

emv:

The World of Monteverdi's Italy

Milan – Parma – Modena – Cremona – Sabbioneta –

Mantua – Ferrara – Bologna – Venice

April 30–May 11, 2024 (12 days)



Teatro Piacenza



Parma Teatro Farnese



San Colombano Museum – Tagliavini Collection

Highlights:

- Attend a performance of an early VERDI opera *I Due Foscari* in Piacenza historic opera house
- Hear a piece of breathing and living history: a concert on the organ by Antegnati (1565) in the church of Santa Barbara, the Palace Chapel for the Gonzagas with Bruce Dickey and Suzie LeBlanc, C.M. (Mantua)
- Private visit to the Accademia Filarmonica (Verona) and the Galleria Estense (Modena)
- Demonstration of the Tagliavini collection of ancient musical instruments and a concert at the Museum of San Colombano (Bologna) with curator Catalina Vicens
- Visit Mantua's Palazzo Ducale, a site of major Renaissance art where Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* was first performed
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Mantua and Sabbioneta, Ferrara, Modena, Verona, and Bologna



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NOTES FROM YOUR HOSTS GUILLAUME BERNARDI & SUZIE LEBLANC, C.M.

In The Footsteps of Claudio Monteverdi

We are delighted to take you on a journey of discovery around the life of the great 17th century composer Claudio Monteverdi. On this trip, we will follow in the footsteps of Claudio Monteverdi and explore the cities and sites important in his life and career. Those remarkable cities, all lying in the valley of the river Po, were deeply interconnected in Monteverdi's time and are all within easy reach with modern transportation. They were important rival capital cities in the Renaissance, and their rulers aimed at outshining each other by calling major artists to build and decorate sumptuous palaces and churches, leaving thus an incredibly rich artistic inheritance. They also provided Monteverdi and other leading musicians with important commissions. We will visit the city of his Monteverdi's birth, Cremona, an important artistic city only second to Milan in the Renaissance, and Mantua, the stunning capital of the Gonzaga duchy where many of Monteverdi's masterpieces were created, including the groundbreaking *L'Orfeo* in the ducal palace. We will also visit the other treasure-rich cities/duchies, Parma, the capital of the Farnese dynasty and Modena, and Ferrara, ruled by the Este. These cities hosted many essential Renaissance and early Baroque artists, musicians (Luzzasco, Marenzio) and writers (Ariosto, Tasso) that were crucial to Monteverdi's inspiration and education. Their presence can still be felt and understood by visiting meaningful locations. We will also spend time in Bologna, a city renowned for its cuisine and the site of the first European university, a crucial artistic and cultural crossroad of the Papal States.

Some of the highlights include private visits to the Accademia Filarmonica in Verona, the Galleria Estense in Modena, San Petronio and San Colombano in Bologna, where the curator, Catalina Vicens, will perform on instruments in the collection.

There will also be a range of concerts featuring local musicians along with cornetist Bruce Dickey and soprano Suzie LeBlanc, C.M. The combination of sumptuous sites, scholarly insights, the finest music and culinary delights will offer an experience you will not soon forget.

This trip is a unique opportunity:

- To explore the world of Monteverdi and of the artists and musicians of the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods.
- To experience their world by going from city to city as they did, and to understand the cultural connections between those places.
- To visit stunning artistic sites which are usually overlooked because they are not easily accessible and see parts of Italy that are not overcrowded with tourists.
- To be guided through those locations by scholar and stage director Guillaume Bernardi who has known those locations since his childhood.



Mantova Profilo di Mantova

CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI



Monteverdi - Courtesy EMV

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) was the outstanding composer of a period of epochal musical change and cultural flourishing in the cities and courts of northern Italy. His lifetime straddles the turn of the seventeenth century, and he had a foot planted in both the worlds of the Renaissance and the Baroque. While Monteverdi was working in Mantua, his music became the focus of a controversy about what Monteverdi came to call the *seconda pratica*, a "second practice" of composition that allowed the passions and images of the text to bend the rule-bound norms of traditional counterpoint. A musical innovator, Monteverdi explored the new possibilities of the expressive solo voice and basso continuo, and had a hand in creating the first operas (and, arguably, the first operatic masterpiece, *Orfeo*, performed in 1607).

