

The Luminara of Lucca

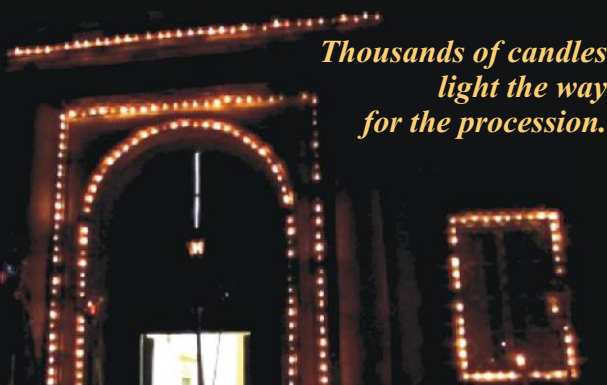


The crowds gather as night falls.

On the evening of 13th September the streets of Lucca are lined with candles for the Luminara of Santa Croce. The festival's origins have been lost, but it has an ancient feeling as the crowds gather in the beautiful cobblestone streets. As night falls the citizens of Lucca, wearing medieval costume, carrying religious articles and singing hymns, form a procession through the streets: from the Church of San Frediano to the Lucca Cathedral, where they pray to the *Volto Santo*, a wooden sculpture of Christ. According to legend, the sculptor was Nicodemus, a disciple of Jesus. It was lost some time in the 8th century, but found and carried back to the town in 742.

— from Debra Kolkka,
<https://bagnidilucca.wordpress.com>

The Church of San Michele is lit by candles.



Thousands of candles light the way for the procession.



Lucca looks even more beautiful than usual with its candle-lined streets and thousands of enthusiastic people participating.

