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Between rice fields and Jazz: Novara and the cross-border region tell their story through SUSTAINEVENTS

NovaraJazz brings the city to life with outstanding contemporary jazz from 29 May to 7 June 2026, featuring international artists, leading Italian performers and emerging voices from the European scene

Baveno, 12 May 2026 – **A natural oasis of reflecting waters in the rice-growing** lands between the Sesia and Agogna rivers, across the municipalities of Novara, Biandrate, Casalbeltrame, San Nazzaro Sesia, Casalvolone and Casalino, **offers visitors the opportunity to cycle through the landscape of rice fields** and irrigation canals of the Novara plain, where the aromatic black rice varieties Venere and Artemide were first developed.

Starting from Casalbeltrame, the [route “In the Lands of Rice”](#), one of many available in this area rich in opportunities for nature-based tourism, follows secondary roads that are almost entirely flat, covering approximately 48 km (Route 1) or 50 km in the alternative version, including 16 km of well-compacted unpaved track. The first itinerary leads to the Sanctuary of Madonna della Preiera, while the alternative route allows visitors to explore the Butterfly Garden, an ideal destination for butterfly watching.

From rice fields and slow tourism routes, the journey continues into the heart of **Novara**, where the territory becomes a cultural and musical experience. The international **NovaraJazz** Festival, now in its 23rd edition, will enliven the city over two weekends, **from 29 May to 7 June 2026**, with Antonelli-themed itineraries, the Broletto transformed into the Main Stage, new voices, Street Jazz performances and international guests.

Among them is **Julie Campiche**, a jazz harpist well known on the Swiss and wider European scene, who will appear in **“Swiss Focus” on Saturday 30 May** at Maggiora – Casa Antonelli at 6.00 pm. **Laura Jurd**, highly regarded within the contemporary UK jazz scene, will perform on Thursday **4 June** in **“Rites & Revelations”** at the Salone dell’Arengo of the Broletto at 9.15 pm. On Sunday **7 June**, **Claude Tchamitchian**, a leading figure in contemporary European jazz, will take centre stage twice: in the morning with **“Double Bass Solo”** at the **Giannoni Gallery** at 11.30 am, and again in the afternoon alongside **Naïssam Jalal**, the Franco-Syrian flautist, composer and singer, at the Church of Carmine at 4.00 pm.

For the Italian jazz scene **Gianni Coscia**, accordionist and historic figure of Italian jazz, will perform **“Accordion Solo”** on Thursday **4 June** at the Salone d’Onore of the Novara Court (Palazzo Cacciapiatti Fossati) at 6.30 pm. Saturday **6 June** will feature several highlights, including **Rita Marcotulli**, internationally acclaimed pianist also renowned for the soundtrack of the film *Basilicata Coast to Coast*, who will perform **“Piano Solo”** at Palazzo Bellini at 4.00

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pm. Later that evening, **Fabrizio Bosso**, one of Italy's best-known jazz trumpeters and an artist active beyond the boundaries of pure jazz, will headline “**Spiritual Trio – Welcome Back**” at the Broletto at 11.00 pm. The full programme is available [here](#).

A festival to experience, not simply to listen to. For more than 22 years, NovaraJazz has welcomed leading international artists alongside outstanding Italian performers. The festival has premiered numerous productions and hosted both European and Italian debuts which, thanks to their launch at NovaraJazz, subsequently went on to tour major festivals and prestigious concert series.

Music intertwines with heritage, guiding visitors through the city's symbolic landmarks. Among them is the **Basilica of San Gaudenzio**, built between 1577 and 1690 to a design by Pellegrino Tibaldi and completed in the nineteenth century with **Alessandro Antonelli's celebrated dome**. Standing 121 metres high and serving as the symbol of Novara, the **dome** is considered a masterpiece of masonry architecture, dominating the skyline with breathtaking views. More information is available [here](#). Information on climbing the dome is available [here](#).

Between Italy and Switzerland, Alto Piemonte, Varese and Canton Ticino present themselves as a single destination, where landscape, culture and sustainable mobility come together in an experience to be enjoyed with respect for places and communities. Guiding this vision is **SUSTAINEVENTS**.

The region continues to establish itself as a centre of excellence for sustainable tourism, combining tradition and innovation while offering experiences that blend sport, relaxation and discovery.

SUSTAINEVENTS is a project funded under the Interreg VI-A Italy–Switzerland 2021–2027 Cross-Border Cooperation Programme. The project aims to build a replicable model for designing and implementing events with a focus on environmental sustainability (building on previous projects for the certification of cultural/sports events), inclusion and governance, in order to activate innovative processes and enhance the competitive socio-economic fabric of the project's cross-border area. CCIAA Monte Rosa Laghi Alto Piemonte is the lead partner for the Italian side. The Swiss lead partner is IAS Register AG. The project partners include: Istud srl, CCIAA Varese, Distretto Turistico dei Laghi, ATL Terre dell'Alto Piemonte, Fondazione Tones on the Stones and Aiep - Avventure in Elicottero Prodotti.

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