Smiling International School
An Extra Smile

EVENTS IN FERRARA

AUGUST 2026

Mangiafexpo

22nd July – 9th August

6 pm – 1.30 am

You have just a few more days to visit this exciting food event along the riverbanks! Gourmet chefs 'take to the streets' and bring their restaurants to the people in a less formal and more direct way.

Visit the official website: **www.mangiafexpo.com** or **www.dodicieventi.it/mangiafexpo** to find out more about the menus.

Concerts at Palazzo Naselli – Crispi

Via Borgo Leoni 28

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th August

Concerts continue at this delightful, Renaissance palazzo, performed by students from the local music conservatory 'Girolamo Frescobaldi'. From classical to jazz, these concerts are completely free of charge. The young musicians also offer a guided tour of this historic venue at 4.30 pm for those who are interested. They also give a short explanation of the programme at 5.15 pm then the concerts start at 5.30 pm.

It is advisable to book a place in advance by sending a **WhatsApp** to **333 804626.**

Guided Tour of Comacchio in English & Italian

30th July, 13th & 26th August

www.ferrarainfo.com/en/enjoy-our-events/all-events/guided-tours/excursions-a-spass-comacchio-and-delta-park-a-town-on-a-water

You may be interested to find out more about this guided tour of the pretty fishing town of Comacchio, which is in English and Italian. Comacchio often features in our newsletters as it has a very interesting cultural heritage and is an important landmark in the Delta del Po.

To participate, you must make your way to Comacchio independently then there are different pick-up points for the tour. To find out about costs and times, visit the website above.

Ferragosto in Darsena – Beer, Food & Stars

*13th – 16th Aug**ust***

https://www.instagram.com/p/DaECH8FgCqW/

To celebrate Italy's public holiday 'Ferragosto', which is on 15th August, the Darsena riverbank is holding a three-day party. There will be a street food and artisan beer area with 'Lucky Brew', live music and a special zone dedicated to stargazing! Amateur astronomers will be on hand to help navigate August's skies- the perfect time of year in Italy to see shooting stars, planets and other wonders!

Open-air Cinema at Parco Pareschi Continues

Corso della Giovecca, 148

Until 13th September 2026

Tickets: €6.50 that can be bought at the entrance on the night

Gates open at 8.15 pm and films start at 9 pm

https://cinemaboldini.it/prima-parte-di-programmazione-arena-coop-alleanza-3-0-2026/

Open-air cinema continues. Check out the website above for August's showings nearer the time.

L'Albero delle storie – Casa Niccolini Children's Library

Via Romiti 13 (in the city centre)

Every Saturday at 10.30 am in July & August (except for Saturday 16th August)

Special opening on Wednesday 13th August

Storytime for children aged between 4 and 10, continues at this cosy children's library, located in the city centre. You can pop in without booking and enjoy one of many delightful stories read by volunteers from a local association. This event is completely free of charge.

Plaza del Tango 'New Moon Edition' – Come Dance tango!

19th – 23rd August, 6 pm – midnight
& Sunday 23rd 10 am – 12.30 pm
Piazzetta San Nicolò
https://www.faitango.it/scheda-evento-148999/plaza-de-tango-2026?
Telephone for information: 340 2505612

For all you Tango lovers, you are invited to five magical evenings (and a matinée) in the charming piazza of San Nicolò, where you can take to the dance floor and share your passion with others! Food and drink are available, including cappellacci and beer, and each evening different DJs play. So get your dancing shoes on!

Tickets:
Evening pass €12, Sunday matinée €6
Full pass (4 nights + matinée) €40 early bird ticket (until the end of July) or €50 from August.
You will be given a wristband at the entrance which must be worn in order to access the dance floor.

La Giostra del Monaco - Medieval Fair

27th August – 6th September 2026
Viale IV Novembre (on the walls)
Every day from 6.30 pm, Saturday & Sunday from 12.30 onwards
https://www.lagiostradelmonaco.it/

This fascinating fair transports its visitors back in time to Ferrara in the Medieval period with knights in shining armour, jousting and duelling, Dukes and Duchesses feasting and dancing. Sample typical food and drink from this historical period and visit a soldiers' encampment. Watch flame throwers, flag-waving displays and witness the local battle of Cassana d'Addo.

Activities programme for families:

- Take part in archery and Medieval games: every day from 6.30 pm (Saturday & Sunday from 5 pm)

- Visit an interesting Medieval and modern-day market: every day from 7pm (Saturday from 5 pm & Sunday morning)
- Children's workshops in small groups (20 mins.) with the witch 'Maga Pasticciona': every day from 6.30 pm (Saturday & Sunday from 5 pm). It is advisable to book in advance by telephoning **339 1110430**. All participants receive a gift and a surprise! To take part, you are asked to make a donation. All proceeds go to the charity organisation A.N.T.
- Pony stables next to the 'Locanda del Monaco' restaurant. Pony rides for adults and children: every day from 6.30 pm - 10 pm
- Visit the Medieval soldiers' encampment: every day from 7 pm

Evening Programme Tournaments & Reenactments (free of charge):

Thursday 27th August

9. 30 pm – Court celebrations with flag-waving, dancing & sword fighting

Friday 28th August

9.15 – Official opening ceremony

9. 30 pm – Performance by the flag, dance and armed garrison of San Giacomo

10 pm – Start of the games with the lighting of the fires follwed by a horse parade

10.30 pm – Archery with flames

Saturday 29th August

6.30 pm – Medieval travelling music group

7 pm – Jousting challenge, games and displays of equestrian skills, travelling Medieval and Celtic music

