

# Rome, Italy

## Overview

### Introduction

Rome, Italy, seems to have its own gravitational pull, attracting not only millions of tourists each year, but also the most creative artists and thinkers of every era. All that surrounds a visitor in Rome—the stunning art and architecture, the terrible traffic, the grandeur of scale and the lively (almost hyperanimated) citizens—guarantees an unforgettable trip.

Known as "The Eternal City," Rome is a supreme palimpsest. The ruins of pagan temples have become the foundations of Christian churches, ancient theaters have been made into medieval family fortresses, and Corinthian columns support new walls. The ages are layered, one atop the other, but the flow of Roman life is ever forward, with a respect for its glorious past.

Rome wasn't built in a day, so don't expect to see it in one. The historic center alone could absorb a week: the Michelangelo-designed Campidoglio, the Pantheon, the Palatine Hill and the Roman Forum, as well as the nearby Colosseum and Baths of Caracalla. The basilicas take a little longer because they are spread throughout the city.

If it's Rome's views you're after, climb up into the dome of St. Peter's or admire the panorama from the top of the Spanish Steps (better yet, from the Pincio Gardens above it) at sunset. Or survey the Forum at night from the Capitoline. Bustling, beautiful Rome, sprawling among its seven hills, is fascinating for both its ancient and its modern wonders.

Of course, not everyone immediately loves Rome: Some dislike the city's untidiness and seeming disorganization. But give *la citta eterna* a chance to charm, or else risk missing something magnificent.



*Detail of the Colosseum, Rome*

### Highlights

**Sights**—The ancient Forums, Palatine Hill, Foro di Traiano, Piazza del Campidoglio and Colosseo (the Colosseum); Basilica di San Pietro; the fountains of Piazza Navona; the Spanish Steps; The Pantheon; Trevi Fountain; Circo Massimo; the catacombs and monuments along the ancient Appian Way; Piazza del Popolo and the Pincio Gardens above it; Castel Sant'Angelo.

**Museums**—The Musei Vaticani and the Sistine Chapel; sculptures, frescoes and the Tabularium of the Musei Capitolini; phenomenal art at the Museo e Galleria Borghese; the privately owned Galleria Doria Pamphili; the unique paintings in Palazzo Barberini; the modern works at the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea or the MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea; the Etruscan treasures at the Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia; history's layers at the Museo Nazionale Romano—Crypta Balbi.

**Memorable Meals**—Linguine with lobster sauce followed by baked turbot at Ristorante da Vincenzo; Mediterranean sushi at F.I.S.H.; fried fillet of codfish with zucchini flowers and artichokes *guida* at Piperno; sliced, aged beef with fresh basil and Parmesan cheese at Da Tullio; brusque service and celebrities in the Spartan Pizzeria Panattoni "Ai Marmi"; nouvelle cuisine at L'Antico Arco, atop the Gianicolo Hill; wandering the ancient streets with slices from any *pizzeria al taglio* (takeaway); a picnic from the gourmet deli Volpetti.

**Late Night**—Fine jazz at Alexanderplatz; kitsch at Jonathan's Angels; a quiet drink at the swanky Caffe della Pace; dancing at Zoobar or other Testaccio hot spots; late-night vistas from atop the Gianicolo Hill, at the electric Piazza Navona or while walking from Piazza Venezia to the Colosseum.

**Walks**—A leisurely walk from the top of the Spanish Steps to the Pincio Gardens at dusk; a daytime walk through the outdoor market at Campo dei Fiori; an excursion from the Trevi Fountain to the Pantheon before or after dinner; a nighttime trek to view the Colosseum and the ruins of the Forums beautifully illuminated; a midnight adventure through the medieval streets of Trastevere; a stroll in the picturesque open spaces of Villa Borghese and Villa Pamphili.

**Especially for Kids**—A visit to the Museo della Civiltà Romana; the Bioparco zoo in Villa Borghese and its Children's Farm; the Explora—Il Museo dei Bambini di Roma children's museum; go-karts on the Pincio; climbing the dome of Basilica di San Pietro; sticking your hand in La Bocca della Verità (the Mouth of Truth) at Chiesa di Santa Maria in Cosmedin; playing with food at the National Pasta Museum; searching for animals and other hidden pictures on fountains and monuments; indulging in gelato and pizza.

## Geography

For urban planners and traffic managers, Rome is a headache. Streets originally designed for horses now have to accommodate SUVs. Fortunately, visitors need only focus on navigating the city, not solving its traffic problems.

The city's historic center is the Centro Storico—it's on the left bank (east side) of the Tiber River (called the Tevere in Italian), and home to the original seven hills. The ancient political, spiritual and commercial heart of this area is the Campidoglio (Capitoline Hill) and the adjacent Foro Romano (Roman Forum). Nearby are the most important monuments of ancient Rome, including Trajan's Markets, the Imperial Forum, the Colosseum and the Arches of Constantine, Septimus Severus and Titus. To the south are Palatine Hill, Circus Maximus and, a bit farther, the Baths of Caracalla, the Appian Way and the Christian catacombs.

The city's main piazzas are also helpful for orientation. Piazza Venezia and the adjoining Piazza Campidoglio are just northwest of the Roman Forum, and Piazza Navona is still farther northwest. Piazza del Popolo is on the western edge of Villa Borghese, a large park northeast of the Centro Storico. Piazza di Spagna and the Spanish Steps are just south of Piazza del Popolo. Connecting Via del Popolo and Piazza Venezia is Via del Corso, the city's main street.

On the right (west) bank of the Tiber, west of the Centro Storico, is Vatican City. To the south of the Vatican are Villa Doria Pamphili and Gianicolo (Janiculum Hill). The medieval neighborhood of Trastevere (literally, "across the Tiber") is between the Gianicolo and the river, nestled in the westward bend of the river across from Isola Tiberina, an island in the Tiber. On the east side of Tiberina is the old Jewish ghetto, which contains one of the largest synagogues in Europe, along with some of the best restaurants serving traditional Roman fare.

## History

Rome is nicknamed The Eternal City not merely for surviving almost 3,000 years, but also for retaining political, religious and artistic significance throughout that time. Legend has it that Rome was founded by Romulus in 753 BC, but archaeologists have found evidence of a much earlier Etruscan settlement. Fact and myth are difficult to untangle, but it's clear that Rome was already the major power in Latium by the time of the Republic's foundation in 509 BC. By the first century AD, Rome was dominating the Mediterranean through military conquest, cunning diplomacy and innovative political organization.

During the period of the late Republic, Julius Caesar and other generals extended the boundaries and glory of Rome, while simultaneously destroying its principles of government. The Roman Empire followed, remaining a heavyweight power for hundreds of years. Initially, literature flourished, with great emerging writers such as Cicero, Virgil, Catullus and Ovid. As the arts bloomed, however, the political structure crumbled. Squabbles and coups—as well as increased debauchery—eventually led to the Empire's division and fall.

In the first century AD, the apostles Peter and Paul arrived in Rome to proselytize, but they were martyred, along with hundreds of other Christians. Persecutions continued, on and off, until the Emperor Constantine legalized the faith in 312. The first Christian emperor also gave the Catholic Church temporal powers, beginning the papal state, which continued until the end of the 19th century (with occasional periods of foreign occupation). Papal coffers funded the projects of Michelangelo, Raphael and Bernini, the University of Rome and much of the city's infrastructure—as well as the infamous inquisitions, beginning in the 12th century.

Benito Mussolini descended on Rome in 1922 and formed the world's first fascist government. When World War II broke out, the nation allied itself with Nazi Germany, but the Partigiani (Resistance) soon convinced most Italians to support the Allies. Rome's open-city status spared it from the destruction of bombing but did little to stop the massacres and pillaging by the Germans.

American troops liberated Rome on 4 June 1944, yet the city and country were destitute. The 1950s economic boom revived both, triggering the *dolce vita*, era of glamour. The capital steadily grew in cultural and political power. The city had a makeover for the Vatican's 2000 jubilee and now has a revitalized urban plan, improved infrastructure and massive restoration projects under way. Rome continues to bloom with art, architecture, culture, tourism and fine living.

## Port Information

## Location

Civitavecchia Port became Italy's most famous port in 2012 when the ill-fated Costa Concordia shipwrecked off the nearby island of Giglio shortly after departure. It is also one of the country's oldest functioning ports, established in the second century by Roman emperor Trajan. It is a major cruise ship and ferry port with daily ferry connections to the Italian islands of Sicily and Sardinia.

There are 11 quays dedicated to cruise ships and 20 piers dedicated to container ships and car ferries. Dozens of cruise ships are docked in Civitavecchia throughout the year, though there are few amenities in the city of Civitavecchia itself. There are sidewalk cafes and restaurants along the port. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the town, as well.

Civitavecchia Port, with its Bramante terminal for cruise passengers, is 50 mi/80 km northwest of Rome and can be easily reached by urban train, taxi or private shuttle service. The train station is 2,000 ft/600 m from the Bramante cruise terminal, so local taxis generally will not make the short transfer.

A special train service called Rome Express is reserved only for cruise passengers, with direct service from the port to St. Peter's station near the Vatican. The nonstop trip takes an hour. Passengers can also reach the center of Rome on Trenitalia urban trains to Rome's Termini station. These trains stop in small towns along the way and take around 80 minutes. The Civitavecchia port authority has also set up a free bus shuttle service to St. Peter's station that leaves the Civitavecchia railway station every 20 minutes and takes roughly 90 minutes, depending on traffic.

## Shore Excursions

Shore excursions often include sightseeing trips to Rome, outdoor activities in nearby Lake Bracciano, or outings to a complex of outlet shopping malls.

## Potpourri

The Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed on 17 March 1861, but it was not finally unified until 1870.

The calendar we use today is more than 2,000 years old and was started by Julius Caesar. The month of July is, in fact, named after the emperor himself.

Italy celebrates 1 May as a national holiday, akin to the U.S. Labor Day; during this time, Rome hosts numerous music concerts, and international celebrities congregate in the city.

Ferragosto on August 15 is a national holiday when almost everything in Rome is closed with the exception of tourist restaurants. The holiday was established by the Emperor Augustus in 18 BC because he needed a rest. It is derived from the Latin words *Feriae Augusti*, or Augustus' rest. It also coincides with the Catholic Feast of the Assumption.

The games held to mark the inauguration of the Colosseum lasted for 100 days and nights, during which more than 5,000 animals were killed.

The historical center of Rome was frequently flooded by the Tiber River until retaining walls were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Since then, the river has flooded the city only once, in 1937.

Italian children have only recently started receiving gifts only from Santa Claus. Until the last decade or so, Italian children primarily received presents from the Befana witch on the eve of 6 January, which is Epiphany or Twelfth Night. The tradition traces from pre-Christian times. Befana leaves a lump of coal (mostly candy shaped as coal), since no children are thought to have been good all year.

Romans have traditionally used "talking statues" to voice their opposition to corruption and abuses by tacking notes onto statues on busy streets. Although the practice has been largely abandoned, four important talking statues remain: The *Pasquino* (Piazza Pasquino), *Marforio* (Capitoline Museums), *Babuino* (Via Babuino) and *Il Facchino* (Via Lata).

Romans are among the most superstitious Italians. When Romans see a nun, they immediately touch iron to ward off bad luck; bird excrement on the shoe and hearing a cat sneeze are considered signs of good luck. In a restaurant, pouring from a bottle with your hand on the bottom, or failing to look your companion in the eye while clinking glasses together for a toast are both said to bring bad luck.

## Hotel Overview

Rome is a popular international business and vacation spot. Its accommodations cover every category, from small family-style pensions, self-catering apartments and bed-and-breakfasts to international luxury hotels. Most hotels are located in the city center or near the airport.

Hotels near the Forum and in Trastevere tend to be noisy at night, and although the area near Termini station is cheap and convenient, it's not completely safe at night. For charm and convenience, look in the Navona-Pantheon areas. Younger visitors may prefer funky Monti or chic Trastevere.

## See & Do

### Sightseeing

Rome is a great open-air museum with a high concentration of monuments, churches and artwork, enmeshed in a modern city with a lot of fast cars, mopeds and people strolling around in very stylish shoes. Even the smallest courtyard hidden in the narrowest street may hold a tiny, wonderful detail—a decorated sidewalk or a stray column, fresco or fountain. To get the most out of your visit, you'll need to walk (but we recommend wearing comfortable shoes). Before setting off, stop by one of the information kiosks that dispense maps, brochures and advice in several languages.

Start in the historic heart of the city, called the Centro Storico. That's where you'll find the Imperial Forums, including the Roman Forum, Trajan's Column and Markets, and the Palatine Hill. Nearby are the Arch of Constantine, the Colosseum and the Circus Maximus. Then detour a bit to visit the palaces around Piazza del Campidoglio, which contain the Capitoline Museums.

On another day, explore the area between the Forums and Piazza del Popolo: You'll pass the facades of noble palaces and churches and stroll through elegant squares. Along the way, be sure to turn off the Via del Corso to visit the Pantheon to the west and the Trevi Fountain to the east. Once you reach Piazza del Popolo, take time to enjoy the green expanse of the Pincio Gardens. The nearby Villa Borghese is home not only to umbrella pines but also to three world-class museums: Galleria Borghese, Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna and Museo Nazionale di Villa Giulia.

World-famous examples of Christian and pre-Christian art and architecture are contained in St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums in Vatican City. The medieval district of Trastevere, across the river from the oldest part of Rome, has one of the oldest churches in Christendom, Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere. But it's also a great place to stroll, dine or shop, especially at night, when the bohemian streets come alive. Back across the river, on the left bank, the Jewish Ghetto is another medieval area full of ambience. If time permits, you can also visit the Catacombs of San Sebastiano or San Callisto or, invariably, one more church.

Be forewarned: Hours of admission for museums and historic sites sometimes change without notice. To save yourself stress, call to check times or reserve a time slot for something that is important to you. Booking at the Vatican Museums can save hours in waiting time, and reservations are compulsory at the Galleria Borghese. To enter churches, women must have their shoulders covered and men must have their knees covered. As a rule, most churches are open in the morning, close around 12:30 pm for lunch and reopen at 3:30 pm. Keep these guidelines in mind and you'll avoid the dreaded *chiuso* (closed) sign.

One way to make planning easier is to use a ticket broker that specializes in booking museums and historic sites. Pierreci books visits to museums and guided tours to landmarks in the city (<http://www.pierreci.it>). Ticketeria books tickets to museums and landmarks, as well (phone 06-32810 Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm; <http://www.ticketeria.it>). Whether you book by phone or online, get a confirmation number for your reservation and take it with you. You will be charged a booking fee, but it's worth it for the convenience.

The city of Rome has a wide selection of passes that offer discounts on admission to many of the most popular historic sites, museums and galleries. The Roma Pass is the most popular option: 34 euros gets you free admission to two sites (including the Colosseum, with the added benefit of getting to skip the long line), three-day public transportation passes and reduced rates at subsequent sites. Purchase passes at tourist offices, most participating museums and galleries or online. <http://www.romapass.it>.

### Historic Sites

#### Arch of Constantine

On this triple triumphal arch immediately outside the Colosseum, sculptural friezes commemorate the first Christian emperor's important military victory over Maxentius in AD 312. Many of the sculptures and medallions were taken from earlier monuments. The arch stands at the west side of the Colosseum, where the piazza meets Via di San Gregorio VII. Excavations have uncovered parts of the early Flavian wall, which are visible from the piazza.

### Basilica di San Clemente

This Irish Dominican church is a microcosm of Rome, with the many layers of Roman history visible in its structure. At street level is a 12th-century church with Renaissance and baroque additions. Below are excavations of a fourth-century basilica, atop a Roman house from Nero's era and a Mithraic temple from the first century BC. The church also has magnificent mosaics, frescoes and pavements. All in all, it illustrates the evolution of Christian art between the first and 19th centuries. The enclosed medieval courtyard is a quiet oasis from the roaring traffic outside.

The church is open Monday-Saturday 9 am-12:30 pm and 3-6 pm, Sunday noon-6 pm. Enter the street-level church for free, but a visit to the lower levels costs 5 euros.

Piazza di San Clemente (on Via di San Giovanni, around the corner from the Colosseum)  
Rome, Italy 184

**Phone:** 06-774-0021

<http://www.basilicasanclemente.com>

### Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano

Saint John Lateran holds the distinction of being Rome's cathedral, as well as the oldest of the city's five major basilicas. The church—said to have been founded in 313 by Emperor Constantine the Great—has, of course, been rebuilt many times over the centuries, but its fourth-century floor plan is still honored. As the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, the church contains the papal throne, and it ranks above all other churches—even above St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

Borromini is responsible for much of the interior visible today; the coffered, carved and painted ceiling and the Cosmati mosaic floors are spectacular. Outside, the octagonal baptistery dates from the fourth century. The famous Scala Sancta (sacred steps) are also at this piazza. Some, who still venerate it as the staircase from Pilate's house that Jesus ascended, climb it on their knees, praying at each step. All that remains of the 16th-century Lateran Palace, residence of the popes until 1377, is the staircase and the papal chapel, with precious 13th-century frescoes, at its top. The cloister, all that's left of the Benedictine monastery that serviced the basilica, is also open to the public.

The basilica is open daily 7 am-6:30 pm. The cloister is open 9 am-6 pm. The baptistery is open 7 am-12:30 pm and 4-7:30 pm. The Scala Sancta is open 6:15 am-noon and 3-6:15 pm (3:30-6:45 pm April-September). Admission is free for the basilica and the Scala Sancta (although a donation is expected for those who wish to climb the sacred stairs on their knees), 2 euros for the cloister. Call ahead to book a guided tour, available Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm.

Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano (east of the Colosseum)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6988-6433

[http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san\\_giovanni/index\\_it.htm](http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_giovanni/index_it.htm)

## Basilica di San Pietro

As the spiritual center of the Catholic Church, St. Peter's is the ultimate destination for Catholic pilgrims, but it also draws visitors with its masterpieces of art and architecture. Most noticeable—at least from a distance—is the dome, designed by Michelangelo, which is the world's second largest. An outer shell protects the gold-encrusted interior dome. Between the shell and the dome is a spiraling walkway that guests can climb to the cupola, which overlooks Rome and Vatican City. Walk the whole way or take an elevator to the terrace, which is lined with statues of Jesus, the apostles and other saints. The tight, slanting stairway that ascends from there is not for the claustrophobic, but it's definitely worth the effort.

Another Michelangelo masterpiece, the *Pieta*, lies behind bulletproof glass in the basilica.

Perhaps appropriately for its subject matter, it seems quite small—just as most visitors feel in this massive structure. Also noteworthy are the tomb of Clement XIII by Canova—the sculpted lions almost roar—and a stunning mosaic by Giotto in the grottoes on the lower level.

Much of the artistic glory belongs to architect-sculptor Bernini: He designed the huge semicircular colonnades that surround the piazza in front of the basilica—they reach out like two arms to envelop visitors—and the gilt bronze baldachin, a canopy on tall pillars, which he placed over the papal altar. Don't miss his other works: the breathtaking *Throne of St. Peter in Glory*, with the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove surrounded by angels and gilded rays of light; the tabernacle made of gold, silver and lapis in the prayer room; the equestrian statue of Constantine to the right of the front portico; and the flamboyant monument to Pope Alexander VII—the skeleton as a symbol of death may be a bit much, but the marble "fabric" draped over it seems so real, you expect it to rustle.

Free English-language tours of the Basilica are offered Monday-Friday at 9:45 am and 2:15 pm. Meet in the information office to the left of the Basilica; tours cannot be reserved, so it is advisable to arrive early. Alternatively, the audio guide is very helpful (available at the information desk to the right of the portico's entrance for 5 euros).

When the pope is in residence, he blesses the crowds in Piazza San Pietro at noon on Sunday. Pope Francis has refused to live in the lavish papal apartments overlooking the square, but he still gives his weekly *angelus* blessing from the windows. He lives in the simple Casa Santa Marta on the Vatican grounds where visiting priests and nuns stay. Because of the popularity of Pope Francis, it takes more than a little planning to attend a papal audience, held Wednesday at 10:30 am in Piazza San Pietro (or in the Paul VI Audience Hall in winter). Order free tickets in writing, well in advance (fax 06-6988-5863) for reserved seating. Pick up tickets at the Bronze Door, to the right of Basilica San Pietro. It is best to be in line two hours ahead of the audience to beat the school and tour groups. Standing-room-only access is open on a first-come, first-served basis and is rarely filled, except on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. Contact your local Catholic priest for more information. The church remains closed during the audience.

Make a separate reservation to visit the Scavi, the excavations of a remarkably intact necropolis underneath St. Peter's. They contain a first-century street with tombs, including the possible burial place of St. Peter himself. The site lies below the basement crypt of the popes. Only a few 90-minute tours run each day, but it's worth trying to reserve a spot. Apply in person or in writing to the Ufficio Scavi at the Arco delle Campane (Arch of the Bells), to the left of the basilica. The Swiss Guards can direct visitors to the office, which is open Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm. Requests may also be faxed to 06-6987-3017. Tickets are 12 euros (children younger than 16 are not admitted). Phone 06-6988-5318 for more information (reservations cannot be made by phone).

The dress code for all indoor areas at the Vatican is strictly enforced: Both men and women must have their knees and shoulders covered (men should wear long pants). Switch off mobile phones, and expect strict security controls (including metal detectors) and long lines.

The basilica is open daily 7 am-7 pm (till 6 pm in winter). Mass is held by visiting priests Monday-Saturday at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 am, and noon and 5 pm; Sunday at 9, 10:30 and 11 am, and 12:15, 1, 4 and 5:45 pm. Admission to the basilica is free; ascending to the dome is 5 euros by foot or 7 euros for the elevator to the terrace.

## Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere

This 12th-century church, built over a third-century basilica, is believed to be Rome's oldest dedicated Catholic Church (the first in which Mass was openly celebrated) and the first dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It has been adorned with stunning mosaics, 22 Ionic columns taken from the Terme di Caracalla, frescoes and entire chapels from several centuries. The medieval gold mosaic apse depicting the life of the Virgin is particularly impressive.

Monday-Saturday 8:30 am-8:15 pm (extended hours on religious holidays). The church is closed to visitors during services.

Piazza San Pietro (Metro stop: Ottaviano-San Pietro)

Vatican City, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6988-1662 for the Office for Pilgrims and Tourists

[http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san\\_pietro/index\\_it.htm](http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_pietro/index_it.htm)

Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere  
Rome, Italy



### Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore

As one of Rome's five major basilicas, this one, between Piazza della Repubblica and Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano, deserves a look. The original structure dates from the fourth century and is still very visible, but it has had many transformations and additions, including a glorious gold coffered ceiling (made with the first gold shipped over from the New World), 13th-century mosaics and two splendid chapels: Paolina (for Pope Paul V) and Sforza (designed by Michelangelo). It also houses Gian Lorenzo Bernini's tomb, located to the right near the altar.

Daily 7 am-7 pm (extended hours on religious holidays). Audio guide 5 euros.

Via Liberiana 27 (at Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6988-6800

[http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/s\\_m\\_maggiore/index\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/s_m_maggiore/index_en.html)

### Castel Sant'Angelo

This round fortress rises over the banks of the Tiber, a cannonball's shot from the Vatican. Emperor Hadrian built it as his mausoleum between AD 135 and 139. Later it became a papal stronghold, linked since 1277 to the Vatican by a concealed passageway (the *passetto*) in the defensive walls. Strolling around its many levels, ages and stages—both dark and glorious—is fun and informative. The site also includes an interesting museum and a lovely park, which often hosts fairs and exhibitions. The fortifications are famous as the setting for the third act of Puccini's *Tosca*, in which the heroine throws herself over the parapet.

Open daily except Monday 9 am-7:30 pm. Admission fee is 10.50 euros. Guided tours are available upon request.

Lungotevere Castello 50  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-681-9111

<http://www.castelsantangelo.com>

### Catacombs of San Callisto

These five floors of intricate passageways were the first official cemetery of the Roman church between the second and eighth centuries. Guided tours include a look at early Christian frescoes and imagery (but no bones—the remains were either stolen or long since transferred to the Pantheon).

Open daily except Wednesday 9 am-noon and 2-5 pm. Closed February. 8 euros.

Via Appia Antica 110 (take Bus 218 from Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano, a 15-minute ride, or Bus 118 from Circo Massimo)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-513-0151

<http://www.catacombe.roma.it>

### Chiesa di Santa Maria in Cosmedin

This basilica is famous for *La Bocca della Verita* (the Mouth of Truth). Once a Roman sewer cover, this huge marble disk is now embedded in the portico wall of the church. According to tradition, the mouth will bite off a liar's hand, but it's more likely that, in medieval times, a man with a sword on the other side helped the "miracle" along. The church itself is often overlooked, but its early medieval architecture, frescoes, mosaic floors and Masonic imagery are well worth a look.

Daily 9:30 am-4:50 pm.

