



# SWISS TRAINS, ITALIAN LAKES & GERMAN CASTLES

Four amazing countries, four  
great music festivals, two iconic  
train journeys plus operas,  
castles, mountains and lakes.



TRAVEL OF NOTE

2 – 27 JULY 2024



# SWISS TRAINS, ITALIAN LAKES & GERMAN CASTLES

2 - 27 July 2024



Four amazing countries, three great music festivals, two iconic train journeys plus operas, castles, mountains and lakes. This is one of our Travel of Note boutique tours, limited to 20 travellers and hosted by Susan Boland and John Cameron.

## **Experience the Exceptional...**

- 23-day tour which includes four countries: Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany with stays in iconic hotels, Verona (4 nights), Como (3 nights), Pontresina (2 nights) (located 10 minutes' drive from Lake Moritz), Zermatt (3 nights), Lucerne (3 nights), Bregenz (3 nights), Munich (4 nights).
- Four musical festivals: Verona, seeing *Carmen* and *The Barber of Seville* at Verona Arena, the *LacMus Music Festival*, an annual music festival on Lake Como, *Bregenz Opera Festival* on the shores of Lake Constance and *Tosca* at the Munich Summer Opera Festival, plus concerts, operas and shows as available and private dinner concerts. (All performances are subject to final confirmation at time of printing).
- Two of the world's most famous train journeys with first class tickets: Bernina Express, which takes us through incredible alpine landscapes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Glacier Express, a legendary eight-hour ride slowly weaves more than 150 miles across 291 bridges and through 92 tunnels in the picturesque Swiss Alps from the foot of the Matterhorn in Zermatt to St. Moritz.
- Travel on cable cars, chair lifts and cog trains to witness some of the most magnificent scenery, mountains and lakes in the world, plus cruises on Lake Como, Lake Constance, Lake Lucerne and tours to see Mount Rigi, Matterhorn, Glacier Paradise, Gornergrat, Rhine Gorge and the Oberalp Pass.
- Numerous other special flavours including visits to Neuschwanstein Castle, Residenz, La Scala Opera Museum, visit Italian villas and gardens, tour of ice palace, horse and carriage ride around St Moritz, high tea at Badrutt's Palace Hotel, Nymphenburg Palace and Gardens, cooking class and foodies' experiences.
- Tours to many cities, small towns and villages including Verona, Como, Lake Como, Tirano, Pontresina, St Moritz, Zermatt, Lucerne, Zurich, Meersberg, Bregenz, Fussen and Munich.
- Travel of Note trips limited to 20 travellers or less.

**OUR ARTISTS FOR THIS TRIP:**  
Hosted by Operatunity owners  
Susan Boland and John Cameron



# PLACES WE STAY

Please note that hotels are subject to final confirmation at time of printing brochure.

**Byblos Art Hotel Villa Amista, Verona (4 nights)** is a 5-star hotel and a living art gallery housed in a 16th-century villa. It has a delightful garden, swimming pool, fountains, amazing Baroque interiors and incredible art.

**Promessi Sposi Hotel, Lake Como (3 nights)** is located right on the lake with beautiful views of the mountains this historic hotel has recently enjoyed a complete renovation. Admire the views from the hotel terrace with an evening aperitif and breathe in the fresh air.

**Hotel Walther - Relais & Châteaux, Pontresina (2 nights)** (located 10 minutes' drive from Lake Moritz) Family-run for 3 generations, this 4-star Belle-Époque hotel offers a 700 m<sup>2</sup> Aqua Viva spa area with an indoor pool, a hot tub, and various saunas.

**Matthiol Boutique Hotel, Zermatt (3 nights)** has the feel of a traditional Swiss chalet, located at the foot of the Matterhorn. It combines old and new with its timber and stone chalets and its full renovation in 2021 and its fabulous spa!

