



2016 CALENDAR OF ITALIAN EVENTS

Major events include: special celebrations, festivals and events, art exhibitions, sport events, historical re-enactments, folklore events, Carnivals, new museums and art spaces and more....

ART EXIBITIONS

ROME

ELECTIVE AFFINITIES. FROM DE CHIRICO TO BURRI

Galleria d'Arte Moderna
Until 13 March 2016
www.galleriaartemodernaroma.it

TOULOUSE-LAUTREC. PAINTINGS FROM THE BUDAPEST MUSEUM

Museo dell'Ara Pacis
Until 8 May 2016
www.arapacis.it



CORREGGIO AND PARMIGIANINO. ART IN PARMA IN THE 16TH CENTURY

Scuderie del Quirinale
Spring 2016 (dates tbc)
www.scuderiequirinale.it

ANDY WARHOL

Chiostro del Bramante
25 mar – 25 Jun 2016
www.chiostrodelbramante.it

FLORENCE

FLORENCE, CAPITAL OF ITALY 1865-2015 – THE KING'S COLLECTION

Palazzo Pitti, GAM

Until 3 April 2016

www.polomuseale.firenze.it



FROM KANDINSKY TO POLLOCK FROM THE GUGGENHEIM COLLECTION

Palazzo Strozzi

19 Mar-24 Jul 2016

www.palazzostrozzi.org

THE GREAT MASTERS OF CONTEMPORARY ART COMPARED WITH MICHELANGELO

Galleria dell'Accademia

14 Jun 2016 – 8 Jan 2017

www.accademia.org

MILAN

SYMBOLISM. LE FLEUR DU MAL

Palazzo Reale

3 Feb-5 Jun 2016

www.palazzoreale.it

MIRO'

Mudec – Museo delle Culture

24 Mar-11 Sep 2016

www.mudec.it

VENICE

MASTERPIECES OF THE VENETIAN RENAISSANCE

Museo Correr

Until 10 April 2016

www.visitmuve.it



TURIN

MATISSE AND HIS TIMES

Palazzo Chiabrese

Until 15 May 2016

www.mostramatisse.it

FROM POUSSIN TO THE IMPRESSIONISTS. THREE CENTURIES OF FRENCH PAINTING FROM THE ERMITAGE

Palazzo Madama
Mar-Jun 2016 (dates tbc)
www.palazzomadatorino.it

GENOA

FROM THE IMPRESSIONISTS TO PICASSO

Palazzo Ducale – Doge's apartment
Until 10 April 2016
www.impressionistipicasso.it



RAVENNA

THE ART OF THE 20TH CENTURY

MAR, Museo d'Arte Citta' di Ravenna
21 Feb-26 Jun 2016
www.mar.ra.it

FERRARA

ORLANDO FURIOSO, 500 YEARS. WHAT ARIOSTO SAW WHEN HE SHUT HIS EYES

Palazzo dei Diamanti
24 Sep 2016 – 8 Jan 2017
www.palazzodiamanti.it

PADUA

GIOVANNI FATTORI, PAINTER

Palazzo Zabarella
Until 28 Feb 2016
www.zabarella.it

FORLI' (Emilia Romagna)

PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA, STUDY OF THE MYTH

Musei San Domenico
13 Feb-26 Jun 2016
www.mostrefondazioneforli.it



PAVIA

TRANQUILLO CREMONA AND THE "SCAPIGLIATURA MOVEMENT"

Scuderie del Castello Visconteo
26 Feb-5 Jun 2016
www.scuderiepavia.com

TREVISO

THE HISTORY OF IMPRESSIONISM. MONET, RENOIR, VAN GOGH, GAUGAIN...

