



Music in the Alps!

The Lucerne Festival with the Sarasota Concert Association and WSMR!

Lake Lucerne

“Wherever I cast my gaze, I am surrounded by a magical world here; I know of no other home on earth more beautiful, indeed, none more comfortable than this.” — Richard Wagner in Lucerne

As friends and patrons of the Sarasota Concert Association and classical station WSMR, you are especially invited to join us for a spectacular, week-long musical extravaganza next summer in the Swiss Alps! Some of the finest orchestras in the world will perform at the Lucerne Festival, one of the great musical events in Europe. In this picturesque town on one end of the gorgeous eponymous lake, ringed with stunning mountain peaks, you’ll revel in the lush sounds of the Berlin Philharmonic, often called the “Rolls Royce” of orchestras; the inimitable Vienna Philharmonic, the sterling Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, led by world-renowned conductors. To hear these three orchestras all in the same week will be an unbeatable music experience!

And there’s more: We will have a private visit at Richard Wagner’s house, and hear a recital on his own piano; take a cog railway to the top of Mt. Rigi overlooking Lucerne; and tour a splendid private collection of art featuring the works of Picasso and Paul Klee, arguably Switzerland’s greatest modern artist.

The tour takes place amid the splendor of mountains, lakes and wonderful old Swiss towns. Enjoy deluxe accommodations in Lucerne, fine dining, a boat ride on gorgeous Lake Lucerne, and plenty of free time for additional sight-seeing, shopping or just relaxing. We look forward to seeing you on this unforgettable musical journey!

August 30–September 7, 2025*

*Tour begins August 31 at Zurich Airport (ZRH)



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Prime tickets to 5 concerts by some of the best orchestras and artists in the world at the Lucerne Festival
- Private tour and recital at Tribtschen, Wagner’s house in Lucerne
- Excursion to Mt. Rigi overlooking Lake Lucerne
- Deluxe 4-star accommodations in Lucerne
- Dining in top restaurants in town and countryside
- Private air-conditioned motor coach for all excursions in the itinerary
- Plenty of free time for additional sight-seeing, shopping or relaxing

LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS



KKL Luzern—home of the Lucerne Festival

left: Klaus Mäkelä



Itinerary

Old Town, Lucerne

Sunday, August 31 LUCERNE

From The Grand Tour's suggested flight, our private coach takes us from Zurich Airport to Lucerne. Check-in is at the 4-star Hotel Renaissance, in the center of Lucerne and a short walk to the concert hall. We are greeted with a glass of bubbly before our **Welcome Dinner** nearby.

Monday, September 1 LUCERNE

Luzern

The morning begins with a private guided tour of Lucerne, one of Switzerland's prettiest towns. Its lively streets, hidden alleys and picturesque façades of medieval buildings in the Altstadt (Old Town) make it perfect to explore on foot. We'll stroll across 14th century Chapel Bridge (left), one of the city's two iconic picture-perfect wooden bridges, and admire its medieval gable paintings, and rest and reflect in the contemplative

13th century Franciscan Church, an unspoiled example of medieval Gothic mendicant architecture. The sculpted Lion Monument commemorates the Swiss Guards massacred during the French Revolution in 1792, and the amazing Bourbaki Panorama is a 360° trompe-l'oeil painting of the retreat of a French army into Switzerland in 1871. **Lunch** is in the old town.

Tonight, our first concert takes place in the state-of-the-art KKL, the 1900-seat home of the Lucerne Festival, with its stellar, some say "perfect" acoustics. The rising superstar maestro Klaus Mäkelä leads the storied Royal Concertgebouw in a program of music by Schubert and Mahler's 5th Symphony, featuring the moving *Adagio*, famously prominent in Visconti's 1971 film, *Death in Venice*.

Tuesday, September 2 LUCERNE

The Queen of Mountains

Today we head up into the mountains from the town of Vitznau at the foot of majestic Mt. Rigi, where it's a dramatic half-hour's journey aboard the cog railway up into the magnificent Alpine world. A breathtaking panoramic view across the Alps can be enjoyed from the summit. A short nature walk with our guide acquaints us with some of the rich Alpine flora comprising nearly 1000 species. Keep your cameras ready! We'll enjoy **lunch** on the mountain with spectacular views of Lake Lucerne and the city before we return to Lucerne and a free evening.

