

## Chapter 1 : List of important operas - Wikipedia

*The opera lover in everyone will delight in this comprehensive guide as it leads them through all the great European opera houses--from Covent Gardens in London to L.*

Boasting a wealth of historic, majestic opera houses, Italy is not only the birthplace of the opera, but is still one of the best places in the world to see performances of this art form. If you are set on seeing a particular performance, or visiting a particular theater, be sure to buy your opera tickets in advance. Since the new seasons are announced around this time of year, this is the right time to browse the event schedule and book tickets. Maria Callas and Luciano Pavarotti are some of the famous opera singers who have performed on this stage, and with its stellar reputation, La Scala continues to draw the top voices and orchestras to perform on its stage. With over seats, the season opening at La Scala is one of the most anticipated social events in Milan. Located in Venice, this theater first opened in , but was nearly burned down twice by fire. With over seats, this theater was home to several icons of Italian music including Gioacchino Rossini and Gaetano Donizetti. Situated right next to the royal palace, this theater experienced high levels of controversy regarding some of the strongest censorship of all opera theaters. Teatro Massimo Teatro Massimo, Palermo credits: Winimedia â€” Bernhard J. The interior designâ€”replete with removable ceiling panels to reduce noise from air conditioning unitsâ€”and acoustics are considered some of the best in the world. This theater is a must-visit for film buffs, music lovers, opera fans and architecture aficionados. Teatro Regio Torino Teatro Regio credits: Originally built as the royal theater in , this opera house seated many international dignitaries, including Napoleon. Arena di Verona Arena di Verona While not strictly an opera house, Arena di Verona is an amazing outdoor venue to watch performances. A restored Roman amphitheater like the Colosseum , the slightly pinkish marble arena stands in the middle of Verona. With excellent acoustics especially for an open-air venue , live shows are often performed without microphones. Due to its outdoor setting, the opera calendar for the arena is during the summer rather than in the winter like other opera houses; however, the amphitheater does host other outdoor concerts during the rest of the year, as long as weather permits. Italy is a playground for the senses; with so many things to see, eat, hear and do, it may be difficult to decide what to visit first. If you have the time and inclination , make it a point to schedule a moment for one of these historic opera houses for a performance or two. The history and architecture of these ancient theaters alone is worth the visit, and the performance is sure to be breathtaking. Have you ever experienced opera in Italy? Share your experience with us! She has spent some time backpacking through Europe and enjoys sharing her experiences in her favorite countries with her readers.

## Chapter 2 : Prague Food Tour - Eating Europe

*The opera lover in everyone will delight in this comprehensive guide as it leads them through all the great European opera houses--from Covent Gardens in London to L'Opera in Paris to La Scala in Rome, and beyond.*

The first and most innovative of three middle period Verdi operas which have become staples of the repertoire. The role of Violetta, the "fallen woman" of the title, is one of the most famous vehicles for the soprano voice. By the time he came to write *Un ballo in maschera*, Verdi was rich enough not to have to work for a living. This opera ran into trouble with the censors because it originally dealt with the assassination of a monarch. The last opera Berlioz wrote is the fruit of his lifelong admiration for Shakespeare. This tragedy was commissioned by the Imperial Theatre, Saint Petersburg, and Verdi may have been influenced by the Russian tradition in the writing of his work. Another operetta by Offenbach which pokes fun at Greek mythology. The "Tristan chord" began the breakdown of traditional tonality. Set in Peru, this operetta mixes comedy and sentimentality. Though most famous as a librettist for Verdi, Boito was also a composer and he spent many years working on this musical version of the Faust myth. Features one of the greatest tenor arias of all time, Celeste Aida. Probably the most popular of all operettas. Another comedy by Smetana, the only one of his operas with a non-Czech subject. Probably the most famous of all French operas. The third part of the Ring sees the hero Siegfried slay the dragon Fafner, win the ring and free Brunhilde from her enchantment. This comic piece has been described as "a cross between Carmen and Gilbert and Sullivan, with plenty of Offenbach thrown in". An opera with that was heavily influenced by those of Wagner. The composer strongly identified with the heroine Tatyana. Nevertheless, this is his most widely performed opera today. Verdi heavily revised this opera over twenty years after it was first performed. An early operatic work by Puccini with plenty of opportunity for dance. A Breton folk tale with music heavily influenced by Wagner. Borodin spent 17 years working on this opera off and on, yet never managed to finish it. Most famous for its "Polovtsian dances". In a letter to his brother and librettist the composer said that "the opera is a masterpiece". This work has been thought of as a late example of opera semiseria. Debussy is alleged to have said that no one had detailed Paris at that time better than had Puccini in *La Boheme*. Originally a melodrama that blended song and spoken dialogue, the composer adapted the work into an opera proper in An immediate success at the time of the premiere, the opera enjoyed 50 performances in alone. The lack of a love interest makes the plot of this work almost unique among Czech comic operas. An attempt to provide a French equivalent for Italian verismo, *Louise* is set in a working-class district of Paris. One of the most famous Viennese operettas. A tragedy of unhappy love set in Switzerland; the most famous music is the interlude "The Walk to the Paradise Garden". A mystical retelling of an old national legend. Sometimes called the Russian Parsifal. Described by Puccini as his best work. A mixture of comedy and tragedy with an opera within an opera. A passionate Spanish drama influenced by verismo.