Piazza della Bocca della Verita 18  
(between the Circo Massimo and the Tiber)  
Rome, Italy

### Chiesa di Santa Maria Sopra Minerva

Rome's only significant Gothic church (the facade dates from Renaissance times), this was built on top of a Roman temple to the goddess of wisdom. Inside, stunning lapis-and-gold ceiling mosaics glimmer between its intersecting Gothic arches. The interior shelters the tomb of St. Catherine of Siena and *The Risen Christ* statue by Michelangelo. Many other artistic treasures are difficult to see in the dim lighting, so take a couple of 0.50-euro coins for the timed lights (one coin buys one minute of visibility). Bernini's playful elephant sculpture, which holds up Rome's smallest obelisk, is the centerpiece of the piazza outside.

Daily 8 am-7 pm.

Piazza della Minerva (near the Pantheon)  
Rome, Italy

<http://www.basilicaminerva.it>

### Chiesa di Sant'Andrea al Quirinale

After you've seen the splash Bernini made at St. Peter's, stop at this church to see what he could achieve on a smaller scale (Bernini considered it his only perfect work). It's an oval structure with the altar on the long side, close to every seat. The martyred St. Andrew, who appears in the painted altarpiece and in a stucco sculpture above it, seems to look up toward the symbol of the Holy Spirit. The daylight streaming through the clerestory windows plays off the gilding, making the dome glow.

Via del Quirinale 29  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-474-4872

<http://www.gesuitialquirinale.it>

Open daily except Tuesday 8:30 am-noon and 3:30-7 pm, Sunday 9 am-noon and 4-7 pm (usually closed in August).

### Chiesa di Sant'Ignazio di Loyola

Jesuits commissioned this church at the height of the baroque period, but their funds were exhausted before the dome's completion. Instead, they painted the ceilings with striking trompe l'oeil, inducing centuries of neck-strain as visitors gape. Andrea Pozzo's *Triumph of St. Ignatius* is a masterpiece of light and perspective, creating a perfect two-dimensional impression of a dome.

Piazza de Sant'Ignazio (on Via del Seminario)  
Rome, Italy

Daily 7 am-12:30 pm and 4-7:45 pm, with the exclusion of when masses are being held (11:30 am daily and 6 pm Monday-Saturday).

### Chiesa Santa Maria della Concezione de Cappuccini

Don't miss the church itself (which is technically called Santa Maria Immacolata), with its painting of St. Michael and the devil, but the big draw there is the adjoining crypts. The five rooms are filled with intricate ornamentation, mosaics and sculptures, all made with the bones of Capuchin friars who served the church over the centuries. It's a spooky but fascinating sight.

Via Veneto 27  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-488-3138

<http://www.cappuccinivieneto.it>

Open daily 9 am-7 pm. Admission to museum and crypt is 6 euros.

### Circo Massimo

The Circus Maximus was built in 600 BC. One of the largest structures ever dedicated to entertainment, it could hold an audience of 385,000. The long, oval field hosted chariot races and contests between gladiators and wild beasts. Today, with the exception of some crumbling ruins at the south end, all that remains is a large park—the ancient track now trod only by joggers and courting couples—so you'll have to use your imagination and recollections of *Ben Hur* to piece it back together. It is often used for large concerts, markets, sporting events and important political protests. It is also a popular place for Romans to go jogging or walk their dogs. Extensive restorations in 2011 greatly improved the venue. The Palatine Hill provides an emperor's-eye view of the ruin.

Via del Circo Massimo (between Palatine and Aventine hills)  
Rome, Italy

### Colosseo

Originally called the Flavian Amphitheater and the site of gladiatorial combat, the Colosseum is the most frequently evoked symbol of Rome. Begun in AD 72 by Emperor Vespasian, it was finished eight years later by his son Titus and could seat 80,000 spectators. Unfortunately, various popes quarried its marble, so this majestic building is more dilapidated than it should be. Even so, its size and history are still quite breathtaking. Underground dungeons opened to visitors for the first time in October 2010, and an upper area that had been closed since the 1970s reopened. Plays, concerts and demonstrations are staged in and around the Colosseum throughout the year. A 25-million-euro donation from a businessman is being used to renovate the site; updates began in December 2013 and are expected to last until 2016. The renovations may cause some inconvenience to visitors but a cleaner Colosseum should be well worth it.

Piazza del Colosseo (at the southern end of Via dei Fori Imperiali)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3996-7700

<http://www.pierreci.it/home-page/en/museums-and-monuments/colosseo.aspx>

Daily 8:30 am till one hour before sunset. Tours in English (45 minutes long, five tours offered daily), audio tours and guided archaeological tours are available. 8 euros guided tour, 5.50 euros audio tour. Admission 12 euros (the same ticket gains you entrance to a small museum, as well as to the nearby Palatine Hill—save time by buying the ticket there), with an additional 1.50 euros for preregistration (skip the long line).



### Foro di Traiano

Trajan's Markets, Forum and Column are part of the Imperial forums, now separated from the Roman Forum by the intrusive Via dei Fori Imperiali. The unmistakable semicircular shape of the markets was determined by Quirinal Hill, which was cut away so that the emperor could build his complex near the Roman Forum. Trajan's Column marks the height of the original hill; its scrolling friezes tell of his victories over the Dacians (in modern-day Romania). Visitors are allowed to roam the ancient street of the forum. An exhibit hall inside the forum has regular art exhibits, many dealing with Imperial Rome. Nearby forums include the Forum of Nerva, the Forum of Julius Caesar and the Forum of Augustus.

Via IV Novembre 94 (the entrance is north of the column)  
Rome, Italy  
<http://mercatiditraiano.it>

Open daily except Monday 9 am-7 pm. 11 euros, or 12 euros for tickets booked online. Tickets can be booked online through.

### Foro Romano

Once the political and religious epicenter of the Western world, the Forum today appears as fragmented columns and ancient streets. However, even in ruins, it's a testament to Roman and, indeed, all Western civilization. The best view is from the Capitoline at night, thanks to skillfully placed lighting. Within the Forum are the Sacred Way, the Via Trionfale (an avenue where victorious generals paraded with their soldiers and prisoners) and the ancient Senate House, among a great clutter of basilicas, temples, monuments, arches and stray cats. On the south side of the Forum is the Palatine Museum.

Largo Romolo e Remo (at Via dei Fori Imperiali)  
Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 06-3996-7700  
<http://www.pierreci.it/home-page/en/museums-and-monuments/foro-romano.aspx>

The ruins are open daily 8:30 am until one hour before sunset. Audio tours are available for 5 euros. Nightly tours are offered June to mid-September (check dates at the information desks and ask for "Roma sotto stelle," or "Rome under the stars"). Combination ticket with the Palatino and the Colosseum 12 euros.

### Palatino Hill and Museo

The Palatine Hill was the site of aristocratic residences for centuries. Among the ruins of private palaces such as the Domus Augustana and the House of Livia, a garden offers shady nooks and spectacular views of the Circo Massimo below. The little museum at the top houses mainly local archaeological finds. A vaulted cavern, discovered in November 2007 when a camera was lowered through a hole in the hill, is believed by some scientists to be a shrine of the Lupercale, the sacred cave where Romulus and Remus are said to have been suckled by a wolf.

Via di San Gregario 30 (near the Arch of Titus in the Forum)  
Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 06-3996-7700  
<http://www.coopculture.it/heritage.cfm?id=4>

Daily 8:30 am-6:15 pm. A one-hour English-language tour departs at noon (4 euros). Admission of 12 euros includes admission to the Colosseum and the Forum (the ticket kiosk lines are usually shorter at Palatine Hill).

### Piazza del Campidoglio

The historic, spiritual and political center of the city, this hilltop was long known as *caput mundi*, the head of the world. On this spot, Petrarch was crowned poet laureate, Cola di Rienzo was lynched, and, according to legend, Romulus killed his brother Remus. The founding twins are commemorated in a happier moment: A bronze statue shows them as founding infants suckling a she-wolf (this mythological image is the city's crest). The star in the center of the plaza is the point from which distances to Rome are measured.

Capitoline Hill (behind Piazza Venezia and the Vittoriano Monument)  
Rome, Italy 186

Michelangelo designed the current piazza and its monumental approach in 1536, although he only lived long enough to see the Cordonata staircase finished. Many consider the site to be the ideal embodiment of Renaissance architecture, blended with elements of ancient Rome. Guarding the entrance to the piazza are gigantic statues of Castor and Pollux. The circular star set in the pavement focuses attention on the gilded bronze equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius (a copy—the adjacent Capitoline Museums display the original). From the church perched above the piazza, Santa Maria in Ara Coeli, you can get a good view of Rome, and on the road to the right (south) side of the piazza, you'll find one of the best views of the Forum. The piazza also houses the Musei Capitolini and Rome's city hall.

### Piazza del Popolo

This vast, well-designed square greeted 18th-century travelers from the north, together with the Porto del Popolo (the arched gateway leading into the piazza). Today, it borders a popular shopping area. Three major arteries extend from the piazza, giving the area its name, the Tridente. An Egyptian obelisk and a lion fountain stand in the piazza's center. At one end are two baroque churches that seem to match, though a close inspection reveals one to have a round dome and the other, oval. At the other end is a third church, Santa Maria del Popolo, which contains masterpieces representing the full range of the Renaissance: frescoes by Pinturicchio, two remarkable paintings by Caravaggio and the dramatic marble statue *Daniel and the Lion* by Bernini.

Piazza del Popolo (north of the Spanish Steps, near Villa Borghese)  
Rome, Italy 187

### Piazza Navona

Once the Emperor Domitian's athletic stadium, this lively piazza retains its distinctive shape. Terra-cotta and ocher-stucco buildings flank Borromini's baroque church dedicated to St. Agnes, whose skull is displayed in a small chapel in the back. The star attraction, however, is Bernini's legendary Fountain of the Four Rivers, with its colossal marble figures—representing the Danube, the Nile, the Ganges and the Rio de la Plata—that writhe and twist, and his Fountain of the Moor. A third fountain has a 19th-century rendering of Neptune. The ancient Romans flooded the square and held mock naval battles there. Today, the Piazza Navona is drier but still entertaining: It's the perfect spot for eating gelato, drinking a *negrito* (a typical Roman cocktail) and people-watching. Street artists, clowns, toy peddlers and vendors crowd the cobblestones. During the Christmas season, there's a fair with numerous stalls dedicated to La Befana, the Italian Christmas witch.

Piazza Navona (just west of the Pantheon)  
Rome, Italy

### Piazza Venezia and the Vittoriano

This huge, bustling square unites the city's main arteries. The traffic jam is framed by Palazzo Venezia (from the balcony, Mussolini harangued the crowds below), Palazzo San Marco and the much-maligned Vittoriano Monument. Because the city's third underground line among the buried ruins has been delayed because of budget cuts, you are likely to encounter construction in and around the piazza. When the Piazza Venezia subway station finally opens, it will house many Roman artifacts found during the construction. The multistoried memorial to the Unknown Soldier and Italy's first king, Vittorio Emanuele II (inaugurated in 1911), houses a museum of the Risorgimento—the Italian unification movement. Popularly referred to as the Wedding Cake by foreign visitors, the Romans are less kind and call it the Typewriter. This frilly marble edifice is open to the public. The higher levels and cafe terrace offer great views of the city (considered the best—they're the only vistas that don't include the Vittoriano itself). Near the cafe is the entrance to a glass elevator takes visitors to the highest rooftop for an even better view. A tourist information office is housed around the left side (as you face the front of the monument).

Via del Corso (at the south end, just north of the Foro Romano)  
Rome, Italy

Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-5:45 pm, Friday-Sunday 9:30 am-6:45 pm. Free. Elevator 7 euros.

### Spanish Steps and the Piazza di Spagna

The piazza is the heart of Rome's most fashionable shopping area, familiar to residents and visitors alike because of its grand and distinctive steps. They're a great—if crowded—place to rest and watch street musicians, vendors, lovers and tourists. Just don't picnic on the steps. In 2013, the city of Rome made it illegal to snack on public monuments. Young people gather there to see and be seen, chatting in groups or on their ubiquitous *telefonini* (cell phones). The spectacle is most impressive in spring, when brilliant azaleas line the steps. At the base sits a fountain by Bernini (father and son), and the house (now museum) of 19th-century poet John Keats overlooks the steps. At the top there's a grand view of the city, and just to the right, you will find Palazzetto Zuccari (Via Gregoriana 28), known as The House of Monsters because of the sculptures that adorn the facade.

Piazza di Spagna (south of Piazza del Popolo, at the southern cusp of Villa Borghese)  
Rome, Italy

## Terme di Caracalla

The ruins of these baths evoke the majesty of ancient times, when Romans bathed, lifted weights, wrestled, had massages and socialized in these baths and saunas. Guided tours explain the extensive, sophisticated heating and plumbing systems, as well as the social function of the vast complex. Call to make a reservation. You can also wander through the beautiful gardens surrounding the ruins.

Open Monday 9 am-2 pm, Tuesday-Sunday 9 am-6:30 pm. The ticket office shuts down an hour before closing. A ticket costs 6 euros and is valid for seven days. An audio guide is available for 5 euros.

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 52  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3996-7700

<http://archeoroma.beniculturali.it/en/archaeological-site/baths-caracalla>

## The Pantheon

This monumental round temple was dedicated to all the Roman gods. It is considered the best-preserved ancient structure in the city. Rebuilt in the second century by Emperor Hadrian, it has the largest (unreinforced) concrete dome ever built, spanning more than 142 ft/43 m in width and height—a perfect sphere in a cylinder with walls nearly 20 ft/6 m thick. Sunlight pours through the oculus in the center of the dome, casting a spotlight inside the temple. Hadrian only entered the building when the spotlight was cast on the entrance. (When a light rain falls, the effect can be equally enchanting; some visitors claim they've seen a rainbow inside.)

Barbarians took the bronze tiles that originally lined the dome. However, it was Pope Barberini who authorized Bernini to remove the massive bronze bas-relief from the portico. Melted down, it became St. Peter's baldachin. The painter Raphael and the first king of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele II, are buried inside, along with hundreds of early Christian martyrs whose remains were transferred from the catacombs in the seventh century, when the pagan temple was dedicated as a church, Santa Maria ad Martyres.

Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-7:30 pm, Sunday 9 am-6 pm, weekday holidays 9 am-1 pm. Masses are usually held Saturday before public holidays at 5 pm, at 10 am on public holidays, and at midnight on Christmas Eve; no visits during religious services. Free.

Piazza della Rotonda 1  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6830-0230

<http://www.pantheonroma.com>

## Trevi Fountain

The iconic, highly theatrical fountain is usually thronged with tourist groups repeating the tradition inspired by the 1954 film *Three Coins in the Fountain*, of throwing in a coin before leaving Rome. Turn your back to the fountain, toss a coin over your left shoulder into the water, and your return to the city is assured. Even with the crowds, you should get a good view of the mighty god Neptune riding his winged chariot through gushing waters supplied by the ancient Acqua Vergine aqueduct. Watch out for pickpockets, though. Nicely illuminated at night.

Piazza di Trevi (two blocks east of the Corso and Piazza Colonna)  
Rome, Italy

## Museums

### Centrale Montemartini

One of the most peculiar of all of Rome's museums, this old electric plant outside the city center now houses sculptures from the Musei Capitolini set against restored machinery that was used in early electrical production. The effect is superb, pitting stark white marble statues against massive, shiny, blue-and-black machinery.

Open daily except Monday 9 am-7 pm. Admission 7.50 euros.

Via Ostiense 106 (Piramade)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-0608

<http://centralemontemartini.org>

### Explora-Il Museo dei Bambini di Roma

Although it pales in comparison to children's museums in other parts of the world, Rome's only children's museum does offer enough interesting exhibits for the kids to make it a worthwhile trade-off to a day of dragging them through adult museums. The venue is divided into four areas—there are hands-on exhibits dealing with the body, society, nature and communication. Most exhibits are in Italian, but the language is simple enough for non-speakers to understand.

Open daily except Monday. Ticket office is open 9:30 am-7:30 pm. Visits are planned to last an hour and 45 minutes, with starting times of 10 am, noon, and 3 and 5 pm. Reservations required on Saturday, bank holidays and school holidays. Reservations recommended. Admission 8 euros adults and children age 4 and older, 5 euros children ages 1-3.

Via Flaminia 82 (Villa Borghese)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-361-3776

<http://www.mnbr.it>

### Galleria Doria Pamphili

This museum, located in the sumptuous Doria Pamphili family home, contains works by such greats as Caravaggio, Titian, Raphael and Velasquez.

Daily 10 am-6 pm, last entrance at 5 pm. Admission 11 euros, which includes an audio guide.

Via Corso 305  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-679-7323

<http://www.dopart.it/roma>

### Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

This museum has a collection of works by the most important Italian artists of the 19th and 20th centuries—neoclassicists, futurists, surrealists, cubists and pop artists. The futurist collection is particularly impressive, and the fascist art is as chilling as it is fascinating. Works by non-Italians include notable paintings by Gustav Klimt.

Open daily except Monday 8:30 am-7:30 pm. Last admission 6:45 pm. 8 euros for the permanent collection; additional 2 euros for temporary exhibits. Audio guide 4 euros.

Viale delle Belle Arti 131 (in Villa Borghese)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-322-981

<http://www.gnam.beniculturali.it>

### Keats-Shelley Memorial House and Museum

More than 8,000 books, letters and related works of John Keats, Percy Shelley, George Gordon (Lord Byron) and their contemporaries are on display, including the rather haunting death mask of Keats, who was only 25 when he died of tuberculosis.

Open Monday-Friday 10 am-1 pm and 2-6 pm, Saturday 11 am-2 pm and 3-6 pm. 5 euros. Guided tours available upon request.

Piazza di Spagna 26 (entrance at the right at the foot of the Spanish Steps)  
Rome, Italy 187

**Phone:** 06-678-4235

<http://www.keats-shelley-house.org>

### Musei Capitolini

The renovated palaces framing Piazza del Campidoglio house the Capitoline Museums. The Palazzo dei Conservatori contains paintings by Titian, Paolo Veronese, Peter Paul Rubens and Michelangelo da Caravaggio, as well as fragments of a colossal statue of Constantine and the original of the bronze statue of Marcus Aurelius that crowns the Piazza del Campidoglio outside. The Palazzo Nuovo houses outstanding Roman sculpture, including the Capitoline *Brutus*, the *Dying Gaul* and the Capitoline *Venus*. The museums flank the Palazzo Senatorio, which was built over the ancient Tabularium and used to store government records in imperial Rome. Michelangelo designed its double staircase. The terrace bar and restaurant overlooking the piazza are popular evening spots.

Open daily except Monday 9 am-8 pm. Last admission 7 pm. Around the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the hours are reduced to 9 am-2 pm. Admission 14 euros (to all three buildings plus temporary exhibits). Audio tour 5 euros.

Piazza del Campidoglio  
Rome, Italy 186

**Phone:** 06-0608

<http://museicapitolini.org>

## Musei Vaticani

The Vatican's extensive and awe-inspiring collection of art is housed in several museums, nearly two dozen galleries and period rooms, and, of course, the Sistine Chapel. The huge collections are so spread out, it's impossible to see everything in one visit. You could take several days to appreciate just the Hellenistic and Roman sculpture, and the excellent Egyptian collection.

The Sistine Chapel is the obligatory highlight of a tour through the Vatican Museums: The restored frescoes are glorious. Opera glasses or binoculars can help reveal the details of Michelangelo's famous ceiling. The themes—drawn from the Bible, pagan prophecy and church history—generate what many consider the greatest pictorial decoration in Western art. (Be aware that video recorders and cameras are not allowed in the Sistine Chapel, and the guards strictly enforce a no-talking rule.) Visitors can skip all the other art and go directly to the Chapel, but they must leave the museums afterward. Re-entry requires another ticket—and the lines into the Vatican Museums are bad enough to tackle even once a day.

Time permitting, press on to other important sights: the Raphael rooms, filled with the painter's frescoes in religious themes; the Borgia apartments, with their rich frescoes; the chapels; and the Pio Clementino Museum, where you'll find the famous *Apollo Belvedere* and *Laocoon* sculptures.

If you have the stamina—or, better yet, on another visit—inspect the Greek, Roman and Egyptian rooms; the Pinacoteca, which is filled with paintings from the 12th-19th centuries; the cartographic hall, which is lined with historical mural maps of regions of Italy; the hall of busts, which is lined with statues of emperors and other Romans of note; the rooms of contemporary art—including works with religious themes by Van Gogh, Monet and Rodin, as well as a set of spectacular liturgical vestments by Matisse; the ethnographic museum; and the collection of historic carriages.

The ticket counter also books two-hour tours of the Vatican Gardens. Admission 31 euros (includes the Vatican Museums). To book, look for the window marked "Garden Guided Tours," or reserve online at least 24 hours ahead.

The museum complex has a snack bar, serving pastry and pizza, and a cafeteria with reasonably priced meals. Note that the museum coat check may store only very large backpacks, not coats, jackets, umbrellas or smaller bags.

The best time to visit the museums is early in the morning, especially on Wednesday when many pilgrims are in St. Peter's Square attending the papal audience. The worst time to visit, as far as crowds go, is on the last Sunday of the month, when admission is free.

We recommend seeing the Basilica and associated Vatican museums by way of a guided tour. We also recommend arriving to see the Sistine Chapel early in the morning before the room fills to the brim with visitors. Arranging a tour with a group such as Italy With Us (<http://www.italywithus.com>) can provide opportunities to see areas not open to the public.

The Vatican Museums are open Monday-Saturday 9 am-6 pm (last admission 4 pm). Admission 15 euros. Audio guide 7 euros. Free admission the last Sunday of each month, 9 am-12:30 pm; the museums close for the rest of the day. Tickets can be purchased online, allowing you to skip the line.

## Museo della Civiltà Romana

The Museum of Roman Civilization depicts the history of Roman civilization through dioramas, plastic models and special exhibits—ideal for children. It's on the south side of the city where there isn't much else to do, but the 1:250 scale model of Imperial Rome makes the trip worthwhile.

Open daily except Monday 9 am-2 pm. The ticket office closes one hour earlier. 8.50 euros adults, 6.50 euros children. Admission to the museum plus a show at the planetarium and a visit to the astronomical museum: 10.50 euros adults, 8.50 euros children. Free for children younger than 6.

Viale Vaticano 8 (follow the Vatican walls from St. Peter's, but keep in mind this is a 0.5-mi-/1-km-long walk; the closest metro stop is Cipro-Musei Vaticani)  
Vatican City, Italy

<http://mv.vatican.va>

Piazza G. Agnelli 10 (in the EUR corporate district)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-0608

<http://museociviltaromana.it>

### Museo dell'Ara Pacis

People either love or hate American architect Richard Meier's stark museum around Rome's "peace altar" next to the Augustus mausoleum along the Tiber River. When the project was finished in 2007, most Romans likened it to a space-age gas station set among some of the city's most beautiful landmarks. But the venue has evolved since its tumultuous opening and is now home to some of Rome's most important exhibits. Designer Valentino held his *40 Years of Style* show there, and a host of exhibits are scheduled for coming seasons.

The altar itself was dedicated by Augustus in 9 BC. It was eventually destroyed and its tiny pieces scattered across the city of Rome. Efforts began in the 16th century to rebuild the altar after many of its fragments were found in excavations throughout the city. The renovation was completed in 1938.

Open daily except Monday 9 am-7 pm. Ticket office closes at 6 pm. Admission 8.50 euros, plus up to 8 euros for temporary exhibitions. Audio guide 3.50 euros.

Via Ripetta (Lungotevere di Augusta)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-0608

<http://en.arapacis.it>

### Museo delle Mura

The Museum of the Walls is small, but mighty. Located in the gate of the Aurelian Wall at Via Appia Antica (Porta San Sebastiano), it allows visitors to see the fortifications inside and out. A small collection of artifacts, information and diagrams exists, but the real draw is walking a portion of the actual wall.

Daily except Monday 9 am-2 pm. The ticket office closes 30 minutes earlier. 5 euros, plus 1.50 euros for exhibitions.

Via di Porta San Sebastiano 18  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-060-608

<http://en.museodellemuraroma.it>

### Museo e Galleria Borghese

This jewel box of a gallery is a must-see. It offers a feast of Bernini sculptures, from *David*—the biblical lad biting his lip as he gets ready to hurl the stone—to *Apollo and Daphne*—the wood nymph morphing into a laurel tree. Equally beautiful is Canova's reclining *Pauline Bonaparte*, Napoleon's sister, who caused a scandal when she agreed to pose in the nude. Dozens of other sculptures, along with paintings and ceiling frescoes, will mesmerize you on the first floor. Upstairs, in the picture gallery, are masterpieces by Titian, Raphael and Michelangelo da Caravaggio (including his famous *Bacchus* and the hauntingly dark *St. Jerome*).

Keep your ticket handy—visitors must exit the building and re-enter to go upstairs—and also be quick: Visits are limited to two hours, which will fly by quickly. You may want to plan several visits to appreciate this collection in its entirety.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 8:30 am-7:30 pm. Tickets have assigned entry times every two hours starting at opening time, with the last entry two hours before closing. 11 euros. Advance reservations are required. An audio guide is 5 euros. Guided tours in English are offered at 9:10 and 11:10 am for 5 euros, or at other times by appointment for groups of at least 10.

