

# The Palio

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The Palio is a folk event held in October in Arsago Seprio, to preserve the old historical and cultural traditions of the community. The Palio contest include some days of ceremonies and competitions among the four districts of the town.

The opening ceremony might take place on the churchyard of Saint Vittore Cathedral or in the winning district of the previous year. Here the Master of the Palio is chosen by the mayor for public merits. The Master is responsible for the smooth running of the Palio and for the award ceremony. The flag wavers carry the banner to the church for the blessing and then they march in a street parade where every district evokes a different historical period.

After the street parade, people make a big party with live entertainment, music and local food.

The first Sunday after the opening ceremony, a special mess is celebrated in the Cathedral.

The following week, the Palio games start. About 250 young people take part to them. Even if they fight against each other, they always stick to values such as friendship, reciprocal respect, fairness, inclusion.

In the closing ceremony, the winning district gets the banner and keeps it until the next contest, whereas the lowest graded become a wooden spoon as a consolation prize.