

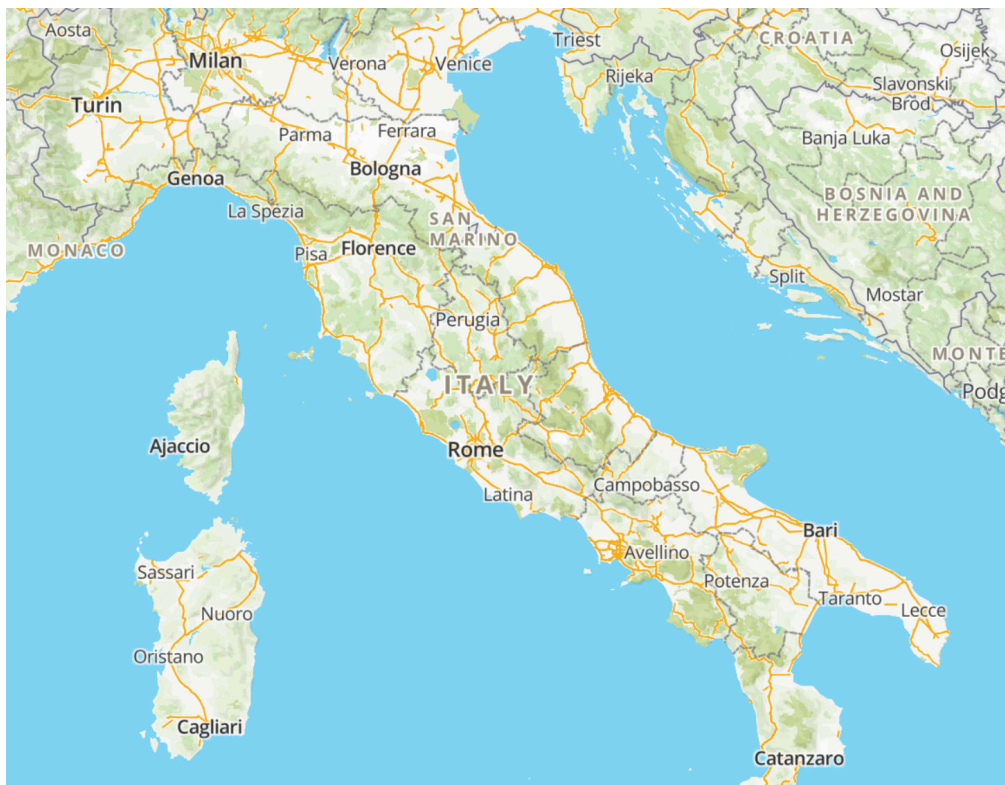
# Georgia Festival Chorus

## Tuscany International Choral Festival and Tuscany Experience

June 12-19, 2024

800.624.0166 | 802.862.2200 | [travel@music-contact.com](mailto:travel@music-contact.com) | [www.music-contact.com](http://www.music-contact.com)





## ***Perform in Italy with your choir!***

Benvenuto in Italia!

Your journey will whisk you into a world of immense beauty, culture, history and most importantly, music. Not only is music traditionally one of the cultural symbols of Italian identity, but it holds an important position in both society and politics. The music of Italy ranges across a broad spectrum, from instrumental to vocal to theatrical. Italian contribution in such areas as musical scales, harmony, notation, and theater enabled the development of opera and much of modern European classical music, such as the concerto and symphony. One can still hear the sounds of Claudio Monteverde and Giuseppe Verdi through the narrow streets.

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# ITINERARY



## **DAY 1** | Wednesday, June 12

### FLY TO FLORENCE

The Georgia Festival Chorus' Italian experience begins!

Depart **Atlanta** at 4:30pm on **Air France flight #31** to **Paris - Charles de Gaulle**.

Refer to your **MCI tour handbook** for tips on making the journey smooth and comfortable.

# DAYS 2 - 5 | Thursday, June 13 - Sunday, June 16

## TUSCANY INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL

### THURSDAY | ARRIVE IN ITALY | FLORENCE - MONTECATINI TERME | FESTIVAL OPENING CEREMONY

Arrive at **Paris - Charles de Gaulle** at 7:00am and transfer to your connecting flight. Proceed from Terminal 2E to Terminal 2F, through passport control and security.

Depart **Paris - Charles de Gaulle** at 9:15am on **Air France flight #1366** to **Florence**.

Arrive in **Florence** at 11:00am. Welcome to Italy!

Your **Music Contact International Tour Manager** will greet your choir at the airport upon arrival.

