



EVENTS IN FERRARA

MAY 2024



Ferrara's historical 'Palio', its impressive flag-waving competitions and the beautiful night procession are undoubtedly some of the highlights of Ferrara's annual calendar of events which feature this month. You can read our article 'Il Palio di Ferrara', which was sent to our members of 'An Extra Smile' (also on Smiling's website) for details about the Palio's programme. Below, discover even more exciting events taking place in May.

Family Picnic at the Butterfly House

Sunday 5th May at 12.30 a.m.

'Casa delle Farfalle e il Bosco delle Fate'

Via Scavi, 21/Bis, 35036 Montegrotto, Terme Padova

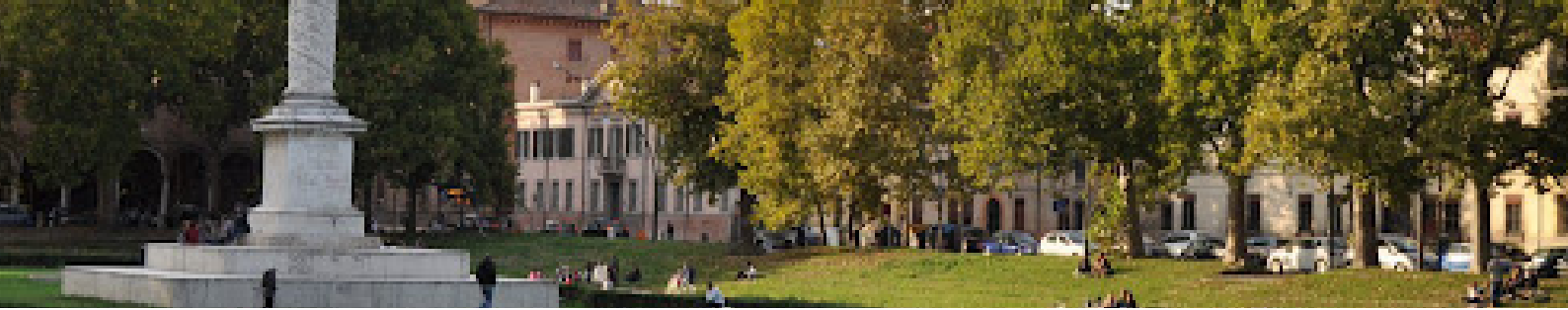
This tiny Butterfly House and Fairy Forest, which always features in our 'Spring & Autumn Trip Ideas' article, is holding a family picnic event and we thought it was worth mentioning. For those of you who would like to adventure further afield, it is about 50 minutes away from Ferrara, towards Padova. It makes a fun day out for all the family with its tropical greenhouses, magical forest and enclosed garden.

On arrival at 12.30 a.m. families will receive a picnic basket with the following items:

Adult menu:

- Homemade foccacia with vegetables from the garden
- Rice salad
- A selection of meats and cheeses
- 'Crostata' with homemade jam

The price include a bottle of water and two glasses of wine per adult.

**Children's menu:**

- Pizza Margherita
- Focaccia with fresh tomatoes
- Ham sandwich
- Fruit juice and a bottle of water.

Please let the staff know about any intolerances or allergies in the 'notes' section when booking.

Cost of the picnic (to pay online):

- €18 adults
- €12 children

Cost for Butterfly House & Fairy Forest (to pay on arrival)

- €12 adults
- €8 children aged 4 to 12
- €6 with a registered disability
- Free for children under the age of 4

To book tickets for the picnic:

