



CLASSICAL ITALY

with Michigan Philharmonic

A Celebration of Music, Food, Wine & Art

April 28 – May 7, 2027



You are invited! Please join me, Joan Walton, Executive Director of the Michigan Philharmonic, on a ten-day journey through *Bella Italia*. Tailor-made for lovers of classical music, art history, fine wine, mouth-watering food. Celebrate the lives and legacies of Verdi, Rossini, and Puccini as you walk in the very places where they lived, worked, and found inspiration. In addition, you'll tour the acclaimed Stradivarius Museum and enjoy private concerts.

This exclusive Michigan Philharmonic classical journey offers a feast for the senses—an unforgettable celebration of the arts, in the heart of *Bella Italia*!
Space is limited!

TRIP AT A GLANCE

- 4 Nights Bologna, Verdi's Emilia Romagna
- 3 Nights Montecatini, Puccini's Tuscany
- 2 Nights Lake Maggiore via Stradivarius's Cremona



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA
T. 206.842.9775
www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Hosted by the Michigan Philharmonic ♦ Walk in the footsteps of Vivaldi, Mozart, Farinelli, Monteverdi, Verdi, Puccini, Rossini, Toscanini, Pavarotti, and Stradivarius ♦ Exclusive visits with food, wine and art experts ♦ Wine, cheese, and balsamic vinegar tastings with the producers ♦ Excursions to the Tuscan hill towns of Lucca, home of Puccini ♦ An art-filled day in Florence

IT'S INCLUDED

- Airport transfer on departure day from Stresa
- A private opera recital in Verdi's birthplace, Busseto
- A concert in Verdi's studio and a recital in the Stradivarius Museum
- A classical concert in Bologna's Museum of Musical Instruments
- Private guided museum tours by local experts
- Nine nights of accommodation in hand-selected four-star hotels
- Transportation on board an air-conditioned, spacious motor coach
- All breakfasts, plus 10 additional meals featuring regional specialties served in local bistros and popular neighborhood restaurants
- All entrances as listed in your itinerary
- Gratuities for your driver, guide and local guides
- Entertaining Italian lessons en-route
- A small group of like-minded public radio art, food and wine lovers.

Not Included: International flights, arrival day transfer, travel insurance, items of a personal nature, gratuities when not with the group and any activities or items not mentioned in your custom Michigan Philharmonic classical itinerary.



TRIP FACTS

10 Days/9 Nights (*not including air travel*)

\$7,950 per person based on double occupancy land

\$2,195 single supplement

Trip begins in Bologna, Italy on April 28, 2027 at 6pm

Trip ends in Stresa, Italy on May 7, 2027 after breakfast

SAVE \$200: Travel alumni save \$100 per person * Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 per person



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YOUR CLASSICAL JOURNEY BEGINS...

Note: In Italy, lunch is the main meal—often a leisurely multi-course affair starting around 1:00 p.m. Dinner is lighter and later, perhaps with a glass of local wine and *cicchetti* (Italian tapas) at a café. Many Italians end the evening with a gentle *passeggiata*—a stroll savoring the moment as much as the meal.



Travel Day: Depart the USA

Remember, you'll need to depart no later than April 27, in order to arrive in Italy by April 28th.



Day 1: Wednesday, April 28 - Benvenuti Italia!

Welcome to Bologna and the Emilia-Romagna region, birthplace of legendary figures such as Toscanini, Monteverdi, Verdi, Rossini, Pavarotti, and Stradivarius. Renowned for its extraordinary musical legacy, the region is equally celebrated for its exceptional cuisine and enduring artisanal traditions.

This evening, enjoy a guided stroll through the old town followed by a festive welcome dinner with your host.

Overnight in Bologna (D)



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“You may have the universe if I may have Italy.”
Giuseppe Verdi.

Day 2: Thursday, April 29 - Bologna: A Culinary and Musical Adventure

Begin with a guided walk through Bologna’s historic center, tasting your way through *bottegas* and the lively medieval market.

