



In Pursuit of Puccini!

with Sunday Baroque Host, Suzanne Bona

May 5 - 16, 2023

"You may have the universe if I may have Italy."

Giuseppe Verdi



Italy owns an astonishing thirty percent of the world's cultural heritage. Fine arts, architecture, food, wine and design are some of the best-known treasures, but for many, it is the music of Italy's great composers that they hold most dear.

Join me, **Suzanne Bona of Sunday Baroque**, for the ultimate classical music lovers' journey to "Bella Italia" and celebrate the lives of **Verdi, Rossini, Farinelli, Vivaldi, Monteverdi, Stradivarius, Donizetti, Toscanini, and Puccini**. Walk in the footsteps of great Italian composers by visiting the very places the masters loved, lived and worked. Enjoy in-depth, private tours highlighting the origins of painting and sculpture in central Italy. Along the way, you'll be introduced to the culinary arts and visit the producers of balsamic vinegar, delicious olive oils, and mouth-watering cheeses. This exclusive **Sunday Baroque** journey will also include an opera recital in Verdi's hometown of Busseto, a concert featuring works by Vivaldi, and a tour of the Stradivarius Museum in Cremona. Your journey concludes on the beautiful tranquil shores of Lake Maggiore. Don't miss out! Join me as I host my 7th classical adventure with Earthbound Expeditions! Space is limited.



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JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

- 3 Nights Venice, home of Vivaldi
- 3 Nights Bologna, home of Rossini
- 3 Nights Montecatini/ Lucca home to Puccini
- 2 Nights on stunning Lake Maggiore

MUSIC, FOOD, ART HIGHLIGHTS!

- A splendid Vivaldi concert in a Baroque church in Venice
- A backstage tour of the historic opera house, La Fenice in Venice
- A private opera recital in Verdi's home town of Busseto
- An exclusive opera recital in Puccini's Tuscany
- A private walk-through historic Cremona, home of Monteverdi and Stradivarius
- An exclusive tour of the museum of Ancient Instruments of Bologna where Mozart studied and Rossini lived
- Cheese and balsamic vinegar tastings with the producers
- Excursions to the towering Tuscan Hill Towns of Lucca and Montecatini
- Exclusive, guided visits of the Uffizi and Accademia Museums in Florence
- Like-minded Public Radio and Sunday Baroque fans

INCLUDED IN YOUR JOURNEY

- Hosted by Suzanne Bona of Sunday Baroque
- Fully guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions program director
- Special tours through the homes of Verdi, Puccini and Rossini
- Four classical concerts/ recitals in historic settings
- Charming, centrally-located hotels
- Private guided museum tours by local experts
- Transportation aboard an air-conditioned motor coach
- All breakfasts, plus 10 multi-course meals featuring regional specialties served in local bistros and neighborhood restaurants
- All entrances as listed in your itinerary
- Mouthwatering wine, balsamic vinegar and cheese tastings with the producers
- Gratuities for your driver, guide and local guides
- Entertaining Italian lessons en route
- Suggested reading and packing lists
- Alumni appreciation discounts applied toward future expeditions
- An interesting group of like-minded Sunday Baroque fellow travelers



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TRIP FACTS

12 Days/11 Nights (*not including air travel*)

\$5,995 per person double occupancy land

\$2,195 single supplement (*waived if you are willing to share and a rooming partner is found*)

Journey begins in Venice at 6pm on May 5, 2023

Journey ends in Lake Maggiore on May 16

NOT INCLUDED: Airline tickets, airline luggage fees, alcoholic beverages with meals, any meals not mentioned, room/mini-bar service, gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, items of a personal nature and anything not listed in the “Included in your Journey” section above.

RESERVATIONS: Please call Earthbound Expeditions or visit us online. A \$500 per person deposit for the land portion of your trip is required to secure your space. A cancellation penalty of \$175 per person applies for cancellations received within 60 days of deposit or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Final payment is due 75 days before departure.

SAVE \$300

Travel alumni save \$100

Reserve by December 31, 2022 and save \$100

Pay your final balance by check and save \$100



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- Act 1 -

Your Classical Music Adventure Begins!

Day 0: Depart the US

Remember, you'll lose a day on the way to Italy so please be sure to depart the USA on or before May 4.