<https://feshioneventi.it/prodotto/pic-nic-casa-farfalle-2/>

Giardini Estense

4th & 5th May 2024

Parco Massari

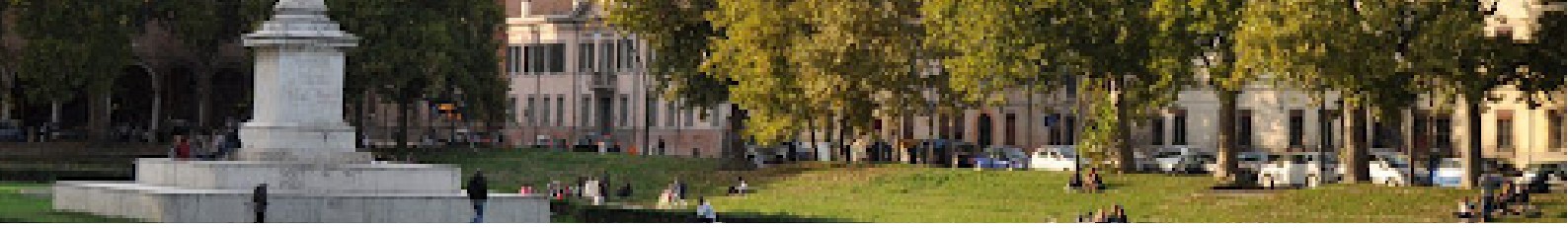
This spring event is perfect for any keen gardener and hosts various stands selling traditional plants as well as historical and unusual varieties. For those of you who perhaps do not possess 'green fingers', don't worry! There are plenty of professional gardeners on hand to give you handy tips as well as stalls selling handcrafts and ornaments for gardens. It is well-worth a visit.

During both days you can take part in various workshops, for both adults and children, such as painting with water colours, basket weaving, planting seeds as well as watch demonstrations of wood crafts and ceramics and listen to talks and book presentations. Look out for:

Botanical water colours with the artist Maria Rita Stirpe

Saturday at 11.30 a.m. & 4.30 p.m.

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Persian dancing performance

On Saturday at 5 p.m.

Puzzles, wooden games and painting for children

On Sunday at 3 p.m.

Animated storytelling by Smiling's Roberto Agnelli in collaboration with 'Testaperaria' children's bookshop

On Sunday at 4.30 p.m.

In collaboration with Giardini Estense take advantage of visiting:

Palazzo Schifanoia's Gardens

Via Scandiana, 23

Saturday 4th May at 11 a.m.

Discover these beautiful historical gardens with the knowledgeable garden designer Manfredi Patitucci. The buildings and gardens were built by the Estense family to 'avoid the boredoms' of life at Court! Whilst you are there, visit the delightful coffee shop. It really is one of Ferrara's hidden gems!

Free admission.

Giardini Botanical – Botanical Gardens

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th

Corso Porta Mare (opposite Parco Massari)

Visit these pretty gardens which host a variety of native and tropical plants and trees. As an exception, they will be open during Giardini Estense and are well-worth a visit. Free admission.

'The Place to Do'

Le Mura Shopping centre (near Porta Mare's campus)

<https://theplacetodo.com/lemura>

The local shopping centre is holding a variety of workshops, events and courses at its new studio 'The Place to Do' next to the pet shop, opposite Pepco. If you are interested and would like to find out details about prices and how to book, visit the website above. Here are May's workshops:

Corso di Yoga Dolce - 23rd, 30th April - 7th, 14th May

Ceramics Course - 4th and 11th May (2 hours each 10.30 - 12.30 a.m.) Book by 2nd May

Giochi Shaitsu (for children) - 26th April, 31st May (free event. Book online)

Bombe di Semi - 18th May - Making 'Seed bombs' (free event for children. >Probably open all day as no times are mentioned)



‘Camminata delle Mamme’ – ‘Mums’ Walk for Charity’

Saturday 11th May

Meeting place: Parco Massari

Departure: 4 p.m. Duration: aprox. 1 hour

To celebrate Italy’s Mother’s Day on Sunday 7th May, mums are invited to take part in a non-competitive charity walk to raise money for the association A.D.O. which helps cancer patients. This non-competitive walk of about 5km around the city, is open to everyone: expectant mothers, mummies with prams and pushchairs, mums with older children, grandmas and of course fathers are welcome too!

This year the walk is setting off from **Parco Massari**. Participants can choose from two types of tickets:

- **BASE** = €12 which includes a refreshment, t-shirt for mum or dad and a small gift for one child who is included in this price.
- **PLUS** = €25 which offers a refreshment, changing mat bag, t-shirt for mum or dad, a small gift for one child who is included in this price.

