

Singer brought to tears in Nice

By Jae-Ha Kim

Tribune Content Agency

Besides spending a week in Michigan visiting family this year, musician Stella Cole said that all of her travels have been for work. It continues in the fall as she kicks off a four-week U.S. tour.

"Then we'll do shows in the U.K., Germany, France and Switzerland, followed by another three-week U.S. holiday tour," Cole said. "We're hitting around 40 cities between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31. At the beginning of 2026, we'll be playing in Japan, China and Hawaii, which I'm really looking forward to. The food in Japan is unreal. I've never been to China before, so I'm really curious about the food there."

Cole's tour follows the recent release of her album "It's Magic," which features her takes on classic love songs.

This interview with Cole has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: What are some places that are on your must-go-to again list?

A: Tokyo, Osaka, Stockholm and Nice are at the top of that list because I played shows in all of those cities, but I had a painfully short amount of time to explore. I think I was only in Nice for something like 36 hours, but it was one of my favorite places of all time. I woke up at the crack of dawn the day of the show so I'd have a chance to explore the town and swim in the Mediterranean sea. I think I cried while I was swimming



"It's Magic" vocalist Stella Cole says she is looking forward to her upcoming tour. **LUKE ROGERS**

because it was so beautiful and pristine, and I wanted to stay forever.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: Croatia! I keep seeing videos everywhere and it looks absolutely unreal.

Q: What is your best and/or worst vacation memory?

A: I think to this day, my best vacation memory was going to Nepal my senior year of high school. I went with a group of childhood best friends, one of (whom) is Nepali. We stayed with my friend's family in Kathmandu, and then we did a six-day trek on the Annapurna Circuit, staying at tea houses along the way and eating the most amazing dal bhat every night after walking 20,000 steps. I will never forget the taste of the fresh mangoes. I must have eaten six or seven mangoes in one sitting that summer. Amazing.

Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: I just took the first vacation I've been on in years to the Algarve in Portugal. We stayed at this beautiful little boutique hotel in the middle of an orange grove, right outside of this fishing town called Tavira. We took a little boat to the beach every day and drank fresh orange juice every morning. That was some of the greatest food I've ever had. The A Cataplana

is a new favorite of mine. Everything was so fresh and light. I could have stayed there forever.

Q: How much of a city do you get to see on tour?

A: When I first started touring, I was able to spread the shows out because I didn't have that many gigs. I probably lost money on those first tours, but getting to spend five days between shows hiking in Norway or exploring Paris for a week was so much fun. Now the schedule is a lot more hectic, so sometimes I only have a few hours in a city. We were just in Prague this spring, and we had lunch, walked around for 30 minutes, then had to get to soundcheck. I sometimes only see the airport, the venue and my hotel room. Whenever I can, I'll add on four or five days before or after a tour to relax and actually explore a city.

Q: How do you separate work from vacation trips?

A: Sometimes work feels a lot like vacation. I just got back from two weeks in Tuscany and Sardinia, mostly doing private concerts for a jazz retreat while staying in a beautiful villa outside of Cortona. It definitely didn't feel like I was working, more like drinking a lot of wine and eating a lot of pecorino cheese and singing a few songs at night.

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