



## Artists

Conductor..... Philippe Jordan  
 Director ..... Calixto Bieto

Wotan ..... Iain Paterson  
 Brünnhilde..... Martina Serafin/  
 Ricarda Merbeth  
 Siegfried..... Andreas Schager  
 Alberich..... Jochen Schmeckenbecher  
 Mime..... Gerhard Siegel  
 Fricka ..... Ekaterina Gubanova  
 Siegmund ..... Jonas Kaufmann  
 Sieglinde ..... Eva-Maria Westbroek  
 Fasolt..... Wilhelm Schwinghammer  
 Loge ..... Norbert Ernst  
 Erda ..... Wiebke Lehmkuhl  
 Gunther ..... Johannes Martin Kränzle  
 Hagen ..... Ain Anger  
 Waltraute ..... Sarah Connolly

Wagner's *Ring Cycle* photos © Gerhard Richter 2018  
 Opéra Bastille © Patrick Tourneboeuf/Tendance Floue/OnP  
 (Photos courtesy www.operadeparis.fr)

## Wagner's *Ring Cycle* at the Opéra National de Paris November 29 - December 7, 2020

A new *Ring Cycle* is always something to celebrate and The Opéra National de Paris' 2019/2020 Season sees the introduction of this Calixto Bieto version, with performances of *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* in its spring run. The tetralogy will then be completed in early fall 2020 with the final two operas, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*, prior to bringing all four instalments together in a special Festival, with two full Cycles starting in late November. We have selected Cycle II, conveniently spaced between the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, a perfect time to visit the City of Light and enjoy wonderful Wagner music.

Maestro Philippe Jordan (who conducted the 2019 Met *Ring Cycles*) is leading the Orchestre et Choeurs de l'Opéra National de Paris in this production by the Spanish theater director who will apply his unique interpretative artistic skills to Wagner's tetralogy.

The vocal cast is probably one of the strongest ever assembled in recent years, including today's most in-demand *Heldentenor* Andreas Schager as Siegfried, Jonas Kaufmann, the world's leading dramatic tenor as Siegmund and Eva Maria Westbroek as Sieglinde. Briton bass-baritone Iain Paterson interprets Wotan/Wanderer while Martina Serafin and Ricarda Merbeth are scheduled to share the demanding role of Brünnhilde.

Act 1 Tours' long-term relationship with the Opéra national de Paris has secured a limited allocation of prime seats and we look forward to welcoming a small party of Wagner aficionados to Paris in November next year.

The four operas take place on November 30, and December 2, 4 and 6, so there is plenty of time available to enjoy the myriad other attractions of the French capital. While other performing venues are still to announce their 2020/21 programs, you can expect to be able to build other musical events in to your personal program closer to the time.

We have been placing our Paris guests at the 5-star Le Burgundy Paris since its opening ten years ago and its 1er arrondissement location is ideal for a week's stay.

The hotel has 59-rooms (including 8 suites) and blends contemporary furniture with the owner's passion for art. Le Burgundy Paris is also a Zen retreat where guests can indulge in an intimate Hammam, a relaxing massage or a few laps in the beautiful swimming pool. Walk out from there to chic rue St. Honoré, the nearby Tuileries and the Louvre Museum. See [www.leburgundy.com](http://www.leburgundy.com)

Our program is designed to be quite unstructured, although we will include two mornings of sightseeing and art museum visits, led by our long-term preferred Paris guides Joseph Walsh and Professor Christophe Boicos (to confirm). A day excursion to the wonderful Chartres Cathedral rounds out our daytime cultural program.

Each evening at Opéra Bastille will include either a full dinner or substantial intermission refreshments as part of our privileged ticket package. In addition we will be including a further three lunches throughout the week. We do invite you to be part of this exceptional experience in fall 2020.



Above: *Nymphéas (Water Lilies)* by Claude Monet at the Musée de l'Orangerie

Left: Chartres Cathedral

## ITINERARY

### Sunday, November 29

Independent departures from North American airports or optional early arrival in Paris.

### Monday, November 30

Arrivals at Paris CDG and independent transfer to Le Burgundy Paris. Airport transfers may be arranged on request.

Late afternoon we gather in the hotel and transfer to Opéra Bastille for a pre-performance dinner. The performance of *Das Rheingold* starts at 7:30pm. Return to the hotel for drinks in the bar or an early night's rest.

### Tuesday, December 1

Breakfast is included each day.

The day is for relaxation, with recommendations from your Act 1 Tours' host.

### Wednesday, December 2

Mid-morning departure with Paris guide Joseph Walsh who will introduce us to the area around our hotel, with special emphasis on musical connotations. We lunch together as a group and then return to the hotel to relax and refresh.

Leave again at 5:30pm in time for the 6:30pm start of *Die Walküre*, finishing by approximately 11:00pm. We enjoy a full dinner during the intermissions.

### Thursday, December 3

The morning is devoted to exploring two unique art museums, the Musée de l'Orangerie (with the renowned Monet *Nymphéas*) and the Musée Jacquemart-André, guided by expert art historian Christophe Boïcos. The late afternoon and evening is completely independent.

### Friday, December 4

The day is open for individual preferences.

We meet in the late afternoon and leave for the start of *Siegfried*. Again, we dine together during the intermissions.

### Saturday, December 5

Today we head out of town, eighty kilometers to the southwest and the city of Chartres, with the primary objective of visiting the magnificent Cathedral of our Lady of Chartres, a remarkable example of French Gothic architecture, still intact after seven hundred years.

After our visit we enjoy a relaxed luncheon at *Terra*, slightly out of the city center and noted for exquisite Italian cuisine. Return to Paris late afternoon for free time and dining.

### Sunday, December 6

On our final day we meet and enjoy a relaxed luncheon before arriving at Opéra Bastille for the start of *Götterdämmerung*. This evening we gather in one of the intermissions for a "cocktail *dinatoire*", a fitting way to wrap up our very special *Ring Cycle*.

### Monday, December 7

Independent departures or extension.



Le Burgundy Classic Room (courtesy Le Burgundy)

## INCLUSIONS

- Seven nights' at Le Burgundy Paris (Deluxe for doubles and Classic for singles)
- Daily breakfast
- Prime seating for four operas
- Seating premium to secure tickets
- Three dinners and one intermission refreshment at Opéra Bastille
- Three additional lunches
- Four private transfers to/from Opéra Bastille
- Walking tour with Joseph Walsh
- Museums' guide tour with Christophe Boïcos
- Day guided excursion to Chartres
- Driver, guide and restaurant gratuities
- Act 1 Tours' partner throughout

## RATE

\$9,350 per person with shared room occupancy  
\$10,800 supplement for single room occupancy  
Additional hotel room nights, with breakfast are \$675 double and \$560 single. Rates and availability for Le Burgundy Paris upgrades on request.

## PAYMENT

A non-refundable deposit of \$3,350 per person is due on registration, with the balance by September 29, 2020.

## INSURANCE

Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly advised to protect the cost of the trip should the need to cancel arise due to changed conditions. Certain policies also waive pre-existing medical conditions if purchased within 15 days of the initial deposit. Act 1 Tours can purchase suitable policies on your behalf through ALG Travel Guard.