A stylized illustration featuring several black horses with flowing yellow and white manes and tails, galloping across a light pink background. In the foreground, numerous black silhouettes of hands are raised, reaching towards the horses. In the top right corner, there is a small icon of a wine glass filled with red liquid, positioned next to a red abstract shape.

Palio pocket guide

The Palio of Siena

The Palio is a four-day festival culminating in a race held on July 2 and August 16 each year in honor of Our Lady of Provenzano and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, respectively. Ten of the seventeen contrade, or districts, into which the city is divided, participate. Each Contrada is assigned a horse from a shortlist of selected ones by drawing lots. The Palio can also be won by a horse "scosso", i.e. without a jockey.



The 17 Contrade



Aquila



Bruco



Chiocciola



Civetta



Drago



Giraffa



Istrice



Leocorno



Lupa



Nicchio



Oca



Onda



Pantera



Selva



Tartuca



Torre



Valdimontone



Drawing

No less than 20 days before the Palio, the drawing takes place to determine which three Contrade will run with the seven “rightful” ones, i.e., those that did not run in the previous year’s Palio on the same date. The July 2 drawing takes place on the last Sunday in May, and the August 16 drawing takes place on the first Sunday after the July Palio.

Preliminary checks

A team of professional veterinarians carries out these visits in June for the July 2 Palio and in early August for the August 16 Palio. The veterinarians carefully check the condition of the horses and their suitability for the race.

Preparation of the square

Approximately fifteen days before the Palio, the crossings and gates are assembled. After that, the Palco dei Capitani and the Palco dei Priori are assembled. Then, the mattresses, the Municipal Stage in front of Palazzo Berlinghieri, and the Costarella parapets are assembled. Simultaneously, tuff is laid in the Entrone and Via del Porrione, and the track is buried with tuff.

June 27-28: Track preparation takes place at around 4:30 a.m. for “Regulated Trials.” The tuff is wetted according to a timed schedule on practice days as well, in two shifts: one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The day before the “Tratta”, the horse draw, the stage and the Verrocchio are set up for the allocation. On the day of the Tratta, after the draw is over, the stage for the draw is dismantled, and the stage for the Compare (figurants of the Historical Procession) is assembled.





Drappellone

It represents the prize awarded to the winning Contrada in the July 2 and August 16 races. A few days before the Palio, the mayor of Siena solemnly presents it in the Cortile del Podestà of the Municipal Palace.

Order at the starting line

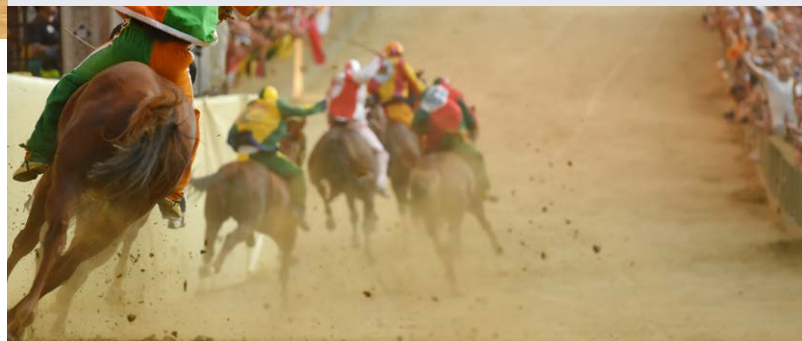
TRIALS:

During trial runs, the contrade take their places inside the ropes in the following traditional order:

- **FIRST TRIAL:** The order in which the Contrade were drawn by lot to participate in the Palio.
- **SECOND TRIAL:** The order of the first trial is reversed.
- **THIRD PROOF:** The order in which the Contrade were drawn to be assigned horses.
- **FOURTH TRIAL:** The order of the third trial reversed.
- **FIFTH TRIAL (PROVA GENERALE):** The order in which the horses proceed to their assignment.
- **SIXTH TRIAL (PROVACCIA):** The order of the fifth trial reversed.

PALIO

On the Judges' Stage, the three Deputies of the Festival prepare the envelope containing the order of entry to the ropes. This order is established by a drawing of lots and delivered to the Mossiere by a Municipal Police officer a few moments before the race.



JULY PALIO

Check out these key events:

27-28 JUNE (OR 28 JUNE ONLY)

5.30-7.30 AM

Official trial runs to help jockeys and horses become familiar with the 'tuofo' and the atmosphere of the Piazza.

29 JUNE

9.00 AM | Tratta (regulated trials) Jockeys wear vests and caps bearing the colors of the municipality and try out the horses.

FOLLOWED BY | The horse draw: the ten horses, chosen by the Captains, are assigned by lot to the ten Contrade.

TIMES FOR THE TRIAL RACES: 29 JUNE-2 JULY

Morning trials: 30 June and 1-2 July

8.20 AM Pre-warning

8.40 AM Start of clearing the track

9.00 AM Horses enter the square from the Cortile del Podestà

Afternoon trials: 29-30 June and 1 July

6.45 PM Pre-warning

7.15 PM Start of clearing the track

7.45 PM Horses enter the square from the Cortile del Podestà



TIMES FOR THE PALIO: 2 JULY

3.30 PM First **pre-warning**

4.00 PM Second **pre-warning**

4.40 PM Start of clearing the track

5.20 PM Entrance of the Historical Procession into Piazza del Campo

7.30 PM Horses enter the square from the Cortile del Podestà

All times are marked by the bursting of a mortar.