Much of Monteverdi's music, however, was also crafted to show his mastery of the *stile antico*, the "old" polyphonic language of the previous century. As well as experiments in novel techniques of expression, his nine published books of madrigals are a consummation of that most prestigious secular vocal genre of the Renaissance; his sacred music also makes use of an extraordinary

diversity of styles. In short, Monteverdi was alive to every artistic possibility offered by exciting (sometimes demanding) times and stimulating surroundings.

Born in Cremona, Monteverdi served a musical apprenticeship with Marc'Antonio Ingegneri, publishing collections of compositions from the age of fifteen, and by about twenty-three he was settled in Mantua in the employ of Duke Vincenzo I Gonzaga. The Mantuan years, which put Monteverdi in contact with leading musicians such as Giaches de Wert and writers such as Guarini and Tasso, witnessed the creation of the operas *Orfeo* and *Arianna* and of the monumental *Vespers* of 1610, the continent-wide spread of his madrigals, and his marriage with the court singer Claudia Cattaneo.

After two prolific decades in Mantua, Monteverdi was appointed as music director at the basilica of San Marco, the musical heart of Venice, a post he held for the rest of his life. Besides his duties at San Marco, Monteverdi contributed to the newly established Venetian public opera works such as the famous *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. Monteverdi published extensively—especially early in his career—and composed in practically every genre of the day. His music circulated widely after his death and had a profound influence not only on the following generations of baroque musicians but also on composers, scholars and listeners up to the present day.

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San Colombano Museum - Tagliavini Collection

ITINERARY

Day 1 / Tue, Apr 30: DEPART CANADA

Depart for Italy.

Day 2 / Wed, May 1: ARRIVE MILAN – PARMA

Morning departure from gathering point (Hotel) in Milan and drive to Parma, time for lunch and then introductory tour to the town, afterwards check in and dinner (D)

Day 3 / Thu, May 2: PARMA

Drive to Modena and mid morning city tour including a visit to a Balsamic Vinegar factory, then there is time for lunch on your own – in the afternoon we visit the Galleria Estense, (art gallery, showcasing the collections of the Dukes of Este), we have a private guided tour there including the music instruments section and manuscript collection (one of the most important of Italy) – then return to Parma for dinner in town (B,D)

Day 4 / Fri, May 3: PARMA

Day trip to Cremona, birthplace of Monteverdi with introduction and visit to Stradivari Museum. Dinner in Piacenza.(B,D)

– CONCERT –

Opera performance of Verdi's *I Due Foscari* at the Piacenza Opera House

Day 5 / Sat, May 4: PARMA – SABBIONETA – MANTOVA

Travel to Sabbioneta and visit of the Renaissance town which is a UNESCO heritage city, then we enjoy lunch and continue on to Mantova; after an introductory city tour of the town which is also on the UNESCO list, we check into our hotel and have dinner (B,D)

Day 6 / Sun, May 5: MANTOVA

Visit to some of the city's main sites like the Palazzo Ducale and the Palazzo Te, then there is time to enjoy the afternoon in town before we have our evening concert (B)

– CONCERT –

Organ, cornetto and voice with the organ by Antegnati (1565) in the church of Santa Barbara in Mantua

Day 7 / Mon, May 6: MANTOVA

All day visit to Ferrara with visit to the Renaissance town with the Castello Estense, location of Concerto delle Dame, Cathedral Palazzo Diamanti. – return to Mantova and evening at leisure (B)

Day 8 / Tue, May 7: MANTOVA

All day excursion to Verona with a guided tour of the main sites and private visit to the Accademia Filarmonica, return to Mantova for dinner (B,D)

Day 9 / Wed, May 8: BOLOGNA

Drive to Bologna and afternoon introduction to the town, walking tour and visit to Museum of San Colombano - Tagliavini Collection. Check in and dinner (B,D)

