



## THE MOMENT | ALBA TRUFFLE FAIR | *PIEDMONT, ITALY*

As hints of autumn creep over the vine-striped hills of Piedmont, in northwestern Italy, farmers ready themselves: truffle season has begun. For 85 years, gastronomes have made their way to the tiny, historic town of Alba for the International White Truffle Fair, a monthlong celebration from October to mid-November that honors the capital of *tartufi bianchi*. On weekends, Alba's central courtyard brims with vendors peddling truffle oil, honey, and cheese; outdoor cafés promoting mushroom-centric menus; and jovial attendees tasting it all. Annual fair highlights include an eye-catching medieval parade, a rousing donkey race between competing neighborhoods, and, for true fanatics, an invitation-only auction with specimens that can fetch tens of thousands of euros. It's a scene to behold, and a chance to savor one of fall's richest flavors. [fieradeltartufo.org](http://fieradeltartufo.org). — L.O.

CHRISTOPHER PILLITZ