If you would like a t-shirt you must buy tickets online by 30th April at the address below.

It is also possible to join the walk on the day, but you may not be guaranteed a t-shirt

<https://feshioneventi.it/prodotto/camminata-delle-mamme-2024/>

Vegan Festival

11th & 12th May

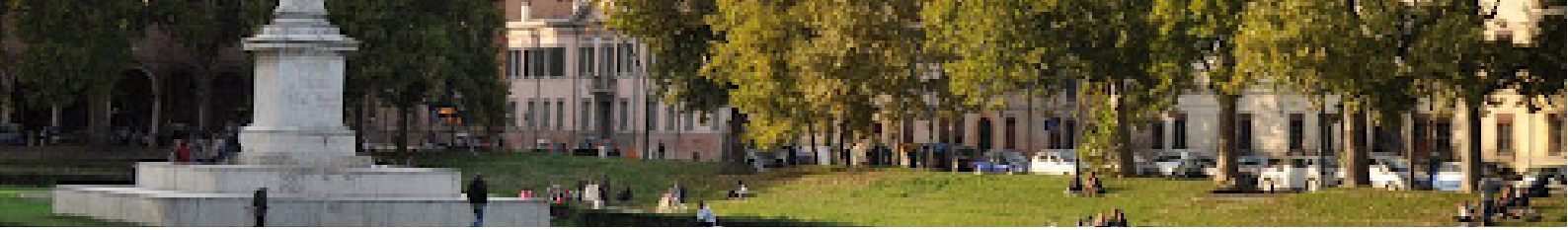
Piazza Trento Trieste

This festival is open to everyone and offers an opportunity to get to know and approach an ethical diet and lifestyle, which rejects any kind of animal exploitation. During this weekend you can sample vegan specialties prepared by the restaurants in the ‘Vegan Food’ area. There is also an exhibition zone dedicated to jewellery and accessories made out of recycled materials, organic products, vegan chocolate and much more. On both days, you can take part in interesting workshops, conferences, seminars and cooking shows for free.

Open Farms – Emilia-Romagna Project

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th May

Discover the value of the land through this event which is organized by the regional authorities. On the Sundays of May listed above, various farms will open to the public for free. It is a great opportunity for adults and children to spend the day in the open-air and to learn about farming and agriculture through a variety of activities organized by the farms.



Near Ferrara, the following farms can be visited:

Il Fienile di Baura - Via Raffanello 79, 44123 Ferrara

5th & 19th May

Telephone: 337 1096448 Orietta Fozzato

Email: fienile@integrazionelavoro.org

It offers:

- A guided tour of the farm visiting the greenhouses, animals, courtyard and vegetable patch from 10 – midday and 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Children's activities in the afternoon
- Market with products produced by the farm with tasting opportunities
- Lunch with the farm's products. The lunch must be booked in advance

Fattoria sociale Villa Imoletta – Comacchio 882, 44124 Ferrara

12th & 26th May

Telephone: 349 5679182 Tulio Monini

Email: azienda.villaimoletta.ssa@gmail.com

It offers:

- A guided tour of the vegetable patch, farm animals and farm buildings
- Morning and afternoon activities for children and families about bees and the outdoors
- Tasting and buying the farm's products
- Late afternoon concert on 12th May and theatre performance on 26th May.

