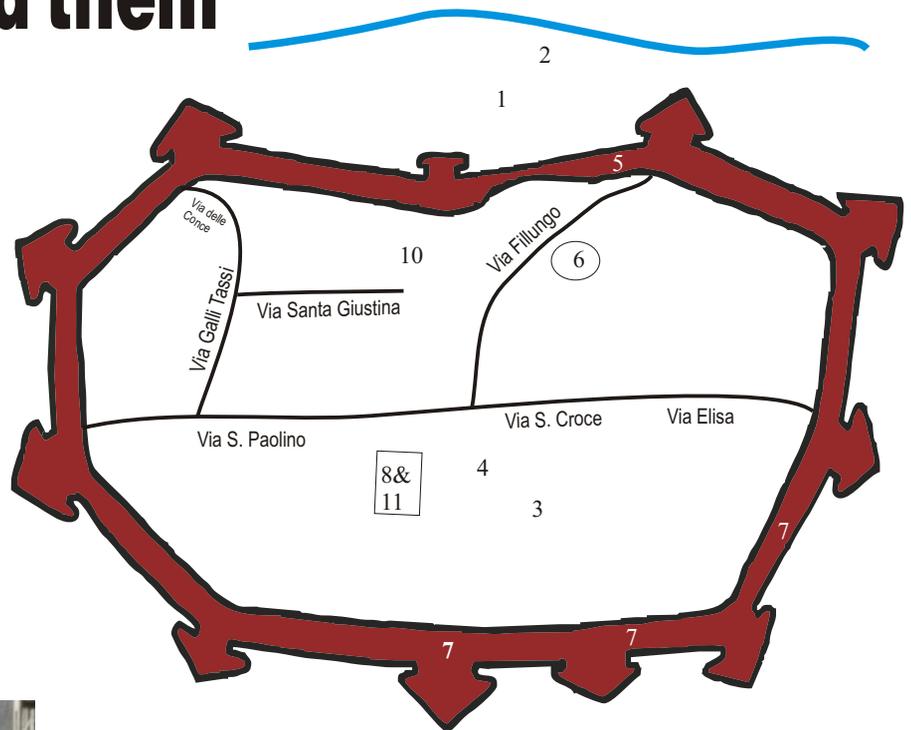


Lucca's Fantastic *Mercatini* and where to find them

The narrow and quiet streets of Lucca run through medieval buildings, although they can also open to reveal magnificent churches, squares and many other quaint places. It is especially in these streets and beautiful squares that in different times of the year Lucca hosts its picturesque *mercatini*. It could be useful then to have a small calendar in which all events are organised.



1) *Mercato Ambulante*. Each Wednesday and Saturday this market takes place outside the walls. Here you can find various items from clothes to vegetables and honey.



2) *Mercato Contadino*, each Saturday in the Foro Boario. This market based on local and biological products is offered only by local farmers, in respect of tradition and typical products.



3) *Mercato dell'Antiquariato*. The third weekend of each month this amazing antique market takes place in the old town, hosting antique dealers from Tuscany and also other regions of Italy. It is known for its amazing antique furniture placed in the streets to be admired. It's even possible to find jewellery dating back to the early 20th century. Take a look at the old photographs from the 19th century. This market really does sell pieces of history!

Weekly events

Monthly events



4) *Arti e Mestieri*, the last weekend of each month in piazza San Giusto. In this exhibition and market, local potters, painters, sculptors, and those who work with leather, glass, fabrics, and metals display their creations.

Annual events:



5) *Verdemura*, another exhibition-market, is all about gardening and living with respect for nature. It usually takes place during late March or early April (this year 6-7-8 April), on the walls of Lucca, and is said to announce the beginning of spring.



6) *Fiera di Santa Zita*. During the same period (27 of April) as the commemoration of Saint Zita (the patroness of housekeepers, bakers, and Lucca itself) this exhibition-market takes place in Piazza dell' Anfiteatro. Exhibitors from all over Tuscany show their amazing flowers and ornamental plants.



7) *Murabilia*, an exhibition market about gardening, takes place during the first weekend of September on the walls of Lucca, at Baluardo San Regolo and Baluardo la Libertà. This is one of the most important Italian exhibitions dedicated to plants, flowers and gardening.



8) *Mercatino del Settembre Lucchese*. 13 September is the most important date of the year for the citizenry of Lucca, when the sacred procession of the Volto Santo takes place. At this time is the Mercatino in Piazza Napoleone (and also in Borgo Giannotti), which lasts for a week.



9) *Lucca Comics and Games*, an international fair at the end of October/beginning of November, features markets, games, and exhibitions throughout town, with lots of people old and young from all over Europe dressed in wonderful costumes.



10) *Il Desco: Sapori e Saperi Lucchesi*, a market dedicated to Lucca and its local products, takes place during the last days of November and the beginning of December.



11) *Mercatino di Natale* Starting at the end of November and continuing until January, Piazza Napoleone hosts the holiday markets. This isn't very different from any other *mercato*. But usually there are charity stands and we all know that generosity makes you a happier person!

– by Letizia Vita, Liceo A. Vallisneri