



Crescendo to Cremona ORCHESTRA SERIES



About the Concert Series

Music Celebrations International is pleased to present the Crescendo to Cremona Orchestra Series as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy!

Melded from Greek, Etruscan and Roman civilizations, Italian culture has influenced Western thought, art, music, literature and civilization more than any other. As you travel from Rome to the finale in Cremona, the senses will almost reel from exposure to history, architecture, art, and beauty unequaled anywhere else in Europe.

Known around the world for its tradition of stringed instrument production, Cremona has been a famous music center since the 16th-century and still prides itself for its artisan workshops producing high-quality stringed instruments. Cremona's finest resident luthier was Antonio Stradivari. It is estimated Stradivari produced over 1,000 instruments, of which only 650 survive today and are still some of the finest in the world.

A concert and experience in Italy is a return to the roots of Western Civilization. Regardless of one's musical tastes - classical, church, ballad, opera, chant, symphonic, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Romantic, Baroque - these roots are all found in Italy. Our musical heritage certainly was born in Italy. Italians, with help from the French, invented the system of musical notation used today. Cremona produced violins by Stradivarius and Guarneri; the piano is an Italian invention. Italian composers like Verdi, Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Paganini, Vivaldi, Puccini and Rossini are household names. Select orchestras are invited to share their talents with appreciative audiences in glorious venues and spectacular settings throughout Italy as part of this unique concert series.



Sample Itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVAL

- Depart via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

DAY 2: ROME

- Arrive in Rome
- Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach
- Morning guided walking tour of Imperial Rome, including entrance to the Roman Forum and Colosseum. Also visit the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill
- Late afternoon hotel check-in
- Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

DAY 3: ROME

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Walking tour of *Religious Rome* includes Vatican City, the home of the Pope and the center of Roman Catholicism, as well as the Vatican Museums*, Sistine Chapel (featuring Michelangelo's Ceiling Frescos and The Last Judgment) and St. Peter's Basilica
- Lunch, on own
- *Afternoon Rehearsal**
- ***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Italy***
- Evening dinner and overnight

DAY 4: FLORENCE

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Transfer to Florence
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon guided tour of Florence includes the Piazza della Signoria, a lovely square in the heart of the city, towered by the lofty Palazzo Vecchio. Visit the Ponte Vecchio, the bridge across the Arno. See the Baptistery with Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise*, the Campanile, and the Academy of Fine Arts, to see Michelangelo's original *David* and other sculptures by the great master (using the whisper system)
- Evening dinner and overnight in Florence

DAY 5: AREZZO / CREMONA

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Morning transfer to Cremona via Arezzo
- Stop in Arezzo for a visit to St. Donato Cathedral. Arezzo is one of the wealthiest cities in Tuscany due to its tradition in gold-smithery. Located in Southeastern Tuscany, it sits atop a hill at the crossroads of four valleys: the Val Tiberina, Casentino, Valdarno, and Valdichiana
- Lunch, on own
- Continue to Cremona
- Evening dinner and overnight



DAY 6: CREMONA

- Breakfast at the hotel
- A half-day guided tour of Cremona includes the Civic Museum, Duomo (Cathedral), Town Hall, and most importantly, entrance to Stradivarius museum – Museo del Violino*. There are galleries devoted to the origins of the violin, violin construction, and Stradivari's workshop tools, molds and drawings
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon free-time for shopping or additional sightseeing
- ***Performance as part of the Crescendo to Cremona Series****
- Evening dinner and overnight

DAY 7: DEPART FOR HOME

- Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Transfer to the Milan Airport for return flight home



Itinerary Extensions

6 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

2 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Montecatini, 2 nights in Cremona

7 NIGHTS / 9 DAYS

3 nights in Rome, 2 nights in Montecatini, 2 nights in Cremona

8 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS

3 nights in Rome, 1 night in Florence, 2 nights in Cremona,
2 nights in Venice

Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable.



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