



EVENTS AND FESTIVALS OF EACH ITALIAN REGION

When one thinks of Italy, one imagines a multitude of emotions, because Italians display the most within a day! Italians love to play, sing and eat and what better way to celebrate what you love? Start a festival! Italy abounds with historical and cultural festivals throughout its regions and all year round. So choose a festival and plan a trip to Italy around it!

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VALLE D'AOSTA

- **January 30 & 31** -AOSTA - "Feast day of Saint Orso", a millenary artisan fair that is the most important exposition of artisan products and mountaineer art if the alpine bow.
- **May; second Sunday** - NUS - Festival du "Vien de Nus", celebrating the excellent local wines, the Rouge and the Malvoise. In the afternoon the new wine is offered for tasting.
- **June 23-24** GRESSONEY SAINT-JEAN - Feast Day of San Giovanni, beginning on the evening of the 23rd with the rite of the "Fires of St.John", the town's patron saint, concludes on the 24th with a mass solemnly celebrated followed by the "Walser" procession with the blessing of the lambs.
- **September; last Sunday** CHAMBAVE - Grape Festival, a seasonal event tied to the wine harvest when many products and tastings are offered to public.
- **November 1** COGNE - Cantes Festival, dedicated to the boys of the community, young and single, coming out in society offering wine and food to the other unmarried men, singing until sunset.



PIEMONTE

- **On the second Saturday and Sunday of September** ASTI Douja d'Or, an antique decanter used to hold wine. Prestigious producers participate in this celebration hosting numerous food stands and a parade in traditional costume.
- **September 17** - ASTI - The Palio of Asti, Italy's most ancient horse race with events such as a historic procession, with over 1,000 people dressed in medieval attire.
- **On the first Sunday of October** ALBA Palio degli Asini (The Race of the Donkeys) is based on an ancient rivalry between the cities of Alba and Asti. This race proves at times to be quite comical due to the unpredictability of the donkeys.
- **Month of October** ALBA White Truffle Festival One of the oldest Italian truffle festivals, with stands abounding with this exotic tuberis!



LOMBARDIA

- **January - December; every last Sunday of the month, except July & August** - MILAN - Naviglio Grande Antiques Fair One of the most beautiful and charming sections of Milan is transformed into an open-air antique market, bustling with people.
- **December 7** - MILAN -Feast of Saint Ambrogio, three days of celebration of this saint in the Piazza of St. Ambrogio with antiques, crafts, food delicacies, sweets, wine, and more; ending with a market on the third day. This festival also coincides with the opening of the Opera season at La Scala.



TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE

- **February; Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Carnival week** ARCO Carnevale Asburgico (Hapsburg's Carnival) This festival began in 1876 to help unite the population with the imperial rulers, the Hapsburgs.
- **October; first week** MERANO Festa dell'uva it celebrates the harvest with a grape festival and a parade in Tyrolean costume.
- **December; first Saturday** PASSO DELLO STELVIO Festa dei Klosen Dedicated to Santa Clause where locals dressed in costume wander the streets until the church bells are rung and everyone unites in prayer.



FRIULI VENEZIA-GIULIA

- **January 6** - GEMONA DEL FRIULI, Epiphany of the Thaler, a historical parade of dames and knights accompanying the Mayor to the duomo for the celebration of the Mass.
- **June 23 - 26** - SAN DANIELE - "Aria di Festa", this 'Celebrations in the Air' festival is the most important event to promote the famous San Daniele Prosciutto, with stalls to taste the delicacies.
- **September; second Sunday** - CORMONS, Provincial Grape Festival, a wine and food festival with samplings of the area's finest wines and typical dishes.
- **October; second Sunday** - TRIESTE "Barcolana" Autumn Cup, a prestigious and spectacular sailing events, open to all kinds of sail boats, from the large sophisticated yachts to the thousands of smaller boats, which makes the main attraction of the regatta.