Sunday 30th August

9.30 am – Archery and ballista tournament

6.30 pm – Jousting challenge, games and displays of equestrian skill

9.30 pm – 'Unguibus Ignis' – Fire show

Monday 31st August

9.30 pm - 'Stories from our History' – readings brought to life through play. Court celebrations: flag-waving, dancing & fencing

Tuesday 1st September

9.30 pm – Court celebrations: flag-waving, dancing & fencing

10 pm - Equestrian carousels at the Court of the House of Este

Wednesday 2nd September

9.30 pm – 'Laughter at Court' – a comedy show

Thursday 3rd September

9.30 pm – 'Jokes and other Humour'

Friday 4th September

9 pm - 'The Art of Dance' performances from court

10 pm – Court celebrations: flag-waving, dancing and fencing

Saturday 5th September

6 pm – 'Giochi d'Arme' weapon tournament

9.30 pm – The arrival at the field of Marquis Azzo VII d'Este and performance by the standard bearers of San Giacomo

10 pm – 'The Art of Playing with Fire' – fire show

10.30 pm – Re-enactment of the Battle of Cassano d'Adda 1259 (with narration)

Sunday 6th September

5.30 pm - Crossbow tournament

6.30 pm – 'The Monk's Joust: The Rematch' – equestrian contest

9.30 pm – 'Acquila Bianca Tournament' archery contest

11 pm – Closing dance and lighting of a bonfire.

Where to eat:

-Taverna dell'Aquila Bianca - opens at 7.30 pm and on Sunday also at 12.30 pm

-Hostaria del Borgo - opens at 6.30 pm and at 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday

-**Locanda del Monaco -** opens at 6.30 pm and 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

You can view the menus online and book a table at the Aquila Bianca.

Acido Acida - British Beer Festival

27th – 30th August 2026

Cloisters of Santa Maria della Consolazione

Via Mortara, 98 (near Porta Mare)

Thursday 27th August: 6 pm – midnight

Friday, Saturday & Sunday: midday – midnight https://www.pintamedicea.com/birra/evento/acido-acida-2026-ferrara-birre-britanniche/

This British beer festival hosts over 40 breweries as well as guest breweries from Europe. Enjoy tasting sessions, workshops, food and music.

Entry is free to the festival. You change your cash into tokens ('gettone'). Beers cost 1, 2, 3 tokens etc.

Pre-sale tickets with special package deals for this event are available online from 27th July using PayPal at ilmololive@libero.it indicating your name, surname and day you will visit. Otherwise you can buy tickets in advance, directly from the pub 'Il Molo' (Via Contrari 36) from 10th August.

Pre-booking is not necessary but it means that you can jump the queue. Everything will be waiting for you at the desk on your arrival.

Ferrara's Buskers Festival

26th – 30th August

See our separate article about the Busker's Festival in Ferrara which will be published shortly!

Le Sagre – The food festivals continue...

Food festivals are a great way to get to know some of Ferrara's finest produce, to taste authentic dishes prepared by the locals and to gain a more intimate insight to Ferrara's way of life outside the city centre. These "sagre" are true village festivals which draw everybody together with good food, wine, music and entertainment.

Casumaro - Festa della Lumaca (Snail Festival)

Sports Field, Via Boschetti, 21, at 7.30 pm

1st - 10th August 2026

Casumaro celebrates the Festival of Snails, a popular ingredient in the Ferrarese countryside. Choose from a selection of very interesting snail starters and a wide range of delicious meat main courses!

Sagra della Zucca e del suo Cappellaccio Ferrarese I.G.P. - San Carlo – Pumpkin Festival

13th – 23rd August San Carlo di Terre del Reno (FE)

Campo Sportivo, Via Statale 101

Food stand opens every evening at 7 pm

Sundays and 15th August also open at 12.30 pm & 7.30 pm

It is possible to book: 377 242561 Email: info@sagrasancarlo.it

The village of San Carlo is celebrating pumpkin and the traditional Ferrarese pasta dish called 'Cappellaci' – delicious pumpkin filled pasta served with butter and sage or a ragù sauce. You can also find pumpkin chips and lasagne made with pumpkin along with other traditional dishes.

Bondeno – Astro Gastro – Star gazing and Gastronomic evening

Agriturism 'La Florida' Farmhouse

Via Burana, 103

7th – 10th & 12th - 16th August

Opens at 7.30 pm

On Sundays also at midday and 7.30 pm

It is possible to book: 0532 898244 Email: **fondoflorida@libero.it**

www.agriturismolaflorida.it

This farmhouse, which regularly features in our newsletters, offers a delicious meal accompanied by live music, a digital planetarian and astronomical observatory open to guests each evening. The menu includes a variety of pasta dishes with pumpkin, wild boar, duck or cream as well as traditional 'tagliata' (sliced beef) main courses or mixed grills, followed by homemade desserts.

Malalbergo - Sagra dell'Ortica - Stinging Nettle Festival

Piazza Prima Carlini, 1 Malalbergo (Bologna)

27th – 30th August & 3rd – 6th September 2026

Open every evening at 7 pm

On Sundays also at lunchtime with a takeaway service only, and at 7 pm

It is possible to book: 388 1492304 Email: ***info@amicidellortica.it***

This food festival which is between Ferrara and Bologna is well-worth a visit just to say that you have tried eating stinging nettles and not just in a cup of tea! This village really goes to town producing imaginative dishes featuring nettles including risotto, pasta, lasagna and stuffed roast meats.