

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FESTIVALS, FAIRS AND CONCERTS  
IN UMBRIA AND TUSCANY

2009

This is not a comprehensive list and does not include details of the numerous musical concerts, theatre shows, antique fairs and sporting events that take place during the summer. Most tourist offices should be able to provide dates and information about these and whether you should book tickets, especially for the larger music festivals and concerts. Please also check with the monthly booklet "Viva Perugia" – you will find a complimentary issue in your villa.

## MARCH

**Castiglione del Lago**

**21 March – 3 May 2009**

### **Colour the Skies**

A kite flying rally – an International meeting of kite flying and hot- air balloons

## APRIL

**Gubbio**

**Processione del Cristo Morto**

***Good Friday – 10 April 2009***

**Bastia Umbra**

***XXXV National Antique Show***

***end of April***

**Corciano**

***end of April***

***Primavera dell'artigianato***

Artisan fair in the streets of the old town centre

**Narni**

***end of April – beginning of May***

***Race of the Ring 2009 Narni***

## MAY

**Assisi**

***Calendimaggio***

***7 - 9 May 2009***

A spectacular evocation of medieval and Renaissance costumes.

The two districts of the town compete in a series of concerts and shows, among amazing floral decorations, torches, flags and candles, dances, processions, archery, crossbow and flag-waving displays.

**Gubbio**

**Festa dei Ceri**

***15 May 2009***

This festival is one of the most unusual popular events in the religious calendar. In honour of the patron saint St. Ubaldo, three teams compete in a race through the town to the top of Mount Ingino, carrying the 'ceri' – enormous wooden figures symbolizing the three saints.

**Palio della Balestra**

***31 May 2009***

The crossbow or "Balista" was an important weapon and the prowess of bowmen of Gubbio renowned. Today a ritual Middle Age tournament between the old Biturgio (Sansepolcro) and Gubbio is renewed periodically when, at the end of the May blossom, the crossbowmen of Biturgio, accept the challenge of Gubbio and cross the gates of the city in order to compete.

## **Spello**

### ***Infiorate del Corpus Domini* 23 – 24 May 2009**

The traditional festival of Corpus Domini is held in Mid June and is marked by wonderful works of art created literally on the street using thousands of different coloured flower petals. The preparation requires weeks of work but the compositions are completed with fresh flowers during the course of one night.

## **JUNE**

## **Castelluccio**

### **La Fiorita di Castelluccio during the month of June**

Wonderful wild flowers that colour this vast plain every year in June near the hilltop town of Castelluccio

## **Corciano**

**20 - 21 June 2009**

### **Infiorata di San Luigi Gonzaga**

Flower petals also carpet the streets of Corciano

## **Bevagna**

### ***Il Mercato della Gaita* 19 –28 June 2009**

A faithful recreation of Bevagna in the middle ages. People walk around and go about their daily business in full costume and little shops open up selling handicrafts. There are numerous taverns to eat and drink in and the whole thing is enriched by concerts, shows and demonstrations of medieval arts and crafts.

## **JULY**

## **Castel Rigone**

### ***Festival of young musicians* 1 July – 31 August 2009**

Series of open air concerts in Piazzetta S. Agostino giving young musicians an opportunity to play in public in this beautiful setting

## **Spoletto**

### ***Spoletto Festival: Festival dei due Mondi: 26 June – 12 July 2009***

One of the most prestigious international events and offers performances of theatre, dance, opera, concerts and art exhibitions.

## **Perugia**

### ***Umbria Jazz Festival* 10 –19 July 2009**

Launched in 1973, today it is one of the most important jazz events in Europe. It has in time hosted the greatest modern jazz musicians. The event lasts ten full days: a hundred or so concerts take place from morning to night among the ancient buildings in the historic centre of Perugia.

## **Siena**

### ***Palio* 2 July 2009**

Horse race in the central Piazza del Campo. It is one of the most famous folkloristic demonstrations of medieval origin that sparks up rivalry between the 17 districts of the town. The demonstration includes costume shows, ensigns exhibitions but above all a horse race, dramatic, intense and very short. Preceded by trial races the two days before.