### Chapter 3 : Opera Tours in Europe | USA Today

*Get this from a library! The opera lover's guide to Europe. [Carol Plantamura] -- Provides histories of the great opera houses of Europe and biographies of the dominant composers.*

Doing so following an afternoon of exploring the different varietals as the sun sinks into the sky behind you is even more alluring. For a journey that will take you back in time, allow you to explore unique regions, and ignite each and every one of your senses, consider a tour through the European wine regions. There is great diversity of vineyards and wines across Europe just waiting to be explored and tasted. When planning your next wine trip, consider these six locations: The Douro Valley, Portugal Named one of the top 10 trips in the world for wine lovers, the Douro Valley in northern Portugal is the home of port – the sweet red wine that is generally served as dessert. Situated above the Douro River, the steep terraces that make up the vineyard began producing the red varietal as far back as the third century A. The Romans were among the first to begin producing wine in this region, making the vineyard one of the oldest worldwide. Traveling by train is usually advised as the steep roads to the vineyards of this region are incredibly curvy and narrow. You can also glimpse the beauty of the region with a boat tour along the Douro River. With official wine varieties in the region ranging from rich, full-bodied reds to light, crisp whites, Tuscany should top the travel bucket list of any wine lover. Champagne, France Between the reds and the whites is the bubbles: Bubbles from Spain are called cava and Italian bubbles are called prosecco. Only the true product from the Champagne region in northern France , just south of Paris can take that name. You can also find red varieties of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Teran. The reds are also different in the south, producing an intense variety of notes of flavor. For wine vacations like no other, consider venturing through this central European nation. Santorini, Greece Though most only venture to the Mediterranean island of Santorini for romantic sun-drenched getaways amid bright white architecture and deep blue seas, some luxury vacation packages may include a wine tour as well. Catalonia, Spain Level temperatures and year-round sunlight make Catalonia an ideal region for growing grapes. Lively and welcoming, the region hosts wine festivals, offers great wine tastings and walks, and provides culinary classes that teach you the best wines for food pairings. Wine therapy treatments are even being offered at several wellness centers in the region!

## Chapter 4 : An Art Lover's Guide to Europe's best Museums | six-two by Contiki

*Sounds of Central Europe. The Sounds of Central Europe tour is operated by a company that focuses on opera travel, so your experienced tour guide will be knowledgeable and well versed in the subject.*