Day 1: Friday, May 5 - Arrive in Romantic

Venice: Bursting with Baroque cathedrals, outdoor markets, islands and piazzas, Venice is the perfect place for us to begin our musical journey of Italia. Home to Casanova, Vivaldi and Marco Polo, Venice was the single most powerful city state in 13th century Europe. With an economy equal to that of France it is no wonder Shakespeare located his "merchants" in Venice.

This evening join your Earthbound guide and Sunday Baroque host, Suzanne Bona, for a welcome orientation and a Venetian feast fit for Casanova himself. *Sleep in Venice (D)*

Day 2: Saturday, May 6 - In Vivaldi's Footsteps

In music history, the Venetian School was the body and work of composers working in Venice from about 1550 to around 1610. The Venetian polychoral compositions of the late 16th century were among the most famous musical events in Europe, and their influence on musical practice in other countries was enormous. The innovations introduced by the Venetian school, along with the contemporary development of opera in Florence, together define the end of the musical Renaissance and the beginning of the musical Baroque and era of Venice's most famous composer, Vivaldi.



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About Vivaldi: Vivaldi was born in Venice in 1678, the son of a violinist employed at the church of St. Mark's. He became one of the most gifted violinists in Europe at an early age, but he also pursued religious studies, and was ordained a priest in 1703. His activities as a performer, composer, and teacher of instrumental music brought him considerable fame throughout Europe. He died in Vienna in 1741 while on a journey intended to revive his failing career as an opera composer.

This morning, we explore the city, the Rialto market, and the Piazza San Marco with our local guide. These are the very streets where Vivaldi and Marco Polo used to stroll. Together we'll learn why Venice was one of the great centers for the arts in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries.

You're then free to take in as many of the 125 islands of Venice as you can. Glass lovers will want to hop a ferry to nearby Murano. Other options include the Doge's Palace, an exploration of the Basilica San Marco or an ascent of the towering *Campanile* (bell tower) for a bird's eye view of the famous Piazza San Marco.



This evening gather for Vivaldi's masterpiece, *The Four Seasons!*
Sleep in Venice (B)



Day 3: Sunday, May 7 - A Day in Venice and World Class Art and La Fenice: Today you'll be accompanied by a local art historian for an exploration of one of Europe's greatest museums. The Accademia Museum collection includes stunning works by Renaissance masters Titian, Tintoretto, Da Vinci and Piero della Francesca.

Enjoy a traditional Venetian lunch together. Then tour one of Europe's most beautiful opera houses, La Fenice! After, spend the afternoon exploring the infinite back-alley ways of Venice and maybe find a charming café for an independent dinner in this evening. *Sleep in Venice (B, L)*



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- Act 2 -

DAY 4: Monday, May 8 - South to the World Heritage site of Ravenna



This morning we depart for Ravenna. Ravenna is one of the most unusual towns in Italy. As the capital of the Western Roman Empire, the Visigoth Empire, and the Byzantine Empire under Emperor Justinian and Empress Theodora, Ravenna became one of the greatest cities on the Mediterranean. The city achieved its cultural peak as part of the Byzantine Empire between the 6th and 8th centuries, and it is known for its many well-preserved mosaics created during that time - the finest in all of Western art and the most splendid outside Istanbul. Although it now looks much like any other Italian city, the low Byzantine domes of Ravenna's churches still evoke its Eastern past. Enjoy a tour of the richly decorated Basilica di San Vitale and the Mausoleum di Galla Placidia with an expert local guide.

A traditional multi-course lunch is included today. Before departing for Bologna, let's stop to pay our respects to Italy's greatest poet and author, Dante, by visiting his mausoleum. Continue on to Bologna in time for an independent dinner.

Sleep in Bologna (B, L)

DAY 5: Tuesday, May 9 - Gourmet Delights and the Museum of Ancient

Instruments: Your day of gourmet delights begins when you meet your knowledgeable local guide in the city center of Bologna. Rich with architecture, history, student life and artisanal food products, your guide will show you a fascinating side of Bologna most tourists never discover. You'll begin your tasting adventure by sampling the products from several historic *botteghe* (small specialized food shops). Hear the stories and legends of Bologna as you pass through the covered walkways and side streets. Next up is the historic medieval market, a one-of-a-kind foodie experience! See the huge rounds of *mortadella*, flavorful *ciccioli* and sausages and the mouthwatering chocolate treats to be found only here.

