

# MUSIC

## & CULTURE TOUR

Exploring the life, work & times of operatic maestro Giacomo Puccini

EXCLUSIVE TOUR

Villa Michaela welcomes you to join a magical 7 day tour exploring the life, work and times of Giacomo Puccini along with other cultural experiences in the Lucca area.

Contact us for booking or questions [info@villamichaela.com](mailto:info@villamichaela.com)  
whatsapp +39 333 787 3307





EXPERIENCE PUCCINI IN A WAY NO ONE ELSE CAN

# WEEK TOUR IN TUSCANY

## AVAILABLE DATES:

FEBRUARY 18 - 25, 2023

MARCH 18 - 25, 2023

APRIL 15 - 22, 2023

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

2024 is the centenary of the death of Giacomo Puccini and Villa Michaela will be hosting curated weeks during 2023 celebrating his life and work.



Villa Michaela welcomes you to join a *magical 7 day tour* exploring the life, work and times of Giacomo Puccini along with other cultural experiences in the Lucca area.

Located along the Via Francigena, an ancient pilgrim route dating back to the 1st century, Villa Michaela has an important historical significance in Tuscany. Dating back to the 15th century the elegant Villa, once Villa Nottolini, is waiting to welcome you.







# DAY 1

Transport from Pisa Airport

*Our drivers will meet you at the gate in Pisa and transport you to historic Villa Michaela*

Welcome Lunch at Villa Michaela

Afternoon of Relaxation at the Villa

7:00pm~ Introductory discussion followed by dinner

*Local writer and author Geoff Pavitt will host an introduction to Puccini & his history in Lucca. This will be followed by dinner in our elegant frescoed dining room*





# DAY 2

8:00-9:30am Breakfast at Villa Michaela

10:00 am~Leave for a tour of the Antique Market in the medieval city of Lucca

*Available the 3rd Sunday of the Month only. If you arrive on a different weekend other events will be scheduled for this time.*

1:00pm ~ Lunch in Lucca at one of our favorite restaurants

Return to the Villa

8:00 pm~ Dinner at one of our favorite local restaurants

*Massages & Yoga classes can be arranged one day prior to enjoy during relaxation time, lovely hikes in the surrounding area, or enjoy a game of tennis.*







## DAY 3

8:00-9:30am Breakfast at Villa Michaela

10:00 am~Leave for Puccini's house on Lake Massaciuccoli

*Geoff Pavitt will provide a private guided tour of Puccini's Torre di Lago house complete with anecdotes, legends and stories of Puccini's life in Torre di Lago*

12:00~ Exclusive Tour of Puccini's house in Viareggio

*Geoff Pavitt will guide you through this exclusive tour. Puccini's house in Viareggio is not normally open to the public.*

1:30 pm~ Lunch in Pietrasanta

*Pietrasanta is an artistic Tuscan town with an important church, bell tower, and fort. It has beautiful art galleries, as well as furnishings and clothing shops and more. There will be time after lunch for some shopping or sightseeing.*

7:00 pm~ Private Concert in Villa Michaela Chapel followed by dinner

*Mezzosoprano Olympia Hetherington will perform with a pianist. Afterwards dinner will be served in our elegant dining room.*





## DAY 4

8:00-9:30am Breakfast at Villa Michaela

10:00 am~Leave for a Private Guided Historical Tour of Lucca

*One of the most esteemed Tour Guides in Lucca will take you through the medieval city teaching you about the history, and the architecture of Lucca*

12:00~ Private Tour of Puccini's birthplace

1:00 pm~ Lunch in Lucca

After Lunch return to the Villa

*If you prefer you can remain in Lucca for shopping or sightseeing on your own. Massages & Yoga classes can be arranged one day prior to enjoy during relaxation time, lovely hikes in the surrounding area, or enjoy a game of tennis.*

6:00 pm-Leave for a Puccini recital in Lucca

*The recital is performed at Chiesa San Giovanni(Piano, Soprano & Tenor)*

8:30pm Dinner in one of our favorite restaurants in Lucca



# DAY 5

8:00-9:30am Breakfast at Villa Michaela

10:00 am~Leave for a photo tour of the hidden places of Lucca

*Award winning Tom England will take you through Lucca showing you hidden spots in the city and helping you with photography techniques.*

