

2026 FALL IRELAND TOUR

the 75th

WEXFORD OPERA FESTIVAL

in the South-East corner of IRELAND

which this year will feature:
a **CELEBRATORY 75th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**
featuring Joseph Calleja, Ermonela Jaho and Daniella Barcellona

and three rarely-heard operas

Rossini's "L'EQUIVOCO STRAVAGANTE"

Mascagni's "IRIS" and

Prokofiev's "The GAMBLER"

plus

TWO VOCAL RECITALS

The tour includes stays at five star luxury

COUNTRY-HOUSE HOTELS

* * * * *	the K CLUB hotel
* * * *	the TALBOT hotel.
* * * * *	the MOUNT JULIET ESTATE
* * * * *	the CASHEL PALACE hotel
* * * * *	the ASHFORD CASTLE hotel
* * * * *	the WESTBURY, DUBLIN hotel

www.opera-is.com



(PRE-TOUR)
the 26th PARMA VERDI FESTIVAL

Wednesday 7th October
to Tuesday 13th October 2026.

15 guests from the Wexford tour have elected to enjoy
a weeklong group PRE-TOUR to the major
Verdi Pilgrimage sites in northern Italy,
including guided tours of his birthplace
and the Casa Barezzi

and two private concerts in Parma.

Our opera performances will include ...

- An astonishing production of Verdi's "AIDA", staged by Franco Zeffirelli, in the tiny 300-seat theatre in Verdi's hometown of BUSSETO.
- Lavish productions of four early Verdi operas "ALZIRA", "IL CORSARO", "JERUSALEM", and "NABUCCO" at the TEATRO REGIO in Parma.
- And finally, at Milan's TEATRO ALLA SCALA, a performance of Verdi's "La TRAVIATA".

We will stay in 4 and 5 star hotels,
and have gourmet meals

Airfare from MILAN to DUBLIN is included.

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DAY 0 Tuesday 13th October

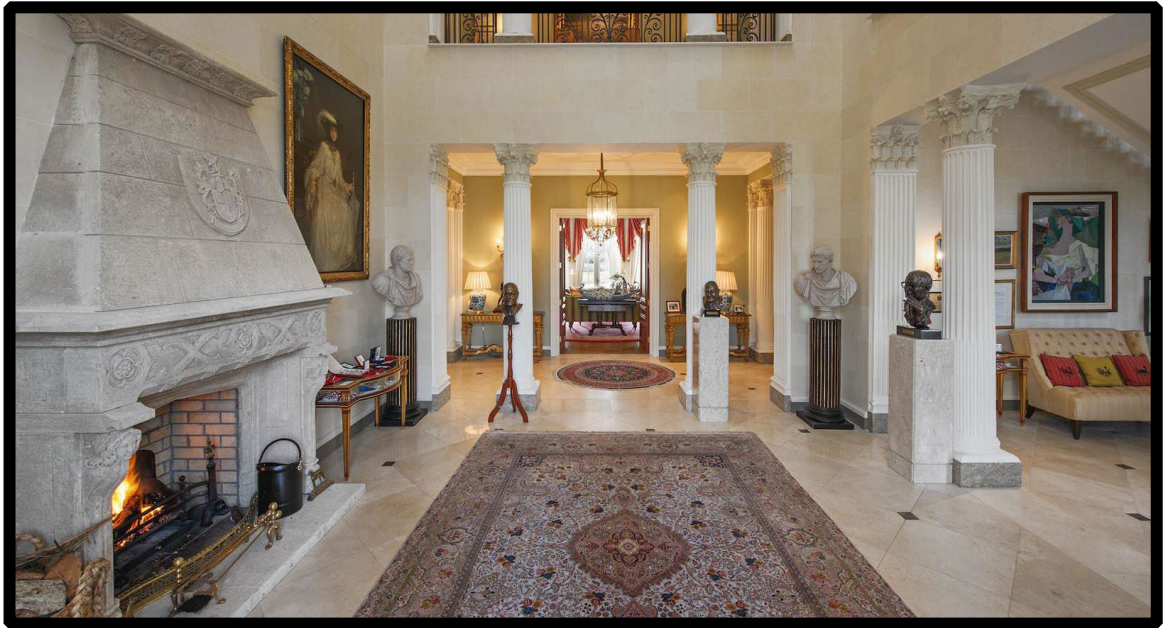
Parma group arrives from MILAN

at 12:55 pm

*transferred to
the KILDARE HOTEL (K CLUB).*



Others arrive – staggered timings –over today and tomorrow.



