



Umbria Festivals

Spring

Kite Festival – ‘Coloriamo I Cieli’ – Castiglione di Lago

This festival is held in the former airport area near Lake Trasimeno. More than 10,000 kite flyers from around the world take part in this exhibition and about 50,000 kite enthusiasts meet up during the four days when kites are flown.

Running of the Candles (Ceri) – Gubbio 15th May

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

Gubbio – ‘Crossbow ‘Palio’ – Palio della Balestra

At this contest held at the end of May, the Crossbow societies of Gubbio and San Sepolcro compete using medieval crossbows and at the end a historical procession in medieval costumes winds through the torch-lit streets.

Summer

Palio di Sienna - Sienna

The Palio is disputed each year on 2 July and 16 August in the Piazza del Campo. Internationally renowned it attracts thousands of spectators and culminates with a dramatic, intense and very short horse race.

Umbria Jazz Summer – Perugia

This international music festival brings a carnival atmosphere to Perugia for 10 days each July and attracts some of the biggest names in music including REM, Elton John, Simply Red and Mark Knopfler.

www.umbriajazz.com

Umbria Film Festival – Montone

This festival has received the patronage of celebrities from the world of stage and screen including Colin Firth and Terry Gilliam. Movies are screened in the main piazza.



Passignano Sul Trasimeno – ‘Palio of the Boats’ – Palio delle Barche’

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.

Donation of the Sacred Thorn – Montone – 15th August

Every year Montone celebrates a 'medieval week' in the 7 days before the 15th August and on the Sunday following Ferragosto is the 'Historical Play of the Donation of the Sacred Thorn. 120 characters in costume re-enact the return of Carlo Fontebraccio to Montone in 1473 with a thorn from the crown of Christ.

Music Festival – Preggio

Enjoy Opera in the open-air on a balmy summer evening in this breathtaking hill town.

Autumn

Mostra dei Cavalli (International Horse Show) – Citta di Castello

Now in its 45th year this massive horse show includes spectacular demonstrations and a large indoor market selling every conceivable item of equine paraphernalia.

Festa di Fine 800 – Umbertide

This local festival recalls, not medieval times, but the important events at the end of the 19th Century. Garibaldi and his men let loose canons and muskets (not for the faint hearted) and lots of taverns open up in the streets where visitors can enjoy dinner and drinks.

Euro Chocolate – Perugia

If you are a chocoholic, then Umbria is the place to be each year in October when the region hosts Eurochocolate, an annual chocolate festival that takes place in Perugia, the region's capital. EuroChocolate offers a variety of activities including chocolate art displays, experimental chocolate tastings, street performances, and chocolate sculpting.

www.eurochocolate.com



National Truffle Show - Il Tartufo Bianco – Citta di Castello

An opportunity to sample the highly prized white truffle and many other local forest produce, wine and cheeses.

Winter

Umbria Jazz Winter – Orvieto

Five days of great music in the picturesque setting of historical Orvieto. The event kicks off with street parades and continues with a series of knock-out performances. The New Years Eve dinner is the high point of a packed programme, with music and concerts until well after midnight. A New Year's Day Mass is held in Orvieto Cathedral, to the accompaniment of gospel singers, in a synthesis of cultures joined through music.