
ITALIA 150 – HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Turin first capital of Italy Event guide for 2011

Throughout the 19th century, Turin was the political and institutional engine of the rising Kingdom of Italy. Everywhere in Turin, roads and palaces tell the story of the national unification and its protagonists - the ruling Savoy dynasty, Prime Minister Camillo Benso count of Cavour, writers-patriots such as Angelo Brofferio, Cesare Balbo, Silvio Pellico and Massimo D’Azeglio who used to meet in Turin cafés and then in Carignano Palace, the first seat of the Italian Parliament. In 2011 Turin and Piedmont will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the national unification with ‘Esperienza Italia’, a great event on Italian past and present identity, but also with an eye to the future through exhibitions, congresses and shows from March to November 2011.

All events will take place in prestigious locations, symbols of Turin and revitalized for the occasion. From 17th March to 20th November 2011 at Venaria Reale Palace, where the Italian Kings and their courts used to spend their holidays, “**Bellezza e saper vivere**” (Beauty and savoir vivre) with the masterpieces of Italian art, culture and food & wine; in the former railway workshops called Officine Grandi Riparazioni Ferroviarie, “**Storia e identità**” (History and identity), a fascinating journey into the process for the construction of Italian identity over the last 150 years, and then “**Creatività e made in Italy**” (Creativity and made in Italy), showing the capacity of Italian creativity of turning ideas into quality products and successful business, from design to fashion. With “**Mobilità del futuro**” (Future transport), in the historical Mirafiori plant in Turin it will be possible to admire the most advanced solutions of public and private transport and to experience the new frontiers of speed and safe driving on a test track, while Torino Esposizioni will stage “**Ricerca e innovazione**” (Research and Innovation), a special exhibition showing the results of Italian research and technology, with the great design of the past and the best expressions of contemporary age. Dora Park, Stura Park and Valentino Park will be the green settings of “**Ambiente e alimentazione**” (Environment and food), to better understand the link between earth and its products and to think about the future of the environment, of energy, and of agricultural and food production. A series of **shows on the relationship between theatre and history** will be organized by Teatro Stabile Torino for the season 2009/2010 in collaboration with the “Italia 150” Committee to approach 2011 celebrations.

The visits to all the places which have contributed to the history and unification of Italy will be part of special holiday offers developed specifically for these celebrations: weekends, long weekends and one-week holidays, in addition to Piedmont’s traditional tourist offers. Some of the proposed tours will be: Turin of 19th century, a city tour (3 days); The idea of one Homeland, from Napoleon to “Statuto Albertino”, a tour of Piedmont (5 days); Vittorio Emanuele II from Turin to Rome, a tour in the three capitals of Italy - Turin, Florence and Rome (7 nights).

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