



## **MOST IMPORTANT CARNIVALS IN ITALY 2017**

### **CARNIVAL OF VENICE**

Venice – 11– 28 February 2017

[www.carnevale.venezia.it](http://www.carnevale.venezia.it)



During the world's most famous masked "open city" party, every corner of Venice flourishes with chances to have fun and becomes a multicoloured series of shows, parades, masks and much more. St Mark's Square, the true centre of the party, is transformed into a continuous workshop of colours, masks, music and shows hosting Carnival's traditional events such as "Flight of the Angel", "Festa delle Marie" and "La Colombina". Palaces throughout the city host grand masked balls for those who

want to immerse themselves in the Serenissima's festive history.

### **CARNIVAL OF VIAREGGIO**

Viareggio – 5,12,18,26,28 February 2017

<http://viareggio.ilcarnevale.com/>



The most flamboyant of all the Italian Carnivals, famous for its political satire will hosts the traditional shows of gigantic paper-mache figures on colourful floats. See above dates.

Other events include: big parties, sports events, slang theatre show, food stalls etc.

### **HISTORIC CARNIVAL OF IVREA**

Ivrea - Piedmont 11 Feb – 1 Mar 2017

<http://www.storicocarnevaleivrea.it/>



Traditional sounds of pipe and drum bands open the festival that sees the most spectacular event of the famous Battle of the Oranges (28 February). Undoubtedly, this is the most spectacular event of the festivities representing the fight for liberty, the symbol of the Ivrea Carnival. The orange battle is an incredible cultural and goliardic heritage putting the festival on a national and international level.

### **CARNIVALE DEI FIGLI DI BOCCO**

Castiglione Fibocchi - Arezzo – 12 & 19 February 2017

[www.carnevaledeifigli dibocco.it](http://www.carnevaledeifigli dibocco.it)



This Carnival takes place in Castiglione Fibocchi, a town near Arezzo. Castiglione Fibocchi is situated along the Roman road called Cassia Vetus, near the mountain of Pratomagno: a charming town dating back to the medieval period, exactly to the XII century. This carnival is an old event, when the participants wear fabulous baroque costumes and artistic paper-pulp masks. The carnival of Castiglione Fibocchi has been often considered a rival of the Venice Carnival.

### **CARNIVAL OF ACIREALE**

Acireale - Catania – 18, 19, 23-28 Feb. 2017

<http://www.carnevaleacireale.info/>



The Carnival of Acireale, is popularly known as the most exciting, beautiful and fun carnival in all of Sicily. It is one of the most involving and historical festivities of the island. The parade is held throughout the downtown circuit which includes the main baroque attractions of the city of Acireale. The largest component of the whole Carnival is the crowd that embodies it, and is left completely free to roam the circuit without being enclosed behind barriers. Twinned with the Carnival of Viareggio it has a rich programme of events.

### **CARNIVAL OF PUTIGNANO**

Putignano in Puglia, 12, 19, 26, 28 Feb. 2017

[www.carnevaledi putignano.it](http://www.carnevaledi putignano.it)



The Carnival of Putignano, a lovely town in Puglia south of Bari, is one of the oldest in Europe and one of the most important in Southern Italy. Allegorical floats and masks, masquerades, food and wine will entertain visitors through the streets of the town during the Carnival days. The mascot of the Carnival of Putignano is called 'Farinella', named after a local dish made from chickpea and barley flour.

### **CARNIVAL OF FANO**

Fano in the Marche Region, 12, 19, 26 Feb 2017

[www.carnevaldifano.com](http://www.carnevaldifano.com)



After the Ivrea Carnival, the Fano Carnival is the oldest in Italy, allegorical floats and masks, masquerades, shows and fireworks all form part of it. What makes the Fano Carnival special is the launch of tons of sweets from the floats to the crowds of spectators and the special music accompanying the Carnival, the Arabita music played with musical instruments and various other objects.