Agriturismo La Torretta – San Bartolomeo in Bosco, Via Imperiale 265, 44124 FE

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th May

Telephone: 0532 725294 Maria Roccati

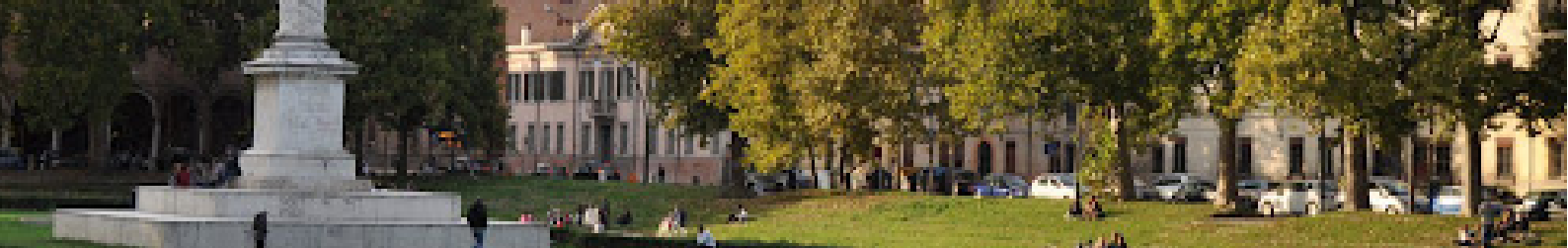
Email: info@latorrettaagriturismo.com

It offers:

5th May – Festival ‘ Bimbi & Burattini’ – puppet show performed by the ‘Mondo Agricolo Ferrarese’ suitable for all ages!

12th & 28th May – A guided tour of the Mondo Agricolo Ferrarese museum (next to the farmhouse) to discover the farming machinery and tools used over the ages. This visit must be booked by telephoning 0532 725294

19th May – ‘**Festa della Terra - Earth Festival**’ with dancing and music, agricultural vehicles on display, plants and flowers. Free visit to the Mondo Agricolo Ferrarese museum.



Agriturismo La Florida – Via Burano 103, 44012 Bondeno

5th, 12th, 19th & 26th May

Telephone: 0532 898244 Padovani Corrado & Carolina

Email: fonodoflorida@libero.it

- A sensory game with bare feet to discover the wonders of the land
- Building a waterfall, discovering sources of water on the farm, watering the garden
- Discovering the vegetable patch, helping to pick the vegetables ready for a super cooking activity
- Let's make a scarecrow!

Boat Trips on the Nena Continue....

Via Darsena, 57 Telephone: 347 7139988

Select your trip on the website and book online: <https://booking.lanena.it/>

Here are just some of the boat trips you can do each week during spring, summer and autumn:

Nena B Side - Pizza on board!

Every Monday and Thursday, 7.30 p.m. – 9 p.m. (Starting from 2nd May)

Aperitif at Sunset on the Po di Volano

Every Friday from 7.30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Ferrara Fluviale with Aperitif

Every Saturday from 6 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Viagietta sul Po Grande – Trip along the River Po

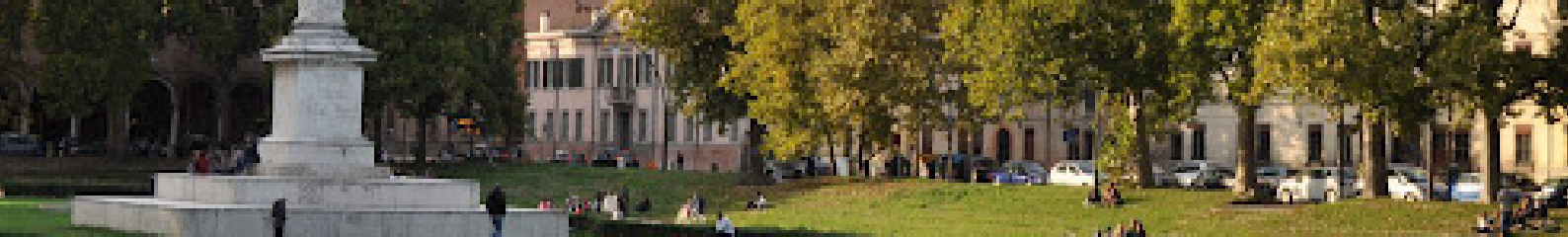
Every Sunday 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Sulle Acque del Po di Volano – On the Waters of the Po di Volano

Every Sunday from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Le Sagre - Food Fairs

With the warmer weather lots of local villages hold food fairs 'Le Sagre' in the open-air. They are a perfect opportunity to discover local products and food which is homemade by the villagers and at a fair price. They have a fun atmosphere and community spirit. It is a great way to support them.



