

June 23rd

SPAIN

23rd / 24th Saint John's Night

SAINT JOHN'S BOFIRES IN GALICIA

All along the Galician coast and in many interior places, Saint John's night is celebrated. It is said that at this magic night the underworld gets in touch with our world. It is the moment when bad spirits should be expelled. "At Saint John witches and sorcerers will run away".

Bonfires are lighted when the 24th arrives; that is to say: after midnight. They are considered to give protection and good luck to the one who jumps them nine times on the same night (the number of times varies according to the different places).

At sunset, several kinds of aromatic plants are picked up and they are put into water; in the next morning people wash themselves with it. They are said to have therapeutic and cleaning properties. The typical food of this night are "cachelos" (potatoes boiled with their skin, that it is removed afterwards) and grilled sardines, and in recent times "churrasco" (grilled meat); all of it accompanied by good Galician wines. Saint John's party usually ends with a "Queimada" (hot brandy).



ESTONIA

Victory Day