The K Club hosted the 2006 Ryder Cup.

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DAY 1 Wednesday 14th OCTOBER 2026

Tour begins – visit New Grange

All participants now transferred to
NEW GRANGE ANCIENT HISTORICAL SITE
(from before the Pyramids and Stonehenge.)

Timed entry and guided tour.



After our monument tour ... afternoon free (golf?)

WELCOME DINNER at the HOTEL

DAY 2 Thursday 15th October
Travel (by luxury coach) to WEXFORD

En route – visit the extensive GARDENS of
POWERSCOURT HOUSE



Our hotel in Wexford (for four nights)
is the * * * * T A L B O T HOTEL
on the waterfront ... a 6 minute walk from the Opera House.



6:00 pm DINNER in the HOTEL

TONIGHT - OUR FIRST FESTIVAL OPERA
(Festival Opening night)
(Black tie)

8:00 pm Pietro Mascagni “ I R I S ” (1898)

Mascagni is best known for his first opera to be staged, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, the work that changed operatic history by launching the verismo movement with panache and which opened in the Italian capital in 1890 to overwhelming acclaim.

Iris – the fifth of his works - offers something more ethereal. Set in medieval Japan, the opera invites us into the inner world of Iris, a young girl lured from her home into the city’s dark pleasure quarters.

A victim of societal corruption and exploitation, Iris remains luminous and untouched even as the world around her grows monstrous. She is a figure of tragic isolation – an object to be desired or judged, navigating a path toward a harrowing yet transcendent end.

Musically staggering, powerful and provocative, *Iris* features one of the most dramatic choral sequences in the entire opera repertoire.

The magnificent ‘*Hymn to the Sun*’ bookends the opera, serving as both a powerful prologue and a redemptive, mystical epilogue.

Joseph Calleja will sing the role of Osaka.



DAY 3 Friday 16th October
in WEXFORD

1:00 pm RECITAL in St IBERIUS CHURCH
(tba)

Afternoon – independent explorations

5:30 pm – DINNER at
GREENACRES RESTAURANT

7:30 - Gioachino Rossini's
“L'EQUIVOCO STRAVAGANTE”

The title means something like 'The Bizarre Misunderstanding'. A joyous early work by Rossini, *L'equivoco stravagante* is a fast paced, playful exploration of social climbing and the lengths we go to for love.

Musically brilliant, it's the ultimate fun night at the opera. A sparkling farce of absurd misunderstandings, youthful wit, rapid-fire ensembles and comic excess,

L'equivoco stravagante was Rossini's first large-scale opera. It premiered in Bologna in 1811, when the young composer was still only 19 years of age.

It vanished from the repertoire after falling foul of the censor due to its subversive libretto.

Wexford was one of the first companies to present it in 1968.

**DAY 4 Saturday 17th October
in WEXFORD**

1:00 pm RECITAL in St IBERIUS CHURCH
(tba)

Afternoon free

**5:30 pm – DINNER at VIVA RESTAURANT
in the OPERA HOUSE**

**7:30 pm GALA 75th ANNIVERSARY
CONCERT**

An international constellation of stars including Ermonela Jaho, Joseph Calleja, Daniela Barcellona, and Giorgi Manoshvili will perform glorious music by Giacomo Puccini, Giuseppe Verdi and more.



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DAY 5 Sunday 18th October
WEXFORD



5:00 pm Prokofiev's "THE GAMBLER"

Music by Sergei Prokofiev
Libretto by the composer after Fyodor Dostoevsky
Sung in Russian with English surtitles

First performance 29 April, 1929
at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels

This year's 'opera for the head' is Sergei Prokofiev's *The Gambler*, written in 1917 during the First World War when the composer was 26 years old and still considered to be in his enfant terrible phase. The opera was not performed until 1929.

