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Effetto Cinema Notte

Each year in April the Lucca Film Festival brings excitement to our town, often with stars of cinema present as well. This year the main event is a tribute to Kurt Hauer for Blade Runner (see the listing for 20 April in our What's On Music Calendar). What is really unique, though, is that on the same date many cafés and bars



(and a few restaurants) throughout town adopt a theme and provide amusement to their guests. From 8 pm to 2 am, they transform their spaces into film fantasy worlds.

There are five areas to explore: Corso Garibaldi will be the **Funny Area**, with Breakfast at Tiffany's, The Big Lebowski, Avengers, Ghostbusters, The Greatest Showman, Grease, Django, Pretty Woman, and Mary Poppins. The Piazza Grande/San Giusto areas will be dedicated to the **Future**, with Mad Max, Matrix, and Fahrenheit 451. Blade Runner, the main event, will take over Piazza San Michele. Piazza San Michele will also feature the **Italian** films Il Ciclone and Legend of the Pianist on the Ocean (by Tornatore). Fillungo, Michele Rosi, San Giorgio, Gonfalone, and Borgo Giannotti Streets will focus on **Series**: House of Cards, Happy Days, Narcos, Vikings, Orange is the new Black, Sex and the City, and The Walking Dead. San Francesco area will be **Scary**, with The Shining and Halloween.

More than 30 bars and restaurants have signed on to this event so far, so stroll around the Centro Storico and have fun! Maps of the city defined in terms of movie themes will be printed and distributed all over town soon after *Grapevine* goes to print.

Santa Zita Festival

This year, the colorful Festival of Santa Zita takes place on the weekend of 27 April. The Amphitheater and San Frediano Square will overflow with flowers and smells, giving us the chance to officially celebrate spring. The festival is dedicated to Santa Zita, who is celebrated as the patron saint of Lucca. Santa Zita's most famous miracle, very well known to the people of the Lucca region, took place when her master caught her stealing some of his bread to feed the poor. When she was asked to show him her basket, the bread turned into beautiful flowers.



Today, we still celebrate her kindness and generosity with this festival, which is also a great opportunity for everyone to get flowers and plants to decorate their terraces and small gardens. Don't forget to try the famous Santa Zita biscuits, which you can only find at the *Caffè Biscotteria Santa Zita* in San Frediano Square! If you've never experienced the Festival of Santa Zita, be ready to see Lucca as you haven't seen it before: it's literally blooming and bursting with life, smells, and colors of all kinds.

— by Maria Tsaousidou (photos by Michael Boyd)