Together, travel by private motor coach to **Montecatini Terme**, a delightful Tuscan spa town in a valley of olive groves and vineyards. *For travelers who are seeking a later transfer to Montecatini, please contact your tour leader, Paul Manno, for updates.*

After free time to stretch your legs in the town center and have lunch at leisure, check into your hotel, the **Grand Hotel Nizza et Suisse**, and enjoy a **welcome dinner** celebrating your group's arrival in Tuscany!

Then, the **Tuscany International Choral Festival** kicks off with an **opening ceremony** and friendly show of Italian hospitality. Cultural dignitaries host the event with **traditional flag throwing** and **musical entertainment** by a local choir.

### FRIDAY | FESTIVAL CONCERTS: TETTUCCIO SPA AND PIAZZA DEL POPOLO

**Breakfast** will be served each morning at your hotel.

**Perform your first festival concert** this morning under the magnificent dome at **Tettuccio Spa**, a beautiful representation of Art Nouveau, mosaics, marble, and fine colonnades. Sing in turn with other festival choirs and enjoying listening to choral presentations from around the world!

The afternoon is free for exploring **Montecatini Terme** at leisure. Perhaps ride the funicular up to **Montecatini Alto**, the ancient hilltop part of town with spectacular views of the city below.

This evening, **dinner** is served at your hotel.

Later tonight, music fills the air as choirs each **perform a public concert in Montecatini Terme's bustling Piazza del Popolo**. Residents look forward to the choral concerts each year and turn out enthusiastically for your performances in their town center.

### SATURDAY | EXCURSION TO FLORENCE | FESTIVAL CLOSING CEREMONY

Today, enjoy a **guided excursion to Florence**, Tuscany's historic capital with renowned artistic treasures. Explore with a local guide, and then enjoy time at leisure. See the glorious **Duomo** cathedral; palaces, piazzas, churches filled with masterpieces; and the much-photographed **Ponte Vecchio** bridge laden with gold sellers. Perhaps visit a magnificent museum or shop in the crafts markets for leather goods, pottery, jewelry, and scarves.

Tonight, choirs will be treated to a **traditional Tuscan dinner** and **festival closing ceremony**, where ensembles are officially recognized and thanked for their musical achievements. A **shared choral piece** rounds out the festivities amidst rounds of

joyful impromptu singing!

## SUNDAY | EXCURSION TO LUCCA | SING FOR MASS

To start your day, **sing for Mass at a local church**. A local congregation will be uplifted by the songs you contribute to their Sunday Mass.

This afternoon, enjoy a **guided excursion to Lucca**. Explore with a local guide, and then enjoy time at leisure.

The walled city of **Lucca** is a Renaissance showcase with peaceful squares, churches, and scenic lanes at every turn. The great Italian composer Puccini was born in Lucca, and the city remains a haven for classical music and culture.

This exciting day comes to a close with one last **dinner** together at your hotel in Montecatini Terme.







## DAY 6 | Monday, June 17

### EXCURSION TO SAN GIMIGNANO | ARRIVE AT VILLA SABOLINI

Check out of your Montecatini Terme hotel this morning.

Embark on a **guided excursion to San Gimignano**, an Italian hill town with a skyline of medieval towers. Explore with a local guide, and then enjoy time at leisure. See famous sites such as the **Piazza del Duomo**, where you can view the stunning 14th-century **Santa Maria Assunta** Romanesque church, and **Torre Grossa**, the tallest tower in the town.

Next, enjoy a **local tasting**, including olive oil, other Tuscan hors d'oeuvres, and, for those interested, wine. Sample local products together against the backdrop of **Tenuto Torciano**, a working Tuscan vineyard.

Later, transfer to **Villa Sabolini**, situated in the Chianti hills. Named after one of the most influential families of 15th century Italy, **Villa Sabolini** is nestled in **Colle di val d'Elsa**, a medieval village between Florence and Siena. Check in to the villa and enjoy **dinner** together.

## DAY 7 | Tuesday, June 18

### EXCURSION TO SIENA | FRIENDSHIP CONCERT\*

**Breakfast** will be served each morning at the villa.

Today, enjoy a **guided excursion to Siena**, a small, vibrant town whose historic city center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore with a local guide, and then enjoy time at leisure. See the **Piazza del Campo**, Siena's main public square, and its **Duomo**. Built in the Gothic style and featuring breathtaking frescoes along the interior, it is one of Siena's most popular sites!

This evening, **the Georgia Festival Chorus will perform a friendship concert** at **Great Hall La Scotte**, the **University of Siena** auditorium, alongside **the university choir**.