### **HISTORIC CARNIVAL OF PICENO**

Ascoli Piceno, Castignano, Offida and Possa in Le Marche

24-28 Feb 2107



Dates: The Carnival of the Zanni-Acquasanta Terme (hamlets Umito-Pozza), on 25th February; Offida- Caccia al Bove Finto (Hunt the Fake Ox) on 24th February and “Vlurd” parade on 28th February; Castignano - Procession of short colourful lanterns “Li Moccole” (I Mocoli) on February 28th ; Ascoli Piceno 26th and 28th February

After the Carnival of Fano, considered the oldest of the Marche, the Marche Region is home to the Historical Carnival of Piceno involving the town of Ascoli Piceno, Castignano, Offida and Pozza. Carnival is an event that has been repeated for centuries and which is made up of many elements, from shows to the classic Raviolata (Ravioli Feast) in addition to the ever-present awards for the best masked groups, to parties for participants and for schools. At the Carnival of Offida, at nightfall of the Mardi Gras, the ignition and the parade of “Vlurd” take place. Hundreds of masked men and women, with long bundles of lit reeds on their shoulders, parade through the charming Medieval town of Offida following a pre-designated path to reach the main square where the reeds are thrown on a bonfire and burnt to designate the end of Carnival.

### **CARNIVAL OF CENTO**

Cento in Emilia-Romagna, 12, 19, 26Feb & 5, 12 Mar 2017

[www.carnevalecento.com](http://www.carnevalecento.com)



The most extravagant Carnival in Europe is twinned with the Brazilian Carnival for the style of its allegorical floats, the beautiful costumes and for the riotous fun. Cento is a town near Ferrara in Emilia-Romagna and it will host many famous guest stars for the world of culture, sport, entertainment as well as beautiful floats in papier-mache’.

### **CARNIVAL OF BAGOLINO**

Bagolino , near Lake Idro (Brescia), 26-28 Feb. 2017

[www.bagolinoinfo.it](http://www.bagolinoinfo.it)



The Carnival of Bagolino, a small village near Lake Idro, is unique in Italy. It is an ancient tradition and it is deeply rooted into the people of Bagolino and Ponte Caffaro. The celebration is characterised by two different, yet inseparable figures: “The Balarì” e “The Mascher”. The origins of dances and music relating to the Balarì are of the 16th century while the origins of the Mascher seem to be older. The most spectacular aspect of the carnival of Bagolino is represented by the dancers, the Balarì, both for the richly adorned costume and for the melodies and dances. The pagan tradition is celebrated each year during the days preceding Shrove Tuesday.

### **HISTORIC CARNIVAL OF VERRES**

Verres in Val D’Aosta

25-28 Feb 2017

<http://www.lovevda.it/it/cultura/tradizione/eventi-tradizione/carnevali/carnevale-verres>



The Verrès Carnival re-enacts every year an important event linked to a powerful local family called Challants. When Francesco Challant died without male heirs he, unusually for the time, left the title and inheritance to his daughter Caterina who became the main focus of the Carnival.

The celebrations start on the Saturday and take place mainly in the beautiful surroundings of the Castle in Verrès where people enjoy long nights of music and dancing. The highlight of the Monday is the theatrical performance of “A Chess Game” by

Giuseppe Giacosa, followed by a “Grand Gala” while on the Tuesday, the last day of the Carnival, parades in costume, floats, folk musicians and dancers move through the streets of the village.

### **GREAT CARNIVAL OF CREMA**

Crema, Lombardy

12, 19, 16 Feb & 5 Mar 2017

[www.carnevaledicrema.it](http://www.carnevaledicrema.it)



Four Sundays of allegorical parades and street music: the “Gran Carnevale Cremasco” has always stood out for its uncontained joy and transgression. In centuries past this revelry deteriorated into “killings and stabbings”, write the authorities of the time. Nowadays there is no need to worry - everybody jeers: the “mascheroc” parade alongside the mascarú - the papier-mâché figures on the floats - with plenty of license to pull faces.

### **CARNIVAL OF ARCO**

Arco in Lake Garda – Trentino, 18, 19, 25, 26 Feb 2017

[www.gardatrentino.it](http://www.gardatrentino.it)



The colours, costumes, music and merriment: Carnival has always been the favourite festival of children, but in Garda Trentino it is a joy for grownups as well. Rites associated with the reawakening of life, local fairs, food festivals and lots of fun! The Great Carnival takes place in Arco each year. During this famous event, a traditional parade of allegorical floats winds through the streets of the small town. Splendid balls in which the guests are dressed in costumes from the Hapsburg

period are held in the rooms of the Casino.

NB: information is correct at time of publication, Jan 2017

Stefania Gatta  
Press and Communications Executive  
Italian National Tourist Board  
For the UK and Ireland