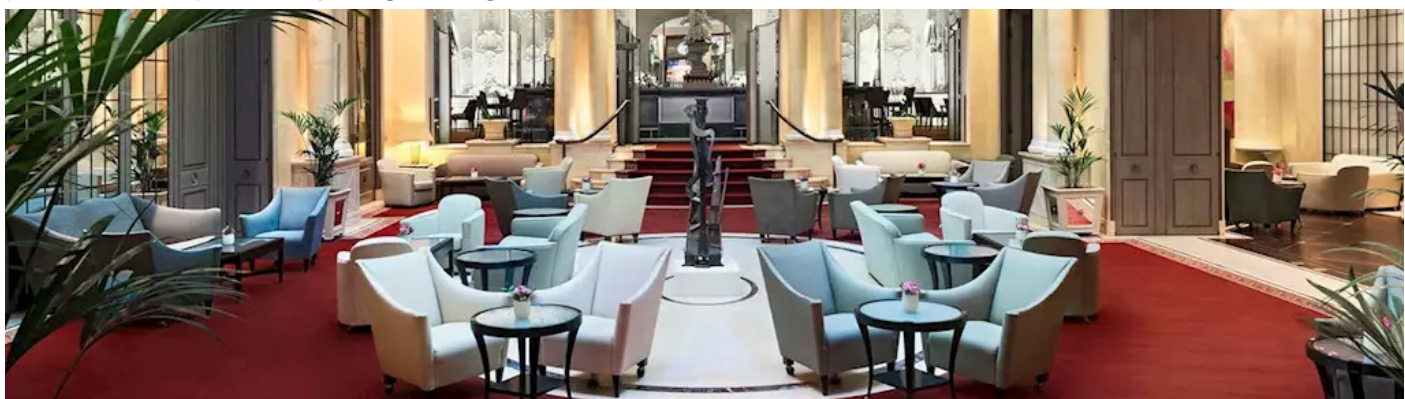
**Hotel Wilden Mann in Lucerne (3 nights)** occupies what were once seven separate houses in the picturesque medieval town centre of Lucerne. This historic hotel, within a 10-minute walk of a Franciscan Church, Chapel Bridge and Lucerne Town Hall, traces its history back to 1517!

**Hotel am See, Hard, Bregenz (3 nights)** Hotel am See is located on the south-east bank of Lake Constance, just 10-min drive from Bregenz Lake Opera Stage. It offers rooms with balconies and free access to an impressive 200m<sup>2</sup> wellness area. This hotel is a true oasis surrounded by unspoilt, natural shores of Lake Constance. It is also an ideal starting point for a unique cultural experience during summer in Bregenz.

**Bayerischer Hof, Munich (4 nights)** Originally conceived by King Ludwig I, Bayerischer Hof is one of Munich's most legendary, historic hotels. It is within easy walking distance of the Opera House, great shopping streets and the Residenz, one of the most spectacular palaces in Europe built by King Ludwig 1.



*Byblos Art Hotel Villa Amista, Verona*



*Bayerischer Hof, Munich*



Verona

### VERONA (4 Nights) - Byblos Art Hotel Villa Amista

Opera in the ancient outdoor Verona Arena, home of Romeo and Juliet. We stay for four nights in a magnificent villa in the countryside near Verona. Our operas, are presented in the original pink marble Roman amphitheatre built in 1AD which boasts wonderful acoustics, so opera presented here is a magical experience.

#### Highlights Include:

- Two operas at the Verona Arena: *Carmen* and *The Barber of Seville*.
- Stay in a 16th century villa in the countryside with swimming pool, fountains and a Baroque interior which houses an amazing art collection, worth millions of dollars.
- Visit to Vicenza with the Palladio architecture.
- Half day walking tour of Verona including seeing Juliet's balcony.
- Time off to enjoy this beautiful hotel.
- Day tour to Mantova (Mantua) with visits to 14th century Palazzo Ducal and castle, home to famous Duke of Mantua and setting of Verdi's opera Rigoletto.
- Tour of Bibiena Opera House where Mozart appeared many times - the place where Italian opera was born plus tour of the town and we visit the statue of Rigoletto.
- Dinner and concert from our escorts in the magnificent gardens of our hotel.



