

# LOCALGUSTO TRAVEL

## Le Marche, Italy's Secret Region

(with the Macerata Opera Festival)

25<sup>th</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019



Sferisterio Arena, Macerata Opera Festival

*Led by Laura Fusari, Macerata Local*



"...a wonderfully inviting and engaging person who has made my experiences amazing. Laura certainly knows her stuff, but more importantly, she knows how to make incredible experiences." Ian, Canada

### **DAY 1: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Depart for **Bologna**, Italy and transfer to your hotel

Bologna is nicknamed *La Grassa* (the fat one) for its sensational food including the origins of Bolognese meat sauce; *La Dotta* (the learned one) as it is home to the world's oldest university and *La Rossa* (the red one) for its bright red terracotta medieval centre and left-wing politics.

Welcome Dinner this evening at 8pm in the heart of this elegant city.

Included Meals: Dinner

**DAY 2: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

In the morning leave Bologna for **Ravenna**, a UNESCO world heritage site, once the capital of the Western Roman Empire and home to the world's best collection of early Christian mosaics. Enjoy a guided visit to the most striking examples including the sensational **Basilica of San Vitale** followed by some free time to take in the pretty town centre and have a slow lunch Italian style.



Basilica of San Vitale, Mosaics

In the afternoon depart for the **Grotte di Frasassi** one of the most important cave complexes in Italy and indeed Europe, a place the locals rave about, for an atmospheric guided tour.

Afterwards we travel to the **Conero National Park** where the forest meets the sea along stunning clifftop views and check into our overnight hotel before dinner and a relaxing stroll through village craft markets.



Conero National Park

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

### **DAY 3: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Depart the Conero area for a short drive to **Loreto** one of the most important Christian pilgrimage sites in Italy since the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Visit the Basilica and the Holy House, by local lore the house in which Mary and Jesus lived in Nazareth later flown intact to this site from the Holy Land by four angels to protect it after the end of the Crusades!

Then to **Macerata** for lunch, our home for the next two days, a town voted this year one of the top 20 places to live in Italy by the Italians themselves. Check in to our hotel and enjoy some free time to rest or explore a local museum.

In the early evening we take a short journey to a nearby winery to enjoy views of the countryside while drinking local wines and eating local specialities.



Macerata, Summer Evening during Opera Festival

This evening is the main event in the truly unique open air Sferisterio Arena – the largest open-air theatre stage in Italy after Verona - to see **Rigoletto** by *Giuseppe Verdi* as part of the **Macerata Opera Festival**. The performance begins at 9pm and runs until late.

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

#### **DAY 4: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

After a late night we enjoy a slower morning start before meeting to take an Italian cookery class in a local delicatessen. Ever wondered how easy it is to make pasta, well now is your chance to find out. Eat the food you prepared for lunch in a local house and then enjoy some free time to explore the town by yourself, rest or visit more of the local museums and sights.

In the early evening we regroup before dinner for a short walking tour of the city centre and hear about the fascinating history of this town which has one of the oldest universities in Italy and was once part of the Papal States.

Tonight, revisit the Macerata Opera Festival again should you wish to see **Carmen** by *Georges Bizet* (at an optional extra cost) or enjoy the festival atmosphere around town at your leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

#### **DAY 5: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

In the morning we depart Macerata for **Assisi** a strikingly preserved hill town and birthplace of St Francis. Visit the two layered Basilica with its outstanding early mural frescoes by Giotto before enjoying some free time in the shops and lunch.

In the afternoon we leave Assisi for **Lake Trasimeno**, the fourth largest lake in Italy and perhaps its most undiscovered. Take a swim in the shallow water – the average depth is only 5 metres - or enjoy the stunning views and the changing light, perhaps visit the medieval fortress for some amazing photo opportunities or wander the narrow streets.



Castiglione Del Lago, fortress overlooking Lake Trasimeno

This evening we share a farewell dinner together overlooking the Lake.

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

***DAY 6: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019***

Depart Lake Trasimeno in the morning and drive to Bologna to arrive by noon in time for lunch before heading to the airport in time for late afternoon flights.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A premium seat for Rigoletto at the Macerata Opera Festival
- The services of an Insider Guide from the local region throughout (not including tips which are at your discretion)
- All your Accommodation based on twin/double rooms
- Meals as listed above
- Coach Touring, Entrance Fees, Visits, Local Guides as listed above
- Transfers to and from the airport

#### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights to and from the tour start point in Bologna
- Single Room Supplement (€100)
- Personal Holiday Insurances
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Drinks, Snacks and Personal Incidentals
- Tips and Gratuities

COST PER PERSON SHARING €1099

For a booking form or if you have any questions please contact:

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