From **4.30 P.M.** to **6.30 P.M.**, access to the piazza is only permitted from Dupré Street up to the maximum capacity. It is possible to access the boxes by **5 P.M.**



AUGUST PALIO

Check out these key events:

11-12 AUGUST (OR 12 AUGUST ONLY)

6.00-8.00 AM

Official trial runs to help jockeys and horses become familiar with the 'tufo' and the atmosphere of the Piazza.

13 AUGUST

9.00 AM | Tratta (regulated trials) Jockeys wear vests and caps bearing the colors of the municipality and try out the horses.

FOLLOWED BY | The horse draw: the ten horses, chosen by the Captains, are assigned by lot to the ten Contrade.

TIMES FOR THE TRIAL RACES: 13 AUGUST-16 AUGUST Morning trials:

14-15-16 August

8.20 AM Pre-warning

8.40 AM Start of clearing the track

9.00 AM Horses enter the square from the Cortile del Podestà

Afternoon trials: 13-14-15 August

6.15 PM Pre-warning

6.45 PM Start of clearing the track

7.15 PM Horses enter the square from the Cortile del Podestà



TIMES FOR THE PALIO: 16 AUGUST

2.50 PM First pre-warning

3.20 PM Second pre-warning

4.10 PM Start of clearing the track

4.50 PM Entrance of the Historical Procession into Piazza del Campo

7 PM Horses enter the square from the Cortile del Podestà

All times are marked by the bursting of a mortar.

From **4.00 P.M.** to **6.00 P.M.**, access to the piazza is only permitted from Dupré Street up to the maximum capacity. It is possible to access the boxes by **4.30 P.M.**



Access to the square

Access to the square is marked by the closing of the gates in a clockwise direction, beginning at Via Dupré and ending at Via di Salicotto. On Palio day only, the Via Dupré entrance reopens after the historical parade enters the piazza and remains open until the carroccio arrives in front of the Palco delle Comparsa in front of the Palazzo Pubblico.

Restrictions:

(Valid in the Piazza del Campo on the day of the Palio):

- Children under 10 years of age are not allowed inside the Piazza, even if they are accompanied by adults.
- Dogs are not allowed in.
- Introduction of chairs, stools, tables, benches, and similar items is prohibited.
- No bottles, glass, metal containers, or alcohol allowed.
- Standing on pillars to watch rehearsals or the Palio is prohibited;
- No transit or lingering around the Verrocchio, behind the Stage of Comparsa (the costumed participants in the historical pageant) stage, behind the St. Martin's mats, under the stages, inside the Fonte Gaia fence, or at the Casato outlet.

Public toilets

To find out where they are located in the city, visit:
www.sigericospa.it/bagni-pubblici.



In case of rain?

PALIO: If it rains during the Historical Procession parade or before the race, making the track impassable or dangerous, the mayor may postpone the Palio until the next day. This decision is made after consulting the technical offices, the deputies of the festival, and the captains of the contrade participating in the race. If the bad weather continues, the Palio may be postponed beyond the next day. This decision will be communicated by displaying a green flag in one of the triforiums of the Municipal Palace.

TRIALS: The mayor may delay or cancel the trial if the track becomes impracticable or dangerous, after hearing the non-binding opinion of the Director of the Municipal Technical Office and the Festival Deputies. The same can happen for other reasons of force majeure. In case of delay, a white flag will be displayed in one of the trifores of the Municipal Palace, and in case of cancellation, a green flag will be displayed.



TICKETS

PIAZZA IL CAMPO

Trial runs and the Palio in July and August

Admission to the Piazza is free.

GRANDSTANDS, BALCONIES, OR WINDOWS:

Trial runs and the Palio in July and August.

For information and to purchase tickets from private owners, email palchi.paliodisiena@gmail.com.

MUNICIPAL GRANDSTANDS

Trial runs in July and August

Tickets for the municipal grandstands, located in front of Palazzo Berlinghieri, are sold in Piazza del Campo, on the Via del Casato curve.

Each person may purchase a maximum of four tickets for the following events:

HORSES DRAW (TRATTA):

June 29 and August 13. Ticket sales start at 7:30 a.m.

EVENING TRIAL RUNS:

June 29–30 and August 13–14: Ticket sales start at 5:30 p.m.

MORNING TRIAL RUNS:

June 30 and July 1–2, as well as August 14–15–16: Ticket sales start at 8:15 a.m.

GENERAL TRIAL RUN (PROVA GENERALE):

July 1 (evening): Tickets not for sale

August 15 (evening): Tickets not for sale



Info

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CONSORZIO PER LA TUTELA DEL PALIO DI SIENA



MAGISTRATO
DELLE CONTRADE

*We would like to express our gratitude to the
photographers for granting us permission to
use their photos free of charge for
the official publications about the Palio
of Siena by the Municipality*