1:00 pm~ Lunch in Lucca

3:30 pm~ Tour of Villa Torrigiani

*You will take a tour of the stunning 16th century villa and its romantic gardens. A must see when you visit Lucca.*

8:00pm Dinner in one of our favorite local restaurants

*The goals for The Lucca Photo Experience are twofold:*

- 1. To share what I've learned from years of shooting photo assignments and teaching photography.*
- 2. To share my passion for Italy, and particularly my hometown of Lucca in Tuscany.*







## DAY 6

8:00-9:30am Breakfast at Villa Michaela

10:00 am~Leave for Villa Celle

*Villa Celle is Puccini's Grandfather's home. It is here that the love letters between Puccini & Elvira are displayed*

1:00 pm~ Lunch in Pescagli

After Lunch return to the Villa

*Massages & Yoga classes can be arranged one day prior to enjoy during relaxation time, lovely hikes in the surrounding area, or enjoy a game of tennis.*

7:00pm Lecture & Slideshow Presentation at Villa Michaela

*Geoff Pavitt will present the history of Puccini's life along with his contemporaries*

8:00 Dinner in the elegant dining room at Villa Michaela



# DAY 7

8:00-9:30am Breakfast at Villa Michaela

10:00 am~Local Event depending on the Month

*In February this day will be rearranged to include a trip to Viareggio Carnevale.*

*In March this day will be a tour the Ancient Camelia's in bloom at Borgo delle Camilie.*

*In April this day will be rearranged to include a cooking class at Villal Michaela.*

12:00 Lunch in the historic Montecarlo

2:00 Tour Montecarlo Theatre & Fort

*Private tour of Italy's smallest Opera House located in Montecarlo.*

*After a private tour of the Medieval fort of Montecarlo.*

Return to the Villa

*Massages & Yoga classes can be arranged one day prior to enjoy during relaxation time, lovely hikes in the surrounding area, or enjoy a game of tennis.*

7:30 Farewell dinner in the elegant dining room at Villa Michaela

*Dinner will be accompanied by a tableside performance of a Guitar Duet*



# DAY 8

8:00-9:30am Breakfast at Villa Michaela

Departure for Pisa Airport

*We will transport you back to Pisa airport according to flight schedule*



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### PRICING INCLUDES:

- All transport and airport transfers
- 7 nights accommodation at Villa Michaela with full breakfast
- All meals (at the villa and all restaurants)
- All tickets to the events and tours
- All entertainment (excluding massage or yoga)
- VAT tax

€ 4 750,00

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Villa Michaela reserves the right to cancel & refund deposits in full if a minimum of 12 guests are not confirmed Villa Michaela reserves the right to change the itinerary depending on local conditions during the stay. All tours must begin with arrival at Pisa Airport on Saturday.

For booking information please contact us at [info@villamichaela.com](mailto:info@villamichaela.com) or by whatsapp or telephone +39 333 787 3307



# ABOUT US



**Villa Michaela**, previously Villa Nottolini, now belonging to the Rhode family, is situated at the foot of the Zano mountain, only a short distance from the "pieve" of Vorno.

The villa dates back to the 15th century and holds great historic significance. It's elegant frescoes, gardens, fountains and architecture have been carefully maintained and restored by the Rhode family.

**Thomas England**—Thomas has spent his career photographing legendary musicians, presidents, actors & actresses and world events. He worked for The Carter Center in Atlanta along with major magazines, book publishers, corporations & non-profit organizations. He has also taught photography at Emory University's Continuing Education, The Nikon School & Northwestern University.

**Geoff Pavitt**—Geoff is a painter and author living in Lucca. In 2009 Geoff was awarded the Freedom of the City of London which sparked an interest that has lead to 3 completed books and one more in progress. Two focusing on the comparison of the city of London & Lucca through the centuries and one a biography of Puccini.

**Olympia Hetherington**—Olympia is a British Mezzosoprano based in Italy. She studies at the Accademia di Montegral under the guidance of Austrian conductor Gustav Kuhn.