

## I FAUNI – 9 December 2019

- *A centenary tradition*

The Fauns were venerated divinities among the shepherds of antiquity, as protectors of the fields and of the flocks: they defended the crops from the bad weather and the animals from the wolves. **The event that annually heats Norcia streets is the way that comes directly from the past** to exorcise the arrival of winter, to ask for protection from the gods in view of the first colds. With the arrival of Christianity pagan festivals began to take on the characteristics of religious festivals, transforming the condemned heresies into Christian facts worthy of memory. The origins of the Fauns come to us, now, **from 1291**, when Nazareth, invaded by the infamous Ottomans, risked being destroyed. A host of angels then took the house of the Madonna from here to the Adriatic coast, in Loreto. According to the legend, the path passed over the Norcia sky. It is for this reason that every 9 December from that date the inhabitants of Norcia light large fires: **to keep the memory of the passage alive and to illuminate the journey for the divine couriers.**



In the main square, stop for an instant in front of this grandiose fire, listen to its reassuring crackling, warm up around its illuminating red and you will feel catapulted into a vortex that seems to take back an enchanting past from its more deeper roots.

**Palazzo Seneca will propose you a range of culinary and outdoor activities** to enjoy your stay during this festive period of the year: **cooking class, truffle hunting, wine tastings, aperitifs with our Michelin star Chef, outdoor activities in the National Park of Sibillini Mountains and much more.**