Based on Fyodor Dostoevsky's 1866 novella, the libretto draws directly from Prokofiev's own gambling addiction.

Set in 1865 in the fictional German spa town of Roulettenburg, everything is deliberately artificial.

The opera follows the protagonist, Alexei, a young tutor, as he spirals into gambling debt while being obsessed with his employer's stepdaughter, Polina.

In the final act, the casino itself emerges as the central character, controlling the destiny of those consumed by their passion for the roulette wheel, like moths to a flame.

Prokofiev intended the work as a reaction against Romantic lyricism, instead preferring to create 'an opera in the declamatory style', closer in technique to the stage works of Dargomyzhsky and Mussorgsky which set musical prose in natural speech rhythms.

7:30 pm – DINNER at our HOTEL

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DAY 6 Monday 19th October
WEXFORD to MOUNT JULIET ESTATE

11:30 pm Timed entry guided tour of the
WATERFORD CRYSTAL FACTORY



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1:00 pm LUNCH at the
WATERFORD CASTLE HOTEL



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Check into the * * * * * MOUNT JULIET ESTATE
HOTEL for one night



7:00 pm DINNER in RED PARK SUITE

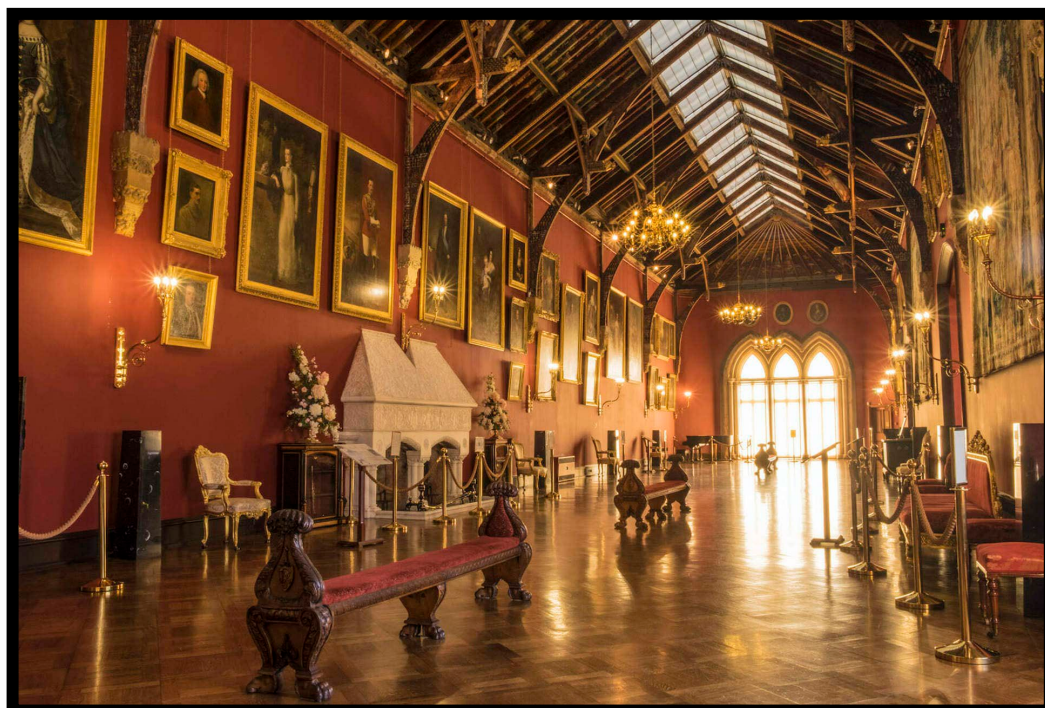
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DAY 7 Tuesday 20th October
MOUNT JULIET ESTATE to CASHEL PALACE

12:30 - timed entry guided tour of



KILKENNY CASTLE



www.opera-is.com

2:30 pm

Visit the ROCK of CAHEL



www.opera-is.com



Check into the * * * * * CASHEL PALACE HOTEL
for one night



7:00 pm DINNER in BISHOP's BUTTERY

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DAY 8 Wednesday 21st October
CASHEL PALACE to ASHFORD CASTLE

