

# Italy national day

## Italy welcomes global visitors to EXPO Milano 2015

On June 2, Italy and its people celebrate the *Festa della Repubblica* (Republic Day), which is the country's national day.

The day commemorates the institutional referendum held under universal suffrage in 1946, following World War II and fall of fascism. The Italian people were called to the polls to decide on their form of government, and Italy became a republic in 1948.

What is mostly drawing the world's attention to Italy this year is the EXPO Milano 2015, which started on May 1 and runs through Oct. 31. The theme — Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life — aims at opening a dialogue among international players to discuss some of the main challenges the world is facing, including the problems of nutrition and the resources of our planet.

The exhibition is expected to welcome over 20 million people and allow them to experience a cultural journey, sampling food and traditions from all over the world.

The world exposition has only been held in Italy once before, back in 1906, and the city chosen to host the event back then was Milan, the capital of Lombardy and the second most-populous city in Italy. More than a century later, the universal exposition has once again returned to the city of Milan.

In addition to visiting the expo site, travelers should take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy the historic city, which is a major world fashion and design center and home to beautiful architecture and art

masterpieces.

The transparent lattice-like Expo Gate between Sforza Castle and Via Dante houses information booths and ticket offices in the heart of Milan. Flags of participating expo countries are flying on Via Dante as visitors take a stroll down to Milan's Duomo. The cathedral's opening hours have been extended during the six months of the expo and there are also many events and artwork throughout the city during the expo.

The following are just some of the many attractions.

### "Leonardo 1452-1519"

One of the must-see exhibitions if you're in the city is "Leonardo 1452-1519," the largest exhibition dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci ever organized in Italy. Taking place in Palazzo Reale through July 19, the exhibition highlights the great thinker's talent at combining art and technology.

Together with major paintings, including "St. John the Baptist," "The Annunciation" and "La Belle Ferronniere," which has been just restored, the event will present over 100 original drawings by Leonardo as well as manuscripts, sculptures, codes, incunabula and books published in the 16th century. All the works have come from major international museums and libraries and private collections.

Among the treats of the exhibition there will be also a full-scale video reproduction of "The Last Supper," enriched with descriptive panels and interactive stations featuring in-



The La Scala opera house will be open through Oct. 31 this year.  
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formation on the piece and its restoration.

### La Scala

Another attraction, especially for opera lovers, is La Scala. For the first time in its history, dating back to 1778, the prestigious opera house will be open continuously through Oct. 31, with an exceptional program

of the world's most-renowned operas and ballets.

Giuliano Pisapia, Milan's mayor and president of the Teatro alla Scala Foundation, offered this message on the official website:

"La Scala represents the joy, humanity and thrill of great music throughout the world. People from every continent

will come and visit it in the months of expo 2015.

In a specially extended season, Milan is opening its treasure house of universal music to all the nations of the earth, in order to give them all an incomparable emotion.

"More than one hundred and thirty performances between May and October: almost every day, even during August, Milan will present its visitors from every country with an opera, a concert, a recital or a ballet. This unforgettable gift will make each one of them a witness to our city and her unparalleled style. It is often said that culture is our country's greatest resource. La Scala and Milan believe it; they invest in it, produce it and create beauty.

"La Scala's music strengthens expo's message: faith in mankind, in the ability to overcome selfishness and promote unobstructed development, as open and free as music."

Milan, which has captured the interest of the world with its dynamism, creativity and innovation, is opening its doors to the world.

## Exhibitions showcase the diversity of Italian art

Italy has been the center of history, culture and art since antiquity and there are a variety of Italian cultural events in Japan every year.

The following are some of the major exhibitions scheduled for the latter part of 2015:

**"Money and Beauty: Botticelli and the Renaissance in Florence"** at Bunkamura the Museum in Tokyo (through June 28) mainly presents masterpieces of Botticelli (1445-1510), who was favored by the Medici, major patrons, as well as leading bankers and financiers. Many works highlight the relation between the development of the modern banking system in Italy and the birth of Renaissance art.

**"Leonardo da Vinci and The Battle of Anghiari: The Mystery of Tavola Doria"** at Tokyo Fuji Art Museum (through Aug. 9 and at The Museum of Kyoto from Aug. 22 to Nov. 23) examines the mystery of Leonardo da Vinci's lost painting "The Battle of Anghiari," one of the largest frescos he ever undertook and a project that is ranked among the most ambitious works in the history of Italian Renaissance art.

**"The Art of Bvlgari: 130 years of Italian Masterpieces"** will be held from Sept. 8 to Nov. 29 at the Tokyo National Museum in Ueno, Tokyo.

A photo exhibition of **Fosco Maraini** will be held from June 16 through 30 at the Italian Institute of Culture in Tokyo.

Italian sculptor **Cecco Bonanotte**, a premium imperial laureate in 2012, will hold an exhibition of his new works dedicated to



The fresco "Annunciation" (1481) by Sandro Botticelli is on display at Bunkamura the Museum in Tokyo through June 28.

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traditional Japanese culture from Oct 8 to 31 at the Italian Institute of Culture in Tokyo.

Some recommendation outside of Tokyo include **"Bottles of Perfume from the 18th to 20th Centuries,"** which will run through Nov. 23 at the Venetian Glass Museum in Hakone, Kanagawa Prefecture, and a **"Giorgio Morandi"** exhibition will be held from Dec. 8 to Feb. 14, 2016 at the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art before coming to Tokyo. A solo exhibition of Giorgio Morandi (1890-1964), a leading 20th-century Italian painter, is being held in Japan for the first time in 17 years.

Launched in 2007, the "Italy in Japan" program has been held every other year to promote Italian culture in Japan. In 2016, the Italian Embassy — in collaboration with other Italian and Japanese institutions — will organize a special edition in 2016 to coincide with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Italy-Japan diplomatic relations.

**Congratulations**  
**on the 69th Anniversary**  
**of the Proclamation**  
**of the Republic of Italy**



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The installation "Third Paradise — The Reinstated Apple" that represents the detachment of humankind from nature was on display in Milan until May 18. HIROKO INOUE

*Congratulations on the Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Italy*



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