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ANNI
1815 - 2015

LA PASSIONE

Since about 1490, the play was performed on Good Friday in the Colosseum, by the Roman Company of Gonfalon Confraternity, with a large attendance of people, pilgrims, travelers and notables. This tradition was interrupted in 1539 by Pope Paul III 's prohibition of such representations, due to the dramatic Reformation period and the subsequent Luther's, Calvino's and other religious movements detachment from the Roman Catholic Church. The "Roman" passion text reached Sordevolo through still mysterious ways. The first hypothesis is that the original text may be arrived in Piedmont thanks to the relation-ships existing between the Roman Gonfalon Confraternity and Sordevolo St Lucy Confraternity, its direct affiliate. A second hypothesis takes into consideration the commercial contacts between the family Ambrosetti, weavers and merchants of Sordevolo "fine cloth", and its own buyers in Rome. Since about two centuries, the entire community of Sordevolo has been representing the Passion of Christ, in a complete organizing and artistic autonomy.

The next appointment with the public is foreseen for June-September 2020. Sordevolo, 2,133 feet above sea level, is situated on the first hills north of Biel-la, protected by the next Mt. Mombarone and Mt. Mucrone, more than 6,662 feet high. The village may take its name either from super Elvum, the brook which flows close to it, or from surdibulum, a vulgar Latin word indicating a spring waters site, or else from the idiom Solo riverir Deo volo, written on the front façade of an ancient pilgrims' hospice. In this natural setting of hills, woods and mountains, for over two centuries from the beginning of '800, the representation of the Passion takes place every five years. Expression of the ancient popular theatre, the event actively involves the entire community of Sordevolo, about 1,300 inhabitants.

The ancient Popular Theatre Committee of Sordevolo Passion, founded in 1816, has been replaced in 1991 by Sordevolo Popular Theatre Association, an independent non-profit organization, aiming to preserve, to perpetuate and to hand down this tradition, which dates back to the origins of this small community, expression of an olden-day subalpine culture. Special focus has to be placed on the deeply free and independent spirit of this genuine local culture and on the great involvement of the modern heirs of this tradition, who face the various aspects of the staging mere-ly through local human resources and techniques: overall organization, costumes and setting making, scenery plan, direction, drama school, stage setting.





Sordevolo, Cinque Terre and Lake Como

9 days -8 nights

Milan, Biella, Oropa, Sordevolo, Turin, Cinque Terre, Santa Margherita, Portofino, Como, Bellagio

Faith, Discovery, Culture, History



Day 1: Milan, Biella

After arrival formalities at Malpensa airport you'll be met by our Tour Director and driven to your hotel in Biella. In the afternoon take a walking tour of Biella. In the evening enjoy a welcome dinner. Overnight in Biella. [D]

Day 2: Biella (Oropa, Sordevolo)

After breakfast at the hotel enjoy a tour of the Sacred Mountain of Oropa placed at 3,900 feet above sea level and tied to the cult of the Black Madonna. After a visit of the Sanctuary we continue to a local Grappa distillery for tasting one of Italy's most popular alcoholic drinks. Return to Biella to prepare for this evening's enjoyable dinner in Sordevolo, the village where every 5 years a Passion Play is performed. After dinner we will attend the remarkable performance of "The Passion of Christ". Return to Biella for overnight. [B/G/D]

Day 3 Biella, Turin, Santa Margherita

Breakfast at hotel before departure for Santa Margherita with a stop in Turin to view the replica of the Holy Shroud. Enjoy lunch at Eataty restaurant, the first of the Italian chain. You may shop for groceries, select the meal you want and have it cooked by the chef. Continue to Santa Margherita for overnight [B/L]

Day 4: Santa Margherita (Cinque Terre)

Breakfast at hotel before taking this excursion by rail and/or boat to Cinque Terre, one of the most beautiful regions of Italy. Return to Santa Margherita and have dinner at a lovely restaurant. Overnight in Santa Margherita [B/D]

Day 5: Santa Margherita (Portofino)

Enjoy breakfast at hotel and follow your guide to Portofino for a glimpse of this famous resort. "A small village that extends like a half-moon around a silent pool": It's with these words that French author Guy de Maupassant describes Portofino, a small fishing village of the Mediterranean Riviera, surrounded by the Regional Natural Park and the marine reserve. This beautiful sea resort, with its atmosphere and maritime traditions of the past, has always been loved by artists, famous people and writers who have paid tribute to them through their works. The "piazzetta" (small square), meeting place of the characters of the international jet set, is the symbol of Portofino, while the small port, with its typical houses with bright colors, represents a testimony of the great maritime tradition of this small village, whose inhabitants were nicknamed "dolphins" by the Greeks and Romans, for their skills in navigation. Free time to explore the village and enjoy its local treats before returning to Santa Margherita for overnight. [B]

