

Iran showcases tourism industry at Italian exhibition



Iran's tourism sector participated in the 60th TTG Travel Experience, an international exhibition hosted in the Italian city of Rimini.

The Iranian pavilion, managed in collaboration with the World Touring and Automobile Club, showcased Iran's historical, cultural, and natural attractions, as reported by ISNA.

Mohammad Hossein Soufi, CEO of the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed the importance of participating in such tourism exhibitions.

He emphasized the immense potential within Iran's various historical and cultural facets and the country's appeal to global travelers.

Soufi highlighted the significant opportunity presented by these exhibitions to further promote and enhance these attractions.

He noted that Iran's tourism professionals can not only engage in dialogue with peers from around the world but also attract a larger share of global tourists to experience Iran's offerings while effectively presenting the true face of the nation to the world.

The exhibition, which ran from October 11 to 13, featured Iranian tour operators introducing travel packages and investment opportunities, while also promoting the country's tourist attractions.

The TTG Travel Experience is Italy's most significant B2B exhibition and a hub for exchanging information, ideas, and innovations within the global tourism industry. The exhibition's primary aim is to foster the growth and development of Italy's tourism sector while simultaneously marketing and expanding the travel industry on a global scale.

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Raisi: Hafez best reveals ties between Islam, Iranian culture

Hafez, a 'poet of all ages'

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi hailed the enduring importance of the renowned Persian poet Hafez and described Hafez as "a poet of all ages and centuries".

He made the statement during a visit to Fars Province, where he marked Hafez National Day on Thursday, according to president.ir. Speaking about Hafez's timeless poetry, President Raisi emphasized that Hafez' verses, deeply rooted in intrinsic human values, continue to hold a profound significance across ages and centuries, particularly in the modern era. Raisi highlighted that Hafez is the best manifestation of the ties that Islam have with Iranian culture and customs.

Raisi said that Shiraz has the ancient Persepolis, the Iranian Hafez, and the Islamic Shahcheragh to be proud of and added, "The coexistence of these three throughout history has been such that no one can

sense any conflict between them."

The president described Hafez as a symbolic embodiment of the interplay between Iran's civilization, culture, and religious heritage, emphasizing that "there is no conflict among them."

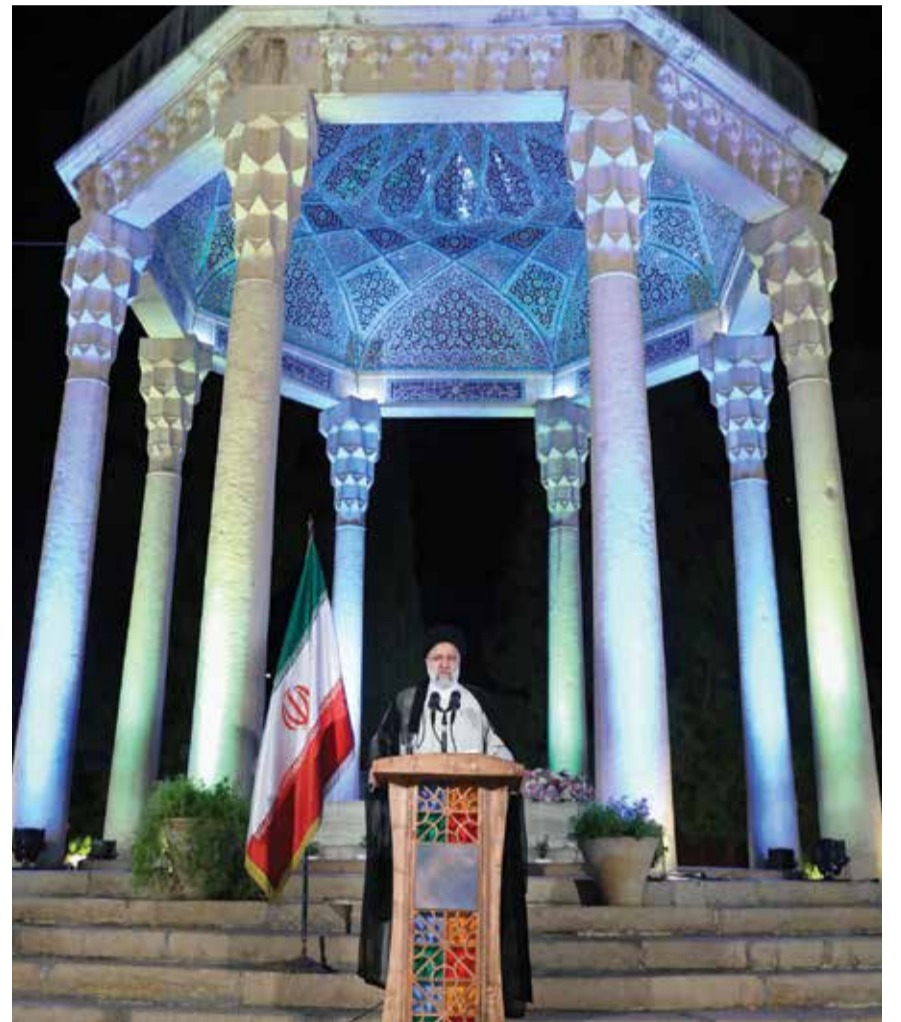
Raisi called upon advocates of culture as well as the artistic and literary communities to honor Hafez's lasting legacy. Raisi praised Hafez Shirazi, known as the "Tongue of the Unseen Realms," as a unique jewel in Iranian culture and literature, who is celebrated by speakers of the sweet Persian language worldwide.