Lake Como

### TRAVEL FROM VERONA TO LAKE COMO VIA MILAN INCLUDING TOURS OF LA SCALA AND DUOMO

#### COMO (3 nights) - Promessi Sposi Hotel, Lake Como

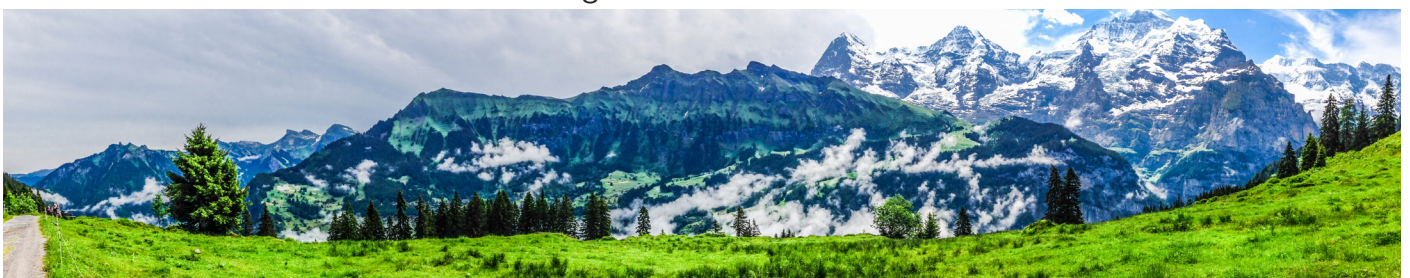
Lake Como, in Northern Italy's Lombardy region, is an upscale resort area known for its dramatic scenery, set against the foothills of the Alps.

#### Highlights Include:

- Travel from Verona to Como via Milan, highlights including La Scala Museum and Theatre, walking tour of the city centre and visit to the Duomo.
- Attend the *LacMus Music Festival* (subject to availability) and enjoy two of their music concerts. LacMus is an international classical music festival held every summer on Lake Como. The festival combines the magic of music with the uniqueness of the venues and landscapes on Lake Como, including old villas, palaces, gardens and historic churches
- Tour of the Como region, including coach tour, walking tour and boat cruise on Lake Como.
- Visit to vibrant villages with free time to enjoy lunch and shopping.
- Visit to a famous villa and garden of the area and enjoy a quintessential Italian villa and garden.
- Foodies' experiences including cooking class and dinner in local restaurants.

### TRAVEL THE BERNINA EXPRESS (FIRST CLASS TICKETS)

Coach from Como to Tirano where we board the Bernina Express to St Moritz. The Bernina Express train route takes us through incredible alpine landscapes and a UNESCO World Heritage Site - it's that amazing.



Alpine Landscapes

## **ST MORITZ (2 nights) - Hotel Walther Relais & Châteaux, Pontresina (located 10 minutes drive from Lake Moritz).**

St Moritz is a high alpine resort town in Switzerland, the birthplace of Alpine winter tourism (in 1864) and has twice hosted the Winter Olympics. It is also famous for its mineral springs, which were discovered 3,000 years ago and established the town as both a winter and summer spa resort.

### **Highlights Include:**

- Bernina Express train ride through the mountain to Pontresina, a great way to arrive in the St Moritz region!
- St Moritz sightseeing including a romantic horse-drawn carriage ride through the Staz forest and glamorous St. Moritz.
- Enjoy high tea at Badrutt's Palace Hotel, a famous landmark in the centre of St Moritz.

## **TRAVEL THE GLACIER EXPRESS FROM ST MORITZ TO ZERMATT (FIRST CLASS TICKETS)**

Today we travel from St Moritz to Zermatt on the Glacier Express including lunch on the train. The Glacier Express route through the Alps takes eight hours from St. Moritz to Zermatt and boasts spectacular panoramic views, bridges and tunnels. It includes breathtaking views of the Matterhorn, viaducts and spiral tunnels, the Rhine Gorge and the Oberalp Pass, the highest point of the Glacier Express, at a height of 2,033m above sea level.

## **ZERMATT (3 nights) - Matthiol Boutique Hotel**

Zermatt, in southern Switzerland, is a mountain resort renowned for skiing, climbing and hiking. The town, at an elevation of around 1,600m, lies below the iconic, pyramid-shaped Matterhorn peak. Its main street, Bahnhofstrasse is lined with boutique shops, hotels and restaurants.