After lunch, step into musical history at one of the world’s oldest music libraries, founded by Giovanni Battista Martini—mentor to Mozart and J.C. Bach. Marvel at over 100,000 rare documents, antique instruments, and treasures like Rossini’s *Barber of Seville* manuscript and Mozart’s personal music exam. Free evening.

Overnight in Bologna (B, L)

Day 3: Friday, April 30 - In the Footsteps of Verdi, Toscanini and Pavarotti

Travel to Busseto, Verdi’s birthplace, for lunch at a Pavarotti favorite, an opera recital, and a tour of Verdi landmarks. Continue to Modena for a balsamic vinegar tasting at a family-run estate.

Overnight in Bologna (B, L)

Day 4: Saturday, May 1 - Ravenna: Mosaics and Flavors of the Past

Journey to Ravenna, famed for its dazzling Byzantine mosaics. Visit the Basilica di San Vitale, the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, and the Arian Baptistery. Pause for a regional lunch and savor some local specialties.

Overnight in Bologna (B, L)



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"Inspiration is an awakening, a quickening of man's faculties, and it is manifested in all high artistic achievements."

Giacomo Puccini

Day 5: Sunday, May 2 - Tuscan Wines and Countryside

In Greve in Chianti, explore the charming piazza, taste Chianti Classico at a local *enoteca*, then tour a vineyard and cellar before sampling wines with regional cheeses and cured meats. Enjoy an included Tuscan lunch. *Overnight in Montecatini (B, L)*

Day 6: Monday, May 3 - In Pursuit of Puccini

Discover Lucca, home of Puccini. Visit his birthplace museum, the church where he was baptized, and the elegant Teatro del Giglio. Enjoy a traditional lunch together, and free evening in Montecatini. *Overnight in Montecatini (B, L)*



Day 7: Tuesday, May 4 - Florence: A Renaissance Dream

Explore Florence with a private tour of the Uffizi Gallery, featuring works by Botticelli, Raphael, and Michelangelo. After an independent lunch, return to Montecatini, once frequented by Puccini, Verdi, and Rossini. *Overnight in Montecatini (B, D)*



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Day 8: Wednesday, May 5 - Cremona: Strings and Stradivari

Arrive in Cremona, once home to composer Claudio Monteverdi. Enjoy lunch before visiting the Stradivarius Museum, where exceptional violins and cellos crafted by the legendary Antonio Stradivari are on display. Then continue to the lakeside town of Stresa, where stunning Alpine views await and the evening is yours to explore at leisure. *Overnight in Stresa (B, L)*

Day 9: Thursday, May 6 - Italy's Lake District

From Stresa, cruise to Isola Bella to tour the Borromeo Palace and gardens, then on to Isola Madre with its lush botanical gardens and roaming peacocks. Return for a farewell lunch, followed by time to stroll or relax by Lake Maggiore.

Overnight in Stresa (B, L)

Day 10: Friday, May 7 - Arrivederci Italia

Airport transfers are included this morning to **Malpensa Airport (MXP)**. Have extra time? Take the train to Milan to visit La Scala and view Da Vinci's *Last Supper*.

Buon viaggio!

Itinerary subject to change



You will be joined on this trip by Joan Walton, Executive Director of the Michigan Philharmonic. Having traveled across 5 continents and 22 countries (including 3 previous trips to Italy) it's fair to say Joan has a lifelong love of travel. She looks forward to sharing the music, art and food of Italy with other travelers for ten glorious days in Spring 2027.

QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, arrival day airport transfer, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff or ship crew, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Terms & Conditions: [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.

About Earthbound Expeditions:

Founded in 1997 by veteran world travelers and guides, Matthew and Danna Brumley, Earthbound Expeditions lovingly creates tailor-made journeys that inspire curiosity and discovery. Led by expert local guides, travelers explore history, art, food, gardens, and culture in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Each trip encourages deep learning and engagement, turning every destination into a classroom of wonder. Guests return not just with memories, but with insights, appreciation, and a renewed sense of curiosity for the world.



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