Centro Storico Piazzas

Rome's *centro storico* boasts some of the city's most celebrated piazzas, and several lovely but lesser-known squares. Each has its own character, but together they encapsulate much of the city's beauty, history and drama.

Start Piazza Colonna
Distance 1.5km
Duration 3½ hours

Classic Photo: Piazza della Rotonda with the Pantheon in the background.

1 Piazza Colonna is dominated by the 30m-high Colonna di Marco Aurelio and flanked by Palazzo Chigi, the official residence of the Italian PM.

2 Follow Via dei Bergamaschi to **Piazza di Pietra**, a refined space overlooked by the 2nd-century Tempio di Adriano.

3 Continue down Via de' Burro to **Piazza di Sant'Ignazio Loyola**, a small piazza with a church boasting celebrated *trompe l'œil* frescoes.

4 It's a short walk along Via del Seminario to Piazza della Rotonda, where the **Pantheon** needs no introduction.

5 Piazza Navona is Rome's great showpiece square, where you can compare the two giants of Roman baroque – Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Francesco Borromini.

Take a Break... Those in the know head to **Forno di Campo de' Fiori** (☎06 6880 6662; www.fornocampodefiori.com; Campo de' Fiori 22; pizza slices around €3; ⏲7.30am-2.30pm & 4.45-8pm Mon-Sat, closed Sat afternoon Jul & Aug; 🚌Corso Vittorio Emanuele II) for some of Rome's best *pizza bianca* (white pizza with olive oil and salt).

6 On the other side of Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, **Campo de' Fiori** hosts a noisy market and boisterous drinking scene.

7 Just beyond the Campo, the more sober **Piazza Farnese** is overshadowed by the austere facade of the Renaissance **Palazzo Farnese**.