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84th Lemon Festival (Fête du Citron®)  
*Broadway !*  
(from 11th February to 1st March 2017)

## PRESS RELEASE

After dedicating a triptych to Jules Vernes (2013-2015), the Municipality of Menton and the Tourist Information Office have now embarked on the organisation of a new series, highlighting cities famous for their “major” art. After Cinecittà and Italian cinema last year, Broadway and musicals comedies are the second feature of this new trilogy.

We leave Italy and cross the Atlantic, heading for the United States to get a taste of the Big Apple. John Lemon, who left to live the American dream, invites you to wander along the famous New York avenue and (re)discover the most famous musical comedies since the 30s.

### Let the show begin\*!

Broadway in Menton is an opportunity to sing songs like Singing in the Rain in the sun, to discover a music hall with Mary Poppins, or to run into Dorothy and her faithful friend, Toto on a corner of the Yellow Brick Road, or even be invited to the Cats annual ball. It is your chance to go on stage and become the star of your favourite musical comedy: from 11th February to 1st March 2017.

Exceptionally, the curtain of this musical performance goes up at nightfall: the first **Garden of Lights** opens Friday 10th February at 8.30pm for a preview of the 84th Lemon Festival.

The Biovès gardens will open on Saturday 11th February at 2.00pm, when the first visitors will discover **the exhibition of citrus patterns** celebrating the New York stage’s personalities and famous songs. In the evening, practise your favourites, then get dressed up... The brightest Manhattan avenue has prepared a starlit performance with the **Garden of Lights** (10th, 17th and 24th February at 8.30pm). The citrus decorations come to life under the lights, representing the biggest box office stars such as Liza Minnelli, Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. A magical moonlit promenade.

But it wouldn’t be the Lemon Festival without the **Golden Fruit Parade** (12th, 19th and 26th February at 2.30pm)!

An extraordinary event which makes the festival one of the most important on the French Riviera. Spectators enjoy a show with a variety of musical troupes and other street entertainers performing amongst the citrus floats. There are also two **night-parades**, Thursday 16th and 23rd February at 8.30pm, followed by fireworks.

The scene is set. But hurry to reserve your seats, because this 84th Lemon Festival is definitely going to be supercalifragilisticexpialidocious\*\* !

## **Festival highlights**

- Friday 10th February at 8.30 pm: Gardens of Light
- From 11th February to 1st March: an exhibition of citrus motifs
- Sunday 12th February at 2.30 pm: Golden Fruits Parade
- Thursday 16th February at 8.30 pm: Night-parade - followed by fireworks
- Friday 17th February at 8.30 pm: Gardens of Light
- Sunday 19th February at 2.30 pm: Golden Fruit Parade
- Thursday 23th February at 8.30 pm: Night-parade - followed by fireworks
- Friday 24th February at 8.30 pm: Gardens of Light
- Sunday 26th February at 2.30 pm: Golden Fruit Parade

Attention! Saturday 11st February : opening to gardens at 2 pm

## **Some figures:**

**240,000** The number of participants in the lemon-themed festivities every year.

A combination of citrus parades and exhibitions in the Biovès gardens!

**Up to 145 tonnes** of citrus fruit (oranges and lemons) from Spain

**500,000** elastics used to attach the fruit to the different decorations

**120 litres** of paint

**15 tonnes** of metal used to create the figures and floats

**Hundred of metres** of metal netting used to cover the steel frames

\* "Que le spectacle commence" (Let the show begin), the French title of "All That Jazz": an American musical film by Bob Fosse, released in 1979.

\*\* "Mary Poppins": an American musical film by Robert Stevenson, released in 1964.

## **Press contact**

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**For more: watch the video of the 2016 Lemon Festival**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncC-fIM35SI>