Museo di Santa Caterina
29 October 2016 – 17 April 2017
www.lineadombra.it

TIZIANO, RUBENS, REMBRANDT

Museo di Santa Caterina
29 October 2016 – 17 April 2017
www.lineadombra.it



FROM GUTTUSO TO VEDOVA TO SCHIFANO

Museo di Santa Caterina
29 October 2016 – 17 April 2017
www.lineadombra.it

BOLOGNA

EGYPT. MASTERPIECES FROM LIEDEN TO BOLOGNA

Museo Civico Archeologico
Until 17 July 2016
www.mostraegitto.it

MORANDI AT 20. PAINTINGS FROM THE MATTIOLI COLLECTION

Museo Morandi
Until 26 Jun 2016
<http://www.mambo-bologna.org/museomorandi/>

TRENTO – ROVERETO

19th CENTURY MASTERPIECES, FROM COUBERT TO SEGANTINI

Museo Mart
Until 3 April 2016
www.mart.trento.it



NEW MUSEUMS/RE-OPENINGS/ SPECIAL EVENTS

SIX RESTORED DOMUS RE-OPENED IN POMPEII



Six Domus have recently been re-opened in Pompeii following the new scheme by the Italian Government in favour of restoration of the ancient Roman city: the Stephanus Fullonica, the Criptoportico House, the House of Paquio Proculo, the House of the Sacerdos Amandus, the House of Fabius Amandius and the House of the Ephebos.

RE-OPENING OF THE ABRUZZO NATIONAL MUSEUM IN L'AQUILA

Six years after the devastating earthquake the Abruzzo National Museum in L'Aquila has been re-opened after a period of re-structuring. The Museum hosts finds from Abruzzo's archaeology such as the Marsi snake, the sacred animal of the native Marsi people, Medieval Madonnas such as the one of Gentile da Rocca, late Gothic Tritticos, and Renaissance works by Gatti and Francesco da Monreale and Baroque masterpieces.

NEW MUSME – MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN PADUA

The Musme is a new museum in Padua housed in the old San Francesco hospital complex dating back to the 15th century. It is an exciting, interactive museum that will be appreciated by lovers of science, medicine old and young alike. www.musme.it

THE FLOATING PIERS

18 Jun -3 Jul 2016

Installation on Lake Iseo created by the artist Christo

<http://www.christojeanneclaude.net/projects/the-floating-piers#.Vm7GCtLhCUk>

FESTIVALS AND OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS

VERONA IN LOVE

Verona – 11-14 February 2016



www.veronainlove.it

Verona in Love is the event dedicated to Love and to Lovers; the event takes place in the main squares of the city and it is a tribute to San Valentine and to the Shakespearian tragedy of Romeo and Juliet. From the 11th to the 14th of February 2016 the city will host live concerts,

tastings and handicrafts events, typical local markets and tourist can visit Juliet's house for a special price. Lovers can also ask us for the Seal of Love and experience the special firework of flying hearts. On Sunday morning it is also possible to take part to the „Romeo and Juliet half marathon“.

65th EDITION OF THE “FESTIVAL DELLA CANZONE ITALIANA”

Sanremo, Liguria

From 9 – 13 February 2016

www.sanremo.rai.it

The Festival of the Italian song, also known as *Festival di Sanremo*, was born in 1951. Nowadays it is held in the *Ariston* Theatre of Sanremo. It is essentially a contest in which different singers propose original songs, composed by Italian authors, which are voted by a jury and by the public. In over sixty years of history, the majority of famous Italian singers have taken part in this festival. The first editions of the Festival were exclusively broadcasted by radio from the Sanremo Casino, currently the event is broadcasted live and in Eurovision by *Raiuno*.

CILIEGI IN FIORE – BLOOMING CHERRY TREES FESTIVAL IN VIGNOLA

2-10 April 2016

www.emiliaromagnaturismo.com



Vignola - located in the province of Modena - is the start of the so-called “Food and Wine Trail” and a Renaissance town on the Po plain, which has been celebrating the production of outstanding cherry trees for 40 years. During the Festival the entire town is “blooming- with-cherry-trees”, with events, concerts, exhibitions, special restaurant menus, tasting sessions and related activities to enjoy. The “blossoming chariots” parade is a real celebration of the

blossoming of cherry trees.

MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO FESTIVAL

Teatro Comunale – Florence – 24 April – 30 June 2016

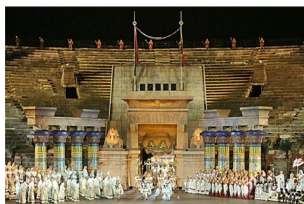
www.operadifirenze.it

This is one of the oldest traditional cultural events in Florence. The Stabile Orchestrale Fiorentina was born in 1928 and in 1933 it organized the first edition of the Festival, which, over the years grew to international fame. The Festival has its own Ballet Company called Maggio Dance.

ARENA DI VERONA

Verona – 24 June – 28 August 2016

www.arena.it



The International Opera Festival, now in its 94th edition presents a rich calendar of events. The operas to be performed this year are: *Aida*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Turandot*, *Il Trovatore*. Arena di Verona welcomes once again artists and public in its magnificent setting.

RAVELLO CONCERTS, in Ravello, Amalfi Coast

Villa Rufolo, Ravello – 18 Mar - 31 Oct 2016

www.ravelloarts.org

Spanning from Spring to Autumn, far from the tourist crowds, Ravello becomes the favourite destination for those who love the silence of its Villas and its medieval churches. In that time, an audience of music lovers meet every year to listen to the concerts held in the gardens and the rooms of Villa Rufolo, famous for having inspired Wagner for the setting of his *Parsifal*.

CLASSICAL GREEK THEATRE FESTIVAL IN SIRACUSA

Siracusa, Sicily

13 May – 26 June 2016

www.indafondazione.org

Classical Greek theatrical representation in the magical atmosphere of the Greek Theatre in Siracusa, this year's programme includes: Electra by Sophocles Alcestis by Euripides and Phaedra by Seneca.

LA NOTTE ROSA – PINK NIGHT

Adriatic coast of Emilia Romagna

1-2 July 2016

www.lanotterosa.it



For one night the entire Riviera turns pink. There will be shows, events, theatre sets, and scenery. Each resort will interpret the theme in a creative and original way. The whole Riviera will become an enormous stage where everyone has a part to play. La Notte Rosa will take place all along the coast, from the Lidos of Comacchio to Cattolica, but the heart of the event is the Riviera of Rimini. It is an event that attracts thousands of Italians to head to the Adriatic coast and is fast becoming an international attraction.

62nd PUCCINI FESTIVAL

Torre del Lago – 15 July – 13 August 2016

www.puccinifestival.it

Torre del Lago hosts the Festival Puccini, created by Puccini himself, since 1930. The outdoor theatre, close to Villa Mausoleo where the Master's remains lie, is an amazing setting to enjoy the music of one of the most outstanding and esteemed Italian artists worldwide. Operas on show in 2016 are: Madame Butterfly, Tosca, La Boheme and Turandot.

ESTATE MUSICALE CHIGIANA

Siena, Montalcino, Asciano

July-August 2016

www.chigiana.it

The churches, abbeys and theatres of the province and city of Siena are the enchanting settings for the Chigiana Summer, featuring maestros of international music. The yearly rich concert programme is bolstered by students from the "Alto Perfezionamento" courses that are held in the historic seat of the Accademia during the months of July and August, frequented each year by around 600 talented young musicians from more than 50 countries.

SFERISTERIO OPERA FESTIVAL

Macerata, 22 July – 13 August 2016

www.sferisterio.it

This will be the 52nd edition of the Festival and it will stage : Othello, Norma, Il Trovatore. The Opera Festival is hosted almost entirely in the magnificent theatre-shaped Sferisterio, unique in its architectural genre. Designed in 1823 by architect Ireneo Aleandri, it derives its name and its half-circumference shaped plan from the name of the game played inside: the "armband ball" or Pallone col bracciale.

ROSSINI OPERA FESTIVAL

Pesaro, 8-20 August 2016

www.rossinioperafestival.it

This festival is entirely dedicated to the music and operas of Gioacchino Rossini, who was born in the Marche city of Pesaro. This year will be the 37th edition of the festival and the programme includes: La donna del lago, Il Turco in Italia, Ciro in Babilonia and Youth Festival.

