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# Autumn Days

# The Definite Article

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## A Magnificent Autumn Day in Udine

text and photograph  
by Francesco  
Germino (aged 10)

It's a magnificent autumn day here in Udine. Summer has finished and the Earth moves slowly around the enormous bright sun and brings a new way of living: we put on coats, long trousers, hats and boots. We can't play outside so late because it gets dark early and we can't swim in the sea like in the summer. But don't be discouraged!



You can always admire the wonderful view, or you can go trick or treating for Halloween and you can eat delicious autumn food like

chestnuts and pumpkins.

The main symbols of autumn are the beautiful red, yellow, orange and brown leaves that slowly fall from the tall trees and touch the cold ground.

If you decide to go for a walk around Udine at this time of year, you will hear the crunch of the carpet of leaves coming from under your feet.

That's one of the many pleasures that we experience in autumn.

## Kip Talking



**STUDY CENTRE:** It's been a busy start to the new school year. Over the summer we decided it was high time to modernize the Study Centre, get some new computers, bin

the old VHS tapes (our younger students won't even know what those are!) and generally make it easier to find things. Emma and Damien have been working hard to load everything you need onto the server. I hope you find that it's all worth the effort. And if you haven't used the facilities yet, well... get in there immediately!!

**COMPANY COURSES:** We're back working with several of our current clients, such as Lima Corporate near San Daniele,

Edison in Torviscosa, Cigierre in Tavagnacco, DL Radiators in Moimacco and Catas in San Giovanni al Natisone. It's also great to be back with some of our 'old' clients: Danieli in Buttrio, Gervasoni in Pavia di Udine and Kito Weissenfels in Fusine. I'm up in Fusine twice a week and I can tell you it's a delight to watch the changing seasons up there: the autumn colours were magnificent this year and now everything's gone white!

# The Olive Season by Daniela Mian



Preparing for the  
Tuscan olive harvest

*“Autumn  
cools down  
my skin, but  
makes my  
soul shine”.*

For many people Autumn can be a sad season, because summer has gone, the days are getting shorter, the sun is less warm, the climate is preparing for winter, and so on.

But for me autumn is a special season: the olive season. I look forward to these days. It's an event that involves my whole family: we live for a week in the open air in the midst of nature among olive trees and oaks. The aim is to produce the best extra virgin olive oil we can but, above all, to spend fun days together.

It's hard work: you have to spread large cloths on the ground and then you start the harvest by

hand. You have to pick the olives without hurting the branches. If the olives are at the top of the tree you can use a special tool (called a "giulivo") that looks like a large motorized hand with long titanium fingers. Sometimes you have to climb the tree to reach the olives that nobody has managed to pick.

The best moment of the day is brunch: in the shadow of the great oak we eat traditional Tuscan food (pecorino cheese, finocchiona, ciaccino bread, and so on) and we drink delicious Chianti wine.

When all the olives are gathered you take them to the olive press and so you have your personal

and handmade oil and you can taste it immediately with "bruschetta", with Tuscan baked bread, salt and garlic. What a delight!!

## Autumn's Spell

by Elio Padoano

I've laid the red cloth  
and lit the golden candle  
to summon the wandering  
soul  
of my long gone summer.

And whilst silence pours in  
I stand and wait,  
expectantly,  
for autumn's spell to  
efface this hollow regret.  
And I mouth a pledge.

Like the trees I'll stand  
dressed in merry colours  
I'll stand, alas  
for a few days at most.  
Thence, naked, I'll ghost  
through the silvery wrath of  
my winter,  
with shuddering boughs  
longing for the childish  
laugh  
of the newborn spring to  
come.

## What is Autumn?

by Elvira Crucil

What is autumn? It's a season, you can say. It's a cold season, a dark season, some might say. Instead, when I think about autumn, I think of warmth. When I walk in the forest, the colours of the nature and sounds of trampled leaves warm my heart.

When I walk in my village, the aroma of chimney smoke warms my heart. Roasted chestnuts and a glass of new wine warm my heart. Autumn cools down my skin, but it makes my soul shine.



Delicious chestnuts and  
new wine

# Honey-Glazed Roasted Pears

by **Francesca Giovannelli**

Fall is my favourite season of all: I love the amazing colours of the leaves that range from a golden brown to a rapturous orange and an intense red, the warmth of a burning log in the fireplace, the smell of the roasted chestnut and the slow and relaxing time you spend indoors with your loved ones when outside it's raining. As the days are getting

shorter, we can greet the crisp and chilly autumn nights with an easy and wonderful dessert: Honey glazed roasted pears.

