



MEDIA RELEASE

The Norton Street Italian Festa 2023: A Celebration of Local Community and the Italian Spirit

On Sunday, 29 October more than 180,000 visitors are expected to fill Norton Street in Leichhardt, the heart of Sydney's 'Little Italy', for Italian food and entertainment, and enjoy being Italian for a day at the 38th annual Norton Street Italian Festa.

Festa is a special family and community day for people of all backgrounds. Italians say, "There are only two kinds of people - Italians and those that wish they were". All will be at Festa – entry is free. Of course, we welcome all cultures to share in this day of celebration.

From 10am to 5pm Norton Street will be completely transformed by colour, sound, and the cooking aromas of great Italian food, by street activities and on-stage entertainment celebrating all things Italian.

Food is a very important part of Festa, just as it is central to the Italian way of life. Norton Street will be lined with stalls offering all kinds of traditional Italian dishes and other foods, and there will be long communal tables where family groups can catch up to enjoy food and drinks together. One of the most popular Festa activities each year is the cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs who willingly share their special recipes – and samples of the food they have prepared.

Look out for special guest chefs and their recipes. Entertainment will be provided on the Co.As.It. Entertainment Stage and by strolling players throughout the day with an eclectic mix of music and dance from traditional to modern including top acts that will include Joe Avati and Cosima De Vito.

Festa aims to provide something of interest for everyone in the family. There will be a wide range of fashion and produce stalls, and possible Christmas gifts galore. For the children there will be rides, bungee jumping, pony rides, face painting, children's workshops, community stalls and more.

The Auto Festa display of classic brand name Italian cars and motorbikes in Pioneer Memorial Park will be a great attraction. They will have an opportunity to get close to, admire and fantasise about classic Italian brand names such as Alfa Romeo, Fiat, Abarth, Ducati, Vespa, Aprilia and Piaggio.

In the midst of all the Norton Street activity, The Royal Hotel will be a central gathering place. For a bird's eye street view of Festa, visitors can take a welcome break on The Royal's popular heritage balcony. This is a 'must be there' great family day out – to have some fun being Italian for a day. – and - there's prizes and competitions so lots to explore.

The Norton Street Italian Festa is a community event made possible through the support of our generous partners, especially the Inner West Council & Co.As.It. We are also generously supported by the Royal Hotel and Marketplace Leichhardt as Level 2 Sponsors.

Our Level 3 Sponsors include Norton Plaza, Schibello, Audio Connections, Crosstalk Records, Amatos, Panetta Mercato, Peterson House Hunter Valley and Leichhardt Bowlo. Festa is privileged to partner with some remarkable automotive brands, including McCarroll's Fiat & Alfa Romeo in Artarmon, Leichhardt Volkswagen and Canterbury MINI Garage. Our valued Media Partners include SBS, Rete Italia, La Fiamma and Homepix Photography.

<https://festa.net.au/>

<https://www.instagram.com/nortonstitalianfesta/>

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