

La Serenissima!

Music and Art in Milan, Verona, Vicenza, and Venice with Classical KING

Join Classical KING, in partnership with The Grand Tour Travel Company, for a spectacular 11-day trip of music, art and architecture encompassing four beautiful cities in Northern Italy.

The tour begins in Milan, where we will admire masterpieces by Michelangelo and Leonardo and attend a performance of Puccini's *Turandot* at La Scala. After a guided tour and private concert at Villa Medici Giulini, we move on to Verona, one of Italy's loveliest cities, home to the grand, 1st-century Roman Arena and the splendid Romanesque church of San Zeno. A day trip takes us to Vicenza for a tour of the whimsical Villa Valmarana ai Nani and visits to two famous villas designed by the great Renaissance master Andrea Palladio; a second private concert also awaits us there. Then we embark for Venice, making our way by private boat down the Brenta Canal and into the lagoon.

For 1,000 years, the Venetian Republic dominated world trade on the Adriatic and Mediterranean seas. Its wealthy merchant class patronized art, architecture and music to make *la Serenissima* one of the most beautiful cities in the world. With eminent art historian Antonio Mazzotta as our private guide in Milan and at the Galleria dell'Accademia and elsewhere in Venice, we will spend time with the masterpieces of Titian, Tintoretto, and Bellini, visit the colorful islands of Murano, Burano, and Torcello, and enjoy more musical performances in sublime settings. Great art, world-class music, majestic architecture, and expert guides, not to mention delicious local cuisine, fine wines, and deluxe lodging everywhere we go—this tour promises to be an unforgettable 11 days in Italy.

April 16*– 27, 2026

*Tour begins April 17 in Milan



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Six musical performances—two operas, one orchestral concert, three private concerts in special venues
- Guided tours of major sites, including Castello Sforzesco and the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan, the Arena and San Zeno in Verona, and the School of San Rocco, the Basilica dei Frari, Doge's Palace, and the Accademia Gallery in Venice
- Guided tours of Villa Valmarana, Villa Rotonda and Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza and Villa Malcontenta along the Brenta Canal
- Demonstration of the historical piano collection at Villa Medici Giulini
- Private cruise along the Brenta Canal
- Guide services in Milan and Venice by Antonio Mazzotta, professor of Art History at the University of Milan
- All-day guided excursion to the islands of Murano, Torcello, and Burano
- Exclusive glass-blowing demonstration on the island of Murano by a top artist represented by Seattle's Traver Gallery
- Deluxe, 5-star accommodations in Milan, Verona, and Venice
- 10 breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 3 dinners
- Private motorcoach and boat transportation throughout the tour
- Free time for additional sight-seeing

Tour limited to 25 participants.



Murano glass artist
Davide Salvatore

Itinerary



Milan

Thursday, April 16

Flights from the US, with arrivals the following day.

Friday, April 17

Milan

Arrivals at Milan Malpensa [MXP], and coach transfer to Hotel for those arriving on suggested flight. Check-in at Grand Hotel et de Milan, luxury 5-star hotel, notable as the winter residence of Giuseppe Verdi for 30 years, and where he died in 1901, followed by a **Welcome reception** at the hotel and **dinner** nearby.

Saturday, April 18

Milan

A full day of touring in Milan with art historian Antonio Mazzotta, starting with a guided visit to the Castello Sforzesco and Biblioteca Ambrosiana, featuring works by both Michelangelo and Leonardo. After **lunch**, we have the rest of the afternoon free, then meet for an evening performance at La Scala, the most famous opera house in the world, of Puccini's grand and final opera, *Turandot*, with a standout cast.



Sunday, April 19

Verona

After a stop at the gorgeous Villa Medici Giulini to view its extraordinary collection of historical musical instruments and enjoy **lunch** and our first private concert, we move on to fair Verona. We check into the lovely Hotel Due Torri and, after time for rest and relaxation, join our private guide Valeria Biasi for a leisurely late-afternoon stroll through the *centro storico*, with **dinner** afterwards on the banks of the fast-flowing Adige.

Monday, April 20

Verona

This morning with Valeria we resume our walking tour of old Verona and have free time to explore the lively markets of the splendid Piazza delle Erbe, one of the prettiest public squares in Italy. Afterwards, a guided visit of Palazzo Maffei and its fine collection of ancient and modern art awaits us, followed by **lunch** nearby. Take advantage of a few hours of free time

in the early afternoon, then reconvene for guided visits to the 12th cen. San Zeno, one of Italy's most stunning Romanesque churches, and the spectacular Arena. The evening will be free.