Piazzale del Museo Borghese 5 (at the east corner of Villa Borghese, near the Via Veneto exit from the Spagna metro stop)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-328-10

<http://www.galleriaborghese.it>

### Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia

The country's best-preserved Etruscan ruins all end up in the Villa Giulia, which was, until the late 19th century, a decadent papal palace. The museum is divided by geographical area, with detailed maps of ancient Etruria and multilanguage signs providing significant historical information about this pre-Roman era. Many pieces date from the sixth century BC. Villa Giulia also houses many artifacts that have been recovered from American museums, whose curators years ago bought the pieces from tomb raiders who pilfered Italy's best Etruscan sites.

Open daily except Monday 8:30 am-7:30 pm; last entry one hour before closing. 8 euros.

Piazzale di Villa Giulia 9 (Villa Borghese)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4423-9949

<http://www.villagiulia.beniculturali.it>



### Museo Nazionale Palazzo Altemps

Part of the Museo Nazionale Romano, this museum houses the Ludovisi, Mattei and Altemps families' art collections, including many ancient sculptures. The 15th-century palace, with its frescoes and painted ceilings, is a gem of the Roman Renaissance. The palace is also a venue for evening concerts in the summer. The terrace cafe is a perfect lunch spot during the summer months.

Daily except Monday 9 am-7:45 pm. Ticket office closes at 6:45 pm. Admission 7 euros; valid three days and includes admission to Crypta Balbi, Palazzo Massimo alle Terme and Terme di Diocleziano. An additional 3 euros is charged when there are exhibitions. An audio guide is available for 5 euros.

Piazza Sant'Apollinare 44  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3996-7700

<http://www.coopculture.it/heritage.cfm?id=7>

### Museo Nazionale Romano-Crypta Balbi

This archaeological gem peels back Rome's layers. The *crypta* (lobby) of the Teatro di Balbi has multimedia displays explaining the rising tide of history. Best of all, the ruins are interleaved with Plexiglas, demonstrating what excavators actually find (rather than what they putty together).

Open daily except Monday 9 am-7:45 pm. 7 euros plus 3 euros for temporary exhibitions; valid three days and includes admission to Terme di Diocleziano, Palazzo Altemps and Palazzo Massimo alle Terme.

Via delle Botteghe Oscure 31  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3996-7700

<http://www.coopculture.it/heritage.cfm?id=50>

### Palazzo Barberini

Two rival baroque architects and sculptors, Bernini and Borromini, worked on this grand residence, which now shelters the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica. You will see gems by Michelangelo da Caravaggio, Titian and Jacopo Tintoretto or the portrait of Henry VIII by Hans Holbein, as well as the spectacular baroque ceiling fresco by Pietro da Cortona and the finest collection of El Greco's work outside of the Prado. Nine newly renovated rooms allow more of the collection to be viewed, so reservations are no longer essential.

Open daily except Monday 8:30 am-7:30 pm. 7 euros. Reservation fee 1 euro.

Via delle Quattro Fontane 13 (Metro stop: Barberini)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-32810

<http://www.galleriaborghese.it/barberini/en/info.htm>

### Palazzo Massimo alle Terme

Part of the Museo Nazionale Romano, this restored palace displays a number of Roman paintings, coins, bronze statues, marble busts, floor mosaics and an entire frescoed room from Villa Livia.

Open daily except Monday 9 am-7:45 pm. 7 euros; valid three days and includes admission to Terme di Diocleziano, Palazzo Altemps and Crypta Balbi. Call for reservations and to ask about guided tours.

Largo di Villa Peretti 1 (across Piazza dei Cinquecento from the Terme di Diocleziano)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3996-7700

<http://archeoroma.beniculturali.it/musei/museo-nazionale-romano-palazzo-massimo>

### Terme di Diocleziano

These ancient Roman baths, part of the Museo Nazionale Romano, house an impressive collection of ancient Roman mosaics, coins, artifacts and statues.

Open daily except Monday 9 am-7:45 pm. Ticket office closes at 7 pm. 7 euros; valid three days and includes admission to Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, Palazzo Altemps and Crypta Balbi. Entrance fee may vary when there are special exhibitions.

Viale E. de Nicola 78 (at the Piazza dei Cinquecento)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3996-7700

<http://www.coopculture.it/heritage.cfm?id=67>

## Neighborhoods & Districts

### Campo Marzio

This part of the historic center contains much that is great about Rome: the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Campo di Fiori and Via Giulia. Bordered by the Vatican and the Tiber to the west, it's a dense cluster of ruins, churches, monuments, squares, alleys and shops. Rich in sights, much of the area is not the best option for dining ("tourist menus" and solicitors are common, as well as high tariffs for cafe seats). The best bets are on small side streets.

### Jewish Ghetto

This neighborhood—tucked between Via Arenula and Via del Teatro di Marcello and bordered by Largo Argentina—was historically the ghetto of the Roman Jews. Today, its winding narrow streets retain more of the flavor of medieval Rome than any other part of the city. It also has a stunning synagogue on the bank of the Tiber, the best kosher Italian restaurants in the world (along Via del Portico d'Ottavia) and some of the trendiest nightspots in Rome.

### L'Aventino

One of the seven hills on which Rome was founded is now one of the city center's most cosmopolitan residential areas, with fabulous villas and lush gardens. Legend says that Romulus chose the Palatine hill and his twin Remus chose the Aventine hill. Peek through the keyhole at the door to the Knights of Malta to see a perfect view of the dome of St. Peter's basilica, or catch a panoramic view of Trastevere from one of several lookout points. The neighborhood is a great place to stroll during the springtime when the scents of orange blossoms from Giardino degli Aranci and fresh roses from Roseto Comunale rose gardens offer a dizzying olfactory experience.

### Monti

Ancient Rome's shantytown (*Suburra*) is now gentrifying under the design of artists, hipsters and up-and-comers buying up once-cheap property. Ethnic restaurants, galleries, bars and funky shops flank its narrow alleys. The main square is often filled to capacity on weekends, when locals go out to visit and sip coffee or wine at the cafes around the perimeter. The area stretches east from the Forum between Via Nazionale and Via Cavour.

### Parioli

Sheep pastures were interspersed among the medieval and Renaissance buildings in this area at the beginning of the 20th century. Now it's one of the most expensive and cosmopolitan suburban areas of Rome. Many foreign embassies and consulates are located there, along with some very fine restaurants. It lies just north of Villa Borghese and west of La Sapienza (Rome's central university).

### Testaccio

One of the trendiest areas to eat, dance and live is Testaccio, across the Tiber from Trastevere at the bottom of the Aventine hill. The district is marked by a peculiar hill made from the shards of terra-cotta pots that carried wine and oil brought in boats coming down the Tiber from the sea. Merchants will fill their vats with the oil or wine and toss the used pots aside. Old stables and stalls from a Roman slaughterhouse that were built onto the side of the terra-cotta hill have been transformed into nightclubs and restaurants. An exhibit space run by the MACRO Museo D'Arte Contemporanea Roma on the old slaughterhouse grounds hosts fascinating exhibits, including a semipermanent 82-ft-/25-m-tall bamboo climbing structure. The shops and boutiques cater to the residents of a certain class who live on the posh Aventine Hill. The streets are lined with cafes and some of the best restaurants in all of Rome. The area is commonly referred to as the preferred place for Romans to dine.

### Trastevere

Literally meaning "across the Tiber," this was Rome's first suburb, and many residents insist it's the "real" Rome. The district is a thriving tangle of charming medieval streets, vibrant outdoor restaurants and trattorias, intimate bars and cafes. Trastevere is home to an array of galleries and artisans' shops, plus the large Sunday flea market, Porta Portese. The Church of Santa Maria dominates the piazza of the same name. The steps of the central fountain there are a good place to watch the area's colorful characters. To the west rises the Gianicolo Hill, which offers magnificent views from a ridgeline park.

## Parks & Gardens

### Gianicolo (Janiculum Hill)

This long, thin hill near the west bank of the Tiber River has wonderful views—it's the highest spot in the city. To get there from the Centro Storico—a steep but pleasant walk—cross the river on Ponte Sisto and climb Via Garibaldi. At the top is an equestrian statue of Giuseppe Garibaldi, and farther north, another of his wife, Anita, on a rearing horse, brandishing a baby and a gun. The lovely Passeggiata del Gianicolo is lined with other statues of national heroes. Every day at noon, a cannon (a howitzer, no less) is fired from below the Garibaldi statue.

Viale delle Mure Aurelie (on the hill between Piazza San Pietro and the Trastevere neighborhood)  
Rome, Italy

### Orto Botanico

Rome's botanic gardens are near the center of town, and their easy access makes them a relaxing break in what may be an otherwise crowded tourist schedule. They contain a wide variety of palms, a lovely terraced rose garden, enchanting stands of bamboo and a Japanese garden complete with a pagoda. The gardens occupy part of Queen Christina of Sweden's former villa, of which there are a few deteriorated reminders: Look for the fragment of a monumental staircase next to a grand, 350-year-old plane tree. Also of interest is a small garden for the blind with plants noted for their distinctive aromas and textures.

Largo Cristina di Svezia 24 (between the Gianicolo and the Tiber)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4991-2436

<http://sweb01.dbv.uniroma1.it/orto/index.html>

Open Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-6:30 pm (closes at 5:30 pm in winter). 8 euros.

### Roseto Comunale

Covering 2.5 acres/1 hectare of land between the Aventine and Palatine hills, Rome's communal rose gardens are among the best in Europe. More than 1,200 varieties of ancient, botanical and modern roses are divided into two sections—one for competition and another for collection. The gardens, which were built on the site of an old Jewish cemetery, are laid out in the shape of a candelabrum.

Via di Valle Murcia (Aventino)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-574-6810 to arrange a guided tour

[http://www.comune.roma.it/wps/portal/pcr?jpagecode=dip\\_pol\\_amb\\_roseto.wp](http://www.comune.roma.it/wps/portal/pcr?jpagecode=dip_pol_amb_roseto.wp)

Open daily 8 am-7 pm in May and June. Free.

### Villa Borghese

This large, peaceful city park has several museums, leafy walks, statuary, an artificial lake, stands of impressive umbrella pines and Rome's zoo, called Bioparco. Several foreign academies dot its boulevards. The park is a welcome reprieve from the noise and heat of the city. It's a favorite spot for strolling, jogging and walking dogs. In-line skates, go-karts and electric golf carts can all be rented there, usually near the main street that leads to the Pincio Gardens, which include the famous water clock and a fabulous view of Piazza del Popolo and St. Peter's Basilica in the distance (one the most famous spots in Rome to admire a summer sunset).

Piazza di Siena (in the triangle formed by Piazza di Spagna, Piazza del Popolo and Via Veneto)  
Rome, Italy

### Villa Doria Pamphili

This large park is one of the best places for exercising or relaxing, and it is especially popular with joggers, although it can get crowded on Sunday afternoon. Each turn and corner offers a glimpse of a delightful garden, fountain or cluster of statues. A beautiful villa and private garden stand in the center of the park.

Via Aurelia Antica (south of the Vatican and west of Gianicolo; enter through the gates near Porta San Pancrazio)  
Rome, Italy

## Recreation

Rome's mild climate permits year-round outdoor activity, but the city's recreational pickings are pretty slim. City parks, especially Villa Borghese and Villa Pamphili, are the best spots for walking, running, in-line skating or biking. Tennis and golf are a bit more challenging: They're relatively expensive and inaccessible.

Out of the city, Lago Bracciano and the coastal town of Lido di Ostia are two good spots for watersports, and the thermal spa Terme dei Papi in Viterbo is a favorite getaway for Romans. On Sunday, Via Appia Antica is closed to traffic, and the Appia Antica Park becomes a wonderful place to picnic, stroll among the monuments and bike.

## Bicycling

Rome's new mayor bikes to city hall every day and is encouraging citizens and tourists to do the same. As a result, the city has several cycling options, including the 9-mi/15-km track that runs from Ponte Castel Giubileo to Ponte Risorgimento at its south end. Some paths wind from Ponte Risorgimento through Villa Borghese, Villa Borghese to Villa Ada and, south of Rome, from Ponte Sublico to Ponte della Magliana. A newly paved trail flanks the Tiber River, from Ponte Milvio to Prati.

It is also pleasant to tour the city center on Sunday, when it's closed to automobile traffic. Bicycles are welcome on any *regionale, diretto* or intercity train (but not on the Eurostar trains) as long as the train isn't overbooked, providing an excellent way to enjoy the Castelli villages near Rome, or Lago Bracciano to the north.

Bike rentals are available at different points across the city and within Villa Borghese Park. A good deal can be found around the midpoint of the Via del Corso, near Largo San Carlo al Corso and Largo dei Lombardi: 3 euros per hour or 10 euros for the day, if there are bikes available. Along the Appia Antica, bike rental companies cluster around the Sede il Parco (Park Seat), which itself charges 15 euros per day or 3 euros per hour. Get there early for children's bikes. Daily 9:30 am-4 pm (5 pm in summer). Phone 06-513-5316. <http://www.parcoappiaantica.it>.

To the east is the Largo Tacchi Venturi, Comitato per la Caffarella, which charges 15 euros per day or 3 euros per hour for the first three hours. Open Saturday and Sunday 9:30 am-4:30 pm (6 pm in summer). Phone 333-713-7257.

## Bici & Baci

With locations near Termini Station and the Colosseum, this rental company allows you to reserve bicycles and scooters online.

Bicycles 4 euros per hour or 11 euros for the day. Scooters start at 6 euros per hour.

Via del Viminale 5  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-482-8443

<http://www.bicibaci.com>

## Boating & Sailing

Benito Mussolini had a vision to rebuild the center of Rome closer to the sea by re-creating new versions of the city's famous monuments for the World Exposition of 1942. The idea was sidetracked by the war and his eventual demise, but the remnants make up the modern neighborhood of EUR, which boasts an artificial lake perfect for small recreational boats. The lake was restored for the 1960 Olympic Games held in Rome. Paddle boats and other small vessels rent for as little as 1 euro for 40 minutes. Viale del Giappone.

## Golf

Golf courses aren't very accessible from Rome. Without a car and a good map, don't bother trying to find one. Be prepared to spend some time in traffic en route. Unless you're staying at a hotel adjoining the course, take along your home club membership card.

### Circolo Golf di Roma

Roman pines and cypresses dot this pastoral setting along the Appian Way. The 18-hole course dates from 1903. Home membership card required.

Daily except Monday 8 am-8 pm. Greens fees for foreign guests are 100 euros Tuesday-Friday. Closed to nonmembers Saturday and Sunday. Golf cart 60 euros for 18 holes.

Via Appia Nuova 716A  
Rome, Italy 178

**Phone:** 06-780-3407

<http://www.golfroma.it>

### Olgiate Golf Club

Amenities include a putting green, pro shop, bar, restaurant and swimming pool. The 18-hole course is outside the ring road, en route to Viterbo, so be prepared for a drive. Home membership card required.

Daily 8 am-midnight. Greens fees are 100 euros Monday-Friday; 160 euros Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Largo Olgiate 15  
Rome, Italy 123

**Phone:** 06-3088-9141

<http://www.olgiatagolfclub.it>

### Sheraton Golf

This 18-hole, par-72 course is connected to the Sheraton Golf Parco de' Medici Hotel. Home membership card required.

Daily except Tuesday 8 am-7 pm. Greens fees are 75 euros Monday-Friday, 95 euros Saturday and Sunday. Golf bags are available for rent at 30 euros.

Viale Salvatore Rebecchini 39  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-65288

<http://www.romagolfdistrict.net/eng/parco-demedici/descrizione.php>

### Hiking & Walking

The parks Villa Borghese, Villa Pamphili and Villa Ada (off Via Salaria) are good for in-town walks. More invigorating hikes, however, are found outside the city. The lakes just north of Rome are great for hiking and are easy to reach by train.

Tiny Lago di Vico, surrounded by a nature preserve, is a good choice. Also nearby is the Riserva Statale Naturale del Litorale Romano (State Nature Reserve of the Roman Coast), a protected stretch of coastline that includes the pine woods of Castel Fusano, where you can hike (or bike or ride horses) among pines, junipers and sand dunes. The area is just south of Lido di Ostia. Open Monday and Saturday 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 am-12:30 pm and 3-6 pm. <http://www.riservalitoraleromano.it>.

### Horseback Riding

The Gianicolo and Pincio parks both offer miniature-pony rides.

### Circolo Ippico Acqua Santa

Welcomes riders at Appia Antica Park. Centered on a 1904 manor hotel and holiday farm, the club has steeplechase fields, a pony club, jumping school and courses on equine therapy.

Tuesday-Saturday from 8 am (closing times vary seasonally), Sunday 8 am-12:30 pm. Reservations required. Lessons can be booked in monthly modules and vary in price.

Via di Vallericcia  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-7128-9148

<http://www.circoloippicoacquasanta.it>

### Jogging

Joggers mainly avoid Rome's streets, which are narrow and often clogged with parked cars and elegant, disdainful pedestrians. Running along the Tiber is pleasant, or try the Villa Borghese, Villa Pamphili Circo Massimo or Villa Ada (off Via Salaria). At lunchtime, the path along Viale delle Terme di Caracalla (near Circo Massimo) is popular among joggers.

## Spas and Health Clubs

### AquaMadre Hammam

Tucked down a back street between Largo Argentina and the Jewish Synagogue, this luxurious hammam makes use of an underground grotto. Choose from a vast selection of treatments including massages and special mud masks.

Open for men and women Tuesday 2-9 pm, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 11 am-9 pm. Women only Wednesday and Friday 11 am-9 pm. Basic hammam 50 euros, plus 10 euros for slippers and Kassa glove. Treatments and massages range 20 euros-180 euros. Free for children younger than 6, half price for children ages 6-10; children are expected to behave well.

Via di Sant'Ambrogio 17  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 686-4272

<http://www.acquamadre.it/Acquamadre-Hammam-Roma>

### Dabliu Barberini

Close to the Via Veneto and Piazza Tritone, this spotless club offers exercise classes that range from step to spinning. It stands behind the Bernini Bristol on the same street as Da Tullio, a great restaurant with a wood-burning oven. Various other locations throughout Rome.

Monday-Friday 7 am-10:30 pm, Saturday 9 am-7 pm, Sunday 10 am-5 pm. Day fee is 20 euros.

Via San Nicola Da Tolentino 30  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4201-2515

<http://www.dabliu.info>

### Dok Bua City Retreat

Be pampered East Asian-style at this Thai spa, which offers some of the best relaxation in Rome. Enjoy massages from experts who learned their art at the Thai Spa Heritage in Bangkok. Try the "Surf of Sea" massages. Shiatsu, reiki, tansu, yoga and Pilates are also available. Massages start at 45 euros, always followed by a tea ceremony. Transportation is offered.

Open Monday-Saturday 11 am-9 pm.

Via Flaminia 495a (located in the Hotel River Chateau)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-333-9059

<http://www.riverchateau.net/hotel-roma-wellness-en.htm>

### Moves

This small exercise gym is well-situated in the heart of the *centro*, near a beautiful street lined with antiques shops. It offers traditional exercise and weights, as well as yoga, aerobics and Pilates.

Monday-Friday 8 am-9 pm, Saturday 10 am-4 pm, Sunday 10 am-1 pm. Day fee is 18 euros.

Via dei Coronari 46  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-4989

<http://www.moves-fitness.com>

### Roman Sport Center

This giant sports center located in the Villa Borghese has just about everything a traveler may require: traditional club facilities, aerobics, yoga, spinning, squash, pools, steam room, massage, even a pro shop.

Hours vary, but are generally Monday-Friday 7 am-10:30 pm, Saturday 7 am-8:30 pm, Sunday 9 am-3 pm. Fees vary, but there are usually special offers online. Visit the website for more information.

Via del Galoppatoio 33  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-321-8096

<http://www.romansportcenter.com>



## Swimming

### Piscina delle Rose

The Piscina della Rosa offers a much-needed venue for cooling off during the summer months. Full Olympic swimming pool, plus health club and spa.

Open mid-May to September Monday-Friday 10 am-10 pm, Saturday and Sunday 9 am-7 pm. Tickets start at 16 euros adults. Package deals available.

Viale America 20 (Metro stop: Eur Palasport)

Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-5422-0333

<http://www.piscinadellerose.it>

### Rome Cavalieri

This hotel north of the Vatican allows nonguests to use its outdoor pool, which is heated—a rarity in Rome. You'll pay well for the privilege—45 euros per day Monday-Friday, 85 euros Saturday and Sunday.

Daily 9 am-7 pm, closed in cold weather.

Via Cadlolo 101

Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3509-2040

<http://www.romecavalieri.com>

## Nightlife

Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* depicted a lifestyle of savoring the city's sidewalk cafes and nightclubs—a portrayal that's still very accurate today. A typical Roman evening begins with a late dinner, followed by the *passeggiata* (a stroll). This involves strolling through the piazzas of the city and stopping for coffee, gelato or a drink at a local pub or *enoteca* (wine bar). Nightclubs remain virtually empty until about 1 am. The majority of bars close at 2 am, with nightclubs shuttering around 4 am. However, this only means they stop entry. People already inside are permitted to stay until dawn, or even longer.

Nightspots are present throughout the city. The Centro Storico offers a wide range of bars, primarily filled with tourists (the Campo dei Fiori is especially popular). Trastevere is the spot for locals and students, with literally hundreds of bars and restaurants, dozens of movie theaters and a few nightclubs—all in an accessible, pedestrian-friendly area. Most clubs are in remote corners of the city. The Testaccio area near the Piramide metro stop is one exception. Late-night restaurants and bars flank some of the best dance spots. Don't dally on the streets at night at the risk of being pickpocketed.

The city's live-music scene gets hopping late, with everything from South American rhythms to jazz.

## Bars, Taverns & Pubs

### Abbey Theatre

Near Piazza Navona, this two-story Irish Victorian pub is popular both day and night—especially when there's a rugby match. Imported beer and whiskey are always on tap. It serves lunch and dinner, as well as Irish sausage, potatoes and beans for breakfast.

Open daily noon-2 am. Happy hour Monday-Friday 3-8 pm.

Via del Governo Vecchio 51/53

Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-1341

<http://www.abbey-rome.com>

### Antica Enoteca di Via della Croce

Sit at the bar to sample delicious, freshly prepared appetizers and to drink Fragolino, a sparkling, berry-flavored wine, or one of the many other wines. This is also an ideal place to stop for lunch, dinner or an afternoon drink while shopping near Piazza di Spagna. The place can become touristy at times, however.

Daily noon-1 am (packed from 5 pm until closing).

Via della Croce 76

Rome, Italy

**Art Cafe**

This trendy nightspot is set among the tree-lined lawns of Villa Borghese park. During the day it serves as a center for cultural conferences and exhibitions. At night it becomes a hedonistic refuge for actors, models and other celebrities. Gazebos, tents, whirlpools and massage tables are spread out over the surrounding park during the hot summer months, when each night a different Asian culture is explored.

Daily 9 am-3 am.

Viale del Galoppatoio 33 (near the Via Veneto entrance to Villa Borghese)  
Rome, Italy

**Caffe della Pace**

This place has an elegant, 19th-century interior (painted by Lucifero) and charming hanging-ivy exterior. A bit on the expensive side, and the swanky atmosphere only increases as the night wears on. The after-10 crowd mingles amid smoky mirrors, cool sofas and candlelight. By day, splurge for a drink at one of the outdoor tables: The view of the narrow piazza and an exquisite church, Santa Maria della Pace, is well worth it.

Monday 4 pm-2 am, Tuesday-Sunday 8:30 am-2 am. In the evening, it gets going at about 10 pm.

Via della Pace 3/7  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-1216

<http://www.caffedellapace.it>

**Cul de Sac**

This historic wine bar is famous for serving more than 1,500 different wines, along with other drinks and Middle Eastern snacks. In summer, sit on the patio and watch tourists mix with movie stars and locals.

Open daily noon-4 pm and 6 pm-12:30 am.

Piazza Pasquino 73 (just south of Piazza Navona)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6880-1094

<http://www.enotecaculdesac.com>

**Enoteca Cavour 313**

One of Rome's original wine bars, unpretentious Cavour 313 (the name is simply the establishment's address) has avoided trends and stuck with what works: a solid menu of light foods, a diverse selection of wines (including two dozen available by the glass), a comfortable interior and a knowledgeable staff.

Restaurant open daily for lunch and dinner. Wine bar open daily 10 am-12:30 am (Sunday till 11:30 pm). Closed Sunday in summer.

Via Cavour 313 (between the Imperial Forum and Termini train station)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-678-5496

<http://www.cavour313.it>

**Jonathan's Angels**

The bar's founder, an ex-circus star, decorated the place with hundreds of self-portraits in different costumes and periods. The elaborately decorated, exceedingly tacky neobaroque restroom is legendary (and somewhat overhyped), and there's usually a wait in line to see it. The bar is generally packed after 9 pm, and there's live music nightly after 11.

Open Monday-Saturday 8 pm-2 am, Sunday 1 pm-2 am.

Via della Fossa 16  
Rome, Italy

**Open Baladin**

Shelves of beer bottles brilliantly line the walls at this low-key bar, which offers dozens of artisan beers, bottled and on tap. The staff is friendly, and the beer selection impressive; be aware that beer is the only beverage on the menu. A limited menu of snacks is offered all the time, with a full menu of light options available at lunch and dinner.

