

This year's Festa Italiana Will be More Family-Friendly than Ever!

An extravaganza of wonderful Italian food, music, fun and fireworks has made Milwaukee's Festa Italiana, presented by U. S. Cellular July 15-18, the largest Italian-American festival in America and - without question - Milwaukee's favorite family festival.

A week before the festival, a team of five international champion sand sculptors will start turning 200 tons of sand into an 18-foot Pinocchio perched high atop the Roman Coliseum, surrounded by vignettes of eight of Italy's most popular tourist attractions. 18 major



amusement rides will be set up on the grounds to offer absolutely free rides for kids and grown-ups, day and night.

Many of Festa's 40 Italian food vendors will be offering children's portions, and each afternoon at 5:30, two eight-foot puppets depicting Pinocchio and the famous Italian mouse, Topo Gigio, will lead a lively children's parade through the grounds.

But Festa is also for grown-ups! This year's highlights will be two concerts at the Marcus Amphitheater adjoining the grounds. Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons will take the stage at 6:30

pm, Sunday, July 18th, and world-renowned jazz trumpeter Chris Botti serenades you on Friday, July 16th at 7:30 p.m. These concerts require a separate ticket only available through Ticketmaster outlets and Ticketmaster.com, and include free admission to Festa the entire day of the concert.



Six additional stages throughout the festival grounds feature music and entertainment day and night. An Italian cooking showcase features top area chef demonstrations, tips and tastings, with an appearance by celebrity chef, Nick Stellino of the Food network.

Festa Italiana always ends each day at 10:15 p.m. with its famous



signature spectacle of Italian-style fireworks over Lake Michigan.

Gate admission this year remains at \$12, but the cost of advance tickets has been lowered to only \$9, a 25% savings. Advance tickets are available at **Festaitaliana.com**, along with information about food vendors, entertainers and special free admission offers.