After your concert, a festive **farewell dinner** will be served at a local restaurant in Siena before returning to your villa to prepare for tomorrow's departure.

## DAY 8 | Wednesday, June 19

### FESTIVAL EXTENSION ENDS | RETURN HOME

Check out of the villa around 9:00am and head to **Florence**, where the Georgia Festival Chorus' Italian experience ends. *For travelers who are seeking an earlier transfer to Montecatini, please contact your tour leader, Paul Manno, for updates.*

Depart **Florence** at 12:00pm on **Air France flight #1367** to **Paris – Charles de Gaulle**.

Arrive at **Paris – Charles de Gaulle** at 1:50pm and transfer to your connecting flight. Proceed from Terminal 2F to Terminal 2E, through passport control.

Depart **Paris – Charles de Gaulle** at 5:30pm on **Air France flight #34** to **Atlanta**.

Arrive in **Atlanta** at 8:55pm. Welcome home!

*\*All performance opportunities and venues proposed in this itinerary are pending final confirmation and availability at time of booking. Your group's final program will be determined by confirmed times and locations for concerts, workshops, entrances and other activities. Although your ensemble's exact itinerary will vary to accommodate performance schedules, the same type of singing experiences, activities and caliber of venue will be included in your final concert tour program.*



## TOUR PACKAGE PRICES *you can rely on*

### FESTIVAL AND EXTENSION LAND PACKAGE

Based on a minimum of 30 paying travelers, in 4-star accommodations, in double occupancy: **\$2,621 per person**

## AIRFARE

\$ 2154 per person on Air France flights

## TOTAL LAND AND AIR PACKAGE (FESTIVAL, EXTENSION, AND AIRFARE):

Based on a minimum of 30 paying travelers in double occupancy rooms: **\$4,775 per person**

## OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

- **\$395 per person** supplement for a single occupancy room (based on availability)

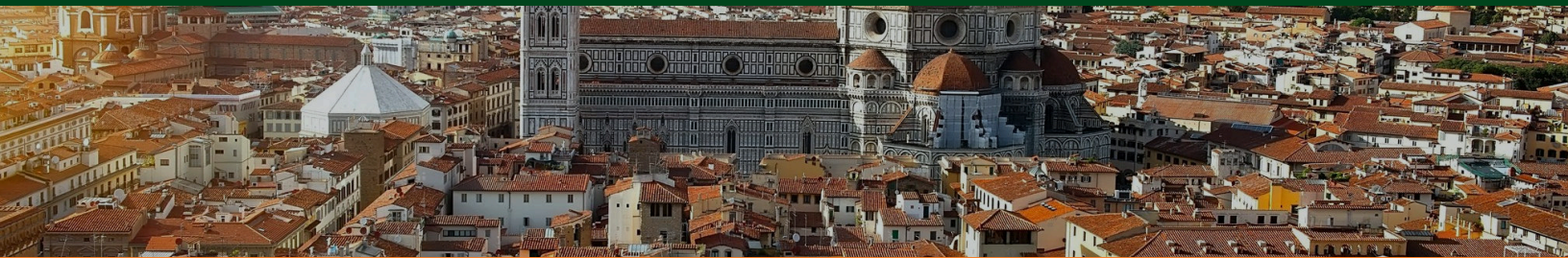
## Your tour includes everything above. Here's what's not included:

Passport, official ID, visa or other required travel documents | Immunizations | Fees for extra, oversize or overweight baggage | Luggage handling at airports and hotels | Musical instruments including rental of piano and keyboard | Transportation of oversized instruments | Rehearsal/meeting room | Meals, entrance fees, and coach transfers not mentioned above | Drinks with meals unless specified | Travel insurance (additional information on insurance is enclosed)

*Please let us know if you would like any of these items added to your tour.*

## TRAVEL PROTECTION *is recommended!*

Music Contact International recommends purchasing a travel protection plan through [Travel Insured](#). This link is also available online via your Tour Resource site. *Please review coverage options very carefully and contact Travel Insured Inc. directly with any insurance-related questions.*









**CONVENIENT ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM** - *tour accounting has never been easier!*

MCI has a secure, password-protected, online payment site where tour members register and pay for their tour in increments. Reminders and statements are sent electronically.

Your designated leader is emailed a weekly report on group finances and has access to a portal to view payments at any time. We have a system for handling scholarships and monies from fundraisers as well. If for any reason you prefer to collect payments from your travelers and send us a group payment, that's fine too!



# MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

*photo location - our home in Burlington, Vermont*