



Verdi Festival in Parma 17 - 22 October, 2017

£1950 per person sharing a twin or double room
£2290 for sole use of a double room

Includes: return flights from the UK, six nights 4* hotel on bed & breakfast basis, 3 performances, 2 dinners, 2 suppers and 2 lunches plus a full programme of sightseeing

The province of Emilia-Romagna straddles the Po Valley and is fondly referred to as the "bread basket" of Italy. Whilst the capital is Bologna, the food epicentre is the city of **Parma**.

Parma is just a short distance from the small town of **Busseto** where Giuseppe Verdi was born (and where Carlo Bergonzi lived and had a restaurant for many years after retiring from the operatic stage) and within an hour of the historic cities of **Mantua & Cremona**.

Each year the city holds a festival dedicated to the music of Verdi with performances taking place in the classic **Teatro Regio of Parma** as well as the 'piccolo' 300 seat opera house **Teatro Verdi in Busseto** and the beautifully restored 17th century wooden baroque masterpiece **Teatro Farnese**.

Ticket allocations

We have received a ticket allocation of 30 seats for each of the performances. For the **Requiem** and **Falstaff** (both at the Teatro Regio) we have top price stall seats. For the performance of **La Traviata** in Busseto the local 'Amici di Verdi' have an option for all of the stalls and box tickets and so at the moment we have been allocated gallery tickets (3rd level up on the photo overleaf). For those of you familiar with Buxton Opera House I imagine that these are similar to their gallery so relatively high up with some restriction to view (although this is a tiny theatre) and are mainly bench seating. We hope to be able to get seats lower down the house released as we move forward but we wanted you to be aware of this situation. My view is that if we don't get better seats, it is such a wonderful historic theatre and Traviata is a relatively short opera that it will still be worth it!

We have taken the performance of **Stifelio** out of the package and made it an optional performance as director David McVicar has decided that it should involve the participation of the audience! He says "The public will assist the opera standing, moving freely around the stage, thus determining his own point of view and listening. **Seats are not foreseen:** an eventual seat number printed on the ticket is only for booking necessities. We invite the public to wear comfortable shoes. The performance lasts 2h 30' about, with a 20' interval"! SO if you are up for that you can add the ticket cost (£120) to your order or otherwise have a night off

We will stay at the 4* **Hotel du Parc in Parma** on a bed & breakfast basis. As well as getting to know Parma itself, the day to day sightseeing will include visits to Verdi's home in Busseto; a visit to Cremona, the hometown of Stradivari (and 21st century luthiers) and the renaissance gem of Mantua. We will also focus on the superb gastronomy of the region.

We will fly from Manchester to Bologna on Ryanair (reserved forward seating and 20kg baggage allowance) and return from Bergamo to Manchester. Flight times are as follows:

Manchester – Bologna 1050 – 1415
Bergamo – Manchester 1720 – 1840

We do have a number of guests from the South and so we are proposing flying you to Milan Linate and we will then have a minibus to transfer to you Parma (just under two hours). There is no supplement for this service. Flight are with Easyjet and include forward seating and 20kg baggage. The details are:

Gatwick – Milan Linate 1320 – 1620
Milan Linate - Gatwick 1705 – 1755

During our stay we will also include two dinners, two suppers and two lunches (all with wine of course) and a full programme of sightseeing.

The deposit is £500 + your ticket subscription of £280 (covering the two performances at Teatro Regio and one in Busseto) is due at the time of booking. If you wish to add the performance of Stifelio please add an additional £120.