



New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation  
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[www.NewOrleansOnline.com](http://www.NewOrleansOnline.com) - The City of New Orleans' Official Tourism Web Site

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## FESTA D'ITALIA

### *Enjoy a Touch of Italy in the Crescent City*

New Orleans, LA – Hosted by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the annual Festa d'Italia is a three-day celebration recognizing the Italian contributions to New Orleans' unique culture. Usually held in late-February, the weekend event showcases a wide variety of Italian music, food, and fashion in a far-reaching festival that spreads traces of Italian culture throughout the city.

Along Canal Street, the flavors and fashions of Italy are featured by numerous retail outlets and restaurants. There is fun for the whole family as festival goers can enjoy Italian retail activities, delicious food, music, unique performances, and street art. Highlights include café-style outdoor dining at several Canal Street hotels and restaurants with menu specials that combine traditional Italian food and wine with New Orleans flair. There will also be Italian-inspired artwork on display and live entertainment by trios and quartets of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

“Festa d'Italia is to celebrate and honor the contributions of New Orleans' Italian-Americans and to honor them by showcasing the best of Italian products, music, food, and culture in the way that New Orleanians do it best—through a festival,” said Sharon Litwin, senior vice president of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Those with a taste for fashion can head to Saks Fifth Avenue and other retailers along Canal Street to discover their best Italian fashion selections for men and women including Armani Collezioni, Dolce & Gabbana, Etro, and Prada. Additional fabulous Italian accessories include Gucci, Salvatore Ferragamo and Fendi.

There is also a “Vesparade” of riders and their favorite Vespas, a line of Italian-made motor scooters that are becoming very popular in New Orleans. Be sure not to miss the Festa d'Italia Ball, an extraordinary black tie evening of fine dining, dancing, and a private Italian-themed concert by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. A seated dinner is usually accompanied with a silent auction of luxury gifts.

The Fest d'Italia takes place at numerous venues along Canal Street. For more information on the event, call the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra at (504) 523-6530 or visit [www.lpomusic.org](http://www.lpomusic.org).

The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation promotes the city as a leisure tourism destination throughout the year. Annually, NOTMC's marketing campaigns include strategic print, broadcast, and Internet advertising and public relations. Web sites: [www.NewOrleansOnline.com](http://www.NewOrleansOnline.com); [www.NewOrleansMuseums.com](http://www.NewOrleansMuseums.com); [www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com](http://www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com).

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