## The Good, the Bad,

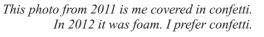
There are no sacred cows



Italian politicians

any of the floats at the Carnevale are critical of politics and politicians. I didn't know most of the politicians who came in for Criticism, but I have heard of the illustrious leader of Italy. He was singled out for attack in 2011, with a float dedicated to him. It was spectacular in its cruelty. He owns most of the media, making it difficult to criticise him there, so I guess this was a great outlet for those who disagree with his antics.

text and photos by Debra Kolkka





See Debra's blogs:

Bagni di Lucca and Beyond at bagnidilucca.wordpress.com and Bella Bagni di Lucca at www.bellabagnidilucca.com





Obama in the 2012 Carnival





## and the Ugly

at Viareggio's Carnival

his year our Carnival celebrates its 140th anniversary, opening on Saturday 2 February with parades, music, exhibitions, sports, fireworks, flag-tossers and the ribbon-cutting for the new Villaggio del Carnevale. Burlamacca, the symbol of Viareggio's carnival, will travel up and down Versilia before arriving at Piazza Mazzini. Masked figures from Viareggio's canoe and kayak association will arrive by canoe, along with other boats and floats, including dragons, reaching the port (Triangolino area) and entering Burlamacca canal at 3 pm.

Among the many musical groups are an Afro-brasilian drum group, Malatucada, a disco show by the group Sismica, and the Jam Session Crew dancers. At 6pm Piazza Mazzini will become an open theatre with Circo Nero, a team of 70 people including performers, buskers and street artists.

Each Sunday in February and on Mardi Gras (12 February), the enormous satirical floats will parade along the seaside Passeggiata, in front of the beautiful Liberty-style buildings. The floats, recalling the Renaissance trionfi made to celebrate war victories, have been made using the same basic techniques developed in 1925, with papier-machè figures on iron and wood scaffolding. In the evenings, the neighborhoods (rioni) become alive with all-night parties in the discos, restaurants and bars.

A feast for all our senses, appealing to all ages.

Tickets/info 0584 580755, www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com

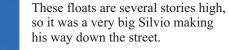
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- 1. Here comes Silvio
- 2. showered with confetti
- 3. getting closer and closer
- 4. his mouth opens wider
- 5. and he starts to come apart at the seams
- 6. he really falls apart
- 7. exposed
- 8. then he pulls himself together and moves on.
- 9. This gives an idea of the size of the float.