Daily noon-2 am.

Via degli Specchi 6 (between the Jewish Ghetto and Campo dei Fiori)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-683-8989

<http://www.openbaladin.com>

### Trinity College

This Irish pub is the most cosmopolitan bar in Rome, where tourists, expats and foreign students mix with xenophile Italians. Busy every night, it's packed Friday and Saturday evenings when DJs play. It is also a pleasant place to take a break from sightseeing in the afternoon or get a drink before dinner.

Daily noon-2:30 am.

Via del Collegio Romano 6 (just behind Palazzo Doria Pamphili)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-678-6472

<http://www.trinity-rome.com>

## Dance & Nightclubs

### Gilda

Still one of the liveliest places in Rome for the over-40 crowd, this place is so out of date that it's kind of in again. Famous local artists go to be seen, but there's also great dancing for commoners to enjoy. Elegant attire is mandatory to get past the snobby bouncers.

Open daily except Monday. Closed July and August. The 25-euro cover includes one drink. A table costs 30 euros per person.

Via Mario de' Fiori 97  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-678-4838

<http://www.gildabar.it>

### Goa

One of the most popular clubs in Rome. Its interior sports candles, mirrors, incense, flowers and plasma screens that show the latest video art. Italy's best DJs make frequent appearances there. Fans of electronic music flock to the place on Thursday evening. Tough doormen, so show *bella figura*.

Open from midnight Wednesday-Saturday. Cover including one drink starts at 10 euros.

Via Libetta 13  
Rome, Italy

### Hulala

Fashionistas unite! This trendy club in Testaccio is a magnet for Rome's glitterati who gather to impress each other. A great place to kick off a night of clubbing around Monte Testaccio, famous for its late nightlife.

Via dei Conciatori 7  
Rome, Italy

### Joia

One of the best new clubs in Testaccio with weekly sponsored parties by the likes of Mercedes Benz and Mont Blanc. This club has something for everyone. Conventional dance music on the main floor, vintage music in the basement and "risto-disco," where dinner turns into dancing after 11 pm.

15 euro cover charge.

Via Galvani 20  
Rome, Italy

### L'Alibi Disco

This is the best-known, most elegant gay gathering place in Rome. A DJ spins dance music.

Open Wednesday-Sunday 11:30 pm-5 am. Cover ranges 10 euros-20 euros.

Via Monte Testaccio 40  
Rome, Italy 153

**Phone:** 06-574-3448

<http://www.lalibi.it>

## Planet Roma

This cutting-edge club stages special events, including nights dedicated to jazz, international music, cabaret, live music, discos and theme parties on five dance floors.

Opening times range 9 pm-midnight on Friday and Saturday; hours vary on other nights depending on concert schedules. Call after 4 pm for theme information and opening times.

Cover 1 euro-20 euros, depending on the event.

Via del Commercio 36 (near the Ostiense and Piramide metro stops)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-574-7826

<http://www.planetroma.com>

## Zoobar

This huge dance club has an enormous dance floor, as well as an outdoor area that is used for dancing in the summer.

Open Friday and Saturday night. The fun rarely starts before midnight and lasts until 5 am. Cover 10 euros; discount for booking in advance.

Via Generale Roberto Bencivenga 1  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 339-272-7995

<http://www.zoobar.roma.it>

## Live Music

### Alexanderplatz

Dinner is available in this well-appointed jazz club.

Sunday-Thursday concerts start at 9:45 pm; Friday and Saturday concerts usually start after 10:30 pm; closes at 3:30 am. Closed July and August. Reservations are highly recommended. A monthly subscription is 12 euros. There may be an additional charge depending on the act.

Via Ostia 9 (in the Prati district)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3974-2171

<http://www.alexanderplatz.it>

### Big Mama

Big names perform weekly in this internationally known club—Rome's Home of the Blues. Dinner is served from 9 pm. Make plans to walk there, because almost no parking is available.

Schedule varies weekly. Opens at 9 pm, acts begin around 10:30 pm, closes at 1:30 am. 8 euros for a one-month membership; there can be an additional cover for big-name acts.

Vicolo San Francesco a Ripa 18 (off Viale di Trastevere)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-581-2551

<http://www.bigmama.it>

### Casa del Jazz

A unique venue along the ancient Aurelian wall in central Rome that offers indoor and outdoor seating for 150 people, rehearsal rooms for private lessons, and a bookstore and minimuseum of jazz history. The annual summer concert series features well-known contemporary jazz greats as well as up-and-comers.

Ticket office is open 7:30-10:30 pm on the days of shows; ticket prices vary.

Viale di Porta Ardeatina 55  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-704-731

<http://www.casajazz.it>

### Fonclea

Most of the big names in Italian pop got started in this venue. It offers English country-pub decor in the pretty Prati district. The main room is reserved for nonsmokers. Light meals are served.

*Note:* In summer, it moves to the Lungotevere (the market along the Tiber) in the area called Ponte Palatino (no street numbers).

Open nightly 7 pm-2 am (till 3 am Friday and Saturday). Free admission Sunday-Thursday, 7 euros Friday and Saturday.

Via Crescenio 82a  
Rome, Italy 193

**Phone:** 06-689-6302

<http://www.fonclea.it>

### Sinister Noise

The newest live music venue among the limited selection in Rome may be its most interesting. The underground club has a perfect home between Ostiense and Piramide in Testaccio. National and international acts play everything from 1960s and '70s rock to soul, funk and progressive.

Via dei Magazzini Generali 4b  
Rome, Italy

<http://www.sinisternoise.com>

## Performing Arts

Rome's greatest strength in the performing arts is perhaps in the theater, but almost all offerings are in Italian. (English-language productions are sometimes put on at Teatro Agora, Teatro dell'Arte and Teatro Ghione.) Rome's opera standards are also high, and dance companies, both classical and modern, perform to packed houses.

When it comes to classical music, Rome can't rival London or New York in terms of the sheer number of concerts, but the scene maintains high standards. Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the major hall in Rome, hosts many symphonic and chamber-music concerts, and Teatro dell'Opera also hosts well-known international dance companies. Concerts are also presented in churches and historic sites and among the city's ruins such as Terme di Caracalla and Largo Argentina during the summer months. Performing-arts schedules are promoted in local papers and billboards, and advertisements posted on buildings in the Centro Storico announce upcoming performances.

Nearby Cinecitta (Film City) has served as the studio for some great Hollywood epics, as well as for some Italian directors such as Fellini and Rossellini, and it is now periodically open to the public (<http://www.cinecitta.it>). Rome taps into the tradition with a large supply of cinemas, including several that screen movies in their original language. There are also a number of national and international film festivals in town. And during the summer months, two outdoor cinemas usually shine, each with a single screening just after sunset. One is near the Colosseum, and the other is on Tibertina Island. For more information, ask at the tourist information booths.

### Film

Many Italian cinemas run films in their original language (indicated by "v.o." in listings) several times a week.

#### Nuovo Olimpia

This old cinema behind the Parliament is not particularly comfortable, and neither the sound nor the picture is of the quality of modern cinemas. However, it regularly presents English-, French- and Spanish-language films, with subtitles in Italian.

8 euros general admission, 6 euros for matinees Monday-Friday and all day Wednesday.

Via in Lucina 16g (off Via del Corso, just north of Piazza Colonna)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-1068

<http://www.cinemadelsilenzio.it>

#### The Space Cinema Moderno

One of the best movie theaters in Rome, both for comfort and the quality of sound and picture. It frequently shows English and Italian versions of films on separate screens.

8.50 euros, matinees 6.50 euros.

Piazza Repubblica 45 (Metro stop: Repubblica)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 39-892-111

<http://www.thespacecinema.it>

### Warner Village Moderno

As close to an all-American cinematic experience as you can get in Rome, complete with buttered popcorn. Two locations: in central Rome, a five-screen theater is in a former strip club; out of town, a multiplex is easy to reach by train at Parco de'Medici on the way to the Fiumicino airport.

7.50 euros.

Piazza della Repubblica 45-46  
Rome, Italy

## Music

### Accademia Filarmonica Romana

The Teatro Olimpico hosts this group's chamber-music concerts and dance recitals during its October-May season.

The box office at the theater is open 10 am-7 pm.

Piazza Gentile de Fabriano 17  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-320-1752 for information, or  
06-326-5991 for tickets

<http://www.filarmonicaromana.org>

### Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia

This resident ensemble performs symphonic concerts October-June in the Auditorium Parco della Musica. Concerts are sometimes held at the Baths of Caracalla as well.

The box office is open daily 11 am-8 pm.

Via Pietro da Coubertin 30-34  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-808-2058

<http://www.santacecilia.it>

### Teatro Palladium

Roma Tre university in central Rome continues to add interesting concerts to its annual schedule. The 1920s theater has been refurbished and the acoustics are superb.

The box office is open Monday-Friday 9:30 am-1 pm and 2-6 pm only by telephone, walk-up daily except Monday 4-8 pm and until one hour before performances on scheduled days.

Piazza Bartolomeo Romano 8  
(Garbatella)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4555-3052

<http://www.romaeuropa.net/palladium>

## Opera

### Teatro Argentina

Rome's oldest opera house was inaugurated in 1732 and has hosted many operatic premieres, including Gioachino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* in 1816 and Giuseppe Verdi's *I Due Foscari* in 1844. More recently, the theater has hosted avant-garde opera performances and plays.

The box office is open daily except Monday 10 am-2 pm and 3-7 pm.

Largo di Torre Argentina 52  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6840-00311

<http://www.teatrodiroma.net>

### Teatro dell'Opera

Operas are performed September-June. The theater also hosts ballet and other performances. In summer, many performances are staged in the Terme di Caracalla.

Buy tickets at the box office Tuesday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday 9 am-1:30 pm.

Piazza B. Gigli 1  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4817-003

<http://www.operaroma.it>



## Ticket Brokers

### Genti e Paesi

Tickets for a variety of shows and sporting events, as well as to most theaters and museums.

Monday-Friday 9 am-7 pm; Saturday 9 am-6 pm (July and August until 2 pm).

Via Adda 111  
Rome, Italy 198  
**Phone:** 06-8530-1755  
<http://www.gentiepaesi.it>

### Orbis

Offers tickets to museums, sporting events, theater productions and other shows.

Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-1 pm and 4-7:30 pm. Closed Saturday afternoon in summer.

Piazza dell'Esquilino 37  
Rome, Italy 185

### TicketOne

Order tickets online to any sporting event, concert or cultural event year-round.

<http://www.ticketone.it>.

Rome, Italy  
<http://www.ticketone.it>

## Venues

### Auditorium Parco della Musica

This theater complex is the largest in Europe, with three main halls in varying sizes. Home to the Orchestra dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia, it also presents a multitude of other performances, from dance to large rock concerts to cinema. In the winter months, the outdoor area is transformed into a snowy playland complete with an ice rink. The Auditorium—designed by superstar architect Renzo Piano—also serves as a venue for painting, sculpture and photography exhibitions. Check the online schedule for up-to-date information.

Open daily 11 am-8 pm and one hour before concerts.

Viale Pietro da Coubertin 30  
Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 06-892-982  
<http://www.auditorium.com>

## Spectator Sports

Romans are known for passionately following soccer, tennis, cycling and horse racing. Soccer, called *calcio*, is the Italian national sport, played September-June. Sunday afternoon is the traditional time for home games of the local contenders, Roma and Lazio. Horse races take place at Le Capannelle on Sunday.

The Rome Marathon in March is picking up steam as an internationally recognized event. The city dresses for the occasion, and some of the best runners in the world compete.

## Horse Racing

### Le Capannelle

There's racing at Le Capannelle every Sunday and also on some weekdays.

Your hotel's concierge or front-desk staff can get the timetable, which changes often. Entrance fee is 3 euros.

Via Appia Nuova 1245 (south of the city)  
Rome, Italy 178

**Phone:** 06-716-771

<http://www.capannelleippodromo.it>

## Soccer

### Roma and Lazio soccer teams

The Eternal City is blessed with two local teams: Roma and Lazio. Matches are generally held on Sunday afternoon at the Olympic Stadium, meaning there is a home game for one team or the other every weekend during the season. When these teams clash twice a year for the *scudetto*, the city erupts in a froth of air horns, graffiti and banners (Roma's is red and gold with a she-wolf; Lazio's is blue and white with an eagle). Note that both clubs are notorious for hooligans—racist outbursts and violent clashes with police can and do happen.

Tickets cost 15 euros-100 euros. They can be purchased at the team stores or through your hotel concierge. AS Roma Store is located at Piazza Colonna 360 (open daily; phone 06-678-6514). Lazio Point store is located at Via Farini 34 (open Monday-Saturday).

Via Foro Italico (Stadio Olimpico)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6920-0642

<http://www.sslazio.it>

## Other Options

### Campionato Internazionale di Tennis

If you're lucky enough to be in town for the Italian Open—and lucky enough to get a seat—you will be thrilled by the world-class competitors at this series. Tickets can be expensive; later-round tickets are almost impossible to acquire. The events take place in the Foro Italico in late April or early May.

Viale dei Gladiatori 31  
Rome, Italy

<http://www.internazionalibnlditalia.it>

## Shopping

Rome's trendy stores with the latest fashions just might divert you from seeing one more museum. Fans of Prada, Fendi, Ferragamo or Gucci will have plenty to choose from. What's more, those famous brands, which are available around the world, will seem different: Even the designers known for the purity of their lines—Armani, for instance—seem to offer something a little more baroque in Rome. But the true joy of shopping in this city lies in discovering one-of-a-kind items in specialty shops. Hundreds of such stores sell goods, particularly shoes and clothing accessories, that are produced on-site, often using centuries-old techniques.

Beyond the world of high fashion, you can check out the upscale secondhand shops on Via del Governo Vecchio, the artisan studios of Trastevere and the galleries of Monti. Rome also has a handful of markets, each with a distinctive style. The colorful and inviting Campo dei Fiori offers cheeses, spices, some clothing, kitchenware and, of course, flowers (the name means field of flowers). The Sunday flea market at Porta Portese, the largest in Europe, is not for the faint of heart—shoppers are packed in so tightly it becomes an effort just to stop or cross the street. Go early and beware of pickpockets.

Regular shuttle buses at 10 am and 12:30 and 3 pm from Termini train station are available to take shoppers to the Castel Romano Designer Outlet Mall 16 mi/25 km outside the city. The open-air mall has more than 100 boutiques, many Italian luxury brands, offering merchandise at 70% savings. Via Ponte di Piscina Cupa 64, Castel Romano. Phone 06-505-0050. <http://www.mcarthurglen.com/it/castel-romano-designer-outlet>.

Much of Rome—and indeed, Italy—shuts down for several weeks in the summer heat. This period, known as Ferragosto, can stretch from mid-July through August. The one advantage: superb sales beforehand.

**Shopping Hours:** Stores are generally open Monday-Saturday 9 am-1 pm and 4:30-7:30 pm. Most stores are closed all day Sunday, and some take Monday morning off, as well. The exception is the Centro Storico, where a seven-day shopping culture is emerging. In winter, many boutiques have reduced hours, although most open their doors until 8:30 or 9 pm two weeks before Christmas.

## Antique Stores

Three streets—Via del Babuino, Via Coronari and Via Giulia—are lined with very good shops carrying English, French and Italian furniture, most of it from the 1700s and 1800s. Granmercato dell'Antiquariato, next to the Babuino fountain, has three floors for browsing. Other antiques shops and *rigattieri* (collectors) can be found on side streets near Campo dei Fiori, Via Panico and Via di Monserrato.

On the second and fourth Sunday of every month, an eclectic antique market is held in the Ponte Milvio market 9 am-6 pm. Piazzale di Ponte Milvio (at Torretta Valadier). Phone 335-580-4254.

In May and October, Via dell'Orso and Via dei Coronari have street fairs. Christie's, Sotheby's and several other houses hold regular auctions throughout the year.

## Bookstores

### Almost Corner Bookshop

This tiny shop (its previous location was on a corner) can be found down a picturesque street in Trastevere, just off the Ponte Sisto. Packed to the rafters with choice selections, it's open Sunday to boot (except in August).

Monday-Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm and 3:30-8 pm, Sunday 11 am-1:30 pm and 3:30-8 pm.

Via del Moro 45  
Rome, Italy

### Anglo American Bookstore

A great shop located near the Spanish Steps, the Anglo American offers a wide selection of English titles and travel books, as well as a good children's-book section.

Open Monday 3:30-7:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10:30 am-7:30 pm. In summer, it's open Monday morning and closed Saturday afternoon. The store closes for two weeks in August.

Via della Vite 102 (near the Spanish Steps)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-679-5222

<http://www.aab.it>

### Feltrinelli International

Thousands of English-language titles to choose from, spanning various genres such as fiction, travel, cuisine and history. Feltrinelli's also stocks stationery, maps and literary souvenirs. There are other locations throughout the city, but they have smaller international selections.

Monday-Saturday 9 am-8 pm, Sunday 10:30 am-1:30 pm and 4-8 pm. Closed Sunday in August.

Via V.E. Orlando 84 (near Termini station, just off Piazza della Repubblica)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-487-0999

<http://www.lafeltrinelli.it>

### La Libreria del Viaggiatore

A vast selection of travel books in multiple languages, including travelogues, maps and itineraries.

Open Monday 4-8 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-2 pm and 4-8 pm. Closed for one week in August.

Via del Pellegrino 78 (Campo dei Fiori)  
Rome, Italy

### Open Door Bookshop

As the name suggests, book lovers will find a warm welcome in this shop, which has been around for more than 30 years. No matter what your interests, you are likely to find something in this eclectic collection of second-hand books in Italian, French, Spanish and English. A true browser's paradise.

Monday-Saturday 10:30 am-8 pm.

Via della Lungaretta 23  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-589-6478

<http://www.books-in-italy.com>

### Touring Club Italiano

Produces driving maps and guides. Stop in before an automotive excursion.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm (closes for lunch on Saturday 2-3 pm).

Viale Giulio Cesare 100  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3600-5281

<http://www.touringclub.it>

## Department Stores

### COIN

Expect fashionable—but typical—men's and women's casual and dress wear and shoes, as well as glasses, cosmetics, perfumes and furniture. Branches dot the city. There's even a convenient location at the Termini train station.

Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday 10:30 am-8 pm.

Via Cola di Rienzo 173  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3600-4298

<http://www.coin.it>

### La Rinascente

Classic men's, women's clothing and some housewares, as well as cosmetics and accessories, are found there at moderate prices.

Open daily 10 am-9 pm.

Piazza Colonna (Via del Corso, in the  
Galleria Alberto Sordi)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-678-4209

<http://www.rinascente.it>

## Markets

### Campo dei Fiori

At this white-tented market, vendors hawk beautiful flowers, fresh produce, spices and food delicacies, especially cheeses. The best bread-maker in all of Rome, Forno, is located there—try the *pizza bianca*, considered by Roman cognoscenti to be the best in the city. On Sunday afternoon, artists sell paintings in the square.

Prime market hours are Monday-Saturday 7 am-1:30 pm, when most vendors are set up and ready to sell.

Campo dei Fiori (between the river and  
Corso Vittorio Emanuele II)  
Rome, Italy 186

**Porta Portese**

Rome's flea market sells practically everything—from a doghouse and an 18th-century sofa to old and new pearls (strung in India) and icons of dubious heritage. Look through tables of used clothing, including the occasional vintage design. As a rule, the best and most interesting finds are in the stalls around Piazza Ippolito Nievo. Bargaining is half the fun—expect high drama when you offer a few euros less. Be extremely wary of pickpockets, because the aisles get crowded.

Open Sunday 7 am-2 pm.

Ponte Sublicio (on the west side of the Tiber, spanning a warren of streets and alleys)  
Rome, Italy

**Via Sannio Market**

This place sells new and secondhand clothes and shoes.

Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-2 pm.

Via Sannio (near Porta San Giovanni)  
Rome, Italy

**Shopping Areas****Galleria Alberto Sordi**

Alberto Sordi was perhaps Italy's most popular comic actor. His death in 2003 led to more than two weeks of national mourning and dozens of monuments and dedications in his honor. The most famous of these was the reopening of the Galleria Colonna, rechristened Galleria Alberto Sordi. This beautiful building houses dozens of shops, a few cafes and Feltrinelli's enormous media shop. The Galleria has become one of the primary cultural focal points for the city, hosting concerts, poetry readings, charity rallies and art exhibitions. It has even replaced the Spanish Steps as the default meeting point for locals.

Open Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-9 pm, Friday and Saturday 8:30 am-10 pm, Sunday 9:30 am-9 pm.

Piazza Colonna  
Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 06-6919-0769  
<http://www.galleriaalbertosordi.it>

**Via Cola di Rienzo**

Starting at Piazza Risorgimento near the Vatican, this long, somewhat unprepossessing street is an excellent shopping area for nearly everything, especially for women's clothing and leather products. It's popular with locals.

Via Cola di Rienzo  
Rome, Italy

**Via del Corso**

This central street, running from Piazza del Popolo to Piazza Venezia, has the best (and some of the most expensive) shopping in Rome. The east side of the street, near Piazza di Spagna, hosts upscale boutiques. Two cross streets, Via Frattina and Via Condotti, are a veritable who's who of designer names (with street vendors selling counterfeit wares right in front of the designers they're imitating). On the west side are more reasonably priced men's and women's clothes (still of exceptional quality). Near the Trevi Fountain, you may even be able to find some bargains, especially in shoes and leather goods.

Via del Corso  
Rome, Italy

### Via Nazionale

This street, which stretches from Piazza Venezia to Piazza della Repubblica, is lined with small specialty fashion shops known for attractive sale prices in July and January. Most of the best shops are at the end closest to Piazza della Repubblica.

Via Nazionale  
Rome, Italy

### Specialty Stores

Most specialty shops are one-person or family operations, and their opening hours are completely dependent on the owners.

#### Al Sogno

Tiny lead soldiers line up to protect unusual dolls and lifelike plush animals, all in a charming setting. The perfect place to buy a gift for a child.

Daily 10 am-8 pm; extended hours in summer.

Piazza Navona 53  
Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 06-686-4198  
<http://www.alsogno.com>

#### Andrea Gobbi

See the artist and his students at work in this dramatic atelier, which was renovated to reflect each show's theme.

Via dei Lucani 33a  
Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 06-4434-0151  
<http://www.andreagobbi.com>

#### Antica Norcineria Viola

One of the best places in the Centro Storico to buy prosciutto and more than 100 different salami produced in the city of Norcia in Umbria. Ever tried anise salami?

Monday-Saturday 7:30 am-1:30 pm and 4:30-8 pm.

Piazza Campo de' Fiori 43  
Rome, Italy

#### Borsalino

Borsalino has been in the hat-making business for more than a century, and that experience is reflected in its quality goods. The milliner carries a selection of stylish accessories, belts and gloves, too.

Monday 3:30-7:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-7:30 pm, Sunday 10:30 am-7:30 pm.

Piazza del Popolo 20  
Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 06-3265-0838  
<http://www.borsalino.com>

#### Claudio Sano

This young designer sculpts Tuscan leather into futuristic yet functional pieces—from sleek attache cases to fish-shaped handbags.

67a Largo degli Osci (San Lorenzo)  
Rome, Italy  
**Phone:** 06-446-9284  
<http://www.claudiosano.it>



**C.U.C.I.N.A.**

What Italian kitchens are made of: gadgets, pans, odd little devices. This store has everything you need to stock the home kitchen and set the table.

Open Tuesday-Friday 10 am-7:30 pm, Saturday 10:30 am-7:30 pm.

Via Mario de' Fiori 65  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-679-1275

<http://www.cucinastore.com>

**Eataly**

This three-story glass shrine to Italian cuisine is a must-stop for foodies and nonfoodies alike. The giant space is divided into areas dedicated to pasta, spices, wine and funky kitchen gadgets interspersed with restaurants, wine corners, a beer hall and a fresh market.

Daily 10 am-midnight.

Piazzale XII Ottobre 1492  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-9027-9201

<http://www.eataly.it>

**Fornari & Fornari**

Finest Italian designer kitchenware. This is the place to stock up on beautiful silverware, glassware, crockery and tabletop accessories for your Italian cooking back home.

Monday 3:30-7:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-7:30 pm.

Via Frattina 133  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-678-0105

<http://www.fornari1905.com>

**Giorgio Sermoneta**

Stars and fashionistas stock up on this shop's beautiful handmade leather gloves, lined with silk or cashmere. Chose a favorite fancy cuff and pick from a riot of colors.

Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-8 pm, Sunday 10:30 am-7 pm.

Piazza di Spagna 61  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-679-1960

<http://www.sermonetagloves.com>

**Joseph Debach**

These handmade shoes are works of art—some resemble sultans' slippers with curled-up toes. Don't bother visiting during the day, though. The shop is a fixture of Trastevere nightlife and never opens before 7:30 pm (though phone orders are accepted). Closed Friday.