Ingredients for 2 persons:  
 2 pears, halved and cored  
 4 tablespoons of walnuts, chopped  
 2 tablespoons of honey  
 A sprinkle of cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 180° C, then arrange the halved pears on a baking tray and

fill the core with chopped walnuts, then drizzle with honey and sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake at 180° for 30 minutes or until they're nice and tender (your house will smell amazing!). Serve with dark chocolate ice cream on top and enjoy!

Trust me: this is a complete must try!



*“Serve with dark chocolate ice cream on top — delicious!”*



**Prize Article!**

## Autumn Memories by Elena Conti

One chance to enjoy the colours and the quiet atmosphere of autumn, is to go picking chestnuts in the forest. This activity has been a sort of rite in my family since I was a child, and was very much expected by us children. I remember putting on rubber boots and a shoulder bag, grabbing a straight branch to help climb up the path and to use as a tool to open the chestnut shells,

and then the adventure began.

I remember the excitement when a big, shiny chestnut would show up in its thorny shell, and so eager was I to get it out, that I wouldn't worry about pricking my fingers.

I remember how hard we children competed to bring home the biggest booty. I remember how much I loved the strong scent of decaying leaves, which I still

associate with that particular experience.

Finally, with our bags full and heavy, we would return home, where my grandma had already lit the fire in the fireplace and brought the chestnut pan up from the cellar.

The best reward for our efforts, was to enjoy the cheerful family atmosphere while eating those tasty nuts, which we ourselves had brought in.

# An Autumn Day in the Forest of Tarvisio

by **Tiziano Della Mea**

A hedgehog rests in a yellow withered leaf pile under an old maple. Not far away, a blackbird, perched on an elder branch, is pecking the last red berries. In a nearby glade, an old man carrying a small basket of mushrooms points out some mistletoe

on a birch branch to the child at his side. A woodpecker, clinging to a dead fir-tree, is hammering tirelessly in search of grubs, disturbing the silence of the forest, while a nutcracker, on the ground, is searching for hazelnuts to shell and eat. A group of roe deer, in a beech-wood, are looking

for beech-nuts.

Forest animals are getting ready for the winter, which is coming nearer.



# 10 Reasons to Love Autumn

by Lorena Riul

Autumn is a wonderful season. Here are 10 reasons to enjoy it and not get discouraged by the rainy days

1) The pumpkin season starts: its typical taste suits soups, dumplings and cakes.

2) Nature shows the most beautiful colours of trees and leaves. Taking a walk in a park is really relaxing.

3) If you love chestnuts

and mushrooms, you can enjoy picking and eating them.

4) There is often a really good combination of colours and light to take beautiful photos

5) It's good to meet friends: everyone has stories to tell and it's fun to remember the summer.

6) If you feel tired, it's great to spend a quiet rainy evening on the sofa with a book and a hot chocolate.

7) It is not too cold yet to spend a day in the

open air for a beautiful hike.

8) You can carry on cultivating the vegetable garden and pick the typical autumn vegetables.

9) You can spend the rainy days on do-it-yourself or other hobbies.

10) Getting together with friends and family at home warms the heart and reduces stress. You might even prepare a challenge with cards or table games.



Autumn is a wonderful time to get together with friends and family

*"When the first cold arrives, nothing is better than creating a cosy atmosphere at home."*

## At Last Autumn Arrives...

by Alessandro Marotta

At last autumn arrives. I take shelter beside my fireplace. I love autumn for several reasons. For example, the colour of autumn leaves is amazing. It is the best season of the year to take pictures.

However, what definitely makes me love autumn is the opportunity to light the fire in my fireplace. When the first cold arrives, nothing is better than creating a cosy atmosphere at home.

Sitting in my armchair in front of my open fire is the best way I can imagine to relax and feel at ease. It works miracles

on my mood. The worse the weather gets,



the more comfortable I feel by my fire.

My fireplace has an electrical fan system, which blows hot air into the room. It makes the heat production more efficient, but it also emits a hypnotic sound. I find it unbelievably pleasurable.

If I switch on the electric fan system, I usually fall asleep in just a few minutes, no matter how many problems or worries I have.

I remember seeing the snow falling outside while reading a good book in front of the fire.