### **Highlights Include:**

- Fabulous Glacier Express train journey through the mountains to get to Zermatt.
- Gornergrat - The cogwheel railway takes us up from the village to 3,100 metres above sea level. Even the journey is a great experience with a constant view of the Matterhorn. You can't get enough of the panorama at the top – mountains and glaciers as far as the eye can see.
- Visit Matterhorn Glacier Paradise - The enclosed chair lift takes us up to the 360° viewing platform where we can see an incredible 38 four thousand-metre peaks and 14 glaciers. And a must-see in Zermatt's glacier paradise: a real glacier palace. The atmosphere inside the palace is anything but icy, with soft lighting effects and music creating a mood of relaxation. We will see the naturally formed ice shapes and the new creations sculpted by artists every year and take in the enchanting surroundings which glitter, sparkle and gleam all around you and include lunch in the Glacier Palace as well.
- Foodie experiences including a hut dinner and fondue.
- Free time to enjoy the hotel spa or wander the shops in Zermatt.



St Moritz



Zermatt



Matterhorn Glacier Paradise



Lake Lucerne

### LUCERNE (3 nights) - Hotel Wilden Mann

Today we drive to Lucerne, a stunning and deservedly popular lake town. Goethe, Queen Victoria and Wagner all savoured her views and the cobalt lake ringed by mountains, well-preserved medieval Old Town and covered bridges, sunny plazas, candy-coloured houses and waterfront promenades.

#### Highlights Include:

- A walking tour of Lucerne which includes the old wooden bridges, the Jesuits' Church, the old town, chocolate factory and the Lion Monument.
- A day in the mountains heading to the Queen of the Mountains, Rigi. Full Day Lake and Mountain Excursion including lunch. This includes 1st Class Cruises (there and back) to the base of the mountain. Ride up on the Cog-Railway, 3 course lunch including coffee/tea and a Cable Car down the mountain.
- A breathtaking panoramic view across the Alps, of 13 lakes and over the entire Swiss Mittelland through to Germany and France can be enjoyed from the summit of the Rigi.
- A concert in this most cultural of cities - an orchestral concert or opera at the Lucerne Convention Hall or Lucerner Theater (dependent on availability).
- Full free day to simply walk around this beautiful city.
- Jazz and Steam Paddle steamer cruise on Lake Lucerne including dinner.



Bregenz Opera Festival

### TRAVEL LUCERNE TO BREGENZ VIA ZURICH

We enjoy a walking tour of Zurich central town, including the Cathedral, the Fraumunster and the Rathaus before stopping to try out some Rosti or other traditional Swiss fare, maybe chocolates?

### BREGENZ (3 nights) - Hotel am See

Bregenz is largely known for its efforts towards sustainability and eco-friendly solutions, is home to the famous Bregenz Opera Festival, performed on an amazing stage set over Lake Constance.

#### Highlights Include:

- Attend the **Bregenz Opera Festival** on the world's largest floating stage over Lake Constance! The festival began in 1946, and music lovers from around the world have been attending every year since. 2024 will be our chance to experience the magic of the orchestra and magnificence of the hand-built set.
- Cruise on Lake Constance (known as Bodensee in German), visit the gardens of Insel Mainau known for its magnificent roses, lunch in Meersburg, a lovely little village then time in Bregenz to explore this medieval region.



Meersburg

## TRAVEL BREGENZ TO MUNICH VIA FUSSEN

Today we travel from Bregenz to Munich via Neuschwanstein Castle, which most will recognise from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang! Commissioned by King Ludwig II, he was such a fan of composer Richard Wagner that the room's décor was largely inspired by Wagner's characters, leading the beautiful structure to be dubbed 'The Fairytale Castle.'

### MUNICH (4 nights) - Bayerischer Hof, Munich

Munich, the capital and most populated city of Bavaria, is known for its divine architecture and its 'second to none' art, science and cultural scene. Not only this, it is known also for various, world-class museums and historical landmarks.

