



# BELMOND

## **BELMOND INTRODUCES NEW GRAND TOUR ROUTES ACROSS EUROPE ABOARD VENICE SIMPLON-ORIENT-EXPRESS**

### **'A EUROPEAN GRAND TOUR'**



*11th January 2021* - Belmond announces new Grand Tour routes across Europe aboard its legendary Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train. The new routes criss-cross through Italy, Switzerland, Belgium and The Netherlands and call at the finest cities along the way. The European Grand Tours evoke a sense of nostalgia, reinstating the legendary journeys of the golden age of travel and meeting a rise in demand for slow, meaningful travel experiences following a year of travel hiatus.

### **EUROPEAN GRAND TOUR**

New boarding points for the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express include the 'Eternal City' of Rome, the Renaissance city of Florence, lakeside Geneva, the city of Brussels, and the Dutch capital, Amsterdam. Travelling aboard the elegant art-deco 1920s carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, guests can now select from a number of different new journeys including the option to stay overnight at Villa San Michele, A Belmond Hotel, Florence, or Castello di Casole, A Belmond Hotel, Tuscany on the Florence route to Paris.

Gary Franklin, Vice President, Trains & Cruises comments; "We are passionate about pioneering new routes and destinations for our trains. During 2020, while the train was unable to operate, we identified some exciting new destinations and routes, offering an increased number of ways to see Europe whether for a long weekend or as part of an extended European tour and reflecting the storied history of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express."

### **A TUSCAN DEPARTURE**

Combining a stay at Villa San Michele, set in the hills above Florence, or at Castello di Casole, in the heart of the Tuscan countryside, guests can stay overnight before boarding the train in Florence on 26th May and 14th July for an onward journey to Paris. For the ultimate town, country and rail experience, guests can select to begin their tour with a night deep in the Tuscan countryside surrounded by rolling hills and sprawling vineyards at Castello di Casole before heading to the 15th century former Renaissance monastery Villa San Michele, with its breathtaking views over Florence.

Prices for a one night journey from Florence to Paris including a one night stay at Villa San Michele or Castello di Casole start from £2,000 (€2,208) per person.

### **RETURN TO ROME**

Marking a return to the routes of the past, Venice Simplon-Orient-Express returns to Rome for a new journey to Paris. Departing Rome, the train makes its way towards Florence and onwards past the Italian lakes and Swiss mountains and into France on an overnight journey complete with an elegant dinner as they travel to Paris on 26th May and 14th July.

Prices for a one night journey from Rome to Paris start from £1,880 (€2,061 approx) per person.

### **A SWISS SOJOURN**

Departing Geneva on 27th May and 15th July, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express will pass through the famous Brenner pass offering iconic views of the train as it wends its way through The Alps, passing through the romantic city of Verona before reaching Venice.

Prices for a one night journey from Geneva to Venice start from £2,380 (€2,623 approx) per person.

### **DUTCH ARRIVALS**

The new route to and from Venice to Amsterdam connects three European Capital cities: Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. On 21st June, the train sets off from Venice passing through Paris and Brussels before arriving in Amsterdam the following day. On 24th June, guests can return to Venice joining the train in either Amsterdam, Brussels or Paris.

Prices for a one night journey from Venice to Amsterdam start from £2,650 (€2,920 approx) per person.

### **THREE NEW SUITES**

Venice Simplon-Orient-Express travels throughout Europe from March to November and embarks on the iconic journey to Istanbul once a year. The 2021 season sees the addition of three new Grand Suites on the train. Named after the cities that have inspired the design - Vienna, Budapest and Prague, the new suites sit in the train's oldest carriage built in 1926.

The legendary train is made up of 17 original 1920s and 1930s carriages, each of which has its own unique history. Each carriage played a part in the famous trains of the era that pioneered the way for international travellers to cross borders in style and luxury.

To book or for more information visit [belmond.com](http://belmond.com) or call +44 (0)20 3117 1300.

- Ends -

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Please find the full list of routes below. This outlines the possible embarkation and disembarkation points for guests:

### 26th May and 14th July 2021

*VENICE - ROME - FLORENCE - PARIS* - \*Guests can board the train in Venice, Rome and Florence but not disembark.

### 27th May and 15th July 2021

*PARIS - GENEVA - INNSBRUCK - VENICE* - \*Guests can board the train in Paris and Geneva but not disembark.

### 21st June 2021

*VENICE - PARIS - BRUSSELS - AMSTERDAM* - \*Guests can disembark in Paris and Brussels but not embark.

### 24th June 2021

*AMSTERDAM - BRUSSELS - PARIS - VENICE* - \*Guests can embark in Amsterdam, Brussels and Paris but not disembark.

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Images can be downloaded [here](#).

### About Belmond Ltd.

Belmond Ltd. part of the world's leading luxury group LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, has been a pioneer of luxury travel for more than 40 years, building a passion for authentic escapes into a portfolio of one-of-a-kind experiences in some of the world's most inspiring and enriching destinations.

Since the acquisition of the iconic Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has continued to push industry boundaries, taking discerning global travellers on surprising and unforgettable journeys spanning land, water, adventure and relaxation, with international acclaim. The

portfolio of 46 properties extends across 24 countries, encompassing three luxury safari lodges, two river cruises, seven luxury trains, including the iconic Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, and the legendary '21' restaurant in New York. From historic city landmarks like Belmond Cadogan Hotel and Belmond Copacabana Palace to hidden retreats at Belmond Cap Juluca and Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor, each incomparable property has its own timeless story to tell, yet the hallmarks of the brand thread through them all: heritage, craftsmanship, and a reputation for genuine, unscripted service in an unrivalled location, create exceptional experiences that stir the soul. [www.belmond.com](http://www.belmond.com)