VENETO

- **January 28 - February 8** VENICE - Venice Carnival - The highlight of the city, with masked balls and costumes.
- **June 12-13** PADUA Festa di San'Antonio a parade in historical costumes and one of the Saint's relic along with a torchlight procession on the Bacchiglione and lots of fireworks!
- **June 17 - August 31** VERONA - Summer Theater in Verona, when the third largest amphitheater begins its annual season.
- **July; third Sunday of the month** VENICE Feast of the Redeemer Holy Mass is held in the presence of the Patriarch.
- **September; first Sunday** VENICE Historical Regatta it is an historical procession of 16th century style boats.
- **September; every even numbered year** MAROSTICA, this human chess game is played on the square of Marostica.
- **December; second Sunday** TREVISO Fiera del radicchio. The long shaped radicchio takes center stage in Piazza dei Signori.



LIGURIA

- **May and July** GENOA Regata delle Antiche Repubbliche Marinare The site of this celebration rotates each year between the four maritime cities: Amalfi, Genoa, Pisa and Venice.
- **May; the second Saturday and Sunday** CAMOGLI Sagra del Pesce (Feast of the Fish) This celebration began in 1952 and coincides with the feast of St. Fortunato. Representatives from the town's two districts, Porto and Pinetto, compete in building large wooden structures on the beach which then become bonfires
- **July; every Friday, Saturday and Sunday** PORTOVENERE (Feast of the Mussels) La Societa' Mutuo Soccorso Arci di Cadimare (La Spezia) is a group that organizes the Feast of the Mussels to help fund Cadimare's rowing team during the regatta Palio del Golfo in La Spezia.



EMILIA ROMAGNA

- **January 27-20** - BOLOGNA - "Arte Fiera", a large international contemporary art fair at the Bologna Exhibition Center, which features modern and contemporary art. www.artefiera.bolognafiere.it
- **April 13-17** - RIMINI - "Paganello" - During Easter week, hundreds of athletes and teams from all over the world take part in a great "Ultimate Frisbee" meeting on the beach. www.paganello.com
- **May; last weekend** - FERRARA - Palio di Ferrara: the Horse Race around the town square thought to be the oldest in Italy. Many events take place in conjunction like a Historical Renaissance Parade and a contest between the eight town districts. www.paliodiferrara.it
- **August; last week** CATROCARO TERME- Palio di S.Reparata e della Romagna-Toscana -A horse race period with special entertainment and decorations; painted houses, banners flying from every building, and squares and streets full with charlatans, actors, traders and a parade.



TOSCANA

- **March 27** - FLORENCE - Scoppio del Carro - A cart is set up in Piazza del Duomo di Santa Maria del Fiore for a spectacular event with the liberation of a dove of peace and fireworks.
- **April 30 - June 30** FLORENCE - Maggio Musicale Fiorentino - International music performances and the city's biggest arts festival, including music, drama and dance. www.maggiofiorentino.com
- **June 2** - MONTE ARGENTARIO (Porto Ercole) Festa di Sant'Erasmo (Feast of St. Erasmo) Porto Ercole's Spanish fortresses are adorned with lights during this feast.
- **June second to the last Sunday and September**; first Sunday AREZZO Giostra del Saracino. Two riders from each of the city's districts, one by one gallop towards the "Saracen", an "armed", revolving mannequin in a fight for the most points.
- **June 16** - PISA Luminara e Regata Storica per San Ranieri (Illuminations and Historical Regata for St. Ranieri) On the eve of the recurrence of the patron saint, St. Ranieri, buildings and monuments are embellished with candles that outline their contours and floating candles also light up the Arno river.
- **June 25 2006** PISA - [Il Gioco del Ponte](http://www.comune.pisa.it) (Bridge Battle) - Grand military parade in 17th century costume; www.comune.pisa.it
- **July 2 and August 15** SIENA - Palio di Siena - the districts challenge each other in the most popular and famous Palio. The jockeys and their horses offer a unique race-performance. www.ilpaliodisiena.com



- **August 5 – 20** CORTONA - a combination of concerts performed by the world's most acclaimed musical artists, exhibitions with leading visual artists, discussions with top literary figures and culinary delights with the finest chefs and winemakers. www.festivaldelsole.com
- **September 13** LUCCA Luminara di Santa Croce (Illuminations of the Holy Cross) For centuries this procession has been carried out in Lucca on the eve of the recurrence of the Holy Cross. At night, the city is decorated with thousands of lights and the march proceeds through the historic center from the Church of St. Frediano to the Cathedral of St. Martino.



