

Main Festivals and Events 2017

“Kandisky, the Parisian years (1933-1944)” exhibit

Grenoble Museum – Isère

Until January 29th

This exhibition dedicated to the famous painter after he moved to Paris in 1933 benefits of a partnership with the National Modern Art Museum and is a part of the 40th Pompidou Centre anniversary

www.museedegrenoble.fr

“Matisse, le laboratoire intérieur” exhibit

Lyon Fine Arts Museum – Rhône

Until March 6th

A huge retrospective dedicated to Henri Matisse (1869-1954), an artist famous for its vibrating and stunning paintings. Some of his drawings and sculptures will also be exhibited to reach about 250 master pieces of art from 1905 to 1952.

www.mba-lyon.fr

“François Morellet and his friends” exhibit

Chambéry Fine Arts Museum – Savoie Mont Blanc

Dec 3rd 2016 – April 2nd 2017

The museum honours this famous painter who left a strong mark on the Savoie institution.

<http://www.chambery.fr/206-musee-des-beaux-arts.htm>

The Great Odyssey

Savoie Mont-Blanc

7th – 18th January

Dog sled race from Avoriaz to Lanslebourg, during 11 days, more than 600 km of trails and with the participation of more than 400 dogs from 11 countries. Numerous places visited en route and lots of supplementary events surround this race.

www.grandeodysee.com / www.hautemaurienne.com

La Foulée Blanche

Autrans - Isère

11th – 15th January

A traditional cross-country skiing contest that takes place over distances of between five and 42 km, this is the most popular long distance Nordic ski race in France. Since it began in 1979 over 170,000 skiers have taken part.

www.lafouleeblanche.com

International Ice Sculpture Compétition

Valloire – Savoie Mont-Blanc

17th – 20th January

During 4 days about 50 French and international sculptors will take part in a magnificent competition which is followed by a sound and light show.

www.valloire.net

Megève WinterGolf

Megève – Savoie Mont-Blanc

19th – 22nd January

An age-old competition that is at the same time sporty and extremely fun! Golf, golf, golf no matter what the weather looks like!

www.megeve.com

SIRHA

Lyon

21st – 25th January

International trade show for Hotel and Catering industries, only open to professionals (SIRHA: Salon International de la Restauration, de l'Hôtellerie et de l'Alimentation). Over 2000 exhibitors coming from 120 countries, 600 new products and world previews, 6000 chefs and the elite from restaurants across the world. SIRHA also features international competitions, including the famous Bocuse d'Or. The show takes place every two years, on odd-numbered years.

<http://www.sirha.com/>

BIG (Biennale Internationale du Goût)

Lyon

21st – 25th January

General public version of SIRHA. Lots of gourmet events throughout the city with a beacon-event to be organised in the "soft travel" tunnel of Croix-Rousse: the Taste Tunnel with stalls, tastings, meals for 1400 covers cooked by 50 chefs.

<http://www.big-lyon.com/>

La Fête de l'alicouque (new olive oil festival)

Nyons – Drôme

4th – 5th February

A festival of new olive oil with a market and tastings.

www.nyonstourisme.com

Truffle Festival

Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux - Drôme

11th – 12th February

A day to learn everything you will ever need to know about truffles with a truffle market and tastings that attack all the senses!

www.ladrometourisme.com

The Pierra Menta – 32nd edition

Arèches-Beaufort – Savoie Mont-Blanc

8th – 11th March

The pride of Arèches-Beaufort since 1986, this international Alpine ski competition attracts the very best in the world in this specialist arena of skiing at over 10,000 m. www.areches-beaufort.com / www.pierramenta.com

Design Biennale

Saint-Etienne - Loire

March 9th – April 9th

The 10th edition of this big international exhibition on design located in different places if the city.

<http://www.citedudesign.com>

Venetian Carnival

Anney – Savoie Mont-Blanc

11th – 12th March

More than 250 masked participants, dressed in sumptuous gowns that blend with the beauty of the town, stroll through the streets of the 'Venice of the Alps', dance and regroup.

www.lac-annecy.com

Fantin-Latour "A fleur de Peau" exhibit

Musée de Grenoble - Isère

March 18th – June 18th

This exhibition has been created by the Reunion of National Museums (Grand Palais, Orsay Museum and Luxembourg Museum) and will be presented at Luxembourg Museum until February 2017. This major retrospective will be then exhibited at the Grenoble Museum as a big honour to this famous 19th century painter who was born in Grenoble in 1836.

www.museedegrenoble.fr

La Grande Braderie

Chambéry – Savoie Mont-Blanc

End of April

Big flea market in the streets of Chambéry which takes place at the end of April and also the last Sunday of September

www.chambery-tourisme.com

Nuits Sonores (Electro and Indie Music Festival)

Lyon - Rhône

24th – 28th May

15th edition for this event that is a real panorama of electronic music (techno, house, electronica...) held in different venues all over the town – in concert halls, galleries, cinemas, museums or architectural symbols of Lyon.

