

*Theme:*

## Opera in the 'Arena di Verona'

*Main Focal Points:*

- Attend two performances in the Arena of Verona
- Enjoy Summer days in Verona
- Discover "on and off the beaten track" pleasures in the surrounding Veneto area and towards the Dolomites

*Other Activities – choice of:*

- city of Verona:
  - San Zeno Maggiore
  - Castelvecchio + Ponte Scaligera
- Trento
- Vicenza
  - Palazzo Chiericati
  - Teatro Olimpico
  - villa 'La Rotonda'
- boat trip to Palladian Villas on the "riviera del Brenta"
- Rovereto – Museo di Arte Moderna
- Treviso
  - arcaded streets
  - Palazzo dei Trecento; Duomo (Titian)
- Udine – affreschi by Tiepolo
- Asolo – characterful hill town – associations with Robert Browning – Bassano – Castelfranco Veneto (Giorgione)
- Visit vineyard of Amarone wine and/or Prosecco

*Accommodation*

There are two 5-star, 14 4-star and 13 3-star Hotels in Verona. It is also possible to stay on nearby Lake Garda – e.g. in Peschiera di Garda or in Sirmione.

In view of the focus on attending opera performances, guests may prefer not to have to get on a coach for every performance – so staying in Verona may be preferable.

*Travel from/to UK*

There is a good choice of flights with scheduled carriers to Milan or Venice from a number of UK cities. In addition, BA have 2 daily flights from London Gatwick to Verona (2009 timetable).

## Sample Itinerary:

### **Day One:**

- travel from UK
- transfer to Hotel
- relax on Piazza delle Erbe

### **Day Two:**

- stroll through Verona in the morning
  - San Zeno (Mantegna triptych)
- Stay by the river for cooler air in the afternoon – teatro Romano, palazzo della Ragione
- First opera performance in the Arena

### **Day Three:**

- Palladian Villas:
  - all day Boat trip along the Brenta canal from Padua to Venice
  - moor at and visit 4 Palladian villas during this cruise (incl. the astonishing 'Malcontenta')

### **Day Four:**

- morning: Castelvecchio museum in Verona
- afternoon: visit to vinyard, or free time
- Second opera performance in the Arena

### **Day Five:**

- Day trip to Asolo, Bassano del Grappa, Castelfranco Veneto
  - Asolo: picturesque hill town, associations with Robert Browning, Eleonora Duse and Gabriele d'Annunzio
  - Bassano: piazza Montevicchio (frescoed houses), medieval covered bridge
  - Castelfranco Veneto: town still surrounded by full walls; home of Giorgione (altar piece in church)

### **Day Six:**

- return flight to UK