



The Municipality of Svishtov, the Historical Museum of Svishtov and the Council of Tourism of Svishtov

have the pleasure to invite you to the 15th

Antique Heritage Festival

Eagle on the Danube

Svishtov, Novae, 8-10 June 2018

The 15th Antique Heritage Festival "Eagle on the Danube" will be held on 7th through 9th of June 2019 with the participation of more than 220 reenactors from Italy, Romania, and Bulgaria. Among the groups that will take part in the 15th Antique Heritage Festival are Europe's most influential historical reenactment group **Gruppo Storico Romano** from Rome, Italy and the Romanian reenactment groups **Garda Apulum - Legio XIII Gemina**, **Danais Association**, **Geto-Dacians from Moldova** and **Historia Renascita**. The virtuoso riders of **Bagatur** and the unique fiery performance of the **Phoenix Fire Show** – Kozloduy will once again team with the hosts – the reenactors from Svishtov's **Legio I Italic** – to present some of the best Bulgarian reenactments in Svishtov. The programme includes the traditional reenactment of a battle between Romans and Barbarians with the participation of 200 reenactors, the antique dances of **Nimfele Dace**, masterful horse riding demonstrations, and the procession along the streets of Svishtov as well as many new events.

For the first time in the festival, **THE COLOSSEUM Big Gladiator Games** will be held! Instead of individual demonstrations, all gladiators will come together in a unique race for the love of the audience and the most attractive duel and gladiator. The start of the Gladiator Games will give the dramatic scene "**The Two Gladiatrici**" performed by Gruppo Storico Romano. The scene describes the night before the battle between the two most famous Roman Gladiatrix – women gladiators, whose names can still be seen on the reliefs of the ancient remains of the Colosseum.

In the program we will see the unique reconstructed Roman music of **Histriones**, the antique dances of Nimfele Dace and Pagane, the "**One day at Piso's house**" at **Gruppo Storico Romano**. On stage, Emperor Nero is invited by his friend to another breeze, but this time, not everything ends as it started ...

The decisive big battle on Saturday night will challenge all the participants - Romans and barbarians! The Roman army will use its artillery and unrivaled military tactics to subjugate the hostile tribes, and the result will be unclear until the end!



A new focus in the program will be the ateliers and workshops for the young fans of history. On Saturday and Sunday, they will work continuously on the festival ground to demonstrate, but also to give anyone who likes to be involved in antique crafts, play antique board games, arrange a mosaic, paint a mythical scene, or make up the barbaric colors of the war.

The event is organized by the **Municipality of Svishtov**, the **Historical Museum** and the **Council of Tourism in Svishtov**. Winner of the **Golden Eagle award** for the protection of cultural heritage is a Kavarna treasure discoverer of last year, prominent Bulgarian historian and archaeologist **Assoc.Prof. Bonnie Petrunova, PhD**, Director of the National History Museum. The winner of the **Golden Eagle award** for popularizing Bulgarian culture is the favorite Bulgarian poet, composer and performer **Mihail Belchev**, after 50 years on stage and hundreds of concerts and tours in 15 countries.

Festival Programme

FRIDAY, 7TH JUNE

10:00 – 14:00

The ancient Roman town of Novae

Antique competition for secondary-school students “Fast, Brave, Skillful”: The challenge of ancient sport games for participants from secondary schools and sport clubs from the region. The competitors will participate in ancient Thracian and Greco-Roman sportive games with referees from **Legio I Italica** and **Legio XIII Gemina**.

18:30 – 20:15

Aleko Central Square in front of City Hall

Opening Ceremony: Sanctification of the flags, ignition of the festival fire. The mayor bestows the symbols of Novae to the Emperor. Presentation of the groups participating in the festival. **Histriones** group of the antique scene - musical performance with authentic ancient Rome instruments. Dance performances by Nimfele Dace and Pagane. Fire Show: **Phoenix**.

20:15 - 21:00

Aleko Central Square in front of City Hall

Ceremony for conferring the "Golden Eagle" award for popularizing Bulgarian culture to the famous Bulgarian poet, composer and performer **Mihail Belchev**, after 50 years on stage and hundreds of concerts and tours in 15 countries. **Concert** of the laureate Mihail Belchev with his most popular songs.

After 21:00

Aleko Central Square in front of City Hall



Solemn parade of the groups in the streets of Svishtov under the lights of the torches.

SATURDAY, 8TH JUNE

The ancient Roman town of Novae - free admission

09:00 – 21:00 **Roman field camp and Barbarian camp - open to visitors**

09:30 – 10:00 **Roman legions in parade reenactment** - honour guard greeting the Emperor

10:00 – 11:00 Presentations of the participating groups **Garda Apulum - Legio XIII Gemina, Danais Association, Geto-Dacians from Moldova and Historia Renascita**

10:00 – 14:00 **Morning show:** Ancient Roman and barbarian cuisine, rituals, crafts;

Workshops for the young fans of history. Antique crafts and applied arts, Roman board games, antique mosaic and painting; dressmaking studio - the barbaric colors of the war and the maquis of the Roman matron. Weaving, sewing of ancient garments, forging, leather processing, pottery, antique cuisine, archery, antique military training for kids and large. Quiz with curious historical facts about the audience.