www.nuits-sonores.com

Fourvière Nights

Lyon – Rhône

June - July

Eclectic cultural and seasonal events that take place in the exceptional setting of the Roman theatre of Fourvière. www.nuitsdefourviere.fr

Festival of cinema animation

Anney – Savoie Mont-Blanc

12th – 17th June

This is the most important festival in the world dedicated to cinema animation where the very best in this area can be experienced. There is an official selection of more than 600 films, all sorts of themes and subjects are represented. www.annecy.org

Transhumance Festival

Die – Drôme

June 17th – 19th

Big festival celebrating the ascent to the mountain meadows, involving music events, local produce markets and of course the procession of herds of sheep in Die and at Rousset pass in the Vercors.

www.diois-tourisme.com

Pass'Portes du Soleil

Portes du Soleil – Savoy Mont-Blanc

End of June

14th edition of this MTB trek in both France and Switzerland to discover the Portes du Soleil domain and its mighty scenery. The Pass'Portes is a mixture of impressive and unforgettable moments, shared sporting memories and a load of laughs...it has to be done (or redone).

www.passportesdusoleil.com

Jazz in Vienne

Vienne - Isère

June 29th – July 13th

An annual rendez-vous for all the great names in jazz in the wonderful setting of the Roman amphitheatre plus "fringe" jazz events taking place all over the town.

www.jazzvienne.com

Couleurs d'amour (Love colours)

Bourg-en-Bresse – Ain

June through September

All summer long the Brou Monastery main façade is illuminated with thousands of colours... simply magical!

www.monastere-de-brou.fr

Les Rencontres Musicales d'Evian

Evian – Savoie Mont Blanc

July

The best of chamber music in original and gorgeous locations

www.rencontres-musicales-evian.fr

Mégavalanche

Alpe d'Huez – Isère

3rd – 9th July

Alpe d'Huez is a Mecca for downhill mountain bikers. The pinnacle of mountain biking, Megavalanche is the biggest downhill bike race in the world and is superlatives all the way, 1400 participants, 20 nations are represented, 6 days of training and racing with over 4000 metres of competitive descent.

www.megavalanche.com

Lavender Festival

Montélimar - Drôme

July 9th

Many different events take place including a Provençal market where all sorts of products based on lavender are on display.

www.montelimar-tourisme.com

Tour de France cycling race

Haute-Loire, Ardèche, Drôme, Isère, Ain, Savoie Mont Blanc

9th – 19th July in Auvergne Rhône-Alpes with 4 stages

July 9th: Nantua - Chambéry

July 16th: Laissac-Séverac l'Eglise – Le-Puy-en-Velay

July 18th: Le Puy-en-Velay - Romans-sur-Isère

July 19th La Mure – Serre Chevalier

This mythical race needs no introduction...

www.letour.fr

Musilac

Aix les Bains – Savoie Mont-Blanc

13th -15th July

This is the most important rock concert in the region of Rhône-Alpes with around 40 artists performing on four different stages on the shores of the largest natural lake in France.

www.musilac.com

Labeaume en Musiques

Labeaume – Ardèche

July – August

The southern Ardèche village of Labeaume, with its maze of steep cobbled streets, is the perfect venue for this musical event, offering a magical setting that is sometimes quite dry but always tantalising and moving... The programme features a mix of classical music, world music and other intriguing choices.

www.labeaume-festival.org

Lake Annecy Festival

Annecy – Savoie Mont-Blanc

5th August

A pyrotechnical extravaganza that takes place on Lake Annecy, with fireworks and illuminated cruises.

www.lac-annecy.com

Reblochon Festival

La Clusaz – Savoie Mont-Blanc

August 14th

A festival celebrating farming and crafts with a procession of floats, many different events such as bread-making, Savoyard specialties and folk dancing. It attracts more than 2000 spectators.

www.laclusaz.com

Mountain Guides Festival

Chamonix Mont-Blanc - Savoie Mont-Blanc

15th August

A traditional ancestral festival to honour the only day in the year that the Chamonix guides can take off. There is a religious component where their ice axes and ropes are blessed, plus a mountaineering display, fireworks and dancing.

www.fetedesguides.com

Navig'Aix Festival

Aix-les-Bains – Savoie Mont-Blanc

August

A large gathering of old dinghies including motorised and steam-powered, as well as racing boats and sailing boats from a bygone age, on the waters of Lake Bourget. There are never fewer than seven different nations taking part, with over 100 teams in total.

www.aixlesbains.com

International Triathlon of the Ardèche Gorges

Vallon Pont d'Arc – Ardèche

End of August

More than 500 participants are expected to take part to this edition to be staged in the beautiful countryside between St Martin d'Ardèche and Vallon Pont d'Arc.

www.ardeche-guide.com

Pyroconcerts

Talloires – Savoie Mont Blanc

End of August

Every summer, the beautiful Lake Annecy becomes a great set of show, with fireworks all along with music (jazz, pop/rock or classical music), dancers and acrobats.