**Magione**  
**Trasimeno Music festival** *early July 2009*

**Passignano**  
***Palio delle Barche*** *20 - 26 July 2009*

This palio involves approx. 160 contestants in a gruelling race in three separate stages, on the water, on the lakeside and up the winding streets of the historic centre, either rowing or carrying their boats. The highly spectacular palio is the only one of its kind in the world, and draws enormous crowds each year.

**Montone**  
***Umbria Film Festival*** *early July 2009*

Films shown in the small open piazza each evening. Mike Leigh, Terry Gilliam and Mike Figgis have been presented with the keys of the town in the past few years.

**Castiglione del Lago**  
**Trasimeno Blues** *end July – beginning August 2009*

## AUGUST

**Castel Rigone**  
**La Calata dei Barbari** *beginning August 2009*

Historic processions, evening events and etruscan dinners

**Città della Pieve**  
***Palio dei Terzieri*** *15 – 23 August 2009*

Medieval festival between the 3 boroughs of the town

**Magione**  
**Congiura al Castello** *beginning August*

Open air theatrical performances in the court yard of Castello dei Cavalieri di Malta

**Città di Castello**  
***Festival delle Nazioni di Musica da Camera*** *end August – beginning Sep 2009*

**Cortona**  
**Tuscan Sun Festival** *1 – 9 August, 2009*

Series of concerts, ballet and recitals

### Siena

***Palio*** *16 August 2009*

Piazza del Campo. See Palio dated July 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Preceded by trial races the two days before.

**Montepulciano**  
***Bravio delle Botti*** *Last Sunday of month*

Barrel race through the town.

**Montone**  
**Donation of the Holy Thorn** *16 – 23 August 2009*

Enactment of the story of a thorn from the Crown of Thorns, captured as a prize by a Crusader being donated to the church in Montone. Costumes abound and the town celebrates.

## SEPTEMBER

### **Arezzo**

***Giostra del Saracino*** *First Sunday of month*

Jousting by knights in armour.

### **Perugia**

***Sagra Musicale Umbra*** *13 -27 Sept 2009*

One of the most important and prestigious Umbrian cultural events. First works and new musical interpretations are presented here and many famous conductors and composers have been guests of the Festival.

### **Città di Castello**

***Mostra Nazionale del Cavallo*** *10 – 13 Sept 2009*

Horse show.

### **Panicale**

***Festa dell'uva*** *14 – 20 Sept*

Allegorical floats, typical local cuisine and most importantly wine

### **Montefalco**

***XXVI Oenological week*** *September 2009*

A week for tasting Sagrantino and Montefalco Rosso in their home town

## OCTOBER

### **Perugia**

***Eurochocolate*** *16 – 25 Oct 2009*

A great event dedicated to the lovers of the Food of the Gods, which every year turns the town into a lively confectioner's shop, featuring the biggest names in Italian and international chocolate making.

### **Assisi**

***Celebrazioni per San Francesco*** *3 – 4 Oct 2009*

Celebrations in honour of St. Francis.

The national celebrations in honour of St. Francis, patron saint of Italy, take place among solemn ceremonies in the basilicas of St. Francis and S. Maria degli Angeli.

### **Montone**

***Festa del bosco*** *30 Oct - 1 Nov 2009*

Informal dining in the streets from the spoils of the woods. Stalls selling excellent food products – honey, porcini mushrooms etc

## NOVEMBER

### **Città di Castello**

***Mostra dei Tartufi*** *6 – 8 Nov 2009*

Truffle fair. Entering the large marquees in the main square of the city the scent of truffles makes your nose twitch. Stalls selling both fresh truffles and their products and other goodies abound.

## ANTIQUES MARKETS

<b>Arezzo</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> weekend of the month
<b>Cortona and Città di Castello</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend of the month
<b>Perugia</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> weekend of the month

## Uffizi Firenze

Beating the Uffizi queues: you can book tickets in advance!

A telephone reservation line introduced three years ago makes it possible to call in advance to book tickets by credit card. These can then be collected at a special gallery entrance, thus bypassing the hot and bothered queue of tourists that often stretches the full length of the building to the river Arno.

The Uffizi now attracts about 1.5 million visitors a year – compared with just 100 000 in the Fifties – to see its world-class collection, including works by Botticelli, Fra Lippi, Leonardo and Albrecht Dürer, call:

Booking service: 055-294883