Day 6: Santa Margherita, Como

After breakfast at your hotel leave for Como, located at the southern tip of the Lake. Como is known for its silk industry. On our way we'll stop for a tasting of northern Italian rice or "risotto" and lunch. Then, continue to Como and enjoy free time to explore the lovely town on your own. Overnight in Como. [B/R/L]

Day 7: Como (Milan)

Today take a full-day excursion to Milan where your guide tour will introduce you to La Scala Opera House Museum, the Galleria, Duomo and Sforza Castle. The day's highlight is the Church of Santa Maria Delle Grazie and the viewing of the Last Supper, the Da Vinci's masterpiece. Return to Como for overnight. [B]

Day 8: Como (Bellagio)

Take a leisurely breakfast at the hotel before an enjoyable day that includes a boat ride to Bellagio, one of the prettiest towns in Europe also known as the "Pearl of the Lake". Start your visit strolling along the harbor admiring the views, the grand villas and gardens. From there, continue on the streets of the traditional village, a beautiful network of old streets and alleys and quaint houses. A steep wooded hill rises immediately behind

Bellagio where you can get very extensive views along the lake. After this relaxing day, return to Como and get ready for this evening's ovely farewell dinner at a local restaurant. [B/D]

Day 9: Como, USA

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and be ready for your transfer to Milan where you'll board your flight back to the US or continue your trip to the next destination of your choice. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner |

[B/L] = Breakfast and Lunch |

[B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner |

[B/G/D] = Breakfast, Grappa tasting and Dinner |

[B/R/L] = Breakfast, Rice tasting and Lunch



Your Tour includes:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- 8 nights' accommodations
 - Biella – 2 nights
 - Santa Margherita – 3 nights
 - Como – 3 nights
- Meals:
 - Buffet breakfast daily
 - Lunch voucher for Eataly in Turin
 - 4 dinners including wine (1/4 bottle pp), mineral water (1/2 bottle pp) and coffee:
 - Welcome dinner in Biella
 - Dinner in Sordevolo
 - Dinner in Santa Margherita
 - Farewell Dinner in Como
- Rice tasting
- Grappa tasting
- Local guided tours in
 - Biella
 - Oropa
 - Turin
 - 5 Terre (Boat and Train rides)
 - Portofino
 - Oryza
 - Milan
 - Como

- Entrance fees for:
 - Oropa Museum
 - Holy Shroud or alternate visit
 - Last Supper
- Passion Play tickets - Premier seating
- Professional English-speaking tour escort
- Portorage of 1 piece of luggage per person throughout
- Hotel taxes and service charges

Tour does not include

- International or domestic airfares
- Taxes related to airfares
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Optional tours and activities
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out (Most hotels begin check-in around 2:00pm).
- Expenses of personal nature
- Any service not listed under "included"
- City Stay taxes

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Biella	Relais Santo Stefano	4
	Agora Palace	4.5
	Santuario Oropa*	4
Santa Margherita	Continental	4
	Park Suisse	3
Como	Barchetta Excelsior	3
	Como	4

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

*Religious accommodation

Tour Prices:

No. in Party	15-20 Pax	21-25 Pax	26-30 Pax	31-35 Pax	36-40 Pax	41-45 Pax	46-50 Pax
Double	\$3,305	\$3,109	\$2,845	\$2,725	\$2,639	\$2,539	\$2,495
Single	\$4,219	\$4,029	\$3,759	\$3,645	\$3,559	\$3,459	\$3,409

Prices are per person and may change without notice

Tour Code: IT09MIL20TX

Sordevolo Passion Play Calendar:

June 2020		
13	Saturday	9:00 PM
14	Sunday	4:30 PM
20	Saturday	9:00 PM
21	Sunday	9:00 PM
26	Friday	9:00 PM
27	Saturday	9:00 PM
28	Sunday	9:00 PM
25	Saturday	9:00 PM

July 2020		
3	Friday	9:00 PM
4	Saturday	9:00 PM
10	Friday	9:00 PM
11	Saturday	9:00 PM
17	Friday	9:00 PM
18	Saturday	9:00 PM
24	Friday	9:00 PM

August 2020		
1	Saturday	9:00 PM
2	Sunday	9:00 PM
14	Friday	9:00 PM
21	Friday	9:00 PM
22	Saturday	9:00 PM
28	Friday	9:00 PM
29	Saturday	9:00 PM

September 2020		
4	Friday	9:00 PM
5	Saturday	9:00 PM
6	Sunday **	8:00 PM
11	Friday	9:00 PM
12	Saturday	9:00 PM
13	Sunday	4:30 PM
18	Friday	9:00 PM
19	Saturday	9:00 PM
20	Sunday	4:30 PM
22	Tuesday **	10:00 AM
25	Friday	9:00 PM
26	Saturday	9:00 PM
27	Sunday	4:30 PM

** Children performance