



FERRARA'S CARNIVALS

10th, 11th, 17th & 18th FEBRUARY 2024

‘Carnevale degli Este’ 10th & 11th February

This year’s first Carnival pays homage to Isabella d’Este Gonzaga, the daughter of one of Ferrara’s most important Dukes, Ercole I d’Este. Her marriage into the Gonzaga family was a strategic political move for the Este family but it was Isabella’s intelligence, tenacity and passion which made her a powerful and influential woman both in Mantova and Ferrara during Italy’s Renaissance period.

Programme:

Saturday 10th February

10 a.m. to midday – ‘Festival, Art, Diplomacy. Isabella d’Este Gonzaga and the power of women in the Renaissance’.

A presentation in Italian at the Sala Estense, Piazza Municipale (free admission).

4 p.m. Este Carnival parade around the historical city centre.

5 p.m. Renaissance dancing, tournaments and re-enactments in Piazza Municipale

9 p.m. ‘La Lena’ by Ludovico Ariosto

Theatre & dance performance (Compagnia del Vado and l’Unicorno dance company)



Sunday 11th February

10.30 a.m. to midday – ‘A Concert for Isabella’

*Performed by ‘Enchiridion Consort’ at the Sala della Musica, Via Boccaleone, 19.
Free admission.*

4.30 p.m. Este Carnival Parade in Piazza Castello and Piazza del Municipio.

5 p.m. Dance performance in honor of Isabella d'Este Gonzaga followed by a **Fire Show** in Piazza Municipale.

6 p.m. Reading of the edict which closes Ferrara’s Carnival.

‘Carnevale Estense’ 17th & 18th February

Festivities continue with Ferrara’s second Carnival which is dedicated to the Estense family and the traditions of this fun festival.

Programme:

Saturday 17th February

11.30 a.m. The opening ceremony will be held in Piazza Castello where a ribbon will be cut declaring the official start of the Carnival. There will be music, parades, historical dancing, confetti fights, various shows and around the Castle's piazza, a variety of food stands where you can taste and buy traditional products.

3 p.m. Admire the Estense court in masks in the Castle's courtyard

4 p.m. A traditional Carnival dialogue (a theatre performance between Carnival characters) is held in Piazza della Cattedrale 'Lo Sproloquio delle Maschere'

6 p.m. A food tasting tour



On Sunday 18th February

11 a.m. A presentation of Carnival traditions connected to the Estense family and an opportunity to taste Ferrara's famous 'Pasticcio di Maccheroni' - a savoury pie filled with pasta covered by a sweet crust. This will be followed by a Renaissance dance performance. Sala Estense, Piazza Municipale.

4.30 p.m. Join the children's Carnival parade in costume which will start in Piazza Municipale and finish in Piazza Savonarola.

At 5 p.m. Enjoy a comical theatre performance about Carnevale in Sala Estense.