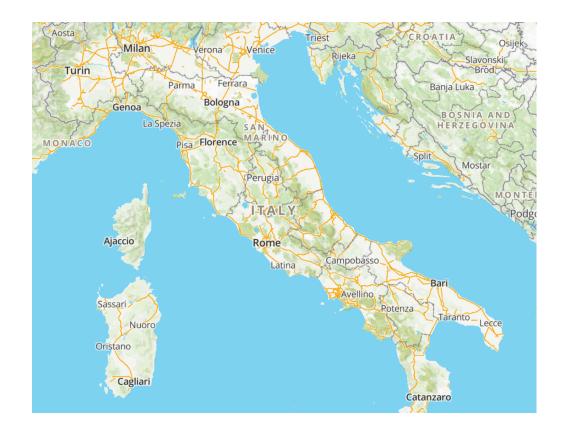
# **Georgia Festival Chorus**

Tuscany International Choral Festival and Tuscany Experience

800.624.0166 | 802.862.2200 | travel@music-contact.com | 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.



# 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

#### TOSCANT INTERNATIONAL CHORAETESTIVAL

#### 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

#### 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**, whereyou 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 servedeach 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 PRICESyou 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.





## Your Tour INCLUDES:

FLIGHTS - professionally managed with group airfare (if purchasing the land and air package)

• Roundtrip flights from Atlanta - Paris - Florence and Florence - Paris - Atlanta on Air France

#### If you're interested in any flight option other than the group flight, including upgrades or alternate dates or cities using funds, miles, or status, please select a landonly package and self-book your flights.

Currently, for this routing, Air France includes one complimentary checked bag per traveler. Please note airline baggage inclusions are subject to change until flights are ticketed.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS - thoughtfully selected to match group needs

- 4 nights in a Montecatini Terme hotel
- 2 nights in Villa Sabolini

#### MEALS - varied, flavorful, and highlighting local cuisine

Breakfast daily at your hotel/at your villa

Dinner nightly as follows:

- Three dinners served at your Montecatini Terme hotel
- One dinner served at Tettuccio Spa (or similar) during the festival closing ceremony
- Dinner upon arrival at Villa Sabolini
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Siena

Additional meals can be arranged upon request.

#### **PERFORMANCES + WORKSHOPS + EXCHANGES**customized, unique and inspiring

Music is the heart of this tour and the suggestions made here reflect the type of performances, venues, musical exchanges, and experiences, we will arrange for your ensemble.

Four performance opportunities, as indicated in the itinerary, pending availability and acceptance:

- Open-air concert at Tettuccio Spa
- Open-air concert in Piazza del Popolo
- Sing for Mass at a church in Montecatini Terme (or vicinity)
- Friendship concert with a local ensemble in Siena

#### **ACTIVITIES + TOURS + ENTRANCES** fun and informative activities

Experience fabulous sightseeing with our entertaining and informative guides:

- Italian guide to assist with festival-related activities and events
- Festival opening ceremony
- Guided excursion to Florence
- Guided excursion to Lucca
- Festival closing Ceremony with acknowledgments and shared choral piece
- Guided excursion to San Gimignano
- Local tasting (food and optional wine)
- Guided excursion to Siena

#### GRATUITIES

Gratuities for all group meals, your MCI tour manager, your festival assistant, and all motor coach drivers and local guides are included

#### **TOUR MANAGER** to handle on-the-road logistics

A full-time tour manager to accompany your group every step of the way from arrival through departure. Our beloved tour managers assist with:

- Greeting and gathering the group upon arrival
- Expediting hotel check-ins and check-outs
- Liaising with reception desks, coach drivers, and guides
- Facilitating concerts and rehearsals
- Directing on-site entrances and activities, handling tickets and vouchers
- Keeping each day well-paced
- Sharing cultural content and interpreting local customs
- Sending everyone home with fond memories & hopes to travel together again soon!

#### **TRANSPORTATION** in a private, modern, climate-controlled motor coach with a professional driver

For all services specified in your itinerary

#### **INSURANCE** that covers our commitment to you

Music Contact International, Inc. holds \$5,000,000.00 of Travel Agent and Tour Operator Professional Liability Insurance.

#### **TOUR ENHANCEMENT MATERIALS** to help plan, promote, and prepare

- A custom Traveler's Resource Site (TRS): We build this site specifically for your tour as a resource for travelers to engage in from the start. The TRS is where travelers view the itinerary and watch it develop. There are maps, pictures, packing lists, recommendations for destination-based books and movies, collections of FAQs, and helpful travel links. We'll build your site when your group is registered for this tour!
- A customized tour handbook with hourly itinerary, packing tips and lists, practical "Things to Know", destination background, and other fun content. This printed booklet is provided for each traveler about a month before departure.
- A luggage tag, passport/document holder, and outlet adapter for each traveler is also included.

#### MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL SERVICES go beyond logistics

- A unique opportunity to make lifelong friends through music and pilgrimage! When we bring groups together, friendships develop that frequently extend to years of heartfelt reunions on tours we plan around the world.
- You are in good hands! We've got 30+ years' experience arranging custom cultural and special interest tours, performance tours and festivals for choirs, bands, and orchestras.

Our MCI team is the best in the business! We are musicians, teachers, event planners, parents, performers, volunteers, travelers, linguists, athletes, and more, from many countries, sharing our expertise at producing great tour experiences.

- We are right there with you! Often, a person who works on your tour, escorts it. This means your tour manager's expectations for a great program and activities are as high as yours!
- Details are our specialty! Group leaders appreciate our well-organized, user-friendly systems and tools for handling group logistics, payments, and diverse traveler needs.
- You'll love our flexibility! Do some of your travelers need individual flights? Adjoining rooms? Gluten-free meals? We are always glad to help.
- No matter where you live, consider us local! We will travel to meet your group, present the tour, and help you promote and plan for it. We also Zoom, Skype, and video chat.

#### **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