# **CENTRAL EUROPE**

# Prague, Budapest, Vienna - 11 days

Departure: June 17, 2017 Return: June 27, 2017



On this perenial tour, we have a feast for operas lovers to see six performances in Prague, Budapest and Vienna, where you will hear the young tenor Ronaldo Villazon sing in L'elisir D'Amore by Donizetti. Combine the feast of operas with gourmet dining at the world famous restaurants SACHER in Vienna and GUNDEL in Budapest, where you will be

entertained by Gypsy musicians. Enjoy staying in centrally located luxury hotels in each city.

# **Opera Performances**

In Prague:

JUNE 19 - Don Giovanni by Mozart at the Estate Theater

JUNE 20 - The Jacobin by Antonin Dvorak at the National Theater

JUNE 21 - Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss at the Karlin Music Theater

In Budapest:

JUNE 23 - Rigoletto by Verdi at the Hungarian State Opera

JUNE 24 - IL Trovatore by Verdi at the Hungarian State Opera

In Vienna:

JUNE 25 - L'elisir D'amore by Donizetti at the Vienna State Opera

with Rolando Villazon and Valentina Nafornita



#### Saturday, June 17. (D)\* DEPART FOR PRAGUE

Depart today aboard any airline of your choice to Prague, Czech Republic. Dinner and light breakfast served on the plane.

#### Sunday, June 18. (B,D). PRAGUE

Our representative will meet you at the Prague International Airport and bring you to the centrally located PALACE HOTEL where you will stay four nights. Briefing and cocktails at the hotel. Gala Welcome dinner at a gourmet restaurant.

#### Monday, June 19. (B). PRAGUE

Our sightseeing this morning will take us to the Castle District where we will visit Hradcany Castle, the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and the Golden Late afternoon at leisure. This evening we will see the opera DON GIOVANNI by Mozart at the Estate Theater where it was first performed.

PRAGUE is called the Golden City of One Hundred Spires. If you stand on the ramparts of Prague Castle and look across the old town, you understand why. As far as the eye can see, the sun is reflected on the glittering surfaces of the spires, steeples and domes. It is also one of the loveliest cities in all of Europe. Hradcany Castle and the Old Town are fine examples of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance architecture.

### Tuesday, June 20. (B). PRAGUE

This morning we visit the Old Synagogue and Museum, the Jewish Cemetery as well as the Old Town Square with its world-famous Astronomical Clock and the Charles Bridge. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we see the opera THE JACOBIN by Antonin Dvorak at the National Theater.

#### Wednesday, June 21. (B). PRAGUE

Today is free to take in one or two of the many fine museums in the city, including the Czech Museum of Music and the Mucha Museum dedicated to Alfons Mucha, originator of the Art Nouveau in 1895 which spread all over the world at the beginning of the 20 century. This evening we see the opera DIE FLEDERMAUS by Johann Strauss at the Karlin Music Theater.



### Thursday, June 22. (B,D). PRAGUE - BUDAPEST

This morning we drive southwest through the lovely, picturesque Bohemian countryside of the Czech Republic and cross the border into Hungary and reach Budapest where we stay three nights at the deluxe HOTEL MARRIOTT located next to River Danube. This evening we will enjoy our dinner at the famous GUNDEL Restaurant.

## Friday, June 23. (B). BUDAPEST

Morning sightseeing in this famous twin city will start in Buda with a visit to the 13th century Matthias Church and the Fisherman Bastion. In Pest, the famous commercial center, we will see St. Stephen's Basilica, the Hungarian Parliament, Hero Square and the newly restored Synagogue. Afternoon at leisure. This evening we will see the opera RIGOLETTO by Verdi at the Hungarian State Opera.

BUDAPEST is that paradox among Eastern European capitals, a city where the pleasure of the table has lost none of its zing. Happily, for visitors enticed by monuments to an opulent past, Hungary's former imperial city is filled with architectural treasures that have been handsomely preserved. Divided by the wide stately bends of the Danube River, Budapest is two cities in one. The halves present a startling contrast. On the east bank, modern, bustling, industrial Pest spreads across the low-lying Hungarian piedmont. On the west, 2000-year old Buda – the historic heart of the city and a pedestrian's delight – wanders into a bastion of secluded hills.

### Saturday, June 24. (B). BUDAPEST

Today is free to take a boat ride on the Danube River or take one of hot baths in Buda or visit any of the fine museums. This evening we will see the opera IL TROVATORE by Verdi at the Hungarian State Opera.

## Sunday, June 25. (B). BUDAPEST - VIENNA

This morning we drive west to cross the border into Austria and arrive in Vienna where we stay two nights at the deluxe, centrally located BRISTOL HOTEL. Afternoon sightseeing of this cultural capital of Europe to include the Hofburg, the former Imperial Palace, St. Stephens cathedral and one of Mozart's homes where he wrote the opera Marriage of Figaro. This evening we will see the opera L'ELISIR D'AMORE by Donizetti with Rolando Villazon and Valentina Nafortina at the Vienna State Opera.



VIENNA: From the time the Romans selected the site of a Celtic settlement for the location of one of its most important Central European forts, Vindobona, the city which grew up in the Vienna Basin of the Danube, has played a vital role in European history. Austria grew up around the city and developed into a mighty empire, but the Viennese character formed during the long history of the country can only be said to be a rich amalgam of the blending of cultures that have made Vienna what it still is today: a city whose people devote themselves to the enjoyment of the good life - music, art, literature, theater, architecture, education, food and drink - all are part of the gemütlichkeit of Vienna. Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, the Strausses (all of them), Gluck, Mahler, Brahms, Liszt, Haydn, Weber, Schonberg - in the music world alone these are some of the outstanding names which are a part of the soul of Vienna.

#### Monday, June 26. (B,D). VIENNA

Today is free to see any of the fine museums within walking distance of the hotel including the Albertina and multitude of them in the Hofburg Museum quarter. This evening we will have our Gala Farewell dinner at the famous SACHER Restaurant.

### Tuesday, June 27. (B). VIENNA - BACK HOME

We will arrange transfer for your flight back home arriving the same afternoon. Auf wiedersehn. See you soon on another H.A.T. Tour.

\* B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner (including wine)

# LAND COST

DOUBLE: \$6,400 PER PERSON

Single: \$7,500 in double room

# **TOUR INCLUDES**

- Transfers between airports and hotels on published arrival and departure days only
- Orchestra level seats in theaters
- Six Operas
- Deluxe centrally located hotels
- Buffet breakfast daily and three dinners with wine in gourmet restaurants
- Welcome reception with cocktails
- Private sightseeing in each city
- Experienced English speaking guides
- Entrance fees to museums
- Intercity coach services
- Transportation to and from theaters
- Baggage handling
- Guide, driver and bellboys gratuities
- Complete package with details of all operas listed

H.A.T. Tours Address: PO Box 46876, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33741, USA Phone: (727) 367 3973 Fax: (727) 360-8459 Toll free: (800) 472-4448 E-mail: <u>operas@hattours.com</u> Website: <u>www.EuropeanOperaTours.com</u>