#### Highlights Include:

- *Tosca* (depending on availability) and small concert at the famous Munich Opera Festival, which takes place in June and July, bringing opera enthusiasts from all over the world to Munich. Opera, ballet, lieder recitals and festival concerts are presented over five weeks, while the season's premieres are also brought back to the stage.
- City tour including Marienplatz Square, the New Town Hall & Glockenspiel, the Royal Residenz Museum, and Hofbräuhaus, the world's most famous tavern known as 'the cradle of Bavarian tavern culture.'
- Time to explore the famous Viktualien Markets and find lunch in the many stalls here.
- Visit Nymphenburg Palace and Gardens, built in 1664 as a summer residence. It is a striking lavishly decorated Baroque-style palace sprawling over large, elegant gardens in the west of Munich plus a visit to a porcelain museum.
- Full free day to explore Munich and do some last-minute shopping.
- Final night dinner with music in one of the historic salons within the hotel, in its palace wing built by King Ludwig.



Neuschwanstein



Munich Opera



Munich



**\$22,770** per person  
twin share  
Single Room Supplement Add \$5995

Initial Deposit on booking: \$2000

Second Deposit due: 20th December 2023 \$4000

Final Balance due: 14th March 2024

### THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- This is one of our Travel of Note boutique tours, limited to 20 travellers and hosted by Susan Boland and John Cameron.
- Return economy airfares on Emirates Airline Auckland - Dubai – Milan // Munich - Dubai - Auckland including all taxes.
- A musical feast, *Carmen* and *The Barber of Seville* an Opera at Verona Arena, the *LacMus Music Festival*, an annual music festival on Lake Como, *Bregenz Opera Festival* on the shores of Lake Constance, Munich Summer Opera Festival with *Tosca* Opera plus concerts, operas and shows as available and private dinner concerts. (All performances are subject to final confirmation at time of printing).
- 23-day tour which includes four countries: Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany with stays in iconic hotels, Verona (4 nights), Como (3 nights), Pontresina (2 nights) (located 10 minutes' drive from Lake Moritz), Zermatt (3 nights), Lucerne (3 nights), Bregenz (3 nights), Munich (4 nights).
- Many special train and boat journeys including Bernina Express, Glacier Express, plus cable cars, chair lifts and cog trains to witness some of the most magnificent scenery, mountains and lakes in the world, including cruises on Lake Como, Lake Constance, Lake Lucerne and tours to see Mount Rigi, Matterhorn, Glacier Paradise, Gornergrat, Rhine Gorge and the Oberalp Pass.
- Numerous special flavours including visits to Neuschwanstein Castle, Residenz, La Scala Opera Museum, Italian villas and gardens, tour of an ice palace, horse and carriage ride around St Moritz, High tea at Badrutt's Palace Hotel, Nymphenburg Palace and Gardens, cooking class and local foodies' experiences.
- Tours to many cities, small towns and villages including Verona, Como, Lake Como, Tirano, Pontresina, St Moritz, Zermatt, Lucerne, Zurich, Meersburg, Bregenz, Fussen and Munich.
- All entrances as per our itinerary, all museums and houses/castles/palaces as listed.
- All transfers, tours, cruises, train journeys, cable car and cog railways as listed in itinerary.
- All breakfasts, 10 dinners, 9 lunches, 1 high tea, all tips, all taxes and all portorage are included.
- Hosted by Susan Boland and John Cameron

### MODERATE TOUR

All our trips are specifically designed for our core market but this trip does contain travel challenges, either because of the region visited or the walking distances or uneven surfaces that arise at some sites. We do advise that you and your doctor evaluate your level of fitness before you consider booking this tour.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All itinerary details are subject to change, but changes will be replaced with a comparable or better option.
- Initial & Second deposits are fully refundable up until final balance due date, minus an administration fee of up to \$500 plus any non-recoverable costs.
- All monies are non-refundable at final balance due date. This becomes an insurance claim.
- Payment by direct credit incurs no surcharge. Credit card payments will incur a surcharge of 1.5%.
- Travellers need to be independently mobile and fit to travel.
- Bookings will only be accepted with initial deposit.
- All travellers must obtain comprehensive travel insurance for international travel and insurance for domestic travel is recommended.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions on booking form.



TRAVEL OF NOTE

operatunity

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