

Ottawa's Italian Festival scores big this year

From Ferraris to soccer acrobatics **Preston Street BIA Italian Festival** offers 1.3 kilometres of fine dining, rare automobiles, and fun for the entire family this Father's Day weekend.

The weekend-long street party begins on Friday, June 14 with **The Italian Festival's** Ferrari Show n Shine at 6 p.m. The event is presented by the Ottawa Ferrari Club and will run both Friday and Saturday evenings. It is your chance to see everything from classic racing legends, to modern supercars. On Saturday morning, these sleek luxury machines will join a fleet of Italian cars for the annual **Italian Car Parade**. Check out some of the finest examples of Italian automotive design, from the tiny Fiat to the fierce Lamborghini. Following the parade, the Ottawa Ferrari Club will take their machines onto a **closed course on Carling Avenue** where you will be able to see, hear and feel the true power of these sports cars.

Something new - World famous **SWRL Freestyle Soccer Jugglers** will make their Ottawa debut at the festival, performing juggling and agility tricks with a soccer ball – A must see!

Don't miss out on watching some of the top racers in the country participate in Ottawa's longest running bike race. The 47th annual **Preston Criterium Bike Race** takes place on Sunday, June 16. This year **Gladstone Hill** will make a come back with racers barreling down the hill into a fast right on Preston Street. This race is like no other. Kid races and a block party round out this exhilarating event.

And what is an Italian Festival without a quick trip to the homeland? Colony VR is offering **free virtual reality demos** to fly you off on an Italian adventure all while keeping your feet firmly planted on Preston Street. Have you ever wondered what **Michelangelo's David** looks like up close? Or have you always wanted to visit some of Italy's famous attractions such as the Colosseum, the Pantheon and the Leaning Tower of Pisa? **Colony VR** fully immersive VR headsets promise to transport you to Italy's Galleria Dell'Accademia Di Firenze, where you will find the 17-foot marble statue of David or take you on a street tour of some of **Italy's most beautiful cities**. You really have to try it to believe it.

Finally, because it's a weekend to celebrate Dad, the festival offers families a number of options to spend time together. Whether its food at Dad's favourite restaurant, a good stretch at **Family Yoga**, presented by Yogatown, or the opportunity to help create a new mural with artist Brenda Dunn and her **Living Colouring Book** – there will be plenty to see and do. You might even catch a **flash mob** or two.

Throughout the weekend, Little Italy will be the place to be.

Notable events:

Friday, June 14

- Ottawa Ferrari Club Show n Shine – Friday and Saturday 6 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, June 15

- SWRL Freestyle Soccer Jugglers - performances from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Italian Car Parade – Fiats, Lancias, Alfa Romeos, Ferraris and Lamborghinis will parade along Preston Street begins at 1:30 p.m.
- Ferrari Demo Zone – A small oval set up on Carling Avenue where a Ferrari can rev their engines to 100 kilometres an hour from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 16

- Family Yoga – Father’s Day event, starts at 10 a.m.
- Living Colouring Book – help create a new mural, from 4 to 8 p.m.

For the full schedule of events, please visit prestonstreet.com.

What: Preston Street BIA’s Italian Festival

Where: Preston Street, from Carling to Somerset – various locations throughout Little Italy

When: June 14, 6 to 10 p.m., all day June 15 and 16

More Info: Lori Mellor, executive director, 613-231-2815

Street closures – see map attached

<https://www.fcaottawa.com/festival-info>

<https://www.facebook.com/bikeraceottawa/>