En route visit BUNRATTY CASTLE



3:00 pm check into * * * * * ASHFORD CASTLE



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**7:00 pm DINNER in
the GEORGE V RESTAURANT**

DAY 9 Thursday 22nd October
ASHFORD CASTLE to DUBLIN

1:00 pm visit CLONMACNOISE MONASTERY



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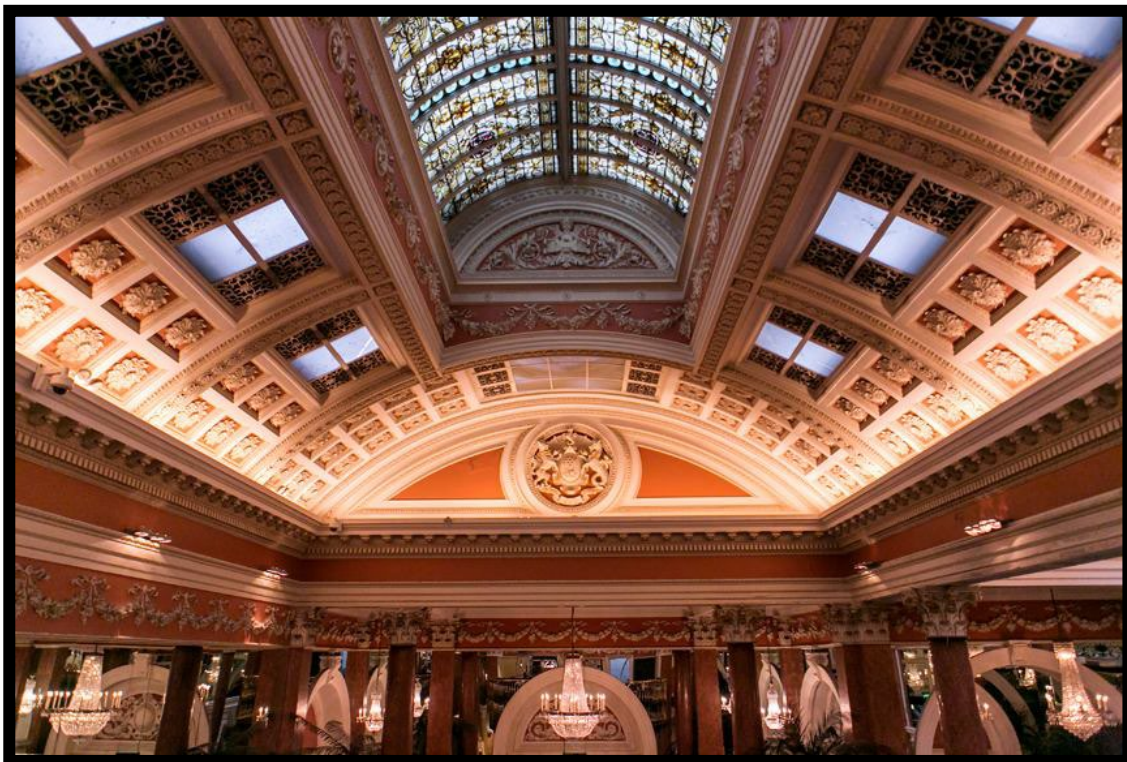
Check into the * * * * * WESTBURY HOTEL for 2 nights'



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7:00 pm DINNER at THE BANK Restaurant



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DAY 10 Friday 23rd October
explore DUBLIN



The BOOK of KELLS experience



Molly Malone



7:00 pm FAREWELL DINNER at WILDE Restaurant



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DAY 11 Saturday 24th October
DUBLIN (HOME)



\$ 15,000 USD per person
(no single supplements)

All ground transportation included.

No airfares included.

All breakfasts and one group meal a day included.

www.opera-is.com

For any **ITINERARY** related enquiries –
please call Iain at 416 505 3525

Please arrange your **REGISTRATION and payments**
through our outstanding travel agent



WILLIAM ANDREWS

at DIRECT TRAVEL

35 Wellesley Street West

Toronto M4Y OH1

(note new street address - from 1 August 2026)

He will also gladly advise you about medical and trip cancellation insurances
and about air fare options.

416 928 3113

wandrews@dt.com

(phone and email are unchanged)

