



Get ready to put on your mask and enter the world's most joyful theatre!

In February 2012, the city of Venice will once again celebrate its traditional stunning Carnevale which goes back to the second half of the 13th century. The social goal of Carnevale was the liberation from social roles, inhibitions and constraints. It is now a great cultural and entertaining event targeting both the Venetians and tourists.

This year's driving theme, *La vita è teatro! Tutti in maschera* - or in other words: "Life is a theatre. It's time to get masked" - refers to Venice being the capital of European theatre. Retracing the historical Venetian performing art scene through colorful events, shows and concerts that combine the tradition of Venetian Carnevale with the modern spirit of contemporary performances.

A diverse cultural and entertaining program is waiting for the visitors to be explored and enjoyed. Throughout the Carnival period there will be artistic and theatrical performances in public spaces, private museums, theatres, churches, main Piazzas and on the canals, presenting gatherings of people in costumes, costume parades, processions, music and dances, children's activities and a lot more attractions.

The first event, the real "kick-off" of the Carnival, will be the "grand toast" at the Wine fountain (*Fontana del Vino*) in Piazzetta San Marco, on February the 4th. On February 11th the Grand Theatre at Piazza San Marco will open the everyday shows with costume parades based on different themes, night events and parties with big bands and dj sets.

The closing event on February 21st will be the *Vogata del Silenzio*, a silent water parade, starting at Rialto bridge and ending at Piazza San Marco with traditional boats floating through the Grand Canal on a unique night setting with natural flame lighting and the final "*Sacrificio del Toro*" a bull- fight re-enactment related to ancient legacies of Venetian victories.

Follow the main events of the Carnival:

Saturday 4/2, at 18:00, Piazzetta San Marco | *Gran brindisi alla fontana del vino / Grand toast at the wine fountain*

Sunday 5/2 at 12:00, Rio di Cannaregio | *Festa veneziana*

Saturday 11/2

At 14:00, P.zza San Marco | Traditional *Corteo* and *Festa delle Marie*

At 21:00, P.zza San Marco | Inauguration of *Festival del Carnevale*/ Opening of the Carnival Festival



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Sunday 12/2, at 12:00, P.zza San Marco | *Volo dell'angelo/ Flight of the Angel*

Tuesday 14/2, at 21:00, P.zza San Marco | *Festa dell'amore/ Lovers Party*

Saturday 18/2, at 21:00, P.zza San Marco | *Gran ballo di Carnevale/ Carnival Grand Ball*

Sunday 19/2 at 16:00, P.zza San Marco | *Finale del Concorso della maschera più bella 2012 | Final Parade for the Best Masked Costume Contest of the Carnival 2012*

Monday 20/2, starting at 17:00, all over the city | *Carnival culture night*

Tuesday 21/2,

At 17:00, P.zza San Marco | *Cerimonia di premiazione della Maria vincitrice del Carnevale 2012/ The Festa delle Marie 2012 - Award Ceremony*

At 21:00, P.zza San Marco | *Concert Mardi Gras*

At 24:00, starting at Rialto | *Vogata del silenzio/ The silent water parade*

Daily events:

Pattinaggio su ghiaccio/ Ice Skating Village, starting at 11:00 in Campo San Polo

Casinò Burlesque 2012, official Dinner show of Carnevale, at 20:45 in Palazzo Cà Vendramin Calergi

Concorso per la maschera più bella 2012/ Parade for the Best Masked Costume Contest of the Carnival 2012, selections, at 11:00 and at 15:00, P.zza San Marco

Le Grandi Feste/ Big Parties with animations, dj set, live music, starting at 19:00 in P.zza San Marco

For more information:

Official Website <http://carnevale.venezia.it/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/carnevaleveneziaofficialpage>



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