What an amazing experience! It has been many years since I last saw the country covered

with snow. Every year autumn arrives later and it is warmer than the previous year. Will the time come when I can no longer light my fireplace? I do hope not.

# An Autumn Poem

by Tommaso Vidale

## Soldati

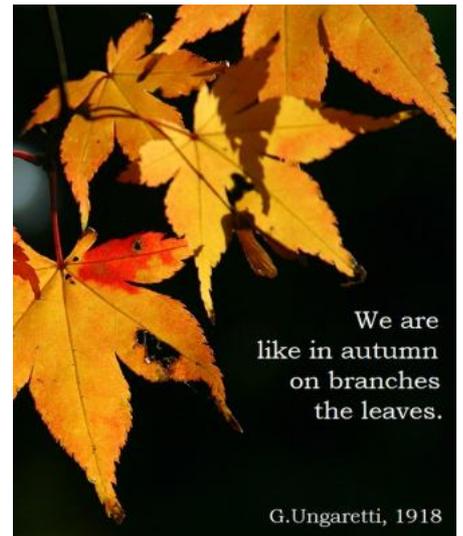
*"Si sta come  
d'autunno  
sugli alberi  
le foglie."*

This is one of the best-known poems by the Italian author Giuseppe Ungaretti, who wrote these verses in France during the First World War (July 1918).

The author used a simile to describe the conditions of the battlefield soldiers, who are fated to death, just as the leaves in autumn are fated to fall from the trees' branches. The simile was not unknown in literature; indeed many great authors

– such as Virgil or Dante – also used it. However, Ungaretti managed to summarise the concept more dramatically than anyone before him. The lack of punctuation, the brevity of the phrases and the unusual word order make this aphorism an irrevocable verdict, that could be extended from the soldiers to the entire human race. In this poem, autumn is not described as a magical season, full of warm colours and sweet smells, but as a symbol of death, the dark and unhappy ending of each person's life.

However, could we read this poem in other terms? Is there any kind of hope hidden behind the harshness of these few words? Maybe the poem doesn't decree the final ending of each existence, rather simply describes some dark and dramatic moments of life that could be followed by a new revival, just as autumn is followed by spring.



We are  
like in autumn  
on branches  
the leaves.

G. Ungaretti, 1918

## The Photograph That Never Happens

by Marco Miscoria

I hate autumn.

I live in the forest of Tarvisio, and every year I wait for the autumn to take a nice picture of the colors which, for about three weeks, paint the valley. Normally the trees begin to turn yellow in the last week of September, and in those days I start to wonder which photo I'll take.

This year I decided to take a photo of a hiking trail leading into a beech wood, with the sun's rays passing through the colored branches.

Unfortunately, the last week of September is also the last week I can use my convertible, so when it comes to choosing between walking for an hour through the forest, bearing the weight of all the camera equipment, or having one last ride with the wind in my hair to an Austrian lake, I usually end up with a beer in my hand at the Ossiacher See!

The first Sunday of October could be better for taking photos, since the colors are more vivid, and the larch foliage starts to turn or-

ange. However this is also the day in which me and my family celebrate my father's birthday, so we spend the whole weekend getting ready for the party. 'Well, no problem! I can take this picture next Sunday' I always tell myself. But it's autumn, and autumn is rainy! So instead I end up wondering which photo I'll take next year...



Autumn colours in the forest of Tarvisio—not taken by Marco, of course!

## Pumpkin Soup For Two by Anna Aquino



A quick and easy autumn recipe

*"Nature prepares for changes with an explosion of colours, smells and flavours."*



The striking colours of a persimmon tree

The colours, flavours and scents are unique and magical in autumn. Fields, trees and leaves are an explosion of yellow, orange and red, like the beautiful paintings of Kandinsky, Monet and Gauguin. Udine and especially the surrounding villages and hills seem cosier and warmer than usual when coloured in this way.

This season is also celebrated in some country festivals. One of the most famous is the pumpkin festival in Venzone, where there's a parade in medieval costume with jugglers, fire eaters, knights and

dames. There's a competition for the best carved pumpkin and stands where you can eat food from gnocchi to sweets whose the main ingredient is the pumpkin.

Another festival I'm fond of is the chestnut festival in Via Cussignacco in Udine, an event dedicated to chestnuts and all the recipes where they are the star.