Monteverdi was the "founding father" of operatic form. Euridice dies from a snake bite. The sorrowful Orpheus, through his music, tries to save her from the Underworld. In addition to sailors and witches, Purcell gave us one of the most sublime laments in opera: Caesar, written for castrato, is often sung by a countertenor. A plot of jealousy, infidelity and treachery results in a cocktail of bravura music. A mix of old and new styles, poised at the birth of Romanticism, this is regarded as one of the key operas of the 18th century. Others find it too long, and the garden scene dreary. The Queen called it "the one about the [lost] pin". The music is ravishing, some of it probably familiar. Its prominent use of dialogue makes it a challenge to stage. Mozart died only weeks after completing it. For many his Egyptian Aida is an ideal first opera. For dramatic intensity, Rigoletto "compact, tuneful, melodramatic" is even better. The hunchback prompts pity when he tries to protect his daughter. Mimi, the Bohemian seamstress of the title, her poet lover Rodolfo and their destitute Parisian friends capture the pains and pleasures of young love in an attic. He abandons her, then returns with a wife. After a first-night disaster, it became one of the best-loved operas. When Puccini died leaving the opera incomplete, it was finished by a composer friend, Alfano. Leonora dresses as a man, Fidelio, to rescue her husband Florestan from imprisonment. It concerns the shooting trials of young hunters to win their lovers. The hero Max transgresses by using "free" magic bullets. Good and evil struggle in a vivid, tuneful display of high German Romanticism. Catch it when it is. This is perhaps the last great Romantic opera, rich with symbolism, myth, taboo: A knight in shining armour arrives in a swan-drawn boat. You can guess what it is. As usual, Wagner wrote his own libretto. Isolde is betrothed to King Mark. After a mix-up, she and Tristan drink a love potion and fall cataclysmically in love. This is "extreme opera", full of ecstatic thrills in very slow motion, but worth every note. The plot revolves around a song contest, and celebrates all art, especially German. The music is uplifting, the choruses magnificent. By any reckoning The Ring is among the mightiest single monuments of art created by one person. The eponymous widow, Hanna Glawari, is not only merry but fabulously rich. Too much fun for some tastes. Salome desires John the Baptist. In this bitter-sweet comedy an older woman the Marschallin sees she must send her young lover into the arms of another. The final trio sends opera-buffs into an ultimate swoon. Immensely expensive to stage, The Trojans is sometimes split across two evenings. Never pass up a chance to see it. The Gypsy dancer at the cigarette factory who breaks hearts and meets her doom outside the bullring offers an ideal start to opera. An acquired taste "but well worth acquiring. Folk-inspired dances, a drinking song and a story of young lovers thwarted by an official betrothal make this an engaging Czech tale of village life. The reluctant Boris, filled with foreboding and guilt for a murder, is appointed tsar. The people grow hungry and rebellious. Pretenders vie for the throne. Boris becomes deranged, the soul of Russia "expressed through anguished choruses" troubled. This is one of the Russian operatic greats. Her granddaughter Lisa falls in love with a young officer, Hermann, who is desperate to learn that secret. A hot-blooded thriller set to impassioned music. While her husband is away, the bored, frustrated Katerina Izmailova murders her father-in-law and takes a lover. A tragic soap opera unfolds. Only a remote connection with Shakespeare. Tom Rakewell falls under the spell of Nick Shadow, and opts for a sybaritic life of easy riches. But Nick is the devil. Tom ends up penniless and mad in Bedlam. Guilt rips through a Czech village community. She demands that he unlock the doors of his castle. Blood, money, a lake of tears and other wives lurk behind them. In , Birmingham Opera Company mounted a community version in a warehouse, renaming it Votzek; it was a sellout, its story instantly comprehensible. Every folk-jazz inspired number is a hit: Confused issues of racism linger. His retelling of the tragedy of Priam, King of Troy, is intense, violent, poignant and highly original. The Grand Macabre announces that at midnight the world will end.

**Chapter 5 : 10 best music and opera tours for**

*Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.*

Trisha Andres It was the Salzburg Festival , founded back in the Twenties, which first introduced the concept of combining a holiday with musical performances. Now there are festivals all over Europe, and many tour operators offer holidays to these, and to some of the best opera houses. Some have even begun to organise their own mini festivals. Often they include insights from music specialists and historians who accompany the trips and introduce the programmes and performers. Our selection for ranges from the opera festivals in Lucca and Verona , to a festival of Spanish music in Salamanca. There are also tours that examine other genres, such as blues and jazz in Brussels and New Orleans. Prices quoted in this article include return flights from London, accommodation, and admission to sights on the itineraries, unless stated otherwise. They are per person, based on two sharing a twin or double room. Some departures allow for flights from regional airports.