Vicolo de Cinque 19 (Trastevere)  
Rome, Italy

**Polvere di Tempo, Guytamelli**

This store specializes in archaic mechanisms for telling time. It has an impressive selection of handmade hourglasses, sundials, solar clocks, water clocks, candle clocks and other antique instruments, as well as a small collection of jewelry and leather goods.

Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm (until 9 pm in summer).

Via del Moro 59 (Trastevere)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-588-0704

<http://www.polvereditempo.com>

### Spazio Sette

For home furnishings, kitchenware and lighting, Spazio Sette offers the best in European design. Even the store is a work of art, with frescoed ceilings above three floors of houseware heaven in a 17th-century palazzo near the Campo dei Fiori.

Open Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-1 pm and 3:30-7:30 pm. Closed Monday morning and for the month of August.

Via dei Barbieri 7  
Rome, Italy

### Trimani

This elegant wine shop is one of the best in Rome, offering a large selection of wines from Italy and France, as well as spirits and liquors.

Monday-Saturday 9 am-8:30 pm.

Via Goito 20 (near Termini)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-446-9661

<http://www.trimani.com>

### Valzani

This is one source of those lavish hostess gifts that Romans bestow, all gussied up with wrapping paper and ribbons. Valzani stocks handmade chocolate candies, nougat and traditional Italian treats. Its gorgeous Sacher torte is hard to resist, so why try?

Open daily 10 am-8 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday mornings and during July and August.

Via del Moro 37B (Trastevere)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-580-3792

<http://www.valzani.it>

### Volpetti

Savor the gourmet cuisine of Norcia, in Umbria, a region famed for its cheese, ham and sausages. The store overflows with delicacies such as wild-boar ham, Piedmontese cheese with white truffles (*crutin*), farmed Italian caviar (*calvisius*) and 200-euro bottles of 50-year-old balsamic vinegar (*aceto balsamico tradizionale di Modena*).

Open Monday-Saturday 8 am-2 pm and 5-8:15 pm.

Via Marmorata 47, Testaccio  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-574-2352

<http://www.volpetti.com>

## Itinerary

## Day Trips

Rome is in the center of the historic Latium (Lazio) region. Day trips can take in the rich offerings of the region, from the Mediterranean coast to antiquities in the hills around the city.

To **Ostia Antica**. Visit the well-preserved ruins of ancient Rome's port in a beautiful park of pines and cypresses less than 15 mi/24 km from Rome. The extensive excavations expose the empire's remarkable architecture—from houses and stores to temples. Practice your oratory in the perfect acoustics of the Roman theater that seats 3,000 and then wander the miles/kilometers of alleyways. Take along water and a picnic lunch. The site is open 8:30 am-3:30 pm late October to mid-February, until 4 pm mid-February to mid-March; until 4:30 pm mid- to late March; until 6:15 pm late March to late August; until 6 pm in September; until 5:30 pm in October, with everyone required to leave 90 minutes after the ticket booth closes. Museum open 10:30 am to closing time. Both the excavations and the museum are closed on Monday.

Nearby is the necropolis of Isola Sacra, the Castle of Pope Julius II in the *borgo* of Ostia Antica and the fishing port of Fiumicino. To reach the area by car (a 45-minute drive), take Via del Mare 14 mi/23 km from Rome. No turns—just follow the signs to Ostia Antica. Or even better, take the train (a 20-minute ride) from Ostiense station on Line B of the Metro (trains leave every 30 minutes). The train station is just across a footbridge from the excavations. Live music concerts are held in the park throughout the summer months. Daily except Monday 8:30 am-5 pm (till 4 pm in winter, 6 pm in summer). Admission 6.50 euros. Viale dei Romagnoli 717 (Ostia), Rome. Phone 06-5635-8099 or 06-5635-2830 for tickets. <http://archeorama.beniculturali.it/en/archaeological-site/ancient-ostia>.

To the **Castelli Romani** (Colli Albani). These picturesque towns are scattered across isolated volcanic hills. The pope spends his summers at Castel Gandolfo high above Lake Albano, and from there he gives his Sunday blessing. Most of the towns have chestnut festivals in the fall. The slopes are planted with the vines that produce the famous Vini dei Castelli. Take Via Tuscolana in the direction of Frascati, 7 mi/11 km south of Rome. Or, to reach Frascati, the hub of the Albani region, take Metro A to Anagnina and then take a COTRAL bus. Trains leave Termini Station for Frascati or Marino and Castelgandolfo roughly every hour; the ride takes 30 minutes for Frascati, or 45 for Marino or Castelgandolfo.

To **Tivoli**. A popular day trip from Rome (about 45 minutes away) included in many tours. Visit lush Villa d'Este, a convent-turned-palace, complete with an aquatic pleasure park, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Elaborate fountains and fish ponds spout in its impressive gardens. Don't miss the miniature version of ancient Rome or the Organ Fountain, which once played music. The estate is open daily except Monday 8:30 am to dusk. Admission is 8 euros. Down the street from Largo Garibaldi. Phone 199-766-166. <http://www.villadestetivoli.info>.

The magnificent cascade of the Villa Gregoriana is also worth a stop. Admission 5 euros. Daily except Monday April-September 10 am-6:30 pm; March, October and November 10 am-2:30 pm. Open December-March by reservation. Phone 077-438-2733. <http://www.villagregoriana.it>.

To get to Tivoli by car, take the Via Tiburtina 20 mi/32 km southeast from Rome or take the highway (A24 for L'Aquila, and take the Tivoli exit). The most convenient way to get there, however, is by the train from Tiburtina Station.

After the Villa d'Este, go on to Hadrian's Villa, the largest and richest estate of the Roman Imperial era. This staggeringly large residence of Emperor Hadrian is one of the most evocative classical sites still standing in Italy. Take a picnic (the tiny snack bar could be better). Local buses stop at the intersection for Hadrian's Villa, but be prepared for a walk. Open daily 9 am to one hour before sunset. 10 euros. An additional 3.50 euros is charged when there are exhibitions. Via Rosolino (3 mi/5 km south of Tivoli). Phone 0774-382-733. <http://www.pierreci.it>.

To **Viterbese** or **Tuscia**. These areas north of Rome are still relatively unknown to international visitors. The sparsely inhabited hill towns are famous for their profusion of elegant Renaissance gardens, architectural masterpieces, cool lakes, crafts, extra-virgin olive oil and cooking. Magnificent fountain-filled gardens can be visited at Villa Lante at Bagnaia, a suburb of Viterbo. Open daily except Monday. 5 euros. Via Iacopo Barozzi 71, Bagnaia. Phone 0761-288-008. <http://www.infoviterbo.it>.

Bomarzo village, 7 mi/12 km northeast of Bagnaia, contains the silly and sublime Monster Park (*Parco dei Mostri*—also called the Sacred Grove, *Sacro Bosco*). This surreal sculpture garden—sort of a 16th-century theme park—is one of northern Lazio's primary attractions. 10 euros. Daily 8:30 am to one hour before sunset. Localita Giardino, Bomarzo. Phone 0761-924-029. <http://www.parcodemostri.com>.

Italy's best-preserved Renaissance parterre is at Principessa Claudia Ruspoli's family *castello* in Vignanello, a town famous for its wine. Another princess, Erika del Drago, gives spring and summer tours of her island's gardens on Isola Bisentina, located in Lago Bolsena. The largest of the area's three lakes, it's really a flooded volcanic crater. Tourists can rent boats at various locations around the lake; Capodimonte is a good base. Enjoy a fish lunch at one of the many lakeside restaurants in Capodimonte or Marta and then visit the medieval center of Bolsena (known for its catacombs and castle museum). This day trip is best taken by car.

## Local Tours

Rome has no shortage of guides, running every type of tour imaginable. Yet the quality varies incredibly—even within a company—and some operate illegally. The city of Rome operates a Bus Turistico service, which offers inexpensive overviews of Rome. Qualified tour guides can only be located through Centro Guide Cast, Via Cavour 184. Phone 06-482-5698. <http://www.cast-turismo.it>.

### 110 Bus Turistico

Tours depart from the Cinquecento plaza in front of Termini station and have English-speaking guides. Tickets can be purchased at the ATAC information kiosk in front of the station.

Tours depart daily every 20 minutes 8:30 am-8:30 pm and last approximately two hours. A stop-and-go, 24-hour ticket is 15 euros (48-hour ticket is 20 euros). .

Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-684-0901. Toll-free 800-281-281

<http://www.trambusopen.com>

### Appianline

This local bus with guide takes larger groups; it is city-approved. The Ciao Roma tour runs two hours and costs 20 euros.

Piazza dell'Esquilino 6  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4878-6601

<http://www.appianline.it>

### Archaeobus

City-approved tour running from Piazza dei Cinquecento every half-hour 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Purchase tickets for the 90-minute tour onboard the bus, at the kiosk in Piazza dei Cinquecento or online (online booking offers a discount).

Daily 9 am-4:30 pm. 10 euros. .

Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-684-0901

<http://www.trambusopen.com>

### Context Rome

Architects and historians offer walking seminars through this expat-owned company, which also designs private tours. Smart, fun and funny, these guides rank among the city's best. Other services include language workshops, yoga sessions and cell-phone rentals. Context Rome's two-hour Popes, Power and Parties tour is especially popular (70 euros, plus about 15 euros worth of tickets).

Via di Santa Maria Maggiore 145  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-9762-5204

<http://www.contexttravel.com/city/rome>

### Through Eternity

Some of the most enjoyable niche tours of the city run the gamut from urban treks through the ruins to such esoteric outings as the Love and Death: 2,700 Years of Scandals tour (48 euros), a one-day essential Rome tour for cruise-ship passengers, complete with transfers from Civitavecchia for 815 euros for a group of five. All tours are adaptable to visitors' wishes and historical knowledge.

Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-700-9336

<http://www.througheternity.com>

## Dining

### Dining Overview

Each region of Italy boasts its own distinctive cuisine, and because Rome has become home to Italians from all over the country, the city's

native, rustic cuisine has been influenced by many different sources. For a true taste of the indigenous *cucina povera* (food of the poor people) be sure to sample the food at a number of humble trattorias, not just the upscale restaurants. Classic dishes include spaghetti carbonara, *bucatini all'amatriciana* (straw-shaped noodles in a tomato and bacon sauce), *l'abbacchio* (roast lamb), *carciofi alla giudia* (deep-fried artichokes) and the most Roman of all: *trippa* (tripe).

Tuscan and Sicilian restaurants usually provide more elegant meals and refined dining. Begin with an antipasto of marinated vegetables, seafood, bruschetta or a selection of meats. Prosciutto *crudo* is often served with melon or figs in the summer. The first course is almost always a pasta dish, such as *penne all'arrabiata* (quills with a chili-tomato sauce), *linguini con vongole veraci* (linguine with clam sauce) or *pasta e fagioli* (short pasta cooked in a thick bean soup). For a second (main) course, try *rombo* (turbot), *spigola* (sea bass) or *straccetti con basilico e parmigiano* (thin-sliced beef topped with fresh rocket lettuce and Parmesan cheese).

Italian meals typically run five courses from antipasti to *dolce* (dessert), followed by coffee and a *digestivo*. Visitors are under no obligation to order all of them. However, two courses is the polite minimum at a busy establishment. Given the leisurely pace of dining, you've "bought the table for the evening"—don't abuse such hospitality by ordering only a salad. Light eaters should try fancier places for lunch—or retreat to a cafe, cafeteria (*tavola calda*), pizzeria or slice shop (*pizza al taglio*). The latter also can provide a great snack on the go; while you're there, sample the *suppli* (deep-fried rice balls with tomato sauce and a molten mozzarella core). Be aware that sitting at a *tavola calda* will increase the price of your meal; order your lunch *portare via* (to take away).

The region's most famous wines are the dry whites—Vini dei Castelli (Frascati, Genzano, Marino and Velletri). To accompany meat dishes, choose a full-bodied dry red from the regions of Tuscany or Piemonte, or one of the reds from up-and-coming wine regions such as Sicily or Umbria. Romans typically order a carafe of house wine (*vino della casa*) usually from the countryside near Rome in the case of whites and from the adjacent region of Abruzzo for reds—selections are usually decent and reasonably priced. Be forewarned, however: The liter unit is 25% larger than a typical bottle—and public drunkenness is frowned upon (half- and quarter-liters are also available).

The main local beers are Peroni, Moretti and Nastro Azzurro, which are well-made lagers on the lighter side—fans of heavier beers will have to opt for an import. Order *acqua naturale* (flat water) or *frizzante* (sparkling) with each meal. Other nonalcoholic treats include fresh-squeezed juice (*spremuta*) and lemonade (*limonata*).

Italian coffee is ubiquitous—and unmissable. Even those who normally dislike espresso may appreciate the smooth genuine version. Barristi brew dozens of variations of the simple shot (order *un caffè* and not *un espresso* in Rome). At more casual establishments, pay at the register (*la cassa*), and then present the receipt (*gli scontrino*) at the counter, with a small coin (0.10 or 0.20 euros) on top as a tip. Table service can increase the price—by as much as 500% in a tourist hot spot. Also note that locals drink cappuccino only for breakfast—never in the evening or after meals. Gelato, the heavenly Italian ice cream, is appropriate any time of the day or night.

Modern life has trimmed the traditional five meals a day. Italians aren't generally big on breakfast (usually cappuccino with a sugar-glazed croissant or a cream-filled pastry), but brunch is popular. Lunch, around 1 pm, can consist of one course or several (restaurants close 3-7 pm, so don't wait). Dinner can be either a leisurely affair with several courses or just pizza and beer.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines, based on the cost of a three-course dinner for one, not including drinks or tip: \$ = less than 30 euros; \$\$ = 30 euros-45 euros; \$\$\$ = 46 euros-75 euros; and \$\$\$\$ = more than 75 euros.

Tax is almost always included in the price of meals. The bill (*conto*) may feature *pane e coperto* (bread and a cover charge) or *servizio* (service). Tip 5% atop the *coperto* or 10%-12% otherwise (Italians offer less, but tourists are expected to be gracious).

## Local & Regional

### Agata e Romeo

What started in 1890 as a weekly dinner of roast pork at Agata's grandparents' house evolved over the years into one of Rome's finest dining experiences. The menu is created entirely by Agata, who is a local chef celebrity with her own cookbook line. Romeo (her husband) handles the extensive wine cellar and never misses when pairing wines to food. Ingredients are traditional Roman staples, but the creativity in preparation takes them far beyond. Staples include Agata's *sformato di formaggio di fossa* (a souffle-tart made with sheep's cheese that has been aged in special caves in northern Italy), and risotto with quail eggs, asparagus and crumbly prosciutto. Desserts include Agata's *millefoglie* chocolate invention.

Via Carlo Alberto 45  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-446-6115

<http://www.agataeromeo.it>

Open Monday and Saturday for dinner only, Tuesday-Friday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$.

### Ambasciata d'Abruzzo

This restaurant showcases fare from the mountainous Abruzzo region, east of Rome. The bruschetta appetizers are among the city's best, proving that toast-with-toppings can reach culinary heights. The *maccheroni alla chitarra cacio e pepe* (elbow pasta with sheep's cheese and pepper) is another standout. Porcini mushrooms and truffles feature heavily—never a bad thing.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Pietro Tacchini 26 (Parioli)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-807-8256

<http://www.ambasciatadiabruzzo.com>

### Ambasciata di Capri

This wonderful restaurant close to the Vatican serves delicious specialties from the island of Capri, including black ravioli with cuttlefish, and the *pezzogna*, a tender fish that only swims in the waters of the Gulf of Naples. But the dolci make the fame of this restaurant, and rumor has it that owner Mario Tarantino sends a selection of them to the pope once a month. Try the ricotta tart with pears, the tiramisu and the wonderful *pastiera*, a shortcrust cake with ricotta and buffalo-milk cheese.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via E.Q. Visconti 52  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-332-6812

<http://www.ambasciatadicapri.com>

### Angelina

This popular restaurant has two locations: a quaint tavern near the Trevi Fountain and a spacious restaurant with a rooftop terrace in Testaccio. Both offer the best Sunday brunch in Rome for 15 euros. The restaurant doesn't close between lunch and dinner, so it is a perfect place to eat a late lunch or early dinner. The atmosphere is casual and relaxed, and the whitewashed decor and green plants make it feel like a country home. The menu offers a dizzying selection of unique takes on traditional Roman fare, from offal to T-bone Florentine steaks. The Testaccio location is at Via Galvani 24 (phone 06-5728-3940).

Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$.

Via Poli 27 (near the Trevi Fountain)  
Rome, Italy

### Boccondivino

In the heart of the Campo Marte, the urban decor of this trendy restaurant defies its stoic 16th-century surroundings with zebra-skin chairs and burlap table coverings. But the food sticks to its Roman roots as seasonal market offerings take shape in delicious risottos and colorful pastas. Seafood dishes—think salmon drizzled with citrus marinade—dominate the menu. The restaurant is filled with politicians who work at the government complex nearby.

Open Monday for dinner only, Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Piazza Campo Marzio 6  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-683-08626

<http://www.boccondivino.it>

### Camponeschi

This upscale restaurant is near the Michelangelo-designed Palazzo Farnese, which now houses the French Embassy. Try the *fusilli calabresi* (corkscrew pasta with fresh tomatoes and eggplant sauce) or, if you favor fresh seafood, *maltagliati all'astice* (short, flat pasta with lobster sauce). For an entree, ask for *rosette con carciofi* (veal with artichokes) or *agnello al rosmarino* (lamb with rosemary). There's a wide selection of rich, creamy desserts.

Open Monday-Saturday for dinner. The wine bar next door is open Monday-Saturday 7:30 pm-1 am. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Piazza Farnese 50a  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-687-4927

<http://www.ristorantecamponeschi.it>



**Checchino dal 1887**

Few restaurants can still claim to preserve—and serve—traditional Roman food as Checchino has been doing since 1887. Its claim to fame is the invention of *la coda alla vaccinara*—a distinctive dish made from less-popular cuts of meat. It carries the official *cucinaromana* designation. Excellent wine list.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed in August and for a week around Christmas. Reservations required. No shorts or tank tops allowed. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Monte Testaccio 30  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-574-3816

<http://www.checcchino-dal-1887.com>

**Colline Emiliane**

Try the mouthwatering classic Bolognese dishes in this tiny, but very popular, family-run restaurant just off Bernini's Triton Fountain.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for lunch only. Reservations required. \$\$\$.

Via degli Avignonesi 22  
Rome, Italy

**Dal Bolognese**

This is one of a small handful of restaurants in Rome where the menu lives up to its chic reputation. Popular with Italian television and film stars as well as international gourmands. Try the *misto di pasta* (four kinds of pasta on one plate) as a first course, and graduate to any of the restaurant's signature veal dishes.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Closed for three weeks in August. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$.

Piazza del Popolo 1  
Rome, Italy

**Enoteca Corsi**

One of the best—and least pretentious—places to eat lunch in the normally pricey center. The look of the place is virtually unchanged since it opened its doors in 1943, and it is a favorite of local businesspeople and power brokers, as well as students and blue-collar workers. Prices are very reasonable, and the menu is limited to a few tasty choices each day, scrawled on wall-hung chalkboards (wonderful gnocchi and great *saltimbocca alla romana*). Go to the back and turn to the right for the wine store, which has a few extra tables in it and a still-more-charming atmosphere. Wine is also available to take away.

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch. The wine store is open Monday-Saturday 9 am-1 pm and 5-8 pm. Reservations not accepted except for large parties. \$. No credit cards.

Via del Gesù 88  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-679-0821

<http://www.enotecacorsi.com>

**Enoteca Ferrara**

This enchanting enoteca in the heart of Trastevere started out as a tiny, backstreet hole-in-the-wall wine bar owned by two sisters and has grown to encompass most of the bottom floor of a medieval palazzo. View the expansive wine cellar from the glass floor in the main bar, or head straight to the dining area where recipes inspired by the old tradition of the *cucina povera* ("poor man's kitchen") are reinvented into modern fare. Sicilian dishes (*involtini of pesce spada*, or swordfish rolls) and northern delights (thick vegetable soups) are the best offerings.

Open daily for dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via del Moro 1a (there is a second  
entrance at Piazza Trilussa 41)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-5833-3920

<http://www.enotecaferrara.it>

### Felice a Testaccio

One of the tastiest and most colorful restaurants in the city center's working-class district. The restaurant was established in 1936 by legendary restaurateur Felice Trivelloni, who was temperamental enough to deny a second course to diners who didn't finish their first. But not finishing the first is tough: the pasta is to die for—try the simple and addictive Pasta al Felice (ricotta, tomatoes, mint and chili)—and the suckling lamb served in cooler months is unforgettable. Oscar-winning actor Roberto Benigni adored the restaurant so much he wrote a poem in its honor. It's still run by the Trivelloni family.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations are required and rarely accepted the day of the meal. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Via Mastro Giorgio 29 (Testaccio)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-574-6800

<http://www.feliceatestaccio.com>

### Gino al Villino

This small trattoria has been around since 1958, kept secret by its location just outside the city center. Don't expect the servers to speak English, but do look forward to some of the best Roman cooking possible. The menu changes daily, and the chef's inventions are always worth trying. However, staples include *polenta con salsiccia* (polenta and Roman sausages) and *gnocchi al parmigiano* (potato-based dumplings in a parmigiano sauce). Adventurous diners sometimes continue with *la trippa* (tripe in a tomato and cheese sauce).

Open daily except Wednesday for lunch and dinner. Closed for two weeks in August. \$. Most major credit cards.

Largo Alessandrina Ravizza 12 (take  
Tram 8 to the Ravizza stop)  
Rome, Italy

### Giovanni

A kind and efficient family from the Marche region owns this pleasant, comfortable restaurant. It has been tastefully redecorated and brought up to standard for disabled access. The cuisine is delicate and simple. Ask for the traditional *tagliolini al sugo di carne* (house-made pasta with red meat sauce) or the lentil soup. For dessert, savor the *millefoglie* (multilayered, cream-filled puff pastry).

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner; closed Sunday and in August. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Marche 64  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-482-1834

<http://www.ristorantegiovanni.net>

### 'Gusto

A leader in the multimedia trend, 'Gusto is a large space with shopping, a wine bar, a pizzeria, a restaurant and live music at night—and, of course, brunch. The fare is on the lighter side, with options ranging from soups and salads to pasta and couscous.

Daily for brunch, lunch and dinner till 1 am. Live music after 11 pm Tuesday and Thursday. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Piazza Augusto Imperatore 7  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-322-6273

<http://www.gusto.it>

### Hostaria Antica Roma

Dining on the Appian Way, you'll be surrounded by Roman ruins—one wall of a dining room is actually an ancient columbarium, which held ashes of the deceased. Hostaria Antica Roma is an ideal choice when visiting the Catacombs of San Callisto, but otherwise it's out of the way. For a full, historically accurate Roman menu, diners must reserve three days in advance, but some elements of the menu are always available.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Reservations required. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Appia Antica 87  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-513-2888

<http://www.anticaroma.it>

### Hostaria dell'Orso di Guantiero Marchesi

One of the icons of the Roman dining scene, the Hosteria dell'Orso is a gem located in an opulent 15th-century palace with a view of the Tiber. It has been a favorite of dignitaries ranging from Goethe to Clark Gable, and is known for its contrast of ancient architecture, modern furnishings and an unforgettable menu that includes a tasty seared scallop salad with ginger, and homemade *tortelli* with pumpkin and marjoram. The wine list is impressive.

Monday-Saturday for dinner. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

Via dei Soldati 25c  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6830-1192

<http://www.hdo.it>

### Il Drappo

Long, flowing draperies give this gracious Sardinian restaurant in Centro Storico a homey touch. Try the *zuppa di carciofi* (artichoke soup), *maialino arrosto* (roast suckling pig) or calamari *ripieni* (stuffed baby squid). Top things off with the fruit pie. Dine in Il Drappo's garden or in the air-conditioned dining room.

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended for dinner. \$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

Vicolo del Malpasso 9 (off Via Giulia)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-687-7365

<http://www.ristoranteildrappo.com>

### L'Antico Arco

This vine-swathed restaurant attracts foodies with its slightly nouvelle flavors, 400 wines and homemade Sicilian *cassata* dessert. The seasonal menu is graced by such delights as *spaghetti cacio e pepe con fiori di zucca crocanti* (spaghetti with aged cheese, pepper and fried zucchini flowers), *carpaccio caldo con i carciofi* (sauteed beef served on a bed of artichokes) and *petti di faraona con tartufi* (quail breasts with shredded truffle and a potato tart). The gracious 18th-century building stands on the hill above Trastevere, next to the renowned Bar Gianicolo and the Porta San Pancrazio, a pink and white triumphal arch.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Closed two weeks in August. Reservations should be made a week in advance. \$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

Piazzale Aurelio 7  
Rome, Italy 152

**Phone:** 06-581-5274

<http://www.anticoarco.it>

### La Pariolina

This modern and stylish eatery specializes in gourmet pizzas—both the Roman thin-crust and the Neapolitan fluffy-crust varieties.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$ .