I like cooking rice with sausage and mushrooms and tagliolini with truffles. But what I love most is a very quick and easy recipe that I usually make during the cold weekends:

### **Pumpkin Soup**

Ingredients for two are:  
 - 500g of pumpkin, cut into small pieces,  
 - half a leek,  
 - vegetable stock,  
 - oil as needed

Brown the leek then add the pumpkin and vegetable stock. Let it simmer for 25-30 minutes. Finally, mix it all with a blender until it becomes a puréed soup. Serve hot and add nutmeg and pepper to taste.

The taste and smell remind me that we are in autumn and in a heartbeat we will already be celebrating Christmas.

## Awakening of the Senses by Laura Vinci

I live in the mountains and I like the autumn. Although many people hate it, I think autumn is winter's spring. Nature prepares for changes with an explosion of colours, smells and fla-

vours. The colors of the leaves are beautiful, and I think it's like looking at a wonderful painting. The falling of leaves reminds me of the sound of rain when it falls. The smell of autumn is the

smell of wood fires, wet ground... in the streets of the cities you can smell the chestnuts, that are accompanied by new wine.

I love autumn, because it awakens our senses.

## Where is the Sun? by Anna Sindona

I was born in summer, in August: the month of holidays, sun, the beach and the sea. I love summer! Every year, at the end of September I feel a bit sad. Summer is over and autumn is coming with its short days, wind and the scarf round my neck.

Where is the sensation of the warm sun on my skin? I keep looking, and in the end, I find the sun in the bright colours of the leaves, both in the multi-coloured woods and in the streets and paths that become magical. And again, in the warm colours of the

autumn fruit and vegetables, the orange of the citrus fruits, the pumpkins and the persimmons.

Ok, I still prefer summer, but autumn is not so bad, the warm sun is now inside me!

# Outdoor Activities for Autumn

by Tiziana Cettolo

Who said that Autumn is a sad season without outdoor activities?

Walking, especially on warm sunny days, and watching the colours of the changing leaves is something that can only be done during the autumn.

Autumn is the ideal time to find peace and serenity amidst nature, discovering new footpaths. Above all it's the period of "foliage", the wonder that nature offers by transforming the deep green of summer into the warm colours dominated by red, passing through orange and yellow to brown.

One of the most natural ways to experience this season is to go to the nearby parks or surrounding woods to be enchanted by the autumn colours and enjoy the beautiful land-

scapes that become the subjects of beautiful photographs and a good reason for getting out and about. In Friuli, it is a particularly impressive sight, thanks to the extraordinary biodiversity provided by the many species of trees: acacia, larch, birch, ash, chestnut. There is nothing missing here and the leaves are lit-

erally full of colours.

As Albert Camus wrote:

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower".

So why not take advantage of this spectacle to immerse yourself in the beauty of our delightful forests and to lose yourself in their warm and welcoming colours?

*"...why not take advantage of this spectacle to immerse yourself in the beauty of our delightful forests?"*



Stunning Friulan vineyards in their glorious autumn colours

## Autumn Leaves

by Marzia D'Odorico

I like autumn above all for its colours. Though the days are not long and the air is not warm, this season makes me feel happy. For the walkers and photographers, the colours of the countryside are wonderful at this time of year. The main subject of the photos is the woodland. In our region there are some very interesting places to admire the "foliage": a spontaneous phenomenon

in which some species of trees change the colour of their leaves. One of these is Fusine, with its two glacial lakes: the lower lake, which is the biggest, and the smaller upper lake. The lakes are a real oasis of nature; expanses of water surrounded by woodlands of beech and spruce, pine and larch trees, which during autumn change colour, turning yellow, red and orange, and bring to mind the

Canadian views and the giant forests of the north of the United States.



An autumnal view of Lake Fusine

## Shades of Autumn by Francesco Micelli



An autumn moon  
over the city

Autumn can be recognised by its colours. Day after day, the sun goes down over the horizon. Dark and cold advance. Rain, wind and fog prevail, but the season sometimes offers perfect light and pleasant temperatures too. In October the woods burn red and yellow, when the meadows lose their green. In November all the leaves become yellow-brown and begin to leave the trees bare. In December the

terrain is covered by brown leaves, and the trunks and branches become black skeletons. October knows the days of harvest. Not only grapes, but also nuts and chestnuts. November also has – normally – the surprise of Saint Martin's summer, the last resistance to the unstoppable winter. December is the most difficult month: hope and anxiety live side by side. The evergreen trees and red rowanberries trans-

form the green landscape. In the sky, only black crows and white seagulls flying in and from the lagoon can be seen. Autumn in the cities is different. Days become greyer and greyer and the darkness rapidly advances, but above the buildings, in nights swept the by the winds of the north, the moon and his halo appear in the most luxurious garments.