Bozhana's Field Cuisine – a culinary presentation by **Bozhana Katsarova, Mater Chef 2017. Cooking contest with participants** from all reenactment groups, who will prepare and present authentic ancient dishes before a competent jury of historians, gastronomers, and chefs. **Chef Bozhana** will cook recipe from the renowned Cookbook of Ancient Rome "De Re Coquinaria" by Mark Gavi Apicius - the Imperial Chef of Tiberius. She will also lead the jury for the ancient culinary contest.

16:00 – 17:00 ***Tourist Center "Novae"***

Symposium "Ancient Heritage in Bulgaria": Public lecture by Assoc. Prof. Bonnie Petrunova, PhD. **"Ancient treasures, museums, tourism"**

The ancient Roman town of Novae

17:00 – 20:00 **Afternoon performances:** Demonstrations, dances, rituals and traditions.



- 17:30 – 17:30 Military Oath Ritual of Legionnaires-Recruits **Sacramentum Militiae**. The reconstructed ritual run by the hosts of **Legio I Italica** shows the intransigent character of the military oath in the name of the homeland, compatriots, brothers in arms.
- 17:30 – 18:00 Dance performance of **Nimfele Dace**, inspired by ancient myths and legends.
- 18:00 – 19:00 **THE COLOSSEUM Big Gladiator Games**. Gladiators from all groups will compete in the "**Most attractive duel**" and "**Gladiator of the crowd**" categories for the audience's voices. The Drama Stage "**The Two Gladiatrici**" performed by Gruppo Storico Romano. The scene describes the night before the battle between the two most famous Roman Gladiatrix – women gladiators, whose names can still be seen on the reliefs of the ancient remains of the Colosseum. "**Ulfgar - The Death Machine**". The invincible and rebellious Wolfgang was sold to the arenas of Rome. He goes to the heart of the empire to conquer it. "**The Two Thracians**" - the story of the captured Thracians, turned into legendary gladiators. And more unique stories about gladiators, honor and glory.
- 19:00 – 19:30 The Tragedy "**One Day at Piso's House**" by **Gruppo Storico Romano**. Emperor Nero is invited by his friend to the next breeze, but this time, not everything ends the way he started.
- 19:30 – 20:00 **Virtuoso horse riding** performances of **Bagatour** and **Pagane**.
- 20:00 – 20:15 **Ceremony for conferring the Golden Eagle award** for the protection of cultural heritage to Kavarna treasure discoverer, prominent Bulgarian historian and archaeologist **Assoc.Prof. Bonnie Petrunova, PhD**, Director of the National History Museum.
- After 20:15 **Great battle between Romans and Barbarians: A campaign beyond the Hister Roman Limes**. *After the provocations of the barbarian tribes, the Roman legions invaded beyond the Danube frontier and headed to the field camp of the unified army of Dacians and Sarmatians. The chief of the barbarians calls for victory and promises that the rich prey of the Roman fortresses will be shared among the winning warriors. The Roman general raises the morale of the legionnaires with an inspiring speech and calls for the defeat of the vicious and sneaky enemy. Taking advantage of the disagreements between the Allied barbarians, the Romans make a lightning strike and win the battle, but not the war ... The titanic clash between the two ancient super-powers will be reenacted by 200 warriors.*



SUNDAY, 9TH JUNE

The ancient Roman town of Novae - free admission

- 09:00 – 13:00 **Roman field camp and Barbarian camp - open to visitors**
- 09:30 –10:00 **Roman legions in parade reenactment** - honour guard greeting the Emperor
- 10:00 –13:00 **Morning show:** Ancient Roman and barbarian cuisine, rituals, crafts;
- Workshops** for the young fans of history. Antique crafts and applied arts, Roman board games, antique mosaic and painting; dressmaking studio - the barbaric colors of the war and the maquis of the Roman matron. Weaving, sewing of ancient garments, forging, leather processing, pottery, antique cuisine, archery, antique military training for kids and large. Quiz with curious historical facts about the audience.
- Strength and agility sport competition** involving participants and spectators from the audience.
- 10:00 –10:30 **Legio XI Claudia, the most loyal of the Emperor Claudius, Gruppo Storico Romano.** Following the attempted assassination of Emperor Claudius, XIth Legion was honored and rewarded for his role in uncovering the plot.
- 10:30 –11:00 **Histriones** group of the antique scene - musical performance with authentic ancient Rome instruments.
- 11:00 –12:00 Dance and rituals of **Nimfe Dace, Pagan, Thracian Mysteries "Orpheus and Eurydice"**, inspired by ancient myths and legends.
- 13:00 – 13:30 **Extinguishing the Fire of the Festival, rewarding the participants. Family picture of all participants at the Legionary Banners Sanctuary in Novae. Closing the Festival.**

www.EagleOnTheDanube.org