UMBRIA

- **February; last weekend** NORCIA - Black Truffle Fair: Local and national food producers show off their specialties. Norcia truffles, the cheese and lentils of Castelluccio, forest fruits...these are some products that can be tasted during this agricultural food event.
- **May; last Sunday** GUBBIO - Palio della Balestra: This competition of medieval origin consists in a contest between the crossbow-men of the Società Balestrieri Eugubina and that of San Sepolcro.
- **October; first Sunday** TREVÌ - Palio dei Terzieri: a contest between the 3 districts of the town and historical procession in costume held since 1980, to commemorate the valor with which the young people of Trevi reconstructed the town destroyed in the 13th century

MARCHE

- **July 15 – August 15** MACERATA - Macerata Opera Festival - One of the worlds' most famous opera seasons held in the old arena called Sferisterio. www.maceratagallery.it
- **August 1 - 7** ANCONA - Summer Jamboree Festival - A very eclectic musical festival compiles bands from all over the world. www.summerjamboree.com
- **August; third Sunday** URBINO Festa del duca (The duke's Festival). It begins on the morning of *Ferragosto*, August 15th, with heralds, drummers, games, crafts and foods recalling the Renaissance. On the Sunday which follows the festivities continue with tournaments and a historic commemoration to the Duke.
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ABRUZZO

- **May; first Thursday of the month** - Procession of the Snake Catchers – Cocullo (L'Aquila) The inhabitants celebrate St. Dominick by draping his statue in-of all things-live snakes. An unusual, extraordinary historical event.
- **July; first Sunday of July** ROCCA PIA Sagra dell'Agnello (Feast of the Lamb) This food festival takes place in July along with the traditional contest called *solco dritto*, involving a plowing competition.
- **September; first Sunday** PACENTRO The Gypsies' Race. The participants meet on the Ardinghi hill and race barefoot down the slope, at the church's altar.



LAZIO

- **February 2** - FIUGGI *Festa delle stuzze* - to honor San Biagio Tree trunks are carried from the forest and lit in the main square
- **March 26** ROME - Rome Marathon- The city comes to life with music, events, and concerts along the marathon route.
- **June 16-24** ROME *Festa de'Noantri Trastevere*- The image of Madonna de Noantri is moved by a procession, which takes place on the Tiber and Trastevere.
- **August 5** ROME - *Festa della Madonna della Neve* - Legend has it that on the night of Aug 14, 352 it snowed on the Esquilino, now home to Santa Maria Maggiore Church. White petals are thrown from the Borghesiana Chapel of the dome.
- **December 15 -January 15** ROME - Mercato della Befana is a well-known Christmas fair held in Piazza Novana.
- **December 25** ROME- Public blessing by the Pope in St. Peter's Square.



CAMPANIA

- **Third Sunday of every month except August** NAPLES -Villa Comunale Antique Fair is a massive antiques fair held in the Villa Comunale gardens. In December it is held every weekend in expectation of the Christmas shopping blast. www.fieraantiquarianapoletana.it (only in Italian)
- **September 19** - NAPLES -The Feast of San Gennaro, when the "miracle" of the liquefying of San Gennaro's blood in the cathedral takes place; it is followed by 8 days of repeating the liquefaction process and other celebrations including processions and prayer.



San Gennaro

MOLISE

- **May 19 & 20** VINCHIATURO Festa di San Bernardino da Siena After a disastrous earthquake in 1805, a statue of this saint was found intact and undamaged under the rubble. A woman, also saved from harm during the disaster, recalled having dreamt of St. Bernardino. The town's devotion towards this saint united all its citizens in an even greater faith and therefore St. Bernardino of Siena is celebrated during this feast.
- **During Carnival** VINCHIATURO *Gioco Tradizionale "La Pezza de Casce"* A group of

lively volunteers participates in this traditional race played out during Carnival time. The teams toss a hefty wheel of cheese along a route in Vinchiaturo, full of inclines and descents, eventually to return back in front of the Castle of Vinchiaturo. The winner, finally positioning the cheese on a specified spot, yells out the crucial phrase, "A la 'n' tutta!" or "It's all here!"