55th STRESA FESTIVAL

Stresa Jul-Sep 2016

www.stresafestival.eu

Stresa Festival opens its doors to the public continuing its tradition of excellent music, art and culture, held in a number of venues around Lake Maggiore, Lake Orta, Val d'Ossola on various dates.

MUSICA RIVA FESTIVAL

Riva del Garda – Jul-Aug 2016 (programme tbc)

www.musicarivafestival.com

This is a music festival of the highest level entertaining the audience with performances and events and which represent a fundamental meeting point for young musicians from around the world. The event puts in the spotlight artists of diverse origins from classical music to dance and includes a competition dedicated to the musician Riccardo Zandonai.

17th EDITION OF SUMMER JAMBOREE

Senigallia, Marche

30 Jul- 9 Aug 2016

www.summerjamboree.com



This music Festival is dedicated to the music and culture in America in the '40s and '50s with live concerts of dj set swing, rock'n'roll, jive, doo-wop, rhythm'n'blues, hill-billy e western swing. Stands will sell: juke box, hats, gadgets, guitars, vynils, CDs and other objects of that era. There will also be a '40s and '50s classic cars show.

VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

Venice, 31 Aug – 10 Sept 2016 (programme tbc)

www.labiennale.org

Venice will host the 73rd edition of this film festival, one of the oldest and most famous. Thousands of visitors, dozens of stars and hundreds of projections are crammed into ten days of fabulous festivities and parties. The Festival is hosted at the Lido Island in the Venice Lagoon.

MITO SETTEMBRE MUSICA

Turin and Milan

September 2016 – various locations (programme tbc)

www.mitosettembremusica.it

This is a major festival developed from the thirty years experience of Settembre Musica which connects Turin and Milan, in a programme of refined and stirring concerts: the world's best orchestras, baroque opera, medieval music, the great maestros of contemporary music and the music from the most distant places; jazz, open-air shows, night-time concerts...

FESTIVAL LETTERATURA

Mantova – 7-11 September 2016

www.festivaletteratura.it

This will be the 20th edition of the Festival of Literature and offers cultural events, readings, shows, concerts, all full of fun and originality.

SPORT

RBS SIX NATIONS RUGBY TOURNAMENT

Rome – Stadio Olimpico

www.rbs6nations.com

The most important European Rugby Tournament returns to Italy (Stadio Olimpico in Rome) this year with the following matches:

Italy – England on 14 February 2016

Italy - Scotland on 27 February 2016

ROME MARATHON

Rome – 10 April 2016

www.maratonadiroma.it



Since the early years of the twentieth century the roads and squares of the Eternal City have seen some of the really mythical moments of the whole history of racing on foot. It is an event that unites spirit and passion with alternative routes for non-professionals.

BIKE FESTIVAL GARDA TRENTO

Riva del Garda, Trentino

29 Apr – 1 May 2016

www.gardatrentino.it

This now classic appointment with the Bike Festival Garda Trentino is back in spring: a season opening for bikers, who will find themselves next to stars of the mountain bike international scene. The program includes exhibitions, shows, competitions, performances and stunts, testing of the industry novelties and lots of fun.

GIRO D' ITALIA

6 – 29 May 2016

www.gazzetta.it

The most important bicycle race in Italy, the Giro d'Italia, dates back to May 1909 and has become an iconic race all over the world. This year the Giro will start on 6 May 2016 in Apeldoorn in the Netherlands, ends in Turin on 29 May.

MILLE MIGLIA

19-22 May 2016

www.1000miglia.eu



The most beautiful vintage cars in the world chosen to participate in the race each year are selected under rigorous guidelines. The 2016 edition plans a departure from Brescia, journeying through Lake Garda, Ferrara, Rimini, Senigallia to Rome and then back to Brescia via Viterbo, Siena, Bologna, Parma and Bergamo.