Lagosanto: Fiera delle fragole – Strawberry Food Fair

10th, 11th, 12th & 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th & 19th May 2024

Via Donatori di Sangue, 4

In the month of May Lagosanto becomes the capital of strawberries and produces 90% of Italy's strawberries. At this fair, you will be able to taste not only these delicious strawberries but also a rich variety of dishes 'made in Italy'.

On the 10th and 17th you can book a special strawberry themed dinner 'Cena delle Classe' at the Mael Café in Lago Santo. Telephone straightaway 338 379 9776 as places are limited.

Here is the programme:

Friday 10th May

- Opening ceremony at 6.30 p.m.
- 'Cena delle Classe' part 1 at 7.30 p.m. & live music

Saturday 11th

- 'Fragolandia' a strawberry themed conference at 10 a.m. followed by games and activities connected with this fruit.
- Dancing performance at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 12th

- Aperitif and live music

Tuesday 14th

- 'Sagra e Sapori' an exciting food experience with local restaurants using strawberries. Please book by telephoning 346 9552453.
- Live music

Thursday 16th

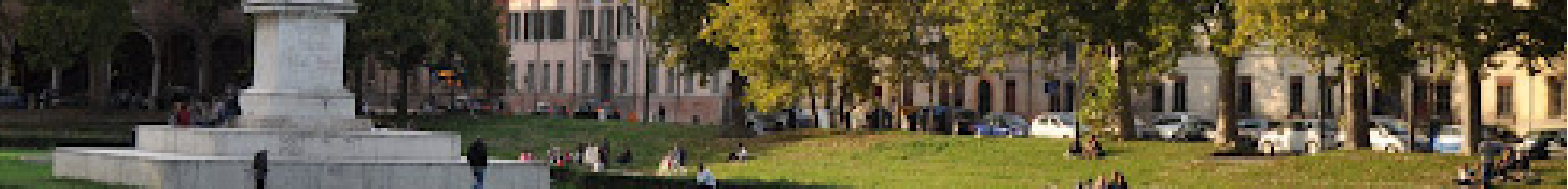
- 'Cena delle Erbe' – dinner with aromatic herbs. Wild herbs found in the area and their uses in cooking.
- Fixed menu €20 (excluding drinks). To book: 346 9552453

Friday 17th

- 'Cena delle Classe' Part 2 followed by live music.

Saturday 18th

- 'Splash! Impara con l'Acqua' workshop at 10.30 a.m. for both adults and children about where water comes from and the importance of not wasting it. Held by La Fabbrica dell'Acqua.
- Award ceremony for local schools at 3.30 p.m.
- Mass at the local church to honour Saint Venanzio at 6 p.m. and procession at 9 p.m.



Sunday 19th

- Award ceremony for adults poetry competition
- Dance performance at 6.30 p.m.

For the duration of the festival there will be a funfair and a street market on Saturdays and Sundays.

Poggio Renatico: Sagra di Primavera – Spring Food Festival

25th – 28th April & 1st, 4th & 5th May 2024

Parco 1° Maggio, Via San Carlo, 79

Open at 7 p.m. On Sundays and 1st May for lunches only at 12.30 a.m.

This spring food festival offers a variety of traditional first courses including Ferrara's 'Cappellacci' (pumpkin filled pasta) Tortellini, Lasagne (available at lunchtime only), asparagus risotto and fish risotto. For main courses there is Ferrara's traditional 'Salama da sugo' (a type of spicy, rich sausage served with creamy mashed potato). Try 'Fritto misto di mare' - another typical dish of seafood which is fried in a light batter.

Casaglia di Ferrara: 'Festa d'èl Balanzòn e di Pinzin'

17th, 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th & 26th May 2024

Via Giovanni Ranuzzi 101, Casaglia (Ferrara)

Open at 7.30 p.m. Sunday only at lunch at 12.30 a.m.

