

FRANCIACORTA SUMMER FESTIVAL

For all of June, it's festival-time in Franciacorta!
1-3 June is one long weekend dedicated to Food

Back for the summer once again, and even more glamour-filled and international than usual, is **Franciacorta Summer Festival**, the programme of ultra-elegant special events that for so many years now has been attracting wine-lovers to Franciacorta in early summer. During the entire month of June, this land of fabulous wines prized by both Italian and foreign wine-lovers, will be brimming with dozens of events that focus on food and wine, art and culture, sports and nature; visitors will delight in discovering wineries and fine food producers, jewels of art and heavenly landscapes, world-class hospitality and VIP-chef culinary creations.

Franciacorta Summer Festival will open its doors **1 to 3 June**, with a long weekend exclusively showcasing **food, food, food**. **On Friday**, restaurants, trattorie, agriturisms, and wine-bars that are members of the Strada del Franciacorta will offer their own, personal, customized **Festival Menu**, utilising locally-raised products. **Saturday** will focus on the **discovery of Franciacorta itself**—its wines and its broad array of products. The wineries will organise themed micro-events, guided tours, and tastings. Distilleries and producers of traditional food specialities will likewise be open to the public, and visitors will be able to enjoy organized bicycle tours through the hills and well as hot-air balloon rides soaring over the land. **Sunday will be marked by a huge party** in the park of the 18th-century **Villa Fassati Barba di Passirano**, with gourmet arrays of **local fine-food specialities** paired with Franciacorta sparklers, with fine music enlivening the background. Starring in the kitchens will be both local and guest chefs (the latter including **Alessandro Gavagna**, multi-starred chef of La Subida di Cormons), who will tempt guests with the most imaginative creations. Four themed islands in the villa's frescoed halls will boast matching **styles of Franciacorta**. **Pizza**, too, will enjoy its own special corner areas, with **Corrado Scaglione** of the Osteria Lipen Canonica Lambro (MB), as well as classic local products and artisanal gelato, while the villa's Limonaia will be the venue for **workshops on Franciacorta wines, food, and growing area**. Throughout the day, there will be **guided tours** of the villa, both on foot and in vintage touring vans. In the evening, weather permitting, guests will be able to admire the villa from above, in a tethered hot-air balloon. The party will run from 12.00 noon to 9.00pm, with two tasting periods, during the lunch period (12.000-3.00pm) and the dinner (6.00-9.00pm). There are a **limited number of openings**, and **tickets** can be purchased ahead of time online at www.festivalfranciacorta.it and on Sunday directly at Villa Fassati Barba. The above website has full information regarding chefs and their dishes, workshop information, and information about all the scheduled events.

Each of the following weekends in June will be dedicated to a particular theme. The **9-10 June** weekend will feature **sports and outdoor events**, including bicycle, walking and Vespa tours, with stops at the wineries; picnics in the vineyards; open-air events such as hot-air balloon rides, and much, much more. The **16-17 June** weekend will focus on **art and culture**, with exhibits, guided tours and events in historical residences that will unveil some of Franciacorta's most hidden and intriguing spots. Co-sponsors will be FAI and the various Communes of the Terra della Franciacorta. Finally, the **23-24 June** weekend will be in the key of **music**, featuring concerts in the cellars and in other particularly striking venues.

Those who wish to spend a few days in the Franciacorta area during the Franciacorta Summer Festival will find custom-designed **tour packages** for weekends or more days in hotels, agriturisms, campgrounds, historic residences, and bed & breakfasts.