

Terme di Caracalla



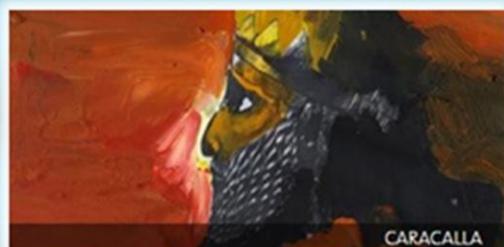
GEORGES BIZET
CARMEN
28 JUNE - 4 AUGUST 2017
CARACALLA

28th June, 2nd, 7th, 9th, 14th, 20th,
27th, 30th July, 1st & 4th August 2017



GIACOMO PUCCINI
TOSCA
8 JULY - 8 AUGUST 2017
CARACALLA

8th, 15th, 19th, 26th, 29th July, 3rd, 6th
& 8th August 2017



GIUSEPPE VERDI
NABUCCO
25 JULY - 9 AUGUST 2017
CARACALLA

25th, 28th July, 2nd, 5th & 9th August



ROBERTO BOLLE AND FRIENDS
11 JULY - 12 JULY 2017
CARACALLA

11th & 12th July 2017

Apart from the the interruption during the war from 1940 to 1944 and the closure from 1994 to 2000, there have always been performances of lyrics and dance that have been most known for charming a large international public.

In the beginning the stage was situated in one of the large rooms situated in the *Tepidarium*, it took up 1500 metres of space. The stage was 22 metres long and was in fact the largest in the world. The seating plan could host eight thousand people (with the following move of the stage to the exedra of the calidarium the numbers were amplified reaching twenty thousand places)

With Olivieri De Fabritis in the pulpit, Toti dal Monte and Beniamino Gigli the most exceptional voices of the time on the evening of the 1st of august 1937 the opera being sung was *Lucia di Lammermoor* by Gaetano Donizetti.

From that moment on famous musicians and artists have performed under the lights of this green oasis with its ruins that tower above us gently touching the skies thirty metres above creating a timeless atmosphere with the help of the theatre's orchestra, choir and ballet corps.

We could quote some names such as: Giacomo Lauri-Volpi, Mario Del Monaco, Tito Gobbi, Giulietta Simionato, Antonietta Stella, Fedora Barbieri, Magda Olivero, Alfredo Krauss, Franco Corelli and many others not to mention the most recent José Carreras, Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti stars of the first concert of the world famous three Tenors Tenors in the summer of 1990. Among the directors we fondly remember Ottaviano Ziino, Ferruccio Scaglia, Franco Capuana, Gianandrea Gavazzeni, Giuseppe Patanè and Zubin Mehta.

The Baths of Caracalla were among one of the major spa complexes in antique Rome, maybe the richest for its splendid decoration which has today in part been lost. They were constructed entirely by the emperor starting from after 212 AD, in a southern periphery of the city. Nine thousand workmen worked for five years digging out the Aventine hill to make the enormous quadrangular platform of over three hundred metres to house, above the storage cellars and working areas, the central corp made in opus caementicium then covered in bricks.

The Baths were in use until 537 when Vitige, King of the Goths, cut the aqueducts during the siege of Rome. Since then the Baths were abandoned and thus became a cemetery. The excavations of the 1500's brought to light colossal groups of statues, mostly copies of the Hellenistic period that ended up in the greatest collections of the time such as the Farnese Collection, now at the National Archaeological Museum of Naples.

In the first half of the 19th century the palaestra was rediscovered and mosaics of athletes and sporting judges were removed. Since then nonstop excavations, above all in the 20th cent, have contributed to our knowledge of the monument revealing the underground areas and the mitreum.