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▪ Braşov Juni

Club SI of Braşov
Romania
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● *What is "Braşov Juni"? (Junii Braşovului)*

- "*Braşov Juni* "or *Junii of Braşov Schei* and of *Old Braşov* (two old districts of Brasov city) are **a group of horsemen**, today with a ceremonial function, who, every year only during the Easter Holiday, parade on the streets of Braşov City.
- Their feast is a complex of customs that combine pre-Christian practices with Christian manifestations to recount the ancient myth of the death and ritual rebirth of the calendar time.



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- Today, the *Juni* are grouped in *seven groups of horsemen*, organized from a legal point of view in societies, whose mission is to preserve and promote the traditions of Braşov Şchei and of Old Braşov;

Each group has its own history and its own costume, different between groups; being a longer story here we present only a short information, with images of the seven groups that are the following, in the order of their establishment:



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1. YOUNG JUNI -unmarried young men, true founders of the custom.



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2. SENIOR JUNI- married young men.



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3. CURCANI JUNI- married men who lived "On the Coast"



- The name "*Curcani*" corresponds to the homonymous company (military unit) covered by glory in the war of Independence of 1877 of Romania, since the Romanians in Transylvania could not participate in this great war, taking over these costumes only two years after the big event, it is obviously a response to the solidarity and soulful participation of the Romanians from Braşov Şcheii to that war.



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4. DOROBANTI JUNI-

- Initially together with *Curcani Juni* until 1879, they have been separated from them since 1924, becoming a distinct group.



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5. Brasovecheni JUNI-

- This group was formed in 1922, obtaining legal status in 1929, among the Romanians from *Schei* district settled in *Old Braşov* district, as a sign of common historical experience with the Romanians from *Braşov Şcheii*.

They keep a status of existence of the *JUNI* from *Old Braşov* district from 1851, similar to one of those from *Braşov Şcheii* district.





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6. ROSIORI JUNI

- The Society of *Roşiori Juni* is made up of married men coming mainly from the northwestern area of the Şchei - the newest part of the Şchei neighborhood





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7. ALBIORI JUNI

- Anciently called “*white ones*”, because their costume was made of white clothes, they were formed in 1860, the vast majority of them being part of the guilds of butchers and merchants from Braşov Şchei district.





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JUNI RIDING PARADE-1

The most well-known traditional event of the *Juni* is the “*Horse Day*” or the “*Descent into the Citadel*”, as the cavalry parade of the June groups on the streets of the Braşov fortress is also known.

Every year, in Braşov Şchei, on the first Sunday after the Orthodox Easter (Tomii Sunday), both the people of Braşov and the tourists attend the “*Horseback Riding Day*” as a unique traditional event.

On the morning of this holiday, the Juni gather around 11 o'clock in *Prundului Square* (today *Union Square*). The groups are lined up in a well-established order: the column is opened by the marching band and the Juni stops at *Captain Ilie Birt's Cross*, where he sings “*Christ is risen!*”.

Then descends on Mureşenilor Street to the Revoluţiei Boulevard, after which the group climbs, bypassing several streets, to the place called *Solomon's Stones*.



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JUNI RIDING PARADE -2

Throughout the parade, the *Juni* greet the audience with the *Christ is risen!* *And* receiving the people's answer *"He is risen indeed!"* with cheers and applause.

Once at *Solomon's Stones*, in a splendid natural amphitheater, the *Juni* spread out on the two plateaus at the places arranged by their ancestors, at their tables. The party begins with a circle-all-together village folk dance and the men throw the mace.

Other dances follow: Serbian folk dance, belt dance, breaza & bățuta dances etc., the girls being invited to the dance. At the time set for the end of the event, the *June groups* line up in the established and known order and go back to the *Union Square* where each group sings for the last time *"Christ is risen"* and then the *June groups* break up, ending the parade on horseback.



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