After enjoying an included lunch you'll be treated to one of the world's greatest collections of musical instruments and manuscripts at the Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale. Here you'll find Rossini's original *Barber of Seville*, Mozart's exam which he took and failed while in Bologna, and original portraits of Vivaldi, Rossini, Farinelli and many others who are of great importance to the history of music. *After the museum closes to the general public you'll be treated to a private concert.* Enjoy an independent dinner this evening. *Sleep in Bologna (B, L)*



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“Give me a laundry-list and I’ll set it to music.”
Gioachino Rossini



About Il Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale: The original core of the museum's musical collection is credited to the Franciscan Father, Giovanni Battista Martini (April 24, 1706 - August 3, 1784), who was one of the most famous and complex personalities of the 18th century European music world. He was also a great scholar and collector, a theorist and composer, and a teacher of counterpoint, where Bach and Mozart were among his students.

At only 19 years old, he was nominated as the chapel-master in the Church of San Francesco in Bologna, where his fame as an excellent teacher and connoisseur of music began to grow when he "won" a type of dispute with the scholar, Redi, regarding the interpretation of a mysterious canone dell'Animuccia that existed in the choir gallery of the Santa Casa di Loreto, where Redi himself was chapel-master. This first triumph of Martini's won him the total admiration of the more important masters of that time, and his name began to be known in Italy and abroad. At the same time, not content with being only a scholar, he continued his music studies and affirmed himself as an excellent composer of sonatas for the harpsichord, canons, and about 500 unpublished musical pieces.



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“Everything you see I owe to spaghetti.”
Sophia Loren

Day 6: Wednesday, May 10 - In the footsteps of Verdi, Toscanini and Pavarotti: After breakfast we set out to learn about three of Emilia Romagna’s sons, Verdi, Pavarotti and Toscanini.

Our musical journey north begins in Busseto, birthplace of Verdi. There we’ll have lunch in a restaurant frequented by Luciano Pavarotti, enjoy a stunning opera recital in the very room where Verdi studied, and enjoy a tour of Verdi’s cottage birthplace.



After lunch we continue down through the Po River Valley to Modena. Gastronomy is of such importance here that the region is called “Food Valley” and gourmet travelers arrive like gastro-pilgrims to the region. Before returning to Bologna, we’ll stop to visit the producers of Balsamic Vinegar di Modena. *Sleep in Bologna (B, L)*

- Act 3 -

Day 7: Thursday, May 11 - A Day with Michelangelo and Da Vinci



Though often teeming with tourists, Florence is still well worth the intellectual and physical effort, for inside the city walls lies one of the world’s greatest collections of paintings, architecture and sculpture. Simply said, the city contains the entire history of the Renaissance. Works by Michelangelo, Da Vinci, Brunelleschi and their fellow masters sit side by side in Florence’s world-renowned galleries.

After a cappuccino this morning, we’ll journey into the world of Botticelli, Raphael and Michelangelo with a privately guided visit of the Uffizi Art Gallery. Your mid-afternoon is free for lunch.

Join us this afternoon and tour the Galleria dell’Accademia which has Michelangelo's *David*, easily the most famous sculpture in the world. Once inside, you're also treated to his unfinished and powerful *Slaves*, along with works by Perugino, Giambologna, and Botticelli. *Sleep in Montecatini Terme (B, D)*



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Day 8: Friday, May 12 - La Dolce Vita

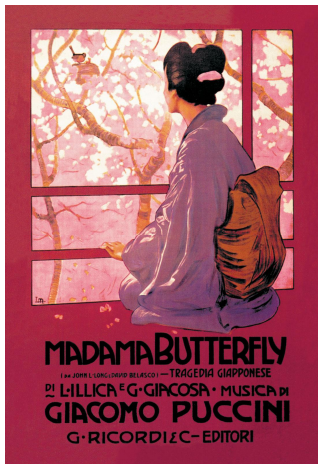
Verdi and Puccini both enjoyed the soothing thermal waters of Montecatini. Relax, sleep in, stroll through the town's many charming parks or soak in a hot thermal pool. You may master a time-old Italian tradition, "Il bel far niente" which means 'the beauty of doing nothing.'

For those looking for a little extra-curricular activity you may ride the funicular (1898 cable car) to Montecatini Alto. The historic part of the town offers a spectacular view and has a typical square full of inviting restaurants.



Your guide will be available to assist you in booking a spa and will offer you an orientation of the little town. This evening we meet for a delicious multi-course dinner. *Sleep in Montecatini (B, D)*

Historical note: The Verdi Theater of Montecatini was inaugurated in 1930 with Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida* and Puccini composed parts of *La Boheme* here.