91st EDITION OF THE PALIO DEL GOLFO

7 August 2016, La Spezia

www.paliodelgolfo.it

The thirteen hamlets of the Gulf compete to win the *Palio* aboard handmade boats built by local craftsmen, with special characteristics that make them agile and fast. The sport competition is preceded by parades, events, shows and meetings, which liven up the entire town for days; it finishes late in the evening on the first Sunday of August, with fireworks displays.

BARCOLANA – SAIL RACE

Trieste – 9 October 2016

www.barcolana.it

Every year more than two thousand sails meet in the Gulf of Trieste. The 16 mile nautical route, Europe's biggest sailing event and the only regatta in the world to set a single start line for so many yachts.

HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENTS/FOLKLORE

FEAST OF ST AGATHA IN CATANIA

Catania, Sicily

3-5 Feb. 2016 and 17 Aug 2016

www.festadisantagata.it

St Agatha is the patron saint of the city of Catania and its people celebrate the martyrdom of the Saint in February and the return of her relics in August. This is a veritable Sicilian Feast with processions, food stalls, music and spectacular fireworks.

CARNIVAL OF VENICE

Venice – 28 Jan – 9 Feb 2016

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 – 7,14,21,28 Feb, 4 Mar 2016

www.carnevale-viareggio.it

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 23,24,31 Jan – 4-10 Feb 2016

www.storicocarnevaleivrea.it/English/

Traditional sounds of pipe and drum bands open the festival that sees the most spectacular event of the famous Battle of the Oranges (7 and 8 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.

CARNIVAL OF FANO

Fano in the Marche Region, 24,31 Jan & 7 Feb 2016

www.carnevedifano.eu

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.

CARNIVAL OF ACIREALE

Acireale - Catania – 30,31 Jan, 4,6,7,8,9 Feb. 2016

www.carnevaleacireale.com



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.

THE EXPLOSION OF THE CART

Florence - Easter Sunday – 27 Mar 2016

Tradition says that during the first Crusade of 1096 the Florentine knight Pazzo de 'Pazzi was the first man who planted the banner of the Cross on battlements of Jerusalem and as a gift he received some fragments of the Holy Sepulchre. Upon his return to Florence the stones were used to start the Sacred Fire of Holy Saturday, and were paraded through the city as homage to it in a richly decorated chariot. Nowadays, on Easter Sunday a large wagon is pulled by white oxen in a procession in the streets of the centre of Florence to the front of the cathedral.

FESTA DEI CERI (RACE OF THE CANDLES)

Gubbio – 15th May 2016

www.ceri.it

The Festa Dei Ceri is one of the oldest, if not the oldest Italian folklore display The festival is a solemn act of devotion on the part of the Eugubini towards their Bishop Ubaldo Baldassini which started in 1160, the year of his death. Since then, every 15 May, the eve of the day of mourning, the devotional offering to the patron Saint is a fixed appointment for the people of Gubbio who take part in a great mystical procession, carrying candles all around the town and up Mount Ingino (where since 11 September 1194 the body of Saint Ubaldo lies, in the church which bears his name).

THE PALIO OF FERRARA

Ferrara – 5 May – 17 Jun 2016

www.paliodiferrara.it



The Palio of Ferrara is the most ancient event of its kind in the world dating back to 1279. It is peculiar for its kind of ride that is joyful and so different from other warlike palii. This is a very important moment for the city: all the Contrade participate wearing dress of different colours to gain the "palio", but also and overall it is a festivity to remember the Renaissance, a period during which Ferrara was really a capital. The Palio is run on Sunday 29 May.

GIOSTRA DELL'ARCHIDADO

Cortona, 5 June 2016

www.giostraarchidado.com

The Archidado Joust traces its origins back to the Middle Ages and was officially created in 1397 to celebrate the wedding of Francesco Casali, the Lord of Cortona, and Antonia Salimbeni, a noble woman from Siena. In the city of Cortona, this historical event is recalled every year on the second Sunday of June, when people are lead back to the ancient medieval splendour of the city. The streets are decorated in medieval style, ladies, knights, flag flyers, crossbow shooters, soldiers, pages, civil and religious authorities, all dressed with fine costumes, liven up the city center, which is rich in history and artistic beauties of every time.

