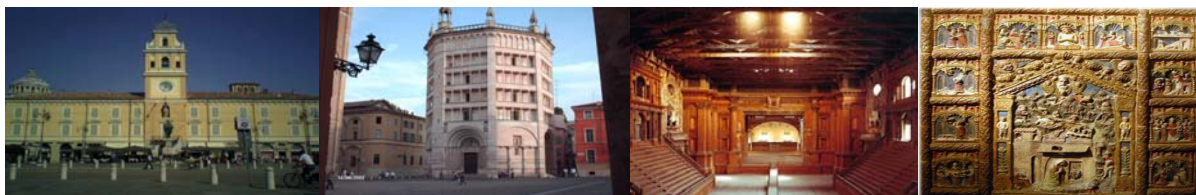


August 30-September 4, 2009 – Parma (Italy)

IN THE HEART OF PARMA The city of Granducato (3 hours)



9.20

Appointment with the guide in front of Palazzo della Pilotta;

9.30

Departure to visit the old centre of Parma on foot;

12.30

End of the tour; free time.

You will be able to see the Cathedral with its dome painted by Correggio, the elegant Baptistery, and the Basilica della Steccata with its dome painted by Parmigianino, Piazza Garibaldi with its fashionable bars, ancient gastronomical boutiques, and much more..

Parma is a city of aristocratic cultural traditions, full of precious works of art which recall its past as the capital of the Ducato of Parma. In addition, famous for its illustrious artists who worked here – from Benedetto Antelami to Salimbene, from Correggio to Parmigianino, to name but a few – it is not like any of the other numerous beautiful cities that attract tourists in Italy.

When visiting Parma you cannot be regardless of the marvellous scenery in Piazza Duomo, where the Cathedral, Baptistery, and Bishop's Palace create a medieval corner of rare beauty. The Cathedral (9th – 12th century) is one of the finest examples of Roman architecture in the Po Valley, with a splendid shed façade and a Latin cross layout, and inside it houses a wealth of masterpieces - the most famous are without doubt the dome with its fresco by Correggio (Antonio Allegri) of the *Assumption of the Virgin Mary* (1526-1539) and the *Deposition* (1178). Antelami's mark is even more evident in the Baptistery, built in red marble from Verona, with an octagonal



ECOSS 26 Organizing Secretariat
Promoest
Via Carlo Barbino 21/11
16129 Genoa – Italy
e-mail: e-mail:ecoss26@promoest.com
tel.: + 39 010 570 22 28
fax.: +39 010 570 21 10

ECOSS 26 web site:<http://www.ecoss26.eu>



August 30-September 4, 2009 – Parma (Italy)

floor plan. The artist directed the building works and was responsible for almost the entire well-known and highly precious modelled decoration.

At a short walking distance from the Cathedral you can find San Giovanni Evangelista, a renaissance building (with baroque façade and bell tower) that houses extraordinary paintings - among these, the dome depicts the *Transit of St John* painted as a fresco by Correggio in 1520-21, and some Parmigianino (Francesco Mazzola) frescoes on the undersides of the arches in three chapels. The entire San Giovanni Monastery is definitely worth a visit, with its fascinating renaissance cloisters and the ancient Benedictine spice shop. Parmigianino's work is also to be seen in Madonna della Steccata, a splendid renaissance church which was probably conceived by Bramante, and where the greatest treasure is surely the decorative cycle on the *Presbytery Arch* done by Mazzola in 1530-39.

Another masterpiece by Correggio can be found in St Paul's Chamber - the ceiling of the apartment of the Abbess Giovanna Piacenza, that he painted in fresco style in 1519, depicts an allegorical pergola that reminds us Mantegna and Leonardo, and is one of the finest examples of the mature Italian renaissance period.

In the very center, just a short distance from St Paul's Chamber, the imposing Palazzo della Pilotta, built on order of Farnese Family, houses the Palatina Library, National Archaeological Museum, the wooden Farnese Theatre (one of the most beautiful historical theatres in the world), Bodonian Museum and the National Gallery, surely one of the most important Italian art galleries and, just a bit further on, the neo-classical Teatro Regio, one of the most illustrious in Italy, which is the link between Parma and opera music.

Any visitor should not miss the Parco Ducale, a magnificent example of "French" garden, nor the Palazzo Ducale that it surrounds, as well as the Municipal Building and the Governor's Palace that face onto the central Piazza Garibaldi, the Lombard Museum, Stuard Art Gallery, the Churches of Sant'Antonio, San Sepolcro, Annunziata and Santa Maria del Quartiere, the house in which Arturo Toscanini was born, Casa della Musica, Burattini castle (with the splendid Ferrari collection) and Paganini Auditorium.

The fee includes: Half-day guide.



ECOSS 26 Organizing Secretariat
Promoest
Via Carlo Barbino 21/11
16129 Genoa – Italy
e-mail: [e-mail:ecoss26@promoest.com](mailto:ecoss26@promoest.com)
tel.: + 39 010 570 22 28
fax.: +39 010 570 21 10

ECOSS 26 web site:<http://www.ecoss26.eu>