

The most important celebration in Catania

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The Feast of Saint Agatha, the most celebration
in the city of Catania, takes place every year
from the 3rd to the 5th of February.*

*The festival is renowned as one of the most
typical religious festivities in Europe and
welcomes thousands of tourists.*

*The celebration is divided into two parts: the
first one takes place in February and recalls the
Saint Patroness' martyrdom, while the second,
held on 17th of August, reminds the return of her
mortal remains to the city of Catania from
Constantinople in 1126.*



The days of the celebration

A large, colorful fireworks display is shown at night, exploding in the sky over a city skyline. The fireworks are in shades of red, blue, green, yellow, and white. The city lights are visible in the background, and the water in the foreground reflects the lights.

The days of the celebration
Celebration begins in the morning of February 3rd, the carriages of the Senate go around the city
centre collecting candles and flowers from the citizens to donate to Saint Agatha. In the evening, a
fireworks show is displayed in Duomo Square where thousands of people attend the performance.



The “candelore” of Saint Agatha.



The “candelore” of Saint Agatha

The 12 “candelore” , or wooden artwork, before the beginning of the celebration of the patron saint, wander around the city before placing in an orderly procession. People in Catania have always been close to their patroness, in fact they actively participate in the Agatina festival. The candelore were made in the 14th century, representing associations of various categories of workers, or guilds. They heavy up to 900 kg and they are carried on the shoulders by 4 to 12 men. The different Candelore are: Rinoti (a suburb in Catania), Ortofloricoltori (Florists), Pescivendoli (Fishermen), Fruttivendoli (Greengrocers), Macellai (Butchers), Pastai (Pasta makers), Pizzicagnoli (Grocers), Vinaioli (Winemakers), Panettieri (Bakers) and Villaggio Sant’Agata (a suburb in Catania).