Viale Parioli 93  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-808-6002

<http://www.lapariolina.it>

### La Pergola

This restaurant with three Michelin stars may be one of the grandest in all of Italy, boasting a panoramic view of the city, a mouthwatering menu that changes seasonally and a world-class wine list. Every detail is considered: Flanders linen, fine porcelain and a well-trained waitstaff that works so seamlessly it's been compared to a Russian ballet. Everything is so well done that it's possible for diners to close their eyes and simply point to the menu for an unforgettable choice, but the best option may be to ask the advice of the knowledgeable, friendly and multilingual staff. A five- or seven-course wine tasting menu is offered most nights.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for dinner. Reservations must be made at least a month in advance. Dress formally. \$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

Via Cadlolo 101 (located inside the Rome Cavalieri hotel)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3509-2152

<http://www.romecavalieri.com/lapergola.php>

### La Taverna del Ghetto Kosher

In the heart of the Jewish Quarter, this restaurant serves typical Jewish-Roman dishes. Kosher Italian cuisine is not well-known outside of Italy, but many Romans consider it the best example of the city's culinary traditions. If it's serving *tortino di alicotti all'indivia*, be sure to try it.

Open daily except Friday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Portico d'Ottavia 8  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6880-9771

<http://www.latavernadelghetto.com>

### La Terazza dell'Eden

The understated rooftop restaurant in the stylish Hotel Eden is an island of tranquility between the hustle and bustle of the Spanish Steps and the Via Veneto. Traditional Italian pastas, seafood and meat courses are prepared with a particularly delicate hand. Combined with a spectacular view of the city, La Terazza is a highlight of the Roman dining experience.

Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Ludovisi 49  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4781-2752

<http://www.laterrazzadelleden.com>

### Open Colonna

Atop Rome's Palazzo delle Esposizioni off Via Nazionale sits the glass-encased Open Colonna, the Roman location for chef Antonio Colonna, who for years ran one of the most important destination restaurants, a day trip away from Rome. At lunch, the restaurant offers a reasonably priced buffet of well-prepared traditional favorites, and at night the space is transformed into one of the city's most decadent eateries. Reserve at least a week in advance.

Open Tuesday-Friday for lunch and dinner, Saturday and Sunday for brunch only. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Scalinata di via Milano 9a (Palazzo delle Esposizioni)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4782-2641

<http://www.antonellocolonna.it>

### Osteria Margutta

This impossibly romantic restaurant is located on a charming street. The all-red Osteria Margutta serves specialties such as linguine and prawns, tortellini made in-house and baked turbot with potatoes, all in a candlelit setting. Changing art exhibits add to the decor.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Margutta 82  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-323-1025

<http://www.osteriamargutta.it>

### Piperno

This well-known destination in the old Jewish Quarter is famous for its beautiful *carciofi alla giudia* (deep-fried artichokes) and *fritto misto* (mixed fried meat, fish and vegetables). The wonderful and elegant cuisine is matched by the historically significant setting, secluded in a little piazza engulfed by the Palazzo Cenci.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for lunch only. Closed August. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Monte de' Cenci 9  
Rome, Italy 186

**Phone:** 06-6880-6629

<http://www.ristorantepiperno.com>

### Pizzeria La Montecarlo

In summer, the alley outside this pizzeria is filled with tables of boisterous Romans. In winter, the crowds move indoors, where the walls display hundreds of photos of Italy's most famous actors, singers, writers and politicians posing with the staff. The service is faster than it is polite, but the pizzas are great, the pasta is some of the best in Rome, and the price is fair for the quality. Start with a plate of *fritti misti*, which includes the most traditional Roman appetizers: fried zucchini flowers with anchovies, *suppli* (rice balls stuffed with mozzarella and tomato, breaded and fried) and *olive ascolane* (fried olives stuffed with pork). Then try the calzone (pizza folded over on itself and filled with ham, cheese and egg) or the best carbonara (pasta in an egg-and-bacon sauce, with lots of black pepper and Parmesan) in Rome. Finally, finish with tiramisu.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Closed for two weeks in August. \$. No credit cards.

Vicolo Savelli 13 (near Piazza Navona)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-1877

<http://www.lamontecarlo.it>

### Pizzeria Panattoni "Ai Marmi"

This pizzeria—probably the best-known in Rome—is commonly called *l'obitorio*, "the morgue," because of its minimalist interior. Rectangular marble tables fill the large, white room. Despite the simple decor, it's packed most nights with lively crowds, often including celebrities. The wood-burning oven is in the corner, so you can watch the hypnotizing pizza-making process.

Open daily except Wednesday for dinner. Reservations not accepted. \$. No credit cards.

Viale Trastevere 53-59 (Trastevere)  
Rome, Italy 153

### Primo al Pigneto

From an unlikely location (until recently, Pigneto, just beyond San Giovanni, was an undesirable neighborhood of Rome) emerges one of the city's culinary hot spots, with creative interpretations of classic dishes that change with the seasons. Ask for an outdoor table in the summer to get a feel for the bohemian area.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via del Pigneto 46  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-701-3827

<http://www.primoalpigneto.it>

### Ristorante '34'

This small restaurant is tucked between the shops where big-name designers sell handbags and shoes. It serves up first-rate Roman dishes.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Mario de Fiori 34 (near the Spanish Steps)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-679-5091

<http://www.ristoranteal34.it>

### Santopadre

The after-theater crowd gathers in this restaurant that's both rustic and elegant. Traditional Roman specialties include *il cartoccio vegetale* (seasonal vegetables baked in a bag) and *tagliata di manzo* (aged beef sliced and served on a bed of arugula and tomato wedges). Every Tuesday and Friday, fish selections augment the menu.

Open Monday-Saturday for dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Collina 18  
Rome, Italy 187

### Taverna Giulia

This lovely, comfortable restaurant serves traditional Ligurian food on a quiet street at the north end of beautiful Via Giulia. At the top of the list are the dishes made with Genovese pesto, such as gnocchi and lasagna, as well as the delicate *torta pasqualina*, a vegetable dish with layers of pastry. Creme brulee is a favorite dessert.

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Vicolo dell'Oro 23  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-9768

<http://www.tavernagiulia.it>

### Taverna Trilussa

This bustling Trastevere eatery is so Roman that the menu is written in the local dialect (a charmingly translated English-language version is available on request). A mix of Romans and occasional visitors make up the crowd served by an experienced and helpful waitstaff and a menu ranging from traditional pasta and meat dishes to signature local dishes. Try the ravioli mimosa, the taverna's signature dish. Second-course dishes can be made from imported beef, and the *millefoglie* dessert is delicious. There are two wine lists: one focusing on underrated regional bottles, another focusing on the rest of Italy and a few foreign choices.

Open Monday-Saturday from 7 pm. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Via del Politeama 23 (Trastevere)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-581-8918

<http://www.tavernatrilussa.com>

### Tram Tram

The name of this bustling little eatery comes from the tram that passes in front of the establishment and the old-fashioned wooden tram seats in the smaller of the two dining areas. In the traditional Roman neighborhood of San Lorenzo, Tram Tram's Puglian-inspired cuisine is loved by locals, but it's a little too far off the beaten track for most tourists. The restaurant is crowded and service is uneven at best, but the food is wonderful and the bill is refreshingly free of sticker shock. Try the *pappardella Tram Tram*—noodles in a sauce of lamb strips and roasted peppers. The wine list is ample with many unusual choices for the adventurous.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via dei Reti 44  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-490-416

<http://www.tramtram.it>

### Trattoria da Giggetto al Portico d'Ottavia

Just short of becoming a Rome cliché, this landmark eatery nevertheless features a tasty menu served with a breathtaking backdrop—the portico of Ottavia. Still family-run, still using authentic Jewish-Roman recipes, it bears the official *cucinaromana* designation.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via del Portico d'Ottavia 21A (near the  
Theater of Marcellus)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-1105

<http://www.giggetto.it>

### Trattoria Monti

Unpretentious and intimate, this enjoyable trattoria, operated by brothers Enrico and Daniele, features well-prepared and delicate dishes inspired by their native region of Le Marche. Try the delightful Parmesan custard.

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for lunch only. Closed for two weeks around Easter and Christmas and for the month of August. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via di San Vito 13  
Rome, Italy

## Cuisines

### Asian

#### Hasekura

This popular Japanese restaurant has been around for 20 years and is a popular favorite with Rome's expat community. The sushi is top quality, and the menu offers interesting soups and side dishes. Dinner can be rather expensive, but the fixed-menu lunch for 16 euros is reasonable for the quality of fish.

\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Dei Serpenti 27  
Rome, Italy



### Thai Inn

These Thai chefs would stand out in any city, as would the kindly, English-speaking staff. Christmas lights, blue lanterns, aquariums, bamboo matting, fake flowers and butterflies create a tranquil atmosphere.

Open Monday-Saturday for dinner, Sunday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Does not accept American Express or Diners Club.

Via Federico Ozanam 94 (Monteverde;  
Bus 44 from Piazza Venezia—the stop  
before Via Nadina Helbig)  
Rome, Italy

### Thien Kim

This first-class restaurant serves traditional Vietnamese dishes in a quiet nook near the bustle of the Lungotevere. Try the calamari with ginger and the frog legs in green coconut curry. The mixed starters and soups (*pho*) are renowned.

Open Monday-Saturday for dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Giulia 201  
Rome, Italy

### Zen Sushi

Pretty good sushi, sashimi and tempura served on a revolving carousel. For dinner, try the selection of fish brought on a wooden boat and finish it off with excellent coffee—this is Italy, after all.

Tuesday-Friday and Sunday for lunch and dinner, Saturday for dinner only. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via degli Scipioni 243  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-321-3420

<http://www.zenworld.it>

## Vegetarian

### Il Margutta

Vegetarian restaurants are sparse in Rome, but Il Margutta is a refined, haute option. Its cooks use only organic vegetables and wines for its contemporary dishes, prepared in a sleek, modern setting. Even carnivores are favorably impressed with the rich, complex offerings. You may recognize this lovely street, near the Spanish Steps, from the movie *Roman Holiday*. Jazz concerts are held most Tuesdays after dinner. On Sunday and holidays, the "festivity brunch" offers a buffet and live music for 25 euros

Daily for brunch, lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Margutta 118  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-3265-0577

<http://www.ilmargutta.it>

## Breakfast & Brunch

### Bibli

A relaxing cafe and bookstore in the Trastevere area, Bibli serves a light breakfast buffet on Saturday morning and a full brunch Sunday starting at 12:30 pm. It's small but comfortable if you can get a table. In the afternoon and evening, there are poetry readings and live acoustic music.

Daily for lunch, afternoon tea and dinner; Saturday and Sunday for brunch also. \$. Most major credit cards.

Via dei Fienaroli 28 (Trastevere)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-581-4534

<http://www.bibli.it>

### Chiostro del Bramante

The cloisters that surrounded a 16th-century church now serve as a venue for some of Rome's most exclusive exhibitions and conferences. This fabulous structure, complete with colonnades and Raffaello's fresco *Le Sibille*, is interesting enough as a museum, but on Saturday and Sunday (10 am-3 pm), it also serves one of the best brunches in Rome for 28 euros.

Bistro open daily 10 am-8 pm. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Arco della Pace 5 (the street leads to the front door; there is no number)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6880-9035

<http://www.chiostrodelbramante.it>

### Doney

Every Sunday, the Excelsior's restaurant hosts an elegant brunch with exquisite food and wines. A lunch buffet (38 euros excluding drinks) is served Monday-Friday.

Sunday brunch is served 12:30-3 pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Brunch is 50 euros (including a glass of *spumante*, but not wine). Most major credit cards.

Via Vittorio Veneto 137  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4708-2783

<http://www.westin.com/excelsiorrome>

### The Perfect Bun

The 30-euro price tag may seem steep, but if you are craving a true U.S.-style brunch, no one does it better in Rome. The tables overflow with muffins, scrambled eggs and bacon, and traditional American brunch staples.

Saturday and Sunday 11 am-2pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Largo del Teatro Valle 4 (Piazza Navona area)

Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4547-6337

<http://www.theprecfectbun.it/Risto>

## Coffeehouses

### La Casa del Caffè Tazza d'Oro

Some of the world's best coffee is worth the wait (up to 15 minutes in high tourist season). The cappuccino is to die for. When lines are small, the staff can prepare a *shakerato* (iced coffee with sugar, shaken like a cocktail until it becomes thick and frothy). Coffee ground on-site is available for purchase and can be shipped worldwide.

Open Monday-Saturday 7 am-8 pm. \$. Most major credit cards, though there is a minimum charge of 5 euros.

Via degli Orfani 84 (around the corner from the Pantheon)  
Rome, Italy 186

### Sant'Eustachio il Caffè

Since it opened in 1938, this cafe has become famous among Romans for its unique coffee. The *baristi* must sign an agreement not to divulge the secret of its preparation, and the position of the espresso machines hides the process from view. Ask for the *zuccherato* (with sugar). Beans ground on-site are available for purchase and can be shipped worldwide. Educational courses about coffee are also offered.

Open daily 8:30 am-1 am (stays open slightly later on Friday and Saturday). \$. No credit cards.

Piazza Sant'Eustachio 82  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-6880-2048

<http://www.santeustachioilcaffe.it>

## Seafood

### Fish Market

A recent addition to the bustling restaurant scene in Trastevere is the super fun Fish Market, which started as a seaside beach spot in Fregene, outside Rome. Choose your fresh fish or shellfish from the ice chest or live tank and decide how you want it cooked.

Open daily for dinner until 1 am. Reservations not accepted, so go early to get a table. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Via di Pietralata 149B  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 347-0095-009

<http://www.fishmarket-roma.com>

### La Rosetta

A famous restaurant just off the Pantheon, this place is considered by many to be the finest seafood restaurant in Rome. Go expecting a culinary treat and a lengthy meal. Dinner is expensive; the food at lunch is just as good and the prices far more reasonable. Try the fish soup.

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for dinner only. Reservations recommended. Dress up for dinner. \$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

Via della Rosetta 8  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-1002

<http://www.larosetta.com>

### Pierluigi

A popular source for centuries-old Roman recipes, Pierluigi is as beloved as ever. Begin with one of the specialties: *pasta e fagioli* (pasta and beans) or *minestra broccoli* (broccoli soup). Follow up with *spaghetti con frutti di mare* (spaghetti and seafood sauce), and then proceed to *pesce al sale* (fish baked in a salt shell) or *calamari e gamberi fritti* (fried squid and shrimp). Be sure to dine outside in the warmer months—the location is beautiful.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

Piazza de' Ricci 144 (between Piazza Farnese and the Vatican)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-686-1302

<http://www.pierluigi.it>

### Quattro Mori

When Pope Benedict XVI was still Cardinal Ratzinger, he often walked five minutes from the Vatican to enjoy Rome's best Sardinian seafood: The scallops, scampi and swordfish are delicious. Try the pasta served with *bottarga*, a rich and intensely savory roe of either tuna or gray mullet. Very charming service and now almost always full.

Daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

Via Santa Maria alle Fornaci 8a  
Rome, Italy

### Ristorante da Vincenzo

The friendly service at this seafood restaurant is surpassed only by the quality of the food. Begin the evening with a Sicilian or Sardinian dry white wine from Vincenzo's well-stocked cellar. Order the *antipasto misto al mare* (assorted marinated seafood). For the first course, ask for *penne* or *linguine all'astice* (short or long pasta with lobster sauce). Indecisive gourmands can request an *assaggio* (sampler) of at least three kinds. For the main course, choose between *mazzancole alla griglia* (grilled king prawns), *rombo e patate al forno* (baked turbot with potatoes) and *spigola in acqua pazza* (sea bass boiled in seasoned water). Let the server fillet the fish for you.

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations necessary. \$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

Via Castelfidardo 4 (near the Baths of Diocletian)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-484-596

<http://www.ristorantidiroma.com/davincenzo/homeeng.htm>

## Sicilia in bocca

Sicilians prepare the best fish in Italy—and this charming restaurant showcases that skill. The fish arrives fresh daily from the channel between the island and Tunisia. Try the *involtini di pesce spada* (thin slices of swordfish wrapped around a traditional stuffing of raisins, pine nuts, bread crumbs and herbs) and one of the exquisite Sicilian wines from the cellar. Finish with cannoli or one of the other ricotta-based desserts. There is a second location in the Prati quarter on Via Faa di Bruno, and a third in Trastevere on Via Garibaldi.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Does not accept Diners Club.

Via Flaminia 390 (above Piazza del Popolo)  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-324-0187

<http://www.siciliainboccaweb.com>

## Steak Houses

### Al Girarrosto Toscano

This steak house in the Prati area specializes in *steak fiorentina* (prepared as in Florence), as well as other Tuscan dishes. It serves fried chicken and boasts that its meatballs were one of Fellini's favorites. Wide selection of wines. Finish off the meal with one of the desserts made in-house.

Open daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Germanico 58/60 (a few blocks north of Piazza Risorgimento, near the Vatican)  
Rome, Italy 192

**Phone:** 06-3972-5717

<http://www.ristorantedaltoscano.it>

### Caminetto

Great steaks (said to be a favorite among Italy's soccer players), wine and atmosphere, along with light Italian cooking. Family-run since 1959, this restaurant has excellent service—a rarity in even the best restaurants in Rome.

Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Viale dei Parioli 89  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-808-3946

<http://www.caminettoroma.com>

### Da Tullio

This restaurant has been run by the same family since 1950. No one treats prime beef better than Tuscans—such is the case with the family that runs this homey and rustic, but stylish, restaurant just off the Piazza Barberini. Highlights include the long pasta dishes with truffle shavings or wild mushroom and parsley sauce. Cooked over an open fire, the *tagliata* (sliced beef grilled and garnished with basil and Parmesan cheese) will satisfy any craving for top-grade, aged meat. Superbly executed fish and seafood entrees are distinguished as well. Local gourmands crowd this place.

Open Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via San Nicola da Tolentino 26  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-474-5560

<http://www.tullioristorante.it>

### Girarrosto Fiorentino

For decades, this steak house has been a solid favorite for dining just off the Via Veneto. It specializes in Florentine steaks and an assortment of fish and pasta. Great atmosphere for dining in the cooler months.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

Via Sicilia 46  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-4288-0660

<http://www.girarrostofiorentino.it>

## Other Options

Gelato (ice cream) has a long tradition in Italy, and it still resembles the treats Michelangelo and Bernini might have enjoyed. A *gelateria* that

calls its product *artigianale* crafts its wares in-house. Whether you take your gelato after a long walk in the blazing heat, after dinner or at 2 am between visits to bars, there's no better way to satisfy a sweet tooth.

### Caffe Giolitti

The air-conditioned, pink- and green-marbled *gelateria*, with its fin-de-siecle ambience, offers a nice break from the busy streets outside. There's better gelato to be found, but this is Rome's most famous. Try *zabaione* or the champagne ice cream, or enjoy its excellent tea or coffee.

Daily 7 am-1:30 am.

Via Uffici del Vicario 40  
Rome, Italy 186

**Phone:** 06-699-1243

<http://www.giolitti.it>

### Da Quinto Gelateria

This small ice-cream shop is right next to Piazza Navona, on a street full of Rome's best nightspots. Day or night, the line to buy ice cream flows out the door and tends to obstruct even the foot traffic along the road. The wait is well worth it, however. Many claim it's the best in Rome. Try the *affogato* (ice cream drowned in brandy or rum).

Open 10 am to very late, almost until dawn in the summer.

Via di Tor Millina 15  
Rome, Italy

### Gelateria della Palma

This colorful, chaotic *gelateria*, just behind the Pantheon, is always full of locals and tourists. The taste of the ice cream is exceptionally good, but this place is better known for its quantity of flavors. There are more than 20 flavors of chocolate alone and hundreds of others. Try kiwi, watermelon, wild strawberry, *limoncello*, sesame seed or honey.

Open 8:30 am-midnight (sometimes later, depending on how busy it is).

Via della Maddalena 19-23  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-688-06-752

<http://www.dellapalma.it>

### Gelateria di San Crispino

It's not hard to find great ice cream in the eternal city, but this *gelateria* is a cut above, specializing in meringue ice creams and fresh fruit sorbets. There are several branches, including locations at Fiumicino airport and near the Pantheon, but this is the original near the Trevi Fountain.

Open daily noon-12:30 am (until 1:30 am Friday and Saturday).

Via della Panetteria 42  
Rome, Italy

**Phone:** 06-679-3924

<http://www.ilgelatodisancrispino.it>

## Security

### Etiquette

Contrary to the relaxed image many have of Italy, the Italian business world emphasizes formality and procedure. Get assistance from a local contact, go through proper channels, and always present yourself and your firm as polished and accomplished.

**Appointments**—Having an intermediary is essential. Without someone to make the appropriate contacts, you'll find it hard to get much done. A go-between can help schedule meetings, which should be set up well in advance. It is very difficult—nearly impossible, in fact—to call on a businessperson unannounced. Confirm your meetings a day or two before they're set to take place. Punctuality is expected throughout the country, but don't be offended if Italian counterparts are not as prompt: Those in the northern part of the country generally are; those in the south are less so.

**Personal Introductions**—Greet others with a handshake, eye contact and a slight nod. Titles are important: Use any professional titles supplied on introduction or, better yet, ask for a list of the participants and their official titles in advance. Use the title and last name—plus the formal third-person address if you speak any Italian—until instructed otherwise. On a social level, Romans often bestow two cheek kisses to friends of friends. Be alert and follow cues.

**Negotiating**—The pace of negotiations is slow, and final decisions are not made by lower-level functionaries. The chain of command in Italian business is both vertical and horizontal, so decision-making can take a long time. Last-minute demands can be made by a person who enters the negotiations late in the game. In fact, this is sometimes used as a negotiating tool. Remain patient and calm at all times.

**Business Entertaining**—Business dinners are common, but will typically involve only a few key players. If you are hosting the dinner, ask your Italian contact whom to invite. Tip the waiter ahead of time and ask that the bill be quietly given to you, should you wish to pay. Otherwise, you will have to request the check; it will not be brought to you automatically.

**Body Language**—Italians typically converse while standing close together. Handshakes can extend longer than in other cultures, and locals tend to gesture when talking. The hand signs are continuous and nuanced, though none are likely to be made by a foreigner inadvertently. More often, visitors start to imitate the gestures without understanding the precise meanings—a practice we'd caution against.

**Gift Giving**—Small but high-quality gifts are appropriate in some situations: Ask your intermediary for advice. Take flowers, chocolates or lavishly wrapped pastries to someone's home. Exercise caution in giving wine: Many Italians are experts; if you're not, select a different gift.

**Conversation**—Very little is off-limits in Italian conversation, but avoid being critical of Italian society and culture, even if your host is. Soccer is a passion and an easy topic (though discussing individual players rather than teams may be safer), as are art, travel and Italian culture. The less-positive side of Italy, including racism charges, Mussolini, World War II, the role of the Church in Italian affairs and the Mafia, is probably better avoided unless you know the other parties well.

## Personal Safety

Rome, like any big city, has its fair share of crime. Fortunately, few incidents involve gangs or violence. Great progress has been made by Rome's mayor to bolster security by installing better lighting and CCTV cameras to diminish petty crime, but it has made those vagrants still out there more aggressive than usual. There are many more police officers patrolling tourist areas than in previous years, but one should still be cautious. The buses that connect to St. Peter's, the Colosseum, the Catacombs and Termini Station are crawling with pickpockets, as are the subway trains. Because of the economic crisis sweeping southern Europe, Rome has been besieged with panhandlers and homeless people. Many are new poor who are desperate and embarrassed to beg for spare change.

Don't tempt thieves with flashy, expensive jewelry, dangling or open purses, easily accessible wallets or unlocked cars. Don't leave handbags or backpacks open, and make sure your most valuable possessions are close to your body or back in the hotel safe. Hold on tightly to purses and briefcases, and avoid the side of the sidewalk nearest traffic (purse snatchers sometimes operate from the backs of motorbikes). Avoid fanny packs. They are the mark of a tourist and attract thieves. One favorite trick is for someone to approach with a clipboard or magazine and thrust it in your face. While you are trying to get them to move away an accomplice can open your pack, remove the contents and zip it up again, and you'll be none the wiser until later on. Keep physical contact with your belongings, even when seated at a cafe table or outdoor restaurant (for example, handbags should loop over an ankle or knee, rather than a chair back).

Be alert. Make eye contact with potential pickpockets. Should an incident begin, shout and point while gripping your belongings. Don't be afraid of causing a scene: Locals and transit workers will quickly come to your defense.

*Note:* Street musicians—many of them classically trained Romanians or self-taught Roma—are largely innocent of such scams. Many support large families. Locals consider it *bella figura* (good style) to donate spare change to talented buskers and sincerely needy beggars.

Be wary of fast-talking "guides" or "hotel representatives" in the train station or at tourist sites. They are either swindlers or serving as a diversion as another crook strips you of your possessions. You can appeal to the police if there is a dispute over the price for any type of service. Changes to the taxi charter have put caps on prices, so be sure you check the printed price list or ask for an estimated price before entering the cab.

A small percentage of Roman soccer fans are apt to become violent, but there is increasing violence by fans of visiting teams, especially England. Be attentive to which team the people around you support. Serious incidents are extremely rare, but it's better to stay on the safe side. Sporting the wrong jersey, or even wearing the wrong colors, can sometimes lead to problems. As a rule, it's advisable to leave the stadium early.

