



Orvieto is host to two internationally renowned events, as well as several important historic folkloristic and religious celebrations, in addition to a variety of periodic cultural and professional conferences.

Best known and in its 17th year is Umbria Winter Jazz, which begins a few days after Christmas and ends a few days after the New Year. This lively festival features concerts by some of the world's best and most sophisticated jazz artists, and brings a large music-loving public to the city.

Then there is the event, usually held in mid October, which is dear to the hearts of lovers of a relaxed, local way of life - and of good food. Orvieto some years ago was selected as a Slow Food city by the now internationally prominent Slow Food Association, which returns here periodically to celebrate its culinary values during a weekend festival.

Of the other, less internationally known festivals, one of the most colorful is the Corpus Domini, which celebrates a 14th century local religious miracle also with a beautiful procession through the town center to the Cathedral, in which hundreds of men, women and children, dressed in period costumes representing the various historically existing artisans' associations, participate. Then there is the Palombella festival, celebrating the Pentecost (50 days after Easter), as well as weekly open air markets, monthly antique fairs, recreational and folkloristic festivals (an example is the Palio dell'Oca, dating back to the 1300s, for which the main event, held in the Piazza del Popolo, is a contest on horseback with riders in Medieval costumes).

Finally, throughout the year there are many ad hoc private and publicly sponsored cultural events such as concerts, painting and photography exhibits and sporting meetings, which draw a dedicated audience from all over Italy. A very recent example is the Easter Monday concert, performed in Orvieto's beautiful Cathedral which, this year, featured Zubin Mehta directing Florence's Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, and which was subsequently televised via Mondovision.

And, again, there are courses available in music, visual arts, cooking, ceramic crafting, etc., as well as some university and graduate level seminars in selected Italy related academic subjects.

All these are housed in public historic buildings like the Palazzo del Popolo, the Mancinelli theater, the beautiful headquarters of the Fondazione CR di Orvieto (situated across the square from the church of San Francesco and from the city's library), the Orvieto Study Center (Orvieto Studi), or in conference facilities located in various other sites including several of the city's hotels.