LUMINARA AND RACE OF SAN RANIERI

Lungarno – Pisa - June 16th/17th 2016

<http://www.pisaunicaterra.it/en/villages-and-cities-of-art/pisa-en.html>

On the occasion of the Feast of San Ranieri, Patron Saint of Pisa, celebrated annually on 16-17 June, the enchantment of the illuminations of Saint Ranieri is renewed on the streets running along the river Arno (the so-called Lungarni). In fact, following the ancient tradition the Pisans celebrate their Patron Saint on the following day with the historical Regatta of San Ranieri (Palio). There are more than a hundred thousand wax candles which at every edition are meticulously set in smooth and white glasses and fixed then onto wooden white-painted frames, modelled in such a way as to highlight the outline of the palaces, of the bridges, of the churches and of the towers reflecting the river.

PALIO DEL NIBALLO

Faenza, Emilia Romagna

26 June 2016

www.paliodifaenza.it



Seeing the Palio del Niballo is like living and enjoying a day in 14th-century Faenza. Flag-wavers, knights, and drummers dressed in the colours of the town's five contending "rioni" (i.e. quarters) - White, Yellow, Black, Red and Green - flood the most charming parts of the old town centre, accompanied by the pounding of drums. The palio consists in hitting a revolving dummy with a spear. The dummy is fashioned as a Saracen warrior (called the "Niballo") and the idea is to get your horse to run past faster than the Niballo turns. In June, before

the palio, the rioni warm up with flag-waving and music competitions and the Bigorda d'Oro (a palio for younger racers).

FESTIVAL OF THE REDENTORE

Venice – 16,17 July 2016

www.veneziaunica.it

One of the most popular events in Venice is celebrated each year on the third Sunday of July. The festival itself dates back to the year 1576, and is named after the church Redentore that was designed by Palladio and resides on the island of Guidecca. Venice was suffering from a terrible plague, and the Republic's senate voted to build a temple on the Guidecca Island in honour of Christ the Redeemer, and the Venetians promised to go there every year on the third Sunday of July, if the plague stopped. Traditionally, the Venetians celebrate this day by having dinner on the Saturday night while watching an incredible display of fireworks that light up the skies over Venice for an hour or more.

HISTORICAL REGATTA

Venice – 4 September 2016

www.regatatoricavenezia.it

The Grand Canal every year during the first Sunday of September becomes a theatre for one of the greatest of Venetian events, the Historical Regatta, dating back to 1315 under the rule of doge Giovanni Soranzo. The Historical Regatta starts out with the colourful procession on water, formed by the Bissone, the Bucintoro and the boats of the Venetian rowing clubs, but also the women's race on Mascarete and that of the youngsters Pupperini.

QUINTANA OF FOLIGNO

Foligno – 17-18 June and 17-18 September 2016

www.quintana.it

Foligno, in the heart of Umbria and Italy, is famous worldwide for the Quintana, the jousting tournament which in June and September renews the challenge among the knights of its ten "sestieri". An exciting challenge where each knight, riding his own galloping horse, has to catch a series of rings (which gradually become smaller and smaller) hanging from a wooden statue called "Quintana". It is a great feast of people, colours and passions, but also an accurate historical, scenic, iconographic and gastronomic reconstruction of the Italian Baroque.

QUINTANA OF ASCOLI PICENO

Ascoli Piceno – 9 Jul and 7 August 2016

www.quintanadiascoli.it



Ascoli Piceno in the Marche region, hosts each year the historical Quintana, a re-enactment of Medieval customs and practices. The participants are dressed in Medieval costumes and walk in procession along the streets of the city in each "sestiere" (city quarter), followed by flag bearers and archers. In the restaurants of the city one can taste typical food and wine and the festivities culminate with the blessing of the knights participating to the Palio by the city's Bishop and the Palio itself.