Women may endure more attention than at home. Flattering comments such as "*bellissima*" (most beautiful) are culturally acceptable—touching is not. Scream and slap; most Romans will leap to your aid.

In Rome, there are four different law-enforcement organizations: the city police, *polizia municipale* (in blue and white); the state police, *polizia di stato* (also in blue and white); the paramilitary police, *carabinieri* (in designer black and red); and the finance police, *guardia di finanza* (in brown and green). Although each has a specialization, they all cover the same jurisdiction. Appeal to any of them, regardless of



the problem. All four types tend to speak at least basic English and are eager to ensure that tourists are not cheated (after all, tourism is Rome's biggest business). Finally, do not be alarmed by machine guns at the airport or in the hands of traffic cops: The heavy weaponry is routine.

In an emergency, phone 113 for the police, 115 for fire and 118 for medical assistance. For the latest information on travel safety, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

## Health

Italian health care is part of a socialized medicine system. Italians carry health cards that allow them free health care and subsidized prescription pharmaceuticals. But there are still a number of private care options to support Rome's large expat population, with several United Nations organizations and embassies to the Holy See and the country of Italy. Emergency services are free to residents and nonresidents alike.

No hospitals or clinics accept foreign insurance claims, but most will be able to write a receipt for services that is in compliance with international insurance companies. Walk-in emergency rooms, called Pronto Soccorso, are located in hospitals throughout the city. Patients are treated in order based on the seriousness of the injury or ailment, so it is not uncommon to wait several hours a nonemergency complaint just to get bumped by someone with a broken limb. Some emergency rooms are filthy, and many are understaffed, but health care is generally good.

The Aventino Medical Group (<http://www.aventinomedicalgroup.com>) is a cooperative of English-speaking private doctors who can help in almost any nonemergency situation during regular office hours and who can direct foreign travelers to the best hospital or clinic for emergencies. Phone 06-578-0738.

Medical facilities are generally very good, and the water, although heavily chlorinated with high levels of calcium, is safe to drink. Many locals stick to bottled mineral water, but it's a matter of preference—the tap water is fine. Rome can get particularly hot in summer—carrying a bottle of water can help prevent dehydration. Refills from the street nozzles are perfectly safe, but keep out of the fountains. Also, as everywhere, take your most comfortable pair of walking shoes, as Rome is a city best seen on foot.

Most pharmacies are open Monday-Friday 8:30 am-1 pm and 3:30-7 pm. They rotate night and weekend duty (7 pm-8:30 am), publishing the schedule daily in the local sections of newspapers, such as *Il Messaggero* or *La Repubblica*. Many also post the address of the nearest open pharmacy in the area. During the middle weeks of August, only one pharmacy is generally open in each district.

Pharmacists can sometimes aid travelers with basic prescriptions such as birth-control refills or medicine for conjunctivitis (pink eye); for a minor ailment, ask first before tracking down an English-language doctor. All medicine is given over the counter, so it helps to know the Italian name for your malady.

The two main hospitals in the city center are Policlinico Umberto I, located on Viale del Policlinico close to the Policlinico metro stop on the B line (phone 06-49971; <http://www.policlinicoumberto1.it>), and Ospedale San Giovanni-Addolorata, located on Via dell'Amba Aradam 9 (phone 06-77051; <http://www.hsangiovanni.roma.it>).

For more information, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

## Disabled Advisory

As an ancient city with limited vehicle access, Rome can be difficult for disabled travelers to navigate. Because of city budget cuts, very little has been done in recent years to improve the situation and Italy has been fined by the European Union for noncompliance with measures to serve disabled visitors and residents.

The public-transit system and the train system both have special services for the disabled, but trams are the only sure bet. Otherwise, transportation must be reserved at least 24 hours in advance (a week ahead is best). There is an office at Termini Station, open daily 7 am-9 pm, that offers information on services for the disabled and helps to make special arrangements if contacted in advance. Phone 06-488-1726.

For up-to-date information on accessibility for trams, buses and subways, call ATAC Monday-Saturday 8 am-8 pm. Toll-free 800-154-451. <http://www.trenitalia.it> or <http://www.atac.roma.it>.

Roma per Tutti is a new service aimed at improving access in Rome. The website (only in Italian) has a full list of wheelchair-accessible

venues and invites readers to report those which are particularly prohibitive. <http://www.romapertutti.it>.

Clubs and restaurants are also becoming more aware of access issues. Most restaurants do not have handicap-accessible lavatories or adequate space for wheelchairs.

## Facts

### Dos & Don'ts

Do pack a good insect repellent. Large tiger mosquitoes from Asia do not carry diseases, but they do plague the city in the summer months.

Don't bathe in the city's fountains. They are considered monuments, and you will risk being arrested or fined.

Don't snack close to monuments or historical sites in the city center. You could be fined if caught. Police regularly patrol the Spanish Steps to shoo away anyone with food.

Do order a pizza with ham and figs or potatoes and rosemary—popular, traditional Roman snacks.

Don't expect to eat dinner in a local restaurant before 7:30 or 8 pm, and lunch is rarely served before 12:30 or 1 pm.

Do take time to admire the cobbled streets in the city center. Many of the city center's main traffic streets have already been paved with asphalt, but there is little chance they will disappear entirely. Do not steal cobblestones, even if they are stacked up in a pile. You could be fined.

Don't forget to look up when walking down Rome's quaint streets. Many old buildings have remnants of frescoes and original statues on the facades. And you might see wonderful Roman faces people-watching from the windows.

Do spend some time walking along the Via Appia, The Appian Way. There is a section, a short bus journey away from the city center, that has been restored and is virtually a pedestrian zone. This was one of the first of the Roman roads.

Do not trust pedestrian crosswalks. Most Romans ignore them, even when they are below yellow flashing lights. Crossing busy streets in Rome is daunting and dangerous.

Do not expect to hail a taxi from the street. Cabs are found at marked ranks throughout the city.

## Geostats

**Passport/Visa Requirements:** Citizens of Canada and the U.S. need only a passport. Check travel document requirements with your carrier before departing.

**Population:** 2,753,000.

**Languages:** Italian. English is widely spoken—if not perfectly, at least enough to communicate basic information.

**Predominant Religions:** Christian (Roman Catholic).

**Time Zone:** 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

**Voltage Requirements:** 220 volts.

**Telephone Codes:** 39, country code; 06,city code;

## Money

## Currency Exchange

Italy uses the euro, pronounced *aer-o*, as its official currency. It is common for store clerks to demand small notes and exact change for purchases. If you don't comply, you may be given all your change in small coins. The euro-to-dollar rate fluctuates constantly, and you will be charged on the day your credit card purchase is redeemed from your bank, not necessarily the day the purchase was made. The best exchange rate is via an ATM with a debit card. Exchange bureaus can be found all over the center of Rome, but most charge a hefty commission. Always ask if posted exchange rates are accurate.

Banks, though ubiquitous, are concentrated on main drags such as the Via Veneto, Piazza San Silvestro and Via del Corso. ATMs, called *bancomats*, are available 24 hours a day outside almost all banks and at many other locations. They are the preferred way of getting cash, because they do not usually add the 2.5%-4% fees that credit cards charge for advances.

Cards with the Cirrus symbol are accepted almost anywhere. To change cash and traveler's checks, banks charge a commission of about 3 euros. Post offices charge a fee of 3.13 euros. Exchange rates are generally better at downtown banks and exchanges (*ufficio di cambio*) than at the airports or hotels. *Cambio* hours are generally 8:30 am-7:30 pm. At the airport, try to avoid changing more money than you may need to get into town. You'll also find 24-hour automated exchange machines dotting the city for extra convenience. One way of avoiding most charges is to get a Visa or MasterCard preloaded with euros. It also minimizes the chance of loss through robbery.

Bank hours are generally Monday-Friday 8:30 am-1:30 pm and 2:30-4 pm (with some variation), but some of the larger banks are open throughout the day. In winter, banks often have reduced hours. *Bancomats* are likely to be out of cash on Sunday nights, so plan ahead.

## Taxes

Hotels in Rome now charge an occupancy tax of 2 euros for one- to three-star hotels and 3 euro for four- or five-star hotels per night.

A value-added tax (VAT, or IVA in Italy), anywhere from 4%-23%, can be refunded to non-European Union visitors. The amount added varies from country to country within the EU, and not all stores participate. Check first or look for the sign in the store window. In addition, only luxury goods—such as clothing and wine—are eligible. Refunds usually amount to about 13%-16% of the purchase price. Make sure you get the paperwork at the store on the day of purchase. Most stores will not provide the necessary document retroactively.

Present three things to the refund officer at the airport before departure: your purchase, the receipt and the customs division's stamped refund form (which must be picked up at the place of purchase). Without these, your refund will be denied. Note that only unused articles are eligible for a refund: If the article looks used, you won't get your money back. If everything is in order, the IVA refund officer will give you a final form to be mailed. (Ideally, jump through all these hoops before checking your bags, and have your purchases in an easy-to-reach place.)

Some larger stores have a streamlined process: They handle most of the paperwork and then mail the refund to you, usually minus a fee. Private IVA refund services, located at the airport, also pay immediately minus a fee, usually a percentage of the refund. This is also possible at refund centers in the shopping district of Rome's Centro Storico and other large Italian cities. The two largest such services are Global Blue and Cashback; you'll see their signs in store windows. For more information, check Global Blue's website, <http://www.globalblue.com>. It provides information, a tax calculator and a location map, showing its refund offices in 34 countries and all major exit points in Italy (airports, harbors and roads).

## Tipping

The culture of tipping in Europe is considerably different from that in North America. For the most part, Italians do not tip, as waiters and housekeeping staff are paid a fair wage. At times a service charge (*servizio*) is tacked onto restaurant bills. Don't confuse this with the cover (*coperta*), which is a charge for bread and table settings. If the service charge is included, a tip is not necessary. If service has been excellent, a tip of 1 euro per person is greatly appreciated and should be given directly to the waitstaff, not tacked on the credit card amount.

Tipping in taxis is increasingly expected because the city of Rome has regulated taxi fares and increased the number of taxi licenses, increasing competition among drivers. Most people add a 5% tip to taxi fares.

## Weather

May and June are the best times to visit, as far as the weather goes. Spring weather can be quite changeable, especially in March and April, with sunny skies in the morning and storms in the afternoon. May and June can be very pleasant, but temperatures often climb above 85 F/30 C in July and August. High humidity (around 85%) causes most locals to flee the city toward the end of summer. Fall remains sunny,

with October and November quite mild but sometimes rainy. September–November is a nice time to visit—the weather's good for touring around, and you'll miss the early-summer crowds. Winters are generally mild, with January lows around 40 F/5 C. Rome receives snow about once every five years, and when it does, public transport tends to stop, and getting around the city can be difficult.

## What to Wear

As a rule, Italians are very conscious about clothes and fabric, and they have a highly developed sense of style from a very young age. Casual dress is fine for most occasions, but a suit and tie are recommended for business meetings. Jackets for men and smart attire for women are wise for dining out. The only locals in shorts and T-shirts are construction workers or people playing soccer in the park; women rarely wear shorts. Short shorts or "Daisy Dukes" are never acceptable streetwear. Bare feet are taboo except at the seaside or swimming pools.

When visiting the Vatican or any major cathedral, men should wear long pants and women should wear skirts or long pants. Sleeveless shirts and shorts are not permitted in churches or the Vatican, including the Vatican museums. Use a large scarf to cover exposed shoulders if no other covering is available.

## Communication

### Telephone

If you're calling a number in Rome from outside Italy, first dial your country's international access code and then Italy's country code, 39, followed by the city code, 06. Within Italy or Rome, you'll need to dial 06 and then the local number. Mobile numbers begin with 3 and have no city code.

Public phones are getting harder and harder to find (cell phones have taken over the country), but they still exist around the train stations and bus depots. Most accept only phone cards issued by Telecom Italia, the state-run company. Purchase these at newsstands, tobacconists (marked by a blue or black sign with a large white T), post offices and many bars. Ask for a *carta telefonica*. Tear the corner off, insert it into the phone, and dial away. International call cards can be purchased at most tobacconists and bars. Most offer about 300 minutes' worth of talk time for 5 euros. Actual cost-per-minute is determined by which country you are calling. Call the switchboard number—listed on the calling card—from any phone and they'll connect you to your desired number.

Cell phone coverage is variable. Don't expect to get any signal whatsoever when inside ancient buildings or ruins, and most restaurants in the city center have limited signals indoors, but increasingly offer free Wi-Fi. You can tell how good a restaurant's signal is by the number of people standing outside talking on their phones.

If you are traveling for an extended period of time and would like an Italian number, TIM, Wind and Vodafone stores, located throughout the country, sell pay-as-you go SIM cards and cheap phones. Visitors can prepurchase cell phones and SIM cards online at <http://www.italycellphone.com>. SIM cards are compatible with most unlocked cell phones. All SIM cards have to be registered with the government before use, so visitors need to present their passports to purchase them.

### Internet Access

Rome is very well connected, and it offers many free or inexpensive Wi-Fi hot spots. Internet cafes have become common in the center of the city. Many are extremely small, with no more than five computers, but prices tend to be very reasonable. In accordance with antiterrorism laws, you must give a valid form of identification to use any computer at an Internet cafe.

If you're looking for ambience, check the *centro* areas around the Pantheon, Campo dei Fiori or Via Veneto. The Alberto Sordi gallery also offers free Wi-Fi, although patrons taking up valuable table space are expected to order something from the coffee bar.

Wi-Fi hot spots are now in major parks such as Villa Borghese and Villa Pamphili and in almost all central areas. Both Trenitalia and Italo trains offer Wi-Fi on long routes. Wi-Fi is free with registration; all you need is a cell phone to authenticate registration (<http://www.romawireless.com>). If you travel with a laptop and need Internet access immediately upon arrival in Rome, the McDonald's restaurant in Termini Station offers free Wi-Fi. Various pubs, restaurants and cafes also offer free Internet access. Just look for signs in windows. Rome still lacks charging stations, even at the airports. It's common to have free Wi-Fi and a dead battery because there is simply nowhere to recharge.

## Mail & Package Services

Most tobacconists, in addition to the post office, sell stamps. If you're mailing something important, skip the post office and use a private delivery service. FedEx, DHL and UPS all have outlets throughout the city. Buffetti office-supply stores often offer various options to mail packages.

### Poste Italiane

All post offices accept international parcels, but packaging requirements apply. Padded envelopes are the safest bet. Boxes should be cleanly wrapped and sealed. Priority mail (*posta prioritaria*) and express mail (*posta celere*) have sped up Italy's infamously slow mail. The most central post office is Ufficio Postale di Roma Centro. Monday-Friday 8:30 am-6:30 pm, Saturday 8:30 am-1 pm. Piazza di San Silvestro 20. Rome, Italy.

### Vatican Post Office

Quicker and with more efficient service than its Italian counterpart, it also has multilingual clerks. Only mail with Vatican stamps is accepted. The Vatican Post Office may close without notice because of increased security for special ceremonies. Monday-Friday 8:30 am-6:30 pm, Saturday 8:30 am-1 pm. Piazza San Pietro. Vatican City, Italy.

## Newspapers & Magazines

*Il Messaggero* and *La Repubblica* are Italian-language Rome daily newspapers. *Corriere della Sera* is based in Milan, but offers a special Rome section for the editions sold in the capital. *Il Tempo* and *La Stampa* are based in northern Italian cities, but offer some local Roman news. *Il Sole 24 Ore* is the main daily business newspaper.

Newsstands in the city center stock *The International New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal Europe*, *The Financial Times* and many international magazines. British newspapers and some U.S. dailies are available at newsstands in Piazza di Spagna, in Piazza San Silvestro, on Via Veneto near the Excelsior Hotel, at Termini Station and at the airport.

*Wanted in Rome* is a bimonthly English-language publication sold at all newsstands. It has entertainment listings among other bits of information (<http://www.wantedinrome.com>). The section "What's On and Where to Go" is particularly useful. See also the multitude of entertainment options listed and advertised (in Italian) in "Trovaroma," the Thursday supplement published by *La Repubblica* and available throughout the city. *Time Out Rome* is also available from newsstands and online. <http://www.timeout.com/rome>. *The Local* is an online news source dedicated to English-language news in Italy. <http://www.thelocal.it>.

## Transportation

We recommend that visitors walk as much as possible—nothing in the Centro Storico is more than a 30- to 40-minute stroll away. Taxis, buses and the metro can fill most gaps. Rome is in the process of replacing its entire fleet of old run-down buses with larger-capacity, air-conditioned vehicles with wheelchair access and onboard ticket machines. The system isn't perfect, though, namely because of intense traffic, strikes and protests that can sometimes turn the city into a parking lot. The general rule of thumb is that the most efficient way to arrive at an appointment on time is to go on foot or take a taxi.

### Air

Rome's main airport is Leonardo da Vinci, commonly called Fiumicino (FCO), about 16 mi/35 km southwest of Rome. Though quite large, with three of its five terminals dedicated to international travel, it manages to avoid confusion with clearly marked signs and a generous number of information booths, as well as interactive touch-screen kiosks that provide timetables, airport maps and more. Most direct U.S. destinations leave from Terminal 5, which is not attached to the main airport. Note that North American carriers that have layovers in European cities before flying to the U.S. will depart from terminals 1-4. Tell your taxi driver your first stop, not your airline or final destination, to find your terminal. If you make a mistake, a shuttle service is available between the main terminals and Terminal 5 every 15 minutes. There is no shortage of ATMs, duty-free shops or restaurants, and there's a 24-hour cash exchange. For airport information, call 39-06-65951. <http://www.adr.it/fiumicino>.

A second airport, Ciampino, mainly welcomes international charters and budget airlines 8 mi/13 km southeast of Rome. Small but friendly, it offers a pint-sized selection of services normally found in the larger airports: a bank, post office, cash exchange (usually closing around 9 pm), a couple of information booths and a lounge. In addition, it has a smattering of snack bars and duty-free shops. The airport is being expanded, and though this doesn't affect flights or service within the airport, it will in the future mean quicker check-in times and controls, and the possibility of flights to more destinations. Phone 39-39-06-65951. <http://www.adr.it>.

## Connecting Transportation

### *Best way:*

Trains run approximately every 30 minutes, between 6:30 am and 11:30 pm, from Fiumicino's train station either directly to Termini Station (about 30 minutes) or, on a different line used by commuters, from a dozen stops in the city, including Stazione Trastevere, Stazione Ostiense and Stazione Tiburtina (40 minutes). The commuter train is often packed. Do not leave luggage unattended on either train.

The trains from Termini start at 5:52 am and run until 10:52 pm (from Fiumicino to Termini they run 6:37 am-11:37 pm). These are called the Leonardo Express. They leave from tracks 27 and 28, and they work even during rail strikes. The local trains that pass through the city center leave at uneven intervals (every 15 minutes early and at the end of the business day, every 40 minutes during the day and every hour and 20 minutes late at night). This train also leaves the city and heads to points north as far as Orte in northern Lazio.

The Leonardo Express costs 14 euros, and the local train through the city is 8 euros. Purchase tickets from station windows, vending machines or the newsstand. Don't forget to validate the ticket in a yellow machine before boarding. (It is no longer permitted to use a pen to cancel the ticket. If you arrive too late to cancel the ticket in the machine, have the conductor on the train validate your ticket.) <http://www.trenitalia.com>.

Ciampino's public transport links are trickier. COTRAL buses connect to the vast Anagnina Station, where you can then catch Metro Linea A to the central train hub, Termini (1 euro). You can also take a local train from Termini to Ciampino Citta, about five minutes by taxi from the airport. <http://www.cotralspa.it>.

Buses run from Termini to Ciampino (the town), 6:37 am-11:45 pm and the reverse route 4:50 am-9:45 pm. The route takes 40 minutes. The cost is 4.50 euros one way.

From the airport to the metro stop Anagnina buses leave every 20 minutes and cost 1.20 euros. A 1-euro metro ticket is enough to reach the center of Rome.

From the airport to the Ciampino train station, buses run 5:20 am-9:50 pm (occasionally there is a bus at 10:40 pm and 11:35 pm); the reverse route runs 5:50 am-10:20 pm. It takes five minutes and the cost is 1.20 euros.

From Roma Termini to the Ciampino train station, trains run in both directions hourly at a cost of 1.30 euros. The trip takes 12 minutes. Hours change periodically, but they are generally 6 am-10 pm.

### *Other options:*

COTRAL night buses run 1:15 am-7 am (4.50 euros or 7 euros onboard). Fiumicino's stop is outside the arrivals hall. The bus ride to and from Termini takes around 30 minutes. Toll-free 800-174-471. <http://www.cotralspa.it>.

A taxi takes 45 minutes and costs at least 30 euros, plus 2 euros per bag, to destinations in the city center (always use the official white and yellow cabs at the stand; avoid the unauthorized touts). There is a surcharge of 10 euros 10 pm-7 am. Be forewarned that drivers tack on surcharges for almost anything, but regulations have helped tremendously. All legal charges are printed on a white card in multiple languages inside each licensed taxi. Beware of taxis from the city of Fiumicino, which are allowed to pick up passengers at the airport but charge an additional 20 euros for the trip to Rome.

A chauffeured shuttle service between Fiumicino Airport and your hotel costs approximately 40 euros. Book through one of the many booths in the terminal.

Many major hotels have courtesy vans. Let the concierge know your arrival time and flight details prior to traveling.

Branches of major rental car agencies have desks at the airport.



## Car

Because public transportation is generally reliable (and because traffic is so difficult to navigate), we strongly advise against driving within Rome. For excursions, take the train out of the city first and then rent the car: The GRA (the freeway that encircles Rome) and its exits are notoriously bewildering for tourists and locals alike. Driving is on the right. There is no shortage of car rental agencies at the airport, train station or in town.

Each year, more of Rome's cobbled city center is transformed to pedestrian-only walking areas, but that doesn't necessarily mean they are car-free. Delivery trucks can still gain access, but mopeds, which used to zip everywhere, must be pushed with their motors off through pedestrian-only zones. Before renting a car and braving the chaos, know that parking is expensive and difficult, and there are very few garages.

There is also limited access to central and residential areas such as Monti, Trastevere, Testaccio and the historical center, prohibiting nonresidents from driving in. Entrances to many residential areas are equipped with cameras that will catch any nonregistered cars. Tickets generally take six weeks to arrive, and your car rental company will charge you if you have breached a restricted area. If you drive a rental car into a restricted area, ask your hotel to call the central traffic authority to log your license plate number to avoid fines.

The minimum legal age for driving in Italy is 18. The speed limit in Rome, unless otherwise posted, is 50 kph. The police are very strict at enforcing the speed limit and blood alcohol limit (0.05 mg).

Most rental companies enforce a minimum age of 21 for renters, and drivers younger than 25 have to pay prohibitively expensive insurance surcharges. Similarly, those age 70 or older may find difficulty renting a vehicle and should always make arrangements before arriving.

## Public Transportation

The public transit system in Rome is constantly improving and includes buses, trams and metro subway trains. Tickets are valid on all three forms of transportation, good for only one trip on the metro but unlimited transfers on buses and trams for 75 minutes after the time stamped on the ticket. Buses are not patrolled, and ticket use is based on the honor system, but agents do frequently check passengers on the busier routes for validated tickets. Those without a ticket will be fined 50 euros on the spot or 100 euros to be paid within 10 days.

Buy tickets for many buses at tobacconists (marked with a black or blue sign with a large T), bars and newspaper kiosks, as well as at the green ATAC (the city transport authority) booths located on all the major squares. A single ticket is 1 euro and must be stamped in a validation machine onboard. Multiride passes are available for a day (4 euros), three days (11 euros) and seven days (16 euros).

The public transit website helps plan routes. Insert the starting destination address, and the site provides a printable page, complete with a map, of all possible transfers and (where applicable) alternate routes. <http://www.atac.roma.it>.

### ATAC Buses

In general, this is a good way to get around, but familiarize yourself with the system first. Electric buses 116, 117 and 119 are a visitor's friend because they ply the pedestrian areas of Piazza del Popolo, Via del Corso and the Centro Storico, hitting the major sights along the way. Pickpockets operate on all buses and roam the busier bus stops, particularly those around the tourist areas. Be aware of your wallet and bags at all times. Bus service is generally suspended between midnight and 5:30 am, except for *autobus notturna* (night bus) service—these buses run about every 30 minutes, and the hub is Piazza Venezia. Stops with night bus services are indicated with a large owl, and the buses are marked with an N. They don't necessarily slow down at the stops, so flag ostentatiously. Phone 06-57003 for information. Rome, Italy.

### Metro

There are two Metropolitana (subway) lines. The A line runs from Battistini to Anagnina, crossing the city from west to southeast. The B line runs from Laurentina (near EUR, south of Centro Storico) to Rebibbia and crosses the city from south to southeast. The two lines intersect at Stazione Termini. Stations are marked above ground by a large red M sign. Work is under way on the new C line, but progress is slow and the budget has been cut several times. Many of the planned subway stops under the historical center have been removed from the plan because of the vast number of archaeological treasures still buried under the city that cannot be displaced. The subway runs daily 5:30 am-11:30 pm, and until 1:30 am Friday and Saturday. Rome, Italy. <http://www.atac.roma.it>.