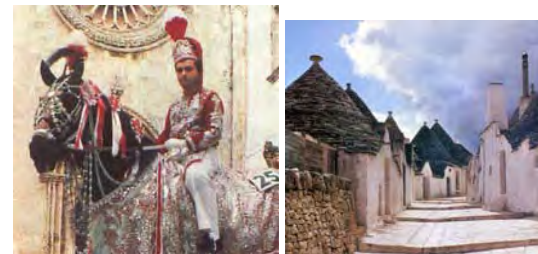
BASILICATA

- **May 29** POTENZA - La Sfilata dei Turchi, A parade in costume, food and entertainment to recall the legend of San Gerardo from Pienza saved the city from a Turkish incursion.
- **June 15** CASTELMEZZANO - Festa di San Vito. San Vito's statue along with Sant'Antonio and patron San Rocco exit the church and parade through the streets amidst food stands and fireworks.
- **July 2** MATERA – Festa della Madonna Bruna A painting of the Madonna Bruna is carried on a cart through the streets accompanied by costumed horsemen to be then brought back to the church whereas the cart is demolished by the faithful followers to obtain a small relic to take home.



PUGLIA

- **August 27** OSTUNI - Cavalcata di Sant'Oronzo a parade of costumed horsemen carry a giant statue of Saint Oronzo through the streets.
- **September 20-23** SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO - Anniversary of the Stigmata and death of Padre Pio, a popular figure from Pietralcina remembered and celebrated with religious ceremonies, prayers and a torchlight procession.
- **December 13-24** LECCE Fiera dei presepi e dei pupi this 11 day an antique market displays hand crafted nativity figures.



CALABRIA

- **Easter week** NOCERA TERINESE - Rito dei Vattienti, in Easter Saturday a statue of the Addolorata is carried in a procession, followed by several rituals of the "Vattienti".
- **May 3** TROPEA - Feast of the Tri da Cruci- a popular festival with fireworks

and symbolic acts such as the explosion of a galley and the burning of the dove, all commemorating the end of the occupation of Tropea by the Saracens during the Middle Ages

- **July 1-7 TROPEA** - "Sagra della Cipolla Rossa", the feast of the red onion takes place to honour the queen of the gastronomy of Tropea. Many farm stands display and sell their home-made gastronomic specialties. A musical show included.
- **August VIBO VALENTIA** "Il Palio di Diana" relives the legendary story of the heroine of Vibo who lived during 1500's. You'll experience the court of nobles and the handicrafts of the artisan shops. A few days after the festival, the horse race tournament begins. Adding to the charm of this animated festival, acrobats, jesters and jugglers perform lively acts.
- **August; last week VIBO VALENTIA** - "La Festa del Turista", On the last Sunday in August, the 'Feast of the tourist' is organized to celebrate the conclusion of the summer holidays. Larger-than-life paper machè depictions of the Saracens and tastings of delicious specialties and exquisite products of our regions.



SICILIA

- **February 3 – 5 CATANIA** – Three days of festivities most of them revolving around sweets made from marzipan are held in honor of St. Agatha.
- **May 9 – 10 TRE CASTAGNI** – Two days of festivities complete with local specialties, processions and Sicilian Carts in honor of Santi Alfio, Filadelfio e Cirino.
- **July 9 – 15 PALERMO** – Seven days of non stop excitement in honor of Santa Rosalia. A huge fireworks display on the 14th and a magnificent parade on the 15th.
- **July 25 CALTAGIRONE** – Thousands of olive oil bearing torches (coppi) connected by a fuse are lit at once in commemoration of a day long festival honoring San Giacomo.
- **August 13 – 15 MESSINA** – 30-foot tall paper mache knights lead a parade of bands and Sicilian carts through the city in a three-day celebration of la Cavalcata dei Giganti.
- **December 13 SIRACUSA** – Huge celebration in honor of Santa Lucia, the city's patron saint. Pageantry, parades and plenty of pushcarts filled with tempting delicacies.



SARDEGNA

- **May 1**- CAGLIARI - Festival of Saint Eufisio - celebrations including the longest and lengthiest procession in the catholic world. It includes decorated carts, musicians, worshipers, knights, etc.
- **May; second to last Sunday** SASSARI - "Cavalcata Sarda", the 'Sardinian Ride', that some believe is meant to recall the victory of the Sardinian and Pisan forces over the Saracens around the year 1000. The ride involves hundreds of horses from all parts of Sardinia and knights showing their skills.





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