Wednesday, September 3 LUCERNE

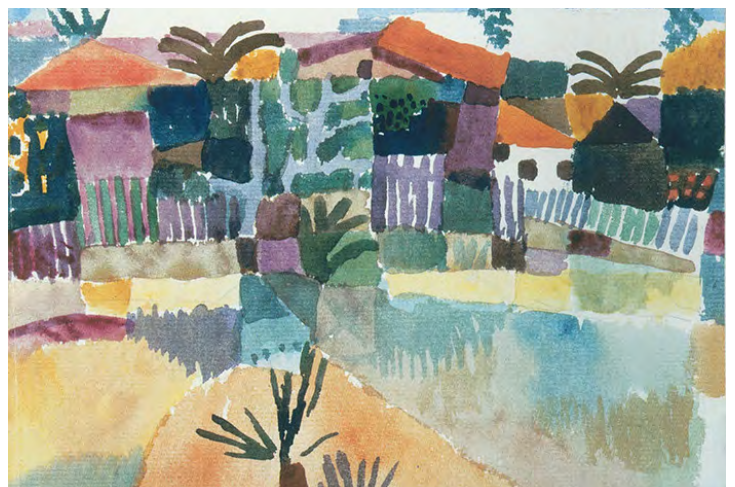
A Modernist Collector and Mahler

Angela Rosengart's passion for art began at age 17 when her father allowed her to purchase a drawing by Paul Klee for her birthday. That passion continues at 91 years of age, and this morning our visit to the Rosengart Collection bears this out. Besides entire floors devoted to Klee, the eminent Swiss artist, and Picasso, who depicted her at least five times, the work of 23 artists from Impressionists to early Modernism are on display and a delight. **Lunch** is nearby. Your afternoon is free before a performance of the mighty Berlin Philharmonic, led by Kirill Petrenko, only the seventh maestro to lead the historic orchestra, in Mahler's great 9th Symphony, his final completed symphony and the summation of his art.

Thursday, September 4 LUCERNE

From Church to Tchaikovsky

Two Festival concerts today: at the first in St. Lucas Church, a short walk from the hotel, the young pianist Giorgi Gigashvili performs in recital, program TBA. **Lunch** follows. In the evening, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, known for its diversity of players and as a "global collective," performs works by Mozart, Bartók, and Tchaikovsky at the KKL. Maxim Emelyanychev, who at a young age has led many major orchestras, including a debut with the Berlin Philharmonic, is on the podium for Tchaikovsky's emotionally-charged 5th Symphony, and Tabea Zimmermann is soloist in Bartok's Viola Concerto.



top: *St. Germain near Tunis, 1914*, Paul Klee, The Rosengart Collection, Lucerne

below: Berlin Philharmonic; Kirill Petrenko, conductor

Friday, September 5 LUCERNE

Wagner in Lucerne

Richard Wagner loved Lucerne. After his patron, King Ludwig II, arranged for him to move into a private home, he left the city and lived at Tribschen from 1866–1873, where he hosted many dignitaries including his patron Ludwig, Franz Liszt, and, multiple times, Friedrich Nietzsche. Today we will enjoy a private boat cruise to Wagner's Tribschen where we are accorded a private, pre-public hours tour of the house and a recital on the Master's own piano. **Lunch** is on the lake in Baumgarten. Our private boat returns to the city and your evening is free.



Richard Wagner Museum, Tribschen

Saturday, September 6 LUCERNE

The Vienna

A free day in Lucerne for additional sight-seeing, to finish that shopping or simply stroll the pretty waterfront. We will enjoy an early gala **farewell dinner** before our final musical feast: the Vienna Philharmonic, one of the great orchestras in the world, performs two great symphonies with notable nicknames: Mozart's *Prague Symphony*, as well as Tchaikovsky's passionate *Pathétique*, whose premiere the composer conducted in 1893, only days before his death. Franz Welser-Möst, the eminent, longtime conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, leads the orchestra in the final concert of our trip.

Sunday, September 7

The tour ends after breakfast. Transfers to Zurich Airport (ZRH) for flights back to the US, returning the same day.

*Itinerary subject to change. Meals in **bold** included in the price of the tour.*



TOUR REGISTRATION

Tour Cost: \$7,690 per person, ground only, based on double occupancy.

Single Supplement: \$1,845

Deposit: \$1,000 per person, due upon registration, first come, first served.

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 27, 2025.

After that date, call for availability.

Tour limited to 25 participants, or as hotel space allows.

To reserve your place, send registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit amount to: SCA-WSMR Lucerne Tour, The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough, NH 03458.

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour at 800.727.2995 / info@thegrandtour.com; or Linda Moxley of Sarasota Concert Association at 941.966.6161, ext. 2 / linda@scasarasota.org; or Scott Nolan of WSMR at 813.974.8677 / snolan@wusf.org



top: Vienna Philharmonic; Franz Welser-Möst, conductor
below: Rigi cog rail train