– CONCERT –

Concert by the students of the Bologna Conservatory - music from Italian convents

Day 10 / Thu, May 9: BOLOGNA

Time to enjoy the town and visit to San Petronio.(B,D)

– CONCERT –

Public concert at the Museum of San Colombano - Tagliavini Collection with Catalina Vicens and Bruce Dickey

Day 11 / Fri, May 10: BOLOGNA – VENICE – MESTRE

Departure for Venice and tour of the city including a visit to the stunning Franciscan church of Santa Maria dei Frari, (last resting place of Claudio Monteverdi) – then afternoon check into hotel in Mestre and dinner (B,D)

Day 12 / Sat, May 11: MESTRE/VENICE – DEPARTURE

Transfer to airport or extension for individual stay in Venice or onward travel (B)

Performance details are preliminary and subject to change; slight adjustments to our sightseeing programme may have to be made once performance schedule is finalized. Due to the worldwide situation, entry procedures and opening times at certain sites might change. We will of course try our utmost to provide the visits listed, and if not possible, suitable substitutions will be made to ensure a quality program.

PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

Fri, May 3	Opera performance of Verdi's <i>I Due Foscari</i> at the Piacenza Opera House
Sun, May 5	Organ, cornetto and voice with the organ by Antegnati (1565) in the church of Santa Barbara in Mantua
Wed, May 8	Concert by the students of the Bologna Conservatory - music from Italian convents
Thu, May 9	Public concert at the San Colombano Museum - Tagliavini Collection with Catalina Vicens and Bruce Dickey



Suzie LeBlanc, C.M. in Concert - Courtesy EMV



Catalina Vicens - Courtesy EMV



Bruce Dickey © Sigrid Lee

TOUR COSTS in CAD

Per person, twin-share	\$5,495
Single supplement	\$995

AIR OPTIONS in CAD

Please contact our office for a quote.

You may also purchase your own flights (book on points etc.) and meet the group at the hotel.

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in well-appointed 4-star hotels
- All concerts and special music events as per itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary
(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Hotel portorage
- Local taxes and service charges

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare Canada – Milan;
Venice – Canada
- Travel insurance
(please contact our office for a quote)
- Drinks with meals
- Items of a personal nature

TOUR PACE and **FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE**

This itinerary includes some walking through historic city centres and to/from the venues – easily accomplished if you are comfortable walking a few kilometres at a standard pace. Travellers with restricted mobility are welcome but may be unable to enjoy all of the walking tour portions or may require taxis.

REGISTER TODAY

2 Ways to Register:

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Visit our website sticanada.com/EMVItaly24



FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$800 pp deposit due at time of booking

\$1,500 pp second payment due by November 15, 2023

Balance due by March 1, 2024

Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation.

Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI).

Until Nov 14, 2023	\$500 pp
Nov 15, 2023 - Jan 31, 2024	\$1000 pp
Feb 01, 2024 - Feb 29, 2024	\$2,300 pp
From Mar 01, 2024	100% non refundable

(a cancellation/interruption insurance policy should be purchased to cover these cancellation charges)

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

Travel insurance companies are offering packages that include Cancellation and/or Medical coverage should you fall ill before or during your trip.

Premiums are based on the age of the traveller(s). Should you be unable to travel because of contracting COVID-19, or ANY other insurable reason, you will be entitled to compensation by your travel insurance company.

COVID-19 consideration: Some insurance companies offer an optional add-on benefit allowing you to cancel for ANY reason. These specific CANCEL FOR ANY REASON (CFAR) policies will reimburse you up to 80% of your monies, depending on when you cancel. Cost of the premium is usually about 25% higher than a standard insurance policy. CFAR policies can only be purchased at the time of booking your trip. Standard policies (All Inclusive / Cancellation / Medical) can be purchased later – at the time the 2nd payment is due, for instance. Please note travel insurance does not cover everything. It is designed to cover losses arising from sudden and unforeseeable circumstances due to emergencies. For further details, please call our office or an insurance company specialized in travel insurance.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



Cappella Artemisia at Santa Cristina - Courtesy EMV



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