Tuesday, April 21

Vicenza

Today we travel by private coach to the environs of Vicenza. Our first stop, a guided tour of Villa Rotonda, arguably Palladio's most recognizable creation. Just minutes away on foot, another private tour as we step into the playful world of the 17th cen. Villa Valmarana ai Nani, actually two villas on the same estate, each frescoed by Tiepolo *pere et fils*. **Lunch** follows nearby, and then we are off to Teatro Olimpico, Palladio's last work and an absolute gem of theatre architecture. Following the tour, enjoy a private concert inside the theatre. Once back in Verona, you will have the evening free.

Wednesday, April 22

Venice

We leave Verona behind and, after **lunch**, arrive in Venice via private boat on the lovely Brenta Canal, with a stop along the way at Villa Foscari Malcontenta, another of Palladio's grand creations. Once in the lagoon, it is a brief ride by private *motoscapi* to our hotel, the 5-star Centurion Palace on the Grand Canal in the Dorsoduro. Take the evening to relax, explore the peaceful Dorsoduro quarter, and dine on your own.

Villa Rotonda



Thursday, April 23

Venice

Antonio Mazzotta rejoins us this morning to offer his expert guidance on tours of the Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, with its superb masterpieces by Titian and Bellini, and of the neighboring Scuola di San Rocco, known for its spectacular collection of paintings by the Venetian master Tintoretto. After **lunch** in the area, enjoy a few hours of free time, then reconvene, again with Antonio, for a guided tour of Palazzo Ducale, the Gothic residence of the Doges, for a glimpse into the astonishing grandeur of the old Republic. Our third private concert rounds out the day, with the rest of the evening free.



Friday, April 24

Venice

Our exploration of Venetian art continues, with Antonio, at the Gallerie Accademia, which houses one of the most impressive collections of paintings in Europe. After **lunch**, enjoy the rest of the afternoon free, then come together for an evening orchestral concert at Teatro la Fenice (*left*), with music by

Smetana, Kodaly and Sibelius, conducted by Alpesh Chauhan, who charmed Seattle Symphony audiences in 2022 and 2024.

Saturday, April 25

Venice

Today we venture by private boat into the lagoon to explore the islands of Murano, Torcello and Burano. On Murano, enjoy a private glass blowing exhibition at the studio of renowned glass artist Davide Salvadore, who is represented by Seattle's Traver Gallery. After **lunch** on the island of Torcello, we visit the church of Santa Maria Assunta, one of the oldest in the Veneto, with mosaics predating any others in the area. Then it is on to Burano, a picturesque town known for its bright-colored houses and ancient lace-making traditions. We return to Venice in the late afternoon and have the rest of the evening free.

Murano



Sunday, April 26

Venice

You have the entire morning and half of the afternoon free in Venice to shop, relax, or indulge in additional sight-seeing on your own. A performance at La Fenice of Wagner's *Lohengrin* awaits us in the late afternoon, followed by a **Farewell dinner** in the evening to conclude the tour.

Monday, April 27

Ciao!

Tour ends after breakfast; water taxi transfers to Venice airport.

Itinerary subject to change.

*Meals in **bold** included in the price of the tour.*



TOUR REGISTRATION

Tour cost: \$11,950 ground only, based on double occupancy

Single supplement: \$2,785

Deposit: \$1,000 per person, first come, first served

Registration deadline: February 20, 2026

After that date, call for availability

Limited to 25 participants

To reserve your place, send registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit amount to:
La Serenissima Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274,
Peterborough, NH 03458.

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour at 603.532.6265 /
800.727.2995 or info@thegrandtour.com.

The La Serenissima tour is an exclusive presentation by Classical KING and is organized by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, New Hampshire.

LISA BERGMAN, HOST

Having performed everywhere from Carnegie Hall to the Pacific Rim, accomplished pianist Lisa Bergman has been a vital part of Classical KING since 2012. A graduate of The Juilliard School and former Artist in Residence at the University of Washington, Lisa is a celebrated educator and performer. Her passionate promotion of classical music has led her to found the Mostly Nordic Chamber Music Series as well as NOISE (Northwest Opera in Schools, Etcetera). She also served as Executive Director of the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts in Leavenworth, Washington, where she was a classical music host on KOHO FM for ten years. Despite her long list of achievements in music, Lisa is best known around the Classical KING studios for her quick wit, warm sense of humor, and for bringing the joy and surprise of classical music to listeners.