Blues in Brussels The Brussels Blues Jazz Marathon Weekend in May includes a varied programme of free blues and jazz gigs, ensembles and open-air concerts from more than musicians from all over the world. Leger Holidays is offering a four-day tour which takes in this special weekend, based at the three-star Ibis Brussels Centre St Catherine. While blues and jazz are the focus, there are also latino, funk and rock performances. Leger Holidays ; leger. Based in the four-star Hotel de la Ville in the city centre near the Duomo, Teatro alla Scala and the Via Montenapoleone, the trip provides plenty of free time to explore the city, with recommendations from a knowledgeable tour manager. The three-day tour also includes a welcome dinner at Casa Giuliani, a private residence owned by Fernanda Giuliani, a trained pianist and local collector of antique musical instruments, some of which have been lent to major institutions for use in their performances. Travel for the Arts ; travelforthearts. Departing from Budapest, you will explore the contrasting cultures, cuisines and landscapes of Hungary, Austria and Germany at this most joyful time of year, from the fairy-lit Christmas markets of Budapest and Vienna to the wintry splendour of the Wachau Valley, a Unesco World Heritage Site. You will be joined in the Austrian capital by cook, author and broadcaster Mary Berry, who will reveal behind-the-scenes insights and share tales from her illustrious career during a series of exclusive events, including two private talks and a special book signing of her latest publication. Puccini, one of the most celebrated composers of all time, was born and lived in Lucca 5. Great Rail Journeys ; greatrail. There is also a walking tour led by tour leader Susie Orso, which takes in key sites of Verona, including: The Ultimate Travel Company ; theultimatetravelcompany. Ring Cycle in Leipzig The Ring has not been performed in Leipzig “the city where Wagner was born” for several decades, but this year the Leipzig Opera will stage two complete cycles for their season. This tour also takes in the towns of Eisenach and Pirna and includes visits to the Bach Museum, Schumann House, Mendelssohn House and the Wagner Museum, which occupies a former hunting lodge and is a short walk from the farmhouse where Wagner and his wife Minna lived in Kirker Holidays ; kirkerholidays. The Leipzig Opera 8. It will also visit Nashville and Memphis, and a cruise on a Mississippi paddle-steamer. There is also a train ride aboard the Incline Railway, which runs up to Lookout Mountain and offers views across the terrain fought over during the American Civil War. Titan ; titantravel. Sounds of Paris The new concert hall “the Philharmonie de Paris” designed by Jean Nouvel, which opened in Paris last year, is swiftly becoming a major draw for music lovers because of its exceptional acoustics. Martin Randall ; martinrandall. The Philharmonie de Paris, which was designed by Jean Nouvel, has been lauded for its outstanding acoustics Tips Usually accommodation is in hotels of four stars or higher, but double-check before booking. Solos - single supplements are often high, but these trips attract high numbers of single travellers and are a good way of meeting others with similar interests. Most tours include first-category opera tickets “but double check. Listen to recordings ahead of the performance and read the synopsis beforehand if you can. Despite surtitles, you will get more enjoyment if you know the plot.

### Chapter 6 : Wine Lover's Guide to Europe - Kensington Tours Blog

*The first stop on your beer-lovers tour to Europe should be to Amsterdam, home to one of the most stunning urban landscapes in Europe and to one of the most renowned beers in the world, Heineken!*

### Chapter 7 : Opera Online - The opera lovers web site

*Amy Donahue is a staff reviewer at the Twin Cities Arts theinnatdunvilla.com interned with the magazine during the summer of , served as a guest contributor while studying abroad in Europe that fall, and has moved up to regular old reviewing.*

### Chapter 8 : Top 50 operas | Music | The Guardian

*The Eastern European opera tour with The Aranis was far beyond my wildest hopes. They are skilled, charming hosts and everything was smooth and delightful. The accommodations, opera seats, meals and tour guides were par excellent.*

### Chapter 9 : The 6 Best Venues to Experience The Opera in Italy

*Salzburg Music Guide () then hear world-class performances in Europe's most famous concert halls and opera The BachFest in Leipzig is perfect for Bach Lovers.*