## Trams

These lines are the best ones for visitors: Tram 8 connects Centro Storico at Piazza Venezia to Trastevere before terminating at Villa Pamphili; Tram 19 runs from the Vatican around Villa Borghese; and Tram 3 runs from Villa Borghese to Stazione Trastevere, stopping en route at the Colosseum and Stazione Ostiense. Trams run 5 am-midnight, except for Tram 8, which runs until 3 am on Friday and Saturday. Rome, Italy.

## Ship

Cruise ships dock at the port of Civitavecchia, a port city approximately 65 mi/105 km north of Rome. This rapidly growing port is one of the most popular destinations for ferry travelers in the Mediterranean. Popular destinations from the port include Sardinia, Palermo, Genoa and Barcelona.

The port itself is not very attractive. It is enormous; from the ferries to the port entrance is half a mile/kilometer, and shuttles are available. The train station is another 10-minute walk. Trains leave for Rome's Termini Station every 20 minutes and take about one hour and 15 minutes. Buses that leave from the train station also go to Rome. Trains do not run direct to Fiumicino Airport; travelers must go first to Rome, and transfer trains. Total travel time is at least two hours. Taxis are not always available. Private shuttle companies take travelers from Civitavecchia to Rome or the Fiumicino Airport. Popular companies include Rome Airport Transfers and Airport Connection Service.

Cruise ships also dock at Naples, about two hours south of Rome. This grand, sprawling port also welcomes ferries (*traghetti*) and hydrofoils (*aliscafi*). Routes web the Tyrrhenian Sea, linking Naples to Sicily, Sardinia, Capri, Ischia, Procida, the Pontine and Aeolian Islands, as well as international destinations such as Tunisia, Croatia and Greece. Naples and Rome are very well-connected by bus, train and even plane, but the train is best and takes less than two hours.

## Taxi

Official taxis are white, carry a Commune di Roma plaque (inside the rear door on the left side), have meters and operate 24 hours. Cabdrivers are not accustomed to being hailed and may not stop. Instead, go to a taxi stand (marked with green signs) or book one by phone: 06-0609 (centralized service), 06-3570, 06-4157 or 06-4994.

Different fares are charged for travel outside and inside the GRA, a ring road around the city, inside and outside the ZTL (a limited traffic area in the center of the city) and for different times of day. Fares vary depending on traffic; fares start at 2.80 euros, but are 2.50 euros higher after 10 pm and on Sunday, and 3 euros higher when the cab leaves from Termini. For taxis booked by phone, the rate is charged from the time the car is dispatched. Sometimes you'll be charged for luggage. Most taxi drivers don't speak English, so it's a good idea to have the destination address written down.

## Train

The Italian national rail service is fairly cheap and reliable. Rome's primary stations are Termini (the main hub, connected to both metro lines), Trastevere (on the rail line between Termini and the airport) and Ostiense (in southern Rome on Metro Line B, with connections to Ostia and Naples). Termini has easy-to-use interactive kiosks where the traveler can choose a destination and print a ticket (reserve a seat on the faster, more expensive services, such as Eurostar).

Termini is the source of all schedule and train information as well, however frustrating and inefficient employees can be. Take with you plenty of patience and time. Be sure to validate your ticket using the yellow machines on the platform before boarding a train. Phone 892-021. You can also plan your trip and book tickets online. <http://www.trenitalia.com>.

The introduction of a private train service called ITALO in 2012 did wonders to improve service on the state-run Trenitalia. ITALO, which is owned by a consortium of Italian business owners (including the chairman of Ferrari), offers a luxury express service to most major cities in Italy. Longer runs have a cinema car and amenities including enhanced business suites for working trips. There is generally no restaurant car, but meals can be preordered when you purchase your ticket and will be delivered on the train. Each car generally has a train attendant to assist passengers. ITALO trains also have seat size options for larger passengers. The ITALO trains have dedicated lounges in most train stations and ticket agents, and the fares are competitive. ITALO currently only operates in Italy, but plans to extend service to major European capital cities are under way. <http://www.italotreno.it>.

## For More Information

## Tourist Offices

Chiamaroma is the new information line for the city of Rome, with service in English, and is open 24 hours a day. From any local phone, call 06-0608. Rome's official tourism Web site has up-to-date details for all offices. <http://turismoroma.it>.

### Tourist Information Board

Located inside Termini Station near track 24, the office provides maps, the helpful *A Guest In Rome* guide, the Roma Pass and other useful information. The tourist kiosk located outside of Termini Station provides bus information exclusively Daily 9 am-6 pm. Termini Station. Rome, Italy.

### Tourist Information Kiosks

Locations include: Fiumicino International Arrivals Terminal B, Termini station next to track 24, Castel Sant'Angelo, Via del Corso, the Imperial Forums, Piazza di Spagna, Piazza Navona, Via Nazionale (at Piazza delle Esposizione), Piazza Sonnino in Trastevere, Santa Maria Maggiore, the Trevi Fountain and Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano. Operators at the call center speak four languages. Daily 9 am-7 pm. . Rome, Italy. Phone 06-0608. <http://www.060608.it>.

## Events

### Calendar

Visitors to Rome are awed by its majestic antiquities and museum treasures, but the city is still very much alive. Colorful religious traditions and processions mark many holidays, and an abundance of music thrives both within the city and at nearby festivals.

The Baths of Caracalla, ruins dating from the third century, provide a dramatic setting for outdoor opera and classical music performances in summer. During holidays and local festivals, businesses, shops and government offices close, so plan ahead.

During the fall months, the small towns around Rome hold harvest festivals that are well attended by Romans.

Rome's annual Gay Pride parade each summer is one of the largest in all of Europe, perhaps because of the close proximity to the Vatican. Romans with their families and children in tow flock to the parade line, which snakes through the center of Rome, past the Coliseum in large numbers.

Because of political uncertainty and the lingering economic crisis, Rome is often paralyzed by protests and organized demonstrations. Student protests are not necessarily dangerous, but the crowds often storm police, who launch tear gas. It is best to leave any area that is under siege by protesters.

General audiences with the pope are usually held Wednesday at 10:30 am in Vatican City. Because of the popularity of Pope Francis, attendance is high, and the crowds often spill out into the side streets of the square, where large screens are often set up for those who do not have tickets. In winter, they take place either inside St. Peter's Basilica or in the Paul VI Audience Hall (capacity 7,000). In summer, they're held in St. Peter's Square.

If you wish to participate in a general audience, write in advance to the Office of the Prefecture (<http://www.vatican.va>; fax 06-6988-5863). If you're Catholic, include a letter of introduction from your local parish priest. Appropriately modest dress is requested: Men should wear a jacket and tie; women should dress with arms and head covered.

For detailed information about upcoming events in the Rome area, contact the City of Rome's Tourist Information Service. Phone 06-0608. <http://www.060608.it>. The Municipality of Rome also has a website that offers information about events and sights. <http://www.turismoroma.it/?lang=en>.

Within the city, a good source for information about classical music performances is Thursday's edition of *La Repubblica*. The periodical *Wanted in Rome* lists happenings in English.

During the summer months, the banks of the Tiber river are filled with festival stalls selling local goods, restaurants, cocktail bars and dance venues from the summer solstice to September 1. An outdoor cinema is set up on one side of Tiber island and specialty restaurants and wine bars are set up on the other side.

If you're calling the phone numbers in this calendar from outside Italy, you must first dial your country's international access code, then Italy's country code, 39, followed by a zero and then Rome's city code, 6. When dialing from within Italy and even from within Rome, you must dial

06 before the rest of the (four- to eight-digit) phone number. We've included the city codes in the phone numbers listed.

Information in this calendar is subject to change and should be confirmed.

## February 2015

**18 Feb—Ash Wednesday** The pope, clad in purple and accompanied by members of the College of Cardinals, walks from the Basilica of Santa Sabina (Aventine Hill) to the Circus Maximus, where a ceremony takes place.

**Throughout February—Concert** Chamber-music and orchestra concerts. Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Via della Conciliazione 4. For information, call 8024-2501. <http://www.santacecilia.it>. Continues through late May

**Throughout February—Performance** Operas and ballets are staged frequently at Teatro del'Opera, Piazza Beniamino Gigli 1. For information, call 06-481-601. For tickets, call 06-4816-0255 or 06-481-7003. <http://www.operaroma.it>. Continues through early August

**Throughout February—Concert** The Accademia Filarmonica Romana performs frequently at Teatro Olimpico. For tickets, call 06-320-1752. <http://www.filarmonicaromana.org>. Continues through late May

**Throughout February—Soccer** Italians are impassioned fans, rooting for the home team A.S. Roma Calcio. Games are played at Stadio Olimpico (Via del Gladiatori) on Sunday afternoon. Purchase tickets at the stadium or through your hotel. <http://www.asroma.it>. Season continues through early June

## March 2015

**19 Mar—Feast of St. Joseph** Celebrants congregate in the Trionfale Quarter.

**22 Mar—Maratona della Citta di Roma** The marathon route weaves its way past the city's historical landmarks. For information, call 06-406-5064. <http://www.maratonadiroma.it>.

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## April 2015

**3 Apr—Good Friday** In the evening, the pope traditionally leads the Procession of the Cross from the Colosseum to the Forum.

**5 Apr—Easter** An outdoor Mass takes place Easter morning in St. Peter's Square. All 20,000 seats are reserved; Italians watch the Mass on TV. At noon, the pope blesses the crowds assembled in St. Peter's Square.

**6 Apr—Easter Monday** Public holiday.

**9-12 Apr—Romics** The Rome Comics and Cartoons Festival includes presentations of the newest international publications and a fair that allows fans to meet designers. It also features film previews and the presentation of the Golden Romics awards. Fiera di Roma, Via Cristoforo Colombo. Phone 06-9395-3069. <http://www.romics.it>.

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## May 2015

**1 May—May Day Music Festival** International musicians perform to huge crowds at this annual rite of spring. This free, televised event is held at Piazza San Giovanni. <http://www.primomaggio.com>.

**1 May—Labor Day** Public holiday.

**7-17 May—Tennis** The Masters Series Roma is a warm-up tournament for the French Open. Parco del Foro Italico, Viale dei Gladiatori 31. For tickets, call 06-3208-225. <http://www.internazionalibnlditalia.com>.

**21-24 May—Horse Races** Piazza di Siena features horses from around the world. Villa Borghese. For more information, call 06-8191-8637. For tickets, call 06-3685-8420. <http://www.piazzadisiena.com>.

**Throughout May—Soccer** Italians are impassioned fans, rooting for the home team A.S. Roma Calcio. Games are played at Stadio Olimpico (Via del Gladiatori) on Sunday afternoon. Purchase tickets at the stadium or through your hotel. <http://www.asroma.it>. Season continues through early June

**Throughout May—Concert** Chamber-music and orchestra concerts. Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Via della Conciliazione 4. For information, call 8024-2501. <http://www.santacecilia.it>. Concludes late May

**Throughout May—Concert** The Accademia Filarmonica Romana performs frequently at Teatro Olimpico. For tickets, call 06-320-1752. <http://www.filarmonicaromana.org>. Concludes late May

**Throughout May—Performance** Operas and ballets are staged frequently at Teatro dell'Opera, Piazza Beniamino Gigli 1. For information, call 06-481-601. For tickets, call 06-4816-0255 or 06-481-7003. <http://www.operaroma.it>. Continues through early August

## June 2015

**Early June—Soccer** Italians are impassioned fans, rooting for the home team A.S. Roma Calcio. Games are played at Stadio Olimpico (Via del Gladiatori) on Sunday afternoon. Purchase tickets at the stadium or through your hotel. <http://www.asroma.it>. Season concludes early June

**7-11 Jun—Rome Chamber Music Festival at Villa Aurelia** This annual event presents performances by world-class musicians. For more information, call 06-3265-0719. <http://www.romechamberfestival.org>.

**20-27 Jun—Pesaro Film Fest** Also known as the International Exhibition of New Cinema, this festival showcases works by new directors. This annual event also provides retrospectives of films by veteran directors from many countries. For information, call 06-445-6643 or 06-491-156. <http://www.pesarofilmfest.it>.

**26-30 Jun—Spoleto Festival** Founded by Gian Carlo Menotti in 1957, this festival presents world-class concerts, opera, dance, theater, film and visual arts. In Spoleto, 80 mi/130 km north of Rome. Phone 0743-776-444. <http://www.festivaldispoleto.com>. Continues through 12 Jul

**29 Jun—Saints Peter and Paul Day** Public holiday. Solemn Masses are held at St. Peter's Basilica and elsewhere.

**Late June—Estate Romana** The Roman Summer offers hundreds of events with thousands of artists. The varied program includes rock, symphonic, solo and ethnic-music performances, literary readings, film screenings, theater and international dancing. Venues throughout the Rome area. [http://www.romeguide.it/estate\\_romana](http://www.romeguide.it/estate_romana). Continues through early September

**Throughout June—Performance** Operas and ballets are staged frequently at Teatro dell'Opera, Piazza Beniamino Gigli 1. For information, call 06-481-601. For tickets, call 06-4816-0255 or 06-481-7003. <http://www.operaroma.it>. Continues through early August

## July 2015

**1-12 Jul—Spoleto Festival** Founded by Gian Carlo Menotti in 1957, this festival presents world-class concerts, opera, dance, theater, film and visual arts. In Spoleto, 80 mi/130 km north of Rome. Phone 0743-776-444. <http://www.festivaldispoleto.com>. Concludes 12 Jul

**1-17 Jul—Noantri Festival** Folklore of Old Rome in Trastevere, including a colorful procession honoring the Virgin of Carmine. Folk music, dancing, parade floats and fireworks.

**Throughout July—Estate Romana** The Roman Summer offers hundreds of events with thousands of artists. The varied program includes rock, symphonic, solo and ethnic-music performances, literary readings, film screenings, theater and international dancing. Venues throughout the Rome area. [http://www.romeguide.it/estate\\_romana](http://www.romeguide.it/estate_romana). Continues through early September

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## August 2015

**Early August—Performance** Operas and ballets are staged frequently at Teatro dell'Opera, Piazza Beniamino Gigli 1. For information, call 06-481-601. For tickets, call 06-4816-0255 or 06-481-7003. <http://www.operaroma.it>. Concludes early August

**8 Aug—Feast of Our Lady of the Snow** Rose petals fall during services at Santa Maria Maggiore, Via G. Alberto 47.

**15 Aug—Feast of the Assumption** Public holiday.

**Throughout August—Estate Romana** The Roman Summer offers hundreds of events with thousands of artists. The varied program includes rock, symphonic, solo and ethnic-music performances, literary readings, film screenings, theater and international dancing. Venues throughout the Rome area. [http://www.romeguide.it/estate\\_romana](http://www.romeguide.it/estate_romana). Continues through early September

## September 2015

**Early September—Estate Romana** The Roman Summer offers hundreds of events with thousands of artists. The varied program includes rock, symphonic, solo and ethnic-music performances, literary readings, film screenings, theater and international dancing. Venues throughout the Rome area. [http://www.romeguide.it/estate\\_romana](http://www.romeguide.it/estate_romana). Concludes early September

**Mid-Late September—Soccer** Italians are impassioned fans, rooting for the home team A.S. Roma Calcio. Games are played at Stadio Olimpico (Via del Gladiatori) on Sunday afternoon. Purchase tickets at the stadium or through your hotel. <http://www.asroma.it>. Season continues through early June 2016

**27-30 Sep—Fotografia** This themed, international photography festival features exhibits, workshops and conferences at various venues. For more information, call 06-8207-7100. <http://www.fotografiainfestival.it>. Continues through 1 Nov

**Late September—Concert** The Accademia Filarmonica Romana performs frequently at Teatro Olimpico. For tickets, call 06-320-1752. <http://www.filarmonicaromana.org>. Continues through late May 2016

**Late September—Romaeuropa Festival** This annual contemporary arts festival includes world-class music, dance and theater performances, and art exhibits and installations. Phone 4555-3050. <http://www.romaeuropa.net>. Continues through late November

## October 2015

**Early-Late October—Performance** Operas and ballets are staged frequently at Teatro dell'Opera, Piazza Beniamino Gigli 1. For information, call 06-481-601. For tickets, call 06-4816-0255 or 06-481-7003. <http://www.operaroma.it>. Continues through early August 2016

**Mid-Late October—Concert** Chamber-music and orchestra concerts. Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Via della Conciliazione 4. For information, call 8024-2501. <http://www.santacecilia.it>. Continues through 1 May Hello!2016

**4 Oct—Feast of St. Francis of Assisi** Flowers are placed at the monument to St. Francis, near San Giovanni, Laterano.

**Throughout October—Concert** The Accademia Filarmonica Romana performs frequently at Teatro Olimpico. For tickets, call 06-320-1752. <http://www.filarmonicaromana.org>. Continues through late May 2016

**Throughout October—Fotografia** This themed, international photography festival features exhibits, workshops and conferences at various venues. For more information, call 06-8207-7100. <http://www.fotografiainfestival.it>. Continues through 1 Nov

**Throughout October—Romaeuropa Festival** This annual contemporary arts festival includes world-class music, dance and theater performances, and art exhibits and installations. Phone 4555-3050. <http://www.romaeuropa.net>. Continues through late November

**Throughout October—Soccer** Italians are impassioned fans, rooting for the home team A.S. Roma Calcio. Games are played at Stadio Olimpico (Via del Gladiatori) on Sunday afternoon. Purchase tickets at the stadium or through your hotel. <http://www.asroma.it>. Season continues through early June 2016



## November 2015

**1 Nov—All Saints' Day** Public holiday. Many churches not usually open to the public may be open for visiting this day.

**1 Nov—Fotografia** This themed, international photography festival features exhibits, workshops and conferences at various venues. For more information, call 06-8207-7100. <http://www.fotografiefestival.it>. Final day

**4 Nov—Unity Day** Marking World War I and Armed Forces Day, a ceremony takes place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Piazza Navona.

**Throughout November—Soccer** Italians are impassioned fans, rooting for the home team A.S. Roma Calcio. Games are played at Stadio Olimpico (Via del Gladiatori) on Sunday afternoon. Purchase tickets at the stadium or through your hotel. <http://www.asroma.it>. Season continues through early June 2016

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## December 2015

**8 Dec—Feast of the Immaculate Conception** Public and religious holiday. The pope or his envoy places flowers at the column of the Virgin in Piazza di Spagna. Statues are crowned with flowers, and civic bands and bagpipers perform.

**24 Dec—Christmas Eve** Public holiday.

**25 Dec—Christmas** Public holiday.

**26 Dec—St. Stephen's Day** Public holiday. Many Romans visit nativity scenes in churches throughout the city.

**31 Dec—New Year's Eve** Mass is held in churches throughout the city. Traditionally, broken crockery is tossed from balconies, and an all-night party rages in the Piazza del Popolo.

**Throughout December—Soccer** Italians are impassioned fans, rooting for the home team A.S. Roma Calcio. Games are played at Stadio Olimpico (Via del Gladiatori) on Sunday afternoon. Purchase tickets at the stadium or through your hotel. <http://www.asroma.it>. Season continues through early June 2016

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## January 2016

**1 Jan—New Year's Day** Public holiday.

**6 Jan—Epiphany** Public and religious holiday, called Befana in Italian. An ordination of new bishops takes place in St. Peter's Basilica. An Epiphany fair is held in the Piazza Navona. Toys, candy and gifts are exchanged.

**Throughout January—Concert** Chamber-music and orchestra concerts. Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Via della Conciliazione 4. For information, call 8024-2501. <http://www.santacecilia.it>. Continues through 1 May Hello!

**Throughout January—Performance** Operas and ballets are staged frequently at Teatro del'Opera, Piazza Beniamino Gigli 1. For information, call 06-481-601. For tickets, call 06-4816-0255 or 06-481-7003. <http://www.operaroma.it>. Continues through early August

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## Anglo Americano Hotel, Rome, Italy

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Via Quattro Fontane 12  
Rome, Italy

Rates: \$193-\$317 (USD)

Phone: 39 06-472941

Fax: 39 06-474-6428

E-mail: [info@hotelangloamericano.it](mailto:info@hotelangloamericano.it)

Web: <http://www.angloamericanohotel.com>

Year Renovated: 2010

Check in Time: 2:00 PM

Check out Time: 12:00 PM

Number of Floors: 7

Total Number of Rooms: 114

General Manager: Aleberto Comini

STAR Rating: ★★☆☆☆

Amenity Rating: ✓✓✓✓✓

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A short walk from the Barberini metro station, in an excellent location, central to sights and transportation, within a 15-minute walk to the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps, this renovated midrange operation is a modern B&B with a boutique sensibility, moderate rates and a helpful staff.

A step down the ranks from the more sophisticated Britannia, this is a dependable operation with an inflated self image as a deluxe player. It is a clean-cut, contemporary version of the nearby Relais Fontana de Trevi.

The classic, umber-hue five-story building is marked with a pair of easily identifiable brass plaques. Stairs rise from the street up into the modest lobby furnished with cream- and royal-blue-leather seating that stands out against the bright white marble and tile and white-washed walls. The decor is somewhere between whimsical and laughable, with a full suit of medieval armor, ancient Roman busts and a trio of supplicating Thai carvings adding interest.

A trio of lounges provides a space for relation outside of the guest rooms, and an oversize plasma TV flips back and forth between CNN and local soap operas. The hotel lacks a restaurant, though this

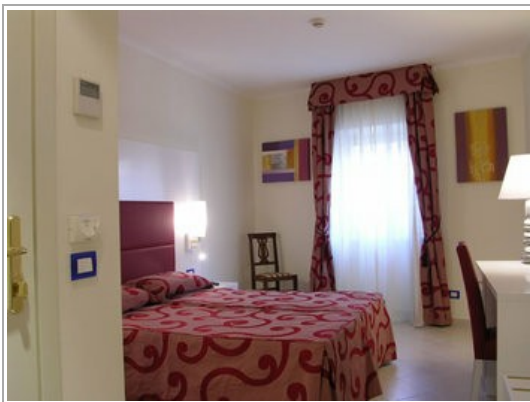


neighborhood overflows with dining options to fit every budget. The two-tier breakfast room is cozy and supplies a complimentary Continental breakfast each morning—nothing lavish, just adequate.

There are no recreational options, no gym or sauna.

There is a meeting room for 50 people. Wi-Fi is free, or not, depending on the package. Parking is a self-service affair in a nearby garage.

The renovated accommodations are dressed up with bold graphic-print fabrics, padded headboards, built-in bedsteads and desks set atop tile floors. Red and white are the colors of choice, and though the rooms themselves are of fair size, the baths are mostly closet-size. Standard features include safes, minibars, wall-hung flat-screen TVs, phones and modern art. Most units afford tight wardrobes in lieu of closets.



The compact shower-only baths are clean but lack much apart from good lighting; toiletry kits are paltry.

Limited room service is available. Pets are permitted for a fee. Smoking is allowed in a few rooms.

This modest midrange hotel makes a genuine effort to please with a familial atmosphere, clean modern rooms and a suitable breakfast, but rates are on the optimistic side once they breach US\$200. However, the location does help to create value for the mostly tourist clientele from North America and northern Europe.

For a little more outlay the traditional Scalinata di Spagna Hotel creates more "wow" factor, while the pragmatic NH Vittorio Veneto proves a better all-around value for those that don't mind a modern full-service operation.

Latest Revision: January 2013

## Basic Information

**Year Renovated:** 2010  
**Number of Floors:** 7  
**Number of Rooms:** 114

## Rates & Policies

*Rates are Daily in USD*  
**Standard:** \$193-\$317  
**Meals:** Continental Plan  
**Cancellation Policy:** 24 hrs before the day of arrival

Credit Cards Are Accepted  
 Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card

## Location

In Rome. Near Via Veneto, city center & shopping.

**Nearest Airports:**  
 Rome / Ciampino- 20 km, 40 min drive  
 Rome / Fiumicino- 25 km, 40 min drive

**Nearby Points of Interest:**  
 Piazza Di Barbieri (Monument)- 2 km  
 Il colesseo (Monument)- 8 km

## Room Amenities

(Amenities are in all rooms unless noted otherwise)

Air Conditioning  
 Balcony/Terrace (some)  
 Mini-Bar  
 Free Newspaper (some)  
 Rooms for Non-smokers  
 Telephone  
 Voicemail  
 Refrigerator  
 Safe (In Room)  
 Cable/Satellite Television  
 Television

## Recreation

### NEARBY

Bicycling  
 Health Club  
 Health Spa/Massage  
 Pool (Children's Pool, Indoor Pool, Outdoor Pool)  
 Shopping Mall/Area

## Hotel Facilities

### GENERAL SERVICES

Babysitting/Child Care  
 Concierge Services  
 Currency Exchange  
 Laundry/Dry Cleaning Service  
 Multi-lingual Staff  
 Free Onsite Parking  
 Room Service  
 Wheelchair Access to Common/Public Areas

## Meetings Facilities

2 Meeting Rooms holding 30 people.  
 50 sq m of Meeting Space

## Hotel Map & Neighborhood