Day 9: Saturday, May 13 - In Pursuit of Puccini

Puccini was born in Montecatini Terme, in the province of Lucca in Tuscany, in 1858. He was one of nine children of Michele Puccini and Albina Magi. The Puccini family was established in Lucca as a local musical dynasty.

Puccini was given a general education at the seminary of San Michele in Lucca, and then at the seminary of the cathedral. In 1880, at the age of 21, Puccini composed his Mass, which marks the culmination of his family's long association with church music in his native Lucca.

Today, we'll walk in Puccini's footsteps by visiting the very home where Puccini was born and Torre del Lago where the great master lived and worked. Puccini is buried inside a small chapel inside the villa.

For lunch we will dine in a restaurant loved and frequented by Puccini himself. *Sleep in Montecatini (B, L)*



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- Act 4 -

Day 10: Sunday, May 14 - A Day with Monteverdi and Stradivarius: Upon our arrival in Cremona, we set out to explore the life and times of Stradivarius and Monteverdi. We'll tour the Stradivarius Museum to learn how these beautiful instruments are crafted.

Then we are off to stunning Lake Maggiore! Dinner upon arrival.
Sleep on the shores of Lake Maggiore (B, D)

DAY 11: Monday, May 15 - Stunning Lakefront Villages and Historic Villas

Buongiorno! After a delicious breakfast join your guide for a morning excursion by boat to Isola Bella. Located just 400 yards offshore, the island is a natural treasure. Enjoy the unparalleled views of the lake and Alps. Tour a Baroque palace and a luxuriant Italian-style garden. The garden is full of flowers and exotic plants of great rarity. The white peacocks that wander over the manicured lawns add their grace to this enchanting spot.

After our morning visit, enjoy an independent lunch. Options this afternoon? Hop a cable car to the top of a local mountain and soak up the stunning views of the Swiss alps and lake district below. Or, participate in a traditional passeggiata (afternoon stroll) along the lakeshore where a two-mile long promenade meanders past florid gardens and chic cafes.

Meet this evening for a farewell feast hosted by Suzanne Bona.
Sleep on the shores of Lake Maggiore (B, D)



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Day 12: Tuesday, May 16 - Return Home with a Lifetime of Memories

Depart at your leisure today. We suggest departing from Milan Malpensa Airport, a 1-hour drive from your hotel. *Buon Viaggio!*

Meet your host!



Suzanne Bona is the host and executive producer of *Sunday Baroque*, a syndicated weekly radio show of Baroque and early music. She originated the program in 1987 on WSHU Public Radio in her hometown of Fairfield, CT. *Sunday Baroque* has been distributed nationally since 1998, and is currently heard by more than a quarter million listeners every week on more than 200 public radio stations and networks across the United States.

Suzanne is also a classically trained flutist who earned a Bachelor of Music degree from The University of Connecticut. She continues to perform frequently as a soloist and chamber musician, and has especially enjoyed collaborating with some of her musically talented public radio colleagues in performances for listeners across the country, including in West Lafayette, IN, Phoenix, AZ, Cincinnati, Ohio, across Connecticut and on Long Island, NY, and in March 2012 as guest soloist with the Guam Symphony Orchestra in Tumon, and again in October 2016 with some chamber musicians in Guam.

When she is not making radio or playing her flute, Suzanne's hobbies include reading, running, cooking, baking and travel! She is also passionate about the cause of literacy; she was a longtime volunteer tutor and board member for her local Literacy Council, and she is currently a community advisory board member for a children's literacy initiative.

Reservations and Questions!