This tiny village just outside Ferrara offers a small but traditional menu of homemade 'Balanzoni' – meat-filled Tortelli with a besciamella and ragù sauce followed by local cold meats served with Ferrara's traditional fried bread called 'pinzini'.

Codrea: Sagra dell'arrosticini – Meat Kebab Festival

28th – 31st May & 1st, 2nd June

Sports Field, Via Passionella, 6, Codrea

Open at 7 p.m.

Taste a traditional dish from Abruzzo of small meat skewers with bruschetta and olive oil. Enjoy local cold meats and cheeses from Ferrara and Abruzzo, a variety of bruschetta followed by a choice of delicious desserts.

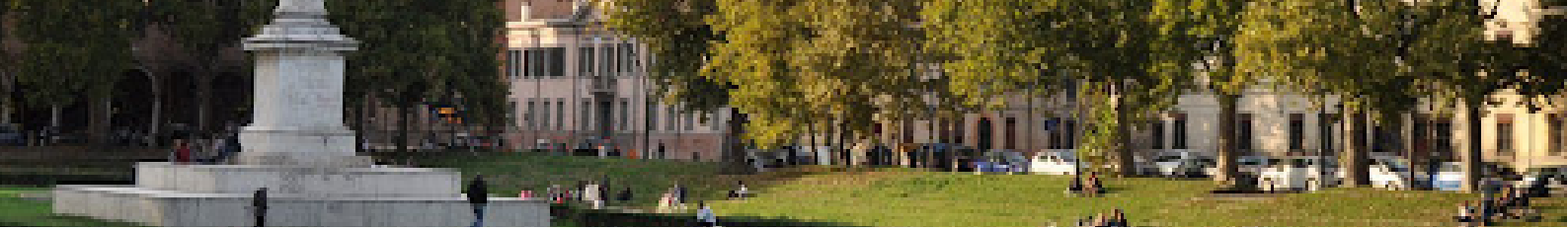
What's on in the Valli di Argenta?

Here is the programme of interesting excursions which are taking place in the Valleys of Argenta this month.

Meeting place: Museo delle Valli, Via Cardinala 1/C – 44011 Campotto (Ferrara), unless stated otherwise.

For further information or to book please telephone: 0532 808058 or email

info@vallidiargenta.org from Tuesdays to Sundays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 3.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.



Wednesday 1st May, 10 a.m. – 12.30 a.m. Bici-Birdwatching

Bike excursion by bike with a guide.

€8 adults, €5 concessions, €6 bike hire

Saturday 4th May, 3.30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Un lupo per amico / A Wolf for a Friend

An excursion on foot with a guide.

€8 adults, €5 concessions

Sunday 5th May, 10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Passeggiando nelle Valli di Argenta

Walking in the valleys with a guide.

€8 adults, €5 concessions

Saturday 11th May, 6.30 p.m. – 9 p.m. La Magia del Tramonto / The Magic of Sunset

An excursion on foot and in your own car with a guide.

€10 adults, €7 concessions

Sunday 12th May, 9 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. In Bicicletta tra Campotto e Bassano

Discovering how this swamp area was drained in the past and is maintained today. An interesting bicycle ride to discover more about the history of this area.

Free event. €6 bike hire

Saturday 18th May, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Escursione fotografica

A photography excursion at sunset.

€10 adults, €8 concessions. Booking is compulsory.

Sunday 19th May, 3.30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Chi vola nelle Valli di Argenta? / Who flies in the Valleys?

A birdwatching tour on foot with a guide.

Saturday 25th May, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. AperiTramonto – Aperitif at Sunset

Enjoy a stroll in the valleys and enjoy an aperitif.

€8 adults, €5 concessions

Sunday 26th May, 3.30 p.m. – 5 p.m. L'impianto idrovoero di Saiarino

A guided tour of the Museo della Bonifica to learn about the drainage of the swampland.

Meeting place: Museo della Bonifica, Strada Saiarino, 1, Argenta (Ferrara)

To book: 0532 2808058

Email: info@vallidiargenta.org

Free event