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DERUTA – “BORGO” OF THE MAJOLICA

Deruta is the “borgo” of artists and therefore the ideal environment for inspiration. The town of majolica ceramics decoration is strategically located in the centre of Italy. Here you can experience the authentic Italian atmosphere. In short: feel at home among the Italians.



The music programme offers a challenge for singers (and possibly other musicians) of mixed level. The Italian singing coach will study known and unknown music. Italian composers will be on the programme too, of course.

At the end of the week we organize an unpretentious performance at an inspiring historical venue. The residents of Deruta will no doubt express their gratitude! A final festive buffet on the “piazza” completes the atmosphere.

We provide variety in the week programme and do not forget the good life! (Imagine Italian dinners at majolica tables). Umbria has so many gems to offer in terms of culture, architecture, history and nature, which is why we organise trips to some of the touristic highlights in the neighbourhood.

PROGRAMME

Day 1 Saturday

With a comfortable flight with Transavia from Rotterdam-The Hague Airport, you will arrive at Perugia San Egidio Airport. Here, travel manager and guide Gijs Dashorst welcomes you. He accompanies you on your way to Deruta, while he tells you about the cities in the neighbourhood, such as Assisi and Perugia. The private coach with driver from the SULGA company, takes you to the majolica 'borgo' in about 20 minutes. You check in at your reserved lodging in affittacamere and apartment(s), located in the historic centre close to the course location. (Among these, you stay in the guest apartment in Casa "Le tre Muse" of artistic director Onno Verschoor). In the afternoon you can explore the many little streets of Deruta or take a walk in the fields. Around eight o'clock, dinner is waiting and we eat outside at the beautifully decorated majolica tables of Taverna del Gusto. The cook serves you typical Umbrian dishes.



Day 2 Sunday

This week, days always start with a typical Italian breakfast. Caffè dei Consoli on the central square, serves unbeatable coffee with a croissant.

The morning is devoted to ensemble singing, directed by Antonio Magarelli, an inspiring teacher who accompanies the singers at the harpsichord. Spoken language is English. Onno Verschoor, artistic director of Accademia Amsterdam, is present for musical and practical support. The course location is in the historic centre of Deruta.

After your lunch, we travel in a private bus to Perugia. Our guide Gijs Dashorst, introduces you to the secrets of this more than 2000-year-old city. Finally, we visit the musical instruments museum, which is located in a medieval city gate, the "Cassero di Porta Sant'Angelo". On the roof of the gate we enjoy a fantastic view while enjoying an "aperitivo". The day ends with a dinner on a terrace with stunning views, in the centre of Perugia.



Day 3 Monday

After breakfast, an inspiring singing morning and a lunch in a restaurant of your own choice, the afternoon is free to spend. Gijs Dashorst and Onno Verschoor (who know Deruta and the surrounding area personally) are happy to give advice. If you wish, they can take you to unknown places, where you may have unexpected encounters.

We propose facultative cooking courses, given by Marina Prato in her typical Italian kitchen. She explains in English how to make fresh pasta with genuine ingredients in the best Italian tradition. Everyone will join dinner at one long table in her garden or on a charming town square. You might get an animated conversation with a local resident...



Do you want to cook Italian with fresh, local vegetables and make the tastiest desserts under her caring instructions? Then you can apply for two more cooking classes during the following afternoons.

For those who would like to become acquainted with the ceramics tradition of Deruta with your own hands, we offer the possibility of attending a pot-turning course or an afternoon to decorate your own ceramic souvenir with some of the most creative ceramists of the town.

If you can't stop singing, then follow individual classes voice training with Antonio Magarelli. These lessons are for an additional fee and last one hour. It is also possible to take a longer group lesson. The conductor, singer and harpsichordist has years of experience in coaching amateurs. You will certainly learn a lot from him.

Day 4 and Day 5 Tuesday and Wednesday

After breakfast and singing in the morning, you can spend the lunch and the afternoon at your liking. You can also enjoy the offered courses and services, as mentioned on day 3.

If you want to get some fresh air, we offer the possibility to explore the area on electric bicycles. The bicycles are delivered by the guide in front of the city gate. He takes you to the most beautiful places in the area, so you don't have to worry about the route. With a group of a minimum number of participants, we can organise this tour on one of the two free afternoons. This service is at an additional fee and is subject to availability.



We dine together, at the majolica tables of restaurant Taverna del Gusto in the centre of Deruta.

Day 6 Thursday

Today is the last morning of singing. Who knows what musical challenges you have taken in the last few days... Anyway, we will "harvest" the musical results and value what we can present to an audience. We particularly emphasize on enjoying the atmosphere and making music together. A performance has to be primarily a feast for everyone.

In the afternoon we leave with a private coach to Lake Trasimeno. There we sail with a boat to the enchanting island "Isola Maggiore". Here you will not only find a refreshing drink on the water with a drink, but you can also explore the island under the guidance of Gijs Dashorst. He tells you about the history that traces back to the Etruscans. Somewhere on the island, among olive groves or in an ancient chapel, you can taste the magical atmosphere while singing under guidance of Antonio Magarelli.



Once back on the shore of the lake, we have dinner in a fish restaurant at sunset.

Day 7 Friday

In the morning you can join "import resident" Onno Verschoor and guide Gijs Dashorst for a city walk in Deruta. We visit locations where tourists rarely enter. With a bit of luck, we see citizens, fanatically practicing for the "Palio della Brocca" races. After an hour and a half it is time for a lunch and a siesta.

Onno Verschoor brings you in the afternoon to one of the most beautiful locations of Deruta, where Antonio Magarelli awaits you, to have a brief acoustics rehearsal.

In the late afternoon, you experience the beautiful atmosphere of singing at this historic place. We are sure something special will happen and that the locals will be grateful and encouraging.

After the performance, a festive buffet awaits us at Taverna del Gusto, with the usual "aperitivo" in advance. You can chat and, who knows, sing until late into the evening.



Day 8 Saturday

In the morning, after the breakfast, you can say goodbye to those you have met and make another round on the piazza. Around lunchtime the coach awaits you, to take you to the airport. From there you fly directly back to the Netherlands.

Duration: at wish.

Period: at wish.

Travel: can be fully arranged at wish.

Music courses: singing technique (in a group or private) and ensemble singing,

Performance: organised at no extra cost in Deruta (in a historic and attractive location, such as a small church or a monastery court yard).

Extra courses: singing technique, cooking, ceramic decoration and/or pottery (at an additional fee).

Accommodation: in the historic centre of Deruta (at favourable prices) and shared breakfast on the square of Deruta (simple double rooms with shower or private apartment(s) with 2 spacious double rooms, kitchen and bathroom).

Dinners: all dinners include drinks (except near Lake Trasimeno); we negotiate sharper prices than for individually organized meals.

Excursions: this proposal includes 3 excursions, transport and a professional guide, which is cheaper than organising this yourself and renting a car in Deruta.

Other activities: a trip on e-bikes with an English speaking guide can be organized (additional payment, advance booking, a minimum number of participants is required).

Thanks to our personal contacts in Perugia and Deruta, we can offer this proposal at a very competitive price. The professional guide and travel agent guarantees that everything is arranged carefree and he is a source of information about the environment and the history of Deruta.

Il Braconiere



Casa Le tre Muse

