visit the nearby city of Florence, cradle of the Renaissance and home to many of the world's greatest artistic treasures. A **local guide** will join you for a walking tour of the historic center to see the Duomo, Piazza della Signoria, and the Arno River's Ponte Vecchio. Reserved entrance to the **Galleria dell' Accademia** is included to see Michelangelo's statue of David and other masterpieces, and you may be interested in the Conservatory's collection of treasured musical instruments. There is free time to enjoy lunch and shopping for fine Italian crafts and leather goods. **Return to Lucca and present your concert at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** **Dinner** is served at a local restaurant.

## day 8 – Rome

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Your journey through Italy continues, as you travel south toward the Eternal City. Along the way, visit Assisi. Located in the hills of Umbria, the **Basilica di San Francesco d'Assisi** marks the birthplace of Saint Francis, and its medieval center includes friendly shops and Roman ruins. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Assisi is alive with visitors and rich history. Your **guided tour** includes the Basilica's Upper and Lower Churches, decorated with the works of late medieval painters, including Cimabue, Giotto, and Lorenzetti. A special behind-the-scenes tour further educates, with access to lesser known areas and relics, and includes a private recital by the Ottetto della Cappella Musicale della Basilica Papale of Saint Francesco. **There is the opportunity to provide an informal performance today in Assisi!** Continue to Rome, check-in to your hotel and enjoy **dinner**.

## day 9 – Rome

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Spend this morning in the sovereign city-state of the Vatican City. Covering 108.7 acres of land, it is the smallest independent nation in the world. Join a **local guide** for skip the line entrance and a guided visit to the treasures of the **Vatican Museums**, including Raphael's Rooms and the famous frescoes of the Sistine Chapel where Michelangelo's paintings have inspired worshippers for centuries. The Chapel also served as inspiration for the 14-year old Mozart who upon hearing the Miserere was able to transcribe it from memory—leading it to be published in London in 1771. **There is the opportunity to participate in the mass at St. Peter's Basilica!** This evening, a **local guide** leads your walking tour through the ancient city center to see the popular sites of the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, and Pantheon. Your stroll concludes with the famous Piazza Navona, with time to enjoy the fountains, artists, and **dinner** at a nearby local restaurant.

## day 10 – Rome

**Breakfast** at the hotel. Your final full day begins with a sightseeing tour of the monuments of Imperial Rome, with timed entrances. Join a **local guide**, and walk the grounds of the **Roman Forum**, a rectangular plaza that includes the ruins of several important and ancient government buildings. The Forum was the center of the Roman Public life including elections, public speeches, and considered the nucleus of commercial affairs. Enter the **Coliseum**, one of the wonders of the Middles Ages. The elliptical amphitheater could seat 50,000 spectators for the gladiatorial contests and public spectacles including animal hunts and dramas based on classical mythology. **Present your concert finale at a local venue custom selected for your ensemble! A warm-up rehearsal is provided prior to your performance.** Celebrate your tour of Italy with a special **dinner** this evening.

## day 11 – Departure

A final **breakfast** is served at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your return flights home. Your tour manager will assist with airport check-in, and there is time for one last *arrivederci*!