He lauded Hafez's poems for their themes and authentic Islamic teachings and considered them as essential cultural and civilizational symbols of Iran, respected by people of culture and literature across the globe. Drawing attention to Hafez's deep connection with the Qur'an and his use of Qur'anic language in his works, President Raisi men-

tioned Hafez' unparalleled impact across generations.

Raisi further highlighted how Hafez's verses have been recited by great figures such as Mirza Javad Maleki, Allameh Tabatabai, Imam Khomeini, and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The president quoted the Leader, who described Hafez as "the brightest star of Persian culture," and emphasized the unparalleled place Hafez holds in the hearts and minds of the Iranian nation. Raisi expressed his belief that Hafez's poetry has the power to bring peace to the troubled souls of contemporary individuals.

He also urged the presentation of Hafez's character to help address the concerns of the younger generation. The president concluded by emphasizing the importance of Fars Province as a cradle of culture and literature, calling for necessary governmental support to maintain its timelessness and significance in contemporary society.



● president.ir

Four Iranian books in 2023 White Raven catalogue in Munich

Arts & Culture Desk

The 2023 White Raven catalogue, curated by the International Youth Library in Munich, was unveiled, featuring four Persian language titles from Iran. Released on October 12, the catalogue comprises 200 children's and young adult books in 39 languages, from 57 countries, ISNA reported.

The four Persian titles are: 'What Colour is the Moonlight? What Colour is the Sunlight?', written by Parvin Dolatabadi and illustrated by Salimeh Babakhan, published by Ketab-e Taak; 'Two Planets' by Masoud Qarebaghi, published by Fatemi Publications; 'The Tale of the Winds', by Reza Abdi, published by Resm-e Koodaki; and 'Siavashnameh,'

a rewriting by Leila Mirzaei, from Khordadnameh Publications. These titles were selected from works whose data were received by the library from publishers, authors, and illustrators, as well as literary critics specializing in children's literature, the Children's Book Council, literary agencies, and other active institutions

in the field of Iranian children's literature. It is evident that a greater number of such titles allow for the selection of higher-quality works and increased representation in the catalogue. The Persian department of the Munich International Youth Library expressed gratitude to all friends, commentators, and publishers

who contributed through recommendations and critiques, as well as generous publishers who shared their works with the library. Publishers, authors, and illustrators are welcome to submit their latest works for consideration, twice a year (in October at the Frankfurt Book Fair and each spring at the Bologna Book Fair), to the library's booth.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



UNESCO, Interpol planning virtual museum of stolen cultural objects

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is planning a virtual museum of stolen cultural objects. The digital experience was first announced in September last year. It will launch in 2025 with 600 works of art on the list of Interpol, the international police organization. Last week, UNESCO held a meeting with a first look at the museum's design by Francis Kéré, a native of Burkina Faso and the winner of the 2022 Pritzker Architecture Prize. Via a statement on UNESCO's website, the \$2.5 million project will "contribute to raising awareness among general public to the consequences of illicit trafficking of cultural property

and contribute to the recovery of stolen objects". "Behind every stolen work or fragment lies a piece of history, identity and humanity that has been wrenched from its custodians, rendered inaccessible to research, and now risks falling into oblivion," said UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay. "Our objective with this is to place these works back in the spotlight, and to restore the right of societies to access their heritage, experience it, and recognise themselves in it." UNESCO said visitors will explore virtual spaces as they would in a real museum, also accessing educational digital materials, and stories and tes-

timonies from local communities. The organisation said in an announcement for last week's meeting: "The virtual museum will be a game-changing tool to raise awareness on the illicit trafficking and the importance of protecting cultural heritage among the relevant authorities, culture professionals and the general public, notably young generations." Following the alleged theft of around 2,000 artefacts from the British Museum, the institution has asked the public to help it identify and recover its lost treasures. Elsewhere, nearly 2,000 items – including coins, ceramic tiles and medals – have gone missing from Welsh museums.