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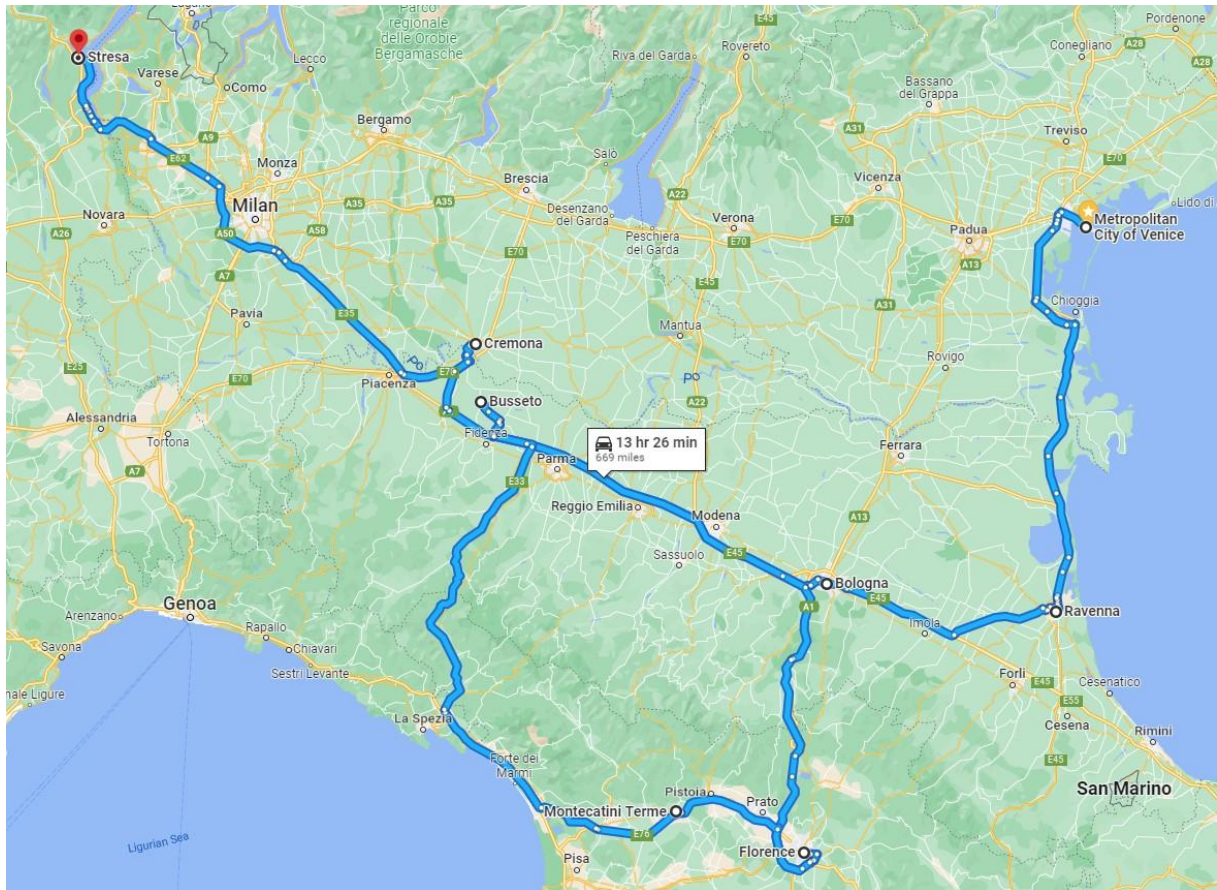
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Your Suzanne Bona Classical Adventure!

A 500+ mile adventure through the lands of Puccini, Rossini and Verdi!



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Know Before You Go!

About Earthbound Expeditions: Earthbound Expeditions was founded in 1997 by veteran guides Matthew and Danna Brumley. Since then, Earthbound Expeditions has created hundreds of journeys for thousands of happy travelers. We take great pride in creating educational, hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind journeys for botanical gardens, museums and public radio stations.

Health Matters: 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. To make the most of your journey and participate in the various planned group activities, **you should be able to be on your feet and walk unassisted for two to three hours** (often over uneven cobblestones or pathways) with frequent standing. If you have questions about the physical requirements for your journey, please email or call our travel office. Any preexisting physical, mental, or emotional disability that may require attention must be reported in writing prior to the beginning the journey. Although it is not mandatory to participate in every planned and included group activity, not doing so isn't cause for a refund. For those desiring additional exercise, our trips allow free time to explore at your own pace. On boats, planes, ships and ferries, guests will need to be able to maneuver unassisted up and down gangways, stairs and in between decks. Smokers may smoke outside and downwind of the group.

Concerts, Festivals and Events: If for any reason the organizers of a scheduled concert, festival or event cancel or postpone a planned activity with little or no notice, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to secure a similar event or secure another concert(s). Strikes, unscheduled delays, lack of funds and acts of God are beyond the control of Earthbound Expeditions. Cancellation of an event, festival or concert is not cause for refund.

Hosted Journeys: 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 expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Reservations and Questions!

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- Itinerary Subject to Change -



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