www.talloires-lac-annecy.com

Festival Berlioz

La Côte Saine André – Isère

August

It represents one of the largest classical music festivals in France. It takes place every year at the end of August in La Côte Saint André where the famous romantic composer Hector Berlioz was born

www.festivalberlioz.com

Vinalia

Saint-Romain-en-Gal - Rhône

September

"Les Vinalia" of the Musée Gallo-romain happens every year during the grape harvest. During this historical pageant dedicated to wine, ancient foodstuffs and eating habits are explored in the course of various events (tastings, workshops, conferences...).

www.vienne-tourisme.com/

Evian Championship

Evian-les-Bains - Savoie Mont Blanc

15th – 18th September

Started in 1994 at the Royal Club this is one of the most important women's golf tournaments in the world and is part of the American and European ladies tour. The best players in the world compete against each other.

www.evianchampionship.com

Les Florales

Bourg-en-Bresse – Ain

15th – 24th September

It will be the 13th edition of this large presentation of flowers and landscapes creations, all displayed in fabulous settings

<http://www.ain-tourism.com/fiches/Bourg-en-Bresse/Exhibition/Flower-fair/217474>

Contemporary Art Biennale

Lyon – Rhône

20th September – 31st December

It is the 14th edition of the Lyon Contemporary Art Biennale. For the second part of the programme "Modern", the artistic director, Thierry Raspail will invite Emma Lavigne.

www.labiennaledelyon.com

Italian cinema Festival

Annecy – Savoie Mont-Blanc

September

Pre-release screenings of new Italian films with all the famous names of the Italian cinema

www.annecycinemaitalien.com

The Icarus Cup

Saint Hilaire du Touvet – Isère

September

The biggest Free Flight event in the world, near Grenoble. More than 8,000 daredevils parachute, wingsuit, glide, and hang-glide through the skies. Also equipment fair and International Film Festival.

www.coupe-icare.org

La Grande Braderie

Chambéry – Savoie Mont-Blanc

End of September

Big flea market in the streets of Chambéry which takes place at the end of April and also the last Sunday of September

www.chambery-tourisme.com

Ambronay Festival

Ambronay - Ain

September – October

This festival is dedicated to baroque and classical music and takes place in the Ambronay abbey where the acoustic system is exceptional.

<http://festival.ambronay.org/>

Retour des Alpagnes (return from the Alpine meadows)

Anney – Savoie Mont-Blanc

First week-end of October

A massive celebration of mountain life and its traditions, involving craftsmen, folk groups, processions of Alpine animals and local produce tastings. There is always a wonderful atmosphere that attracts visitors from all over the world.

www.lac-annecy.com

International Old Film Festival

Lyon - Rhône

October

The Institut Lumière organises this festival dedicated to the history of the cinema to attract film buffs and the wider public too and make them aware of the importance of what is known as the seventh art. Around 20 cultural films shown in 200 different locations all over greater Lyon, the festival attracts 70,000 visitors.

www.festival-lumiere.org

Les Castagnades (chestnut festival)

Ardèche

October – November

This is a series of events all in celebration of the local speciality – the chestnut. Visitors can meet local producers and farmers, craftsmen and others whose livelihood is based on the chestnut. The whole area is dedicated to this noble nut. There are chestnut markets, walks and hikes, shows, meals, roast chestnut stands and all types of celebrations.

www.castagnades.fr

Les Sarmntelles (Beaujolais Nouveau launch)

Beaujeu - Rhône

16th November

Every year, tasting of the new Beaujolais wine takes place on the third Thursday in November in the bars and restaurants of Lyon and the Beaujolais region. In Beaujeu, capital of the region, the most popular of all the celebrations takes place - les Sarmntelles. There is dancing and singing, a night of fun and frolics! At midnight the new barrels are opened and there is a torch procession through the streets of Beaujeu. Many parties, wine tastings and events are also taking place in all Beaujolais area, Lyon and surroundings
www.beaujolais.com

Light Festival

Lyon - Rhône

December 7th – 10th

On the evening of 8th December, the people of Lyon put candles in their windows as they have done for the last 150 years to celebrate light! There are artists from all disciplines who design the most ephemeral works around the subject of light.

www.lyon-france.com www.lumieres.lyon.fr

Ski and Boarder Week

Val Thorens – Savoie Mont Blanc

December

Concerts and boarding demonstrations take place, equipment testing too.

www.boarderweek.com

Criterium of the First Snow

Val d'Isère – Savoie Mont Blanc

December

Two weekends of show stopping skiing high in the mountains as first the men and then the ladies perform their freestyle ski trials on the mythical Face de Bellevarde.

www.valdisere.com

Festival of European Cinema

Les Arcs – Savoie Mont Blanc

Mid-December

Founded in 2009, this festival is dedicated to the independent European cinema. More than a hundred films are presented on different themes.

<http://lesarcs-filmfest.com>

Les Glorieuses de Bresse

Bourg-en-Bresse, Montrevel-en-Bresse, Pont-de-Vaux - Ain

December

In the month of December four towns in the Bresse region compete against each other in the 'Quatre Glorieuses' - a competition for producers of fine poultry – chicken, capons, turkey...judged by a jury

www.glorieusesdebresse.com