

The Romance of Sicily *Art and Opera Tour in Palermo, Sicily*

10 - 14 October 2017



This fascinating tour combines a world class opera, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, in Teatro Massimo with Angela Gheorghiu as Adriana, together with visits to Segesta, Arab Norman Palermo, Monreale and the Villa of the Princess of Lampedusa, where we will have a special lunch. This tour provides a glimpse of this beautiful island from Greek times to the transition from 19C to 20C, beautifully described by Tomasi di Lampedusa in his wonderful book and film “*Il Gattopardo*”.

ITINERARY:

Flights: Out 10 October: BA0610 LHR 07.35 - arriving Palermo 11.40
Return 14 October: BA0611 Palermo 12.30 - arriving LHR 14.25

Tuesday 10 October

A bus will meet flight BA0610 to go to Hotel Centrale Palace, the 4 star hotel based in the centre of town.

Lunch by invitation.

3 pm Guided visit to Arab Norman Palermo including the Zisa Palace, the Norman Palace, the Cappella Palatina and the Church of St. John of the Hermits

8 pm Dinner by invitation in the hotel's rooftop restaurant.

Wednesday 11 October

10 am Visit to Monreale whose Cathedral was built during the reign of William I. Constructed by Arab, Jewish and Christian workers this Byzantine Cathedral sparkles with beautiful gold and polychrome mosaics depicting scenes from the bible. Above the main altar is the grandiose figure of Christ Pantocrator. Included in the visit are the cloisters marked by the beautifully carved, magnificent capitals

6 pm For those interested there is a talk in Italian on the Opera *Adriana Lecouvreur* which we will see on 13 October. Performed in the Royal Opera House earlier in the year, this opera has been performed by many famous sopranos taking the part of Adriana.
Dinner at leisure.



Palatine Chapel

Thursday 12 October

- 10 am Visit to Segesta with its Greek temple and theatre. The temple is a fine, well preserved example of a Doric temple suggestively positioned on the hill and thought to have been built in the 420's BC. Above on a nearby hill are Greek ruins and a theatre offering magnificent views over the surrounding countryside and the sea.
- 4 pm Return to hotel.
- 8 pm Dinner by invitation.



Segesta Temple in Thomas Cole's painting from 1843

Friday 13 October:

- 11 am We go a short distance outside Palermo to the area of Mondello where Villa Lampedusa, now restored as a hotel, is situated in its 12 acres of parkland. It was here that Lampedusa based his famous novel and the film "Il Gattopardo" which so poignantly portrayed the transition in Sicily from the 19C to 20C. We will have lunch outdoors (by invitation) with time to enjoy the surroundings.
- 3 pm Return to hotel.
- 6.30 pm An early dinner (by invitation) close to Teatro Massimo where the first night of the Opera "Adriana Lecouvreur" will start at 8.30 pm. First nights are always an important social occasion in Italy and with Angela Gheorghiu as Adriana, the opera will be very special. Angela is a Romanian soprano of international fame. Her debut into the world scene was in 1992 when she performed at the Royal Opera House in Don Giovanni, since when she has performed in many of the world's famous opera houses.

Saturday 14 October:

- 10 am Depart for return flight.

Cost: Members: £1525 Non Members: £1695 Single supplement: £240
Tour as described above including 4 nights B&B, city taxis, Opera in 1st category seats, 3 dinners and 2 lunches, guiding by expert art historians, all entrance fees and transport.

FLIGHTS NOT INCLUDED

To book a deposit of £450 is required with the balance due 60 days before the start of the tour.

Please pay as detailed below:

To book contact *Accademia Italiana / Artstur* - Tel: 07720812183

email: artstur@gmail.com - web: www.artstur.com

Payment: should be made by bank transfer as follows: Bank: CARDONEBANKING - Name: Artstur Ltd; Sort Code: 23 18 84; Account: 78597529 or by cheque payable to Artstur Ltd (now subject to a £2 surcharge), should be sent to Artstur, 55 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PN
