

Festivals

10 of Europe's best alternative carnivals

It's carnival season in Europe in the lead up to Mardi Gras. We round-up some of the best, beyond the most famous, from festivals dating back centuries to epic parties in Cádiz, Basel and Sicily



Piedmont, Italy



 Photograph: Getty Images



While [Spain has its tomato-throwing](#), Italy's biggest food fight takes place in the town of Ivrea, and involves oranges - lots of them. They are the weapon of choice in a re-enactment of a battle that took place between locals and Napoleonic troops in the early 19th century. The citrusy tussle is followed by a parade of floats and music groups.

● *Orange throwing 2pm, 26 February; other festivities take place on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays throughout February, storicocarnevaleivrea.it*