



# ROME

TOP SIGHTS, AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

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## Welcome to Rome

***A heady mix of haunting ruins, breathtaking art, vibrant street life and incredible food, Italy's hot-blooded capital is one of the world's most romantic and inspiring cities.***

The result of 3000 years of ad hoc urban development, Rome's cityscape is an exhilarating spectacle. Ancient icons such as the Colosseum, Roman Forum and Pantheon recall the city's golden age as *caput mundi* (capital of the world), while monumental basilicas testify to the role that great popes have played in its history.

Rome's astonishing artistic heritage is almost unrivalled. Throughout history, the city has starred in the great upheavals of Western art, drawing the top artists of the day and inspiring them to push the boundaries of creative achievement. The result is a city awash with priceless treasures. A walk around the centre will have you encountering masterpieces by the giants of Western art: sculptures by Michelangelo, canvases by Caravaggio, frescoes by Raphael and fountains by Bernini.

A trip to Rome is as much about lapping up the dolce vita lifestyle as gorging on art and culture. Idling around picturesque streets, whiling away hours at street-side cafes and people-watching on pretty piazzas are all an integral part of the Roman experience. Eating out is one of the great pleasures here, and a combination of romantic alfresco settings and superlative food guarantees good times. For a truly Roman meal head to a boisterous pizzeria or a convivial neighbourhood trattoria.

“Ancient icons recall the city's golden age as *caput mundi* (capital of the world)”





0 500 m  
0 0.25 miles



**Vatican City, Borgo & Prati**  
Home to a stunning wealth of artistic treasures. (Map p253)



**Centro Storico**  
The city's tangled historic centre is packed with incredible sights. (Map p250)



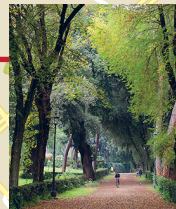
**Trastevere & Gianicolo**  
Enchantingly pretty, with tangled lanes, ochre palazzi (palaces) and a boho vibe. (Map p254)



**San Giovanni & Testaccio**  
Monumental basilicas, towering ruins, traditional trattorias and thumping nightlife. (Map p255)



**Southern Rome**  
Encompassing the beautiful, historic Via Appia Antica and ancient catacombs.



**Villa Borghese & Northern Rome**  
Encompasses the glorious park of Villa Borghese and the city's cultural hub. (Map p256)



**Tridente, Trevi & the Quirinale**  
Glamorous, debonair and touristy – this is Rome's designer-clad soul. (