## Autumn in Valcanale by Maurizio Cortelazzo



Krampus and San  
Nicolò

For many people, autumn is a rather sad period because the days draw in, the temperatures drop and it is necessary to find new activities to replace the outdoor summer ones. We highlanders, and me in particular, don't suffer from this problem because there are many possibilities to enjoy this period of the year too. You can still pick mushrooms in the woods, go for a healthy walk and above all enjoy the wonderful metamorphosis of the woodland colors. Near the end of autumn in our valleys, of Austro-Hungarian tradition, a centuries-old custom is celebrated that involves the parade of the

"Krampus", men, dressed as masked demons, who accompany San Nicolò as he distributes gifts to the best-behaved children and coal to the naughty ones. So in the days from 4th to 5th December in Tarvisio and in all the villages of the Tarvisio commune, we can admire the Krampus fes-

tival, which represents the eternal struggle between good and evil, the latter incarnated by San Nicolò. The parade ends around a bonfire where you can taste some local foods and sweets, perhaps washed down with mulled wine.



The terrifying Krampus festival in Tarvisio

# Autumn Traditions by Erica Hlede



**Are you hoping for snow this autumn?**

to the competition where it will be judged by height, length and beauty. The typical foods are pumpkins, chestnuts, mushrooms, truffle, fennel, honey, apples and pomegranates, with which you can create delicious dishes.

I love autumn because there are important traditions, such as All Saints, when students stay home from school, and Halloween, which is

a traditional American holiday. I like autumn too because it's a cold season and I like reading by the fireplace and drinking a cup of hot tea. Unfortunately it hasn't snowed for a long time. I remember when I was a child that it snowed a lot. I used to enjoy throwing snowballs and making a snowman.

Last of all, I like autumn because it brings us Christmas, when we stay at home with our families.

In this season you can visit a lot of events and activities in FVG, for example the famous pumpkin festival in Venzone. During these days you can bring your pumpkin

*"I remember that when I was a child it snowed a lot. I used to enjoy throwing snowballs and making a snowman."*

## Autumn: What Could be Better?

**By Mattia Rigo**

Autumn, in my opinion, shows the best things about our region.

After the long summer days and before the coldest time of year, autumn is a period of nature related events.

In fact apples, pumpkins, mushrooms and chestnuts are the stars of several events and activities in Friuli.

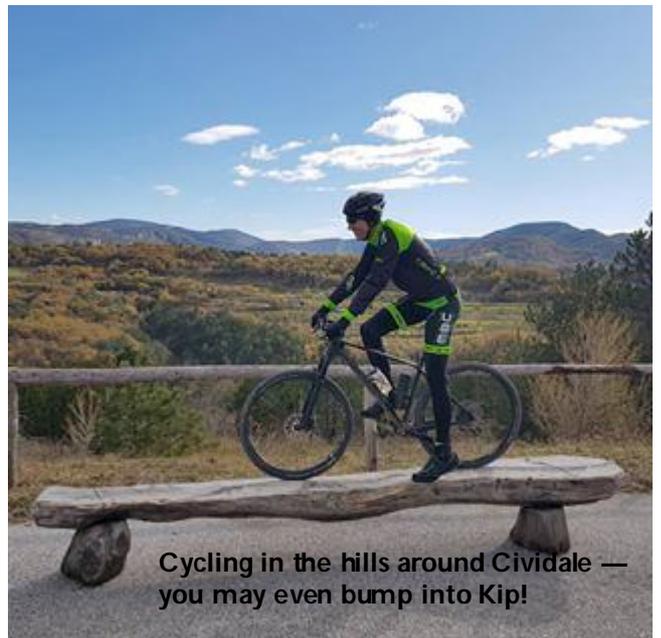
Some examples?

If you want to taste different kinds of dishes made with chestnuts, on October 7<sup>th</sup> you can take the car and stop in Valle di Soffumbergo, a very pretty little place inhabited by no more than 100 people but really

full of visitors in that period. You won't forget its dishes! If you don't like chestnuts so much, you can come to the historic event of Venzone. Pumpkins are everywhere. In that period (the third weekend of October), you can also take part in the medieval festival: a lot of visitors from all over the region wear typical medieval costumes and play ancient games in the soft light of the main square.

If you don't like apples, pumpkins mushrooms or chestnuts, don't worry: take the bike and ride around the hills close to Cividale del Friuli. There you can see the most beautiful colors that autumn offers and take

some time for yourself. Don't forget my advice and have fun!

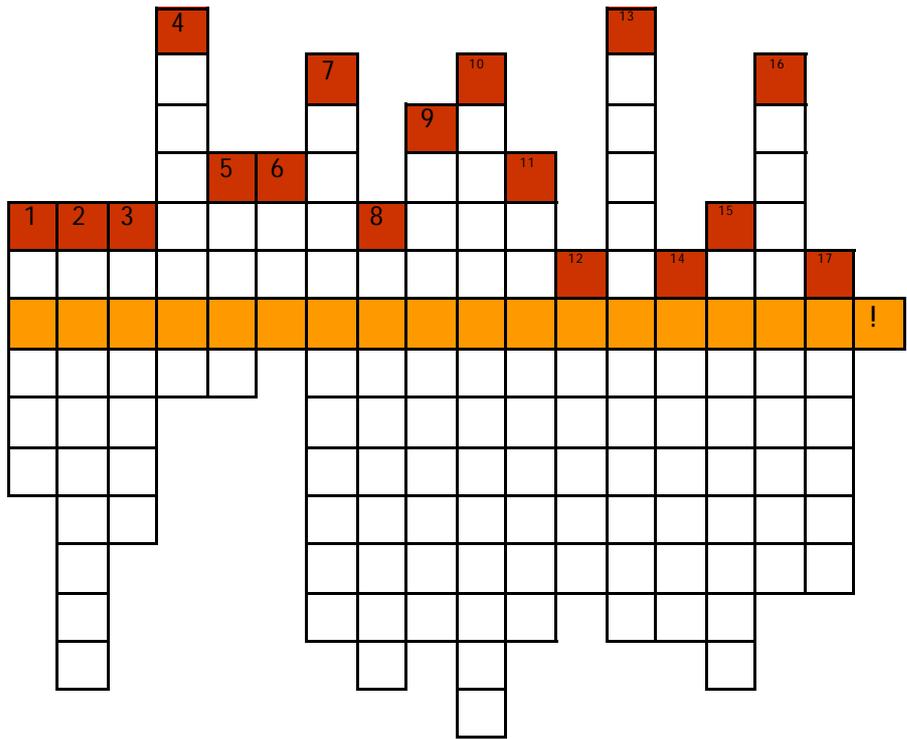


**Cycling in the hills around Cividale — you may even bump into Kip!**

# Autumnal Crossword

## Clues

1.  ; 2.  ;  
 3. an autumn color;
4.  ; 5.  ;
6.  ;  
 7. The 1st of November is a day of r\_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 8. An autumn festival that's popular with children;
9.  10.  11.  12. In autumn the colours c\_\_\_\_\_ ;
13. The kids go b\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ ; 14.  15.  ; 16. Short days and l\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_ ;
17. 



ANSWERS: 1) scarf; 2) chestnuts; 3) orange; 4) pumpkin; 5) mist; 6) hat; 7) remembrance; 8) Halloween; 9) persimmons; 10) falling leaves; 11) mushrooms; 12) change; 13) back to school; 14) mittens; 15) fireworks; 16) long nights; 17) grapes.

## Autumn is Here! By Francesca Fumolo

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of September autumn begins. It is considered a melancholic season since it comes after summer, which represents the sun, the sea and holidays. The fall coincides with the beginning of school, homework, short days and the changing colours of the leaves falling from the trees. However, if you try to look at it with different eyes you will see the magic of autumn. It is a wonderful season! The farmers have to take their most important decision: after the harvest

they have to establish what the new crops will be, prepare the soil and buy the seeds. Nature offers produce like chestnuts and pumpkins. During the day the cold air of the morning is forgotten thanks to the scent of roasted chestnuts, the fire in the fireplace, homemade biscuits and the colours that nature offers. It is like being in a painting! This period brings many recurring events wherever you are: in Britain, for example, on the fifth of November millions of people

celebrate Guy Fawkes' Night with fireworks,

while in Italy on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, people remember San Martino by eating cookies of the saint on horseback and attending village festivals. However, almost all over the world the favourite event for children and adults is without any doubt Halloween: on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October for one night only everyone enjoys dressing up as zombies, monsters and vampires to play a joke or trick!