THE PALIO OF SIENA

Sienna – July 2nd/ August 16th 2016

www.comune.siena.it

Everyday life grinds to a halt as Siena celebrates its most ancient and sacred ritual: horses and riders representing ten of Siena's seventeen contrade, or districts, race around the ring of tufo rock that covers the Piazza del Campo. On 2 July and 16 August the long afternoon begins in the heart of each contrada with the blessing of the horses, followed by the historical parade to the piazza. Finally, there is the race itself: the victorious contrada bears the banner triumphantly to the Provenzano Basilica for the "te deum" thanksgiving to the Madonna (2 June) or to the Madonna Assunta (16 August).

PALIO DEI NORMANNI DI PIAZZA ARMERINA

Piazza Armerina, Sicily – 12,13, 14 August 2016

www.feditgiochistorici.it

Plutia (the old Piazza Armerina) is home to the most ancient medieval event in Southern Italy which takes place every year from August 12-14 in honour of Madonna Maria SS. Delle Vittorie. The event is a re-enactment of Sicily being conquered in 1060 by the Normans, led by Ruggero of Altavilla. At the end of the event, the whole procession parades through the main streets, triumphantly displaying the city flag along with its winners.

BRAVIO DELLE BOTTI

Montepulciano, Siena

Last Sunday of August, 28 August 2016

www.braviodellebotti.com

The eight contrade, or districts, of Montepulciano compete to win a painted banner by rolling 80 kg barrels uphill along a 1,800 metre route. The route is chosen in advance, and there are eight starting points, set out in two rows. Each contrada's barrel is placed in the position assigned to it by the lot that is drawn on the morning of the race. As the bell tolls in the Town Hall bell tower the umpire gives the signal for the race to start. Two men, the "pushers", roll the barrels along the competition route, winding up through the evocative streets of the old town centre of Montepulciano to the Cathedral churchyard in the Piazza Grande. In the days leading up to the race Montepulciano celebrates the traditional Candle Procession, with a parade through the beautiful city streets in period costume, illuminated only by torchlight.

THE MACCHINA DI SANTA ROSA PROCESSION

Viterbo - September 3rd 2016

www.facchinidisantarosa.it

Each year the Medieval town of Viterbo in Lazio renews the festivities in honour of its Holy Patron. The Trasporto della Macchina di Santa Rosa, a procession which takes place in the evening of September 3rd to commemorate the relocation of the body of Saint Rosa from the Church of Santa Maria del Poggio to the church of San Damiano (the Sanctuary of Santa Rosa). The Macchina di Santa Rosa is a gigantic structure, nearly 30 metres high, which is carried through the streets by a large team of strong local men. Contests are held to select designs for the *Macchina*, which is replaced every five years.

PALIO DI ASTI in Asti, Piedmont

Asti, 18 September 2016

www.palio.asti.it



One of the oldest Palio's in Italy this colourful event sees 21 contestants relive the ancient tradition of the Palio in the historic centre of this charming Piedmont town, famous for its sparkling wine, the Asti spumante. In the days preceding the race, visitors can enjoy many collateral and preparatory events: the Palio of the Flag-wavers, the colourful flea market, the trials of the jockeys on the field. The Palio itself is a difficult challenge requiring all the participants' strength and skill, passion and courage as only one of them will win possession of the crimson banner with the coat of

arms of the city and the image of its Patron Saint.

THE FESTIVAL OF "MADONNA DELLA SALUTE"

Venice – November 21st 2016

www.comune.venezia.it Events and Festivals Section

The Festival of Health is perhaps the less spectacular of Venice festivities. In a religious context it is an event dedicated to the Madonna in thanksgiving for her intercession which put an end to the plague which struck Venice between the years 1630-1631.

Stefania Gatta

Press and communications office

Italian National Tourist Board – London

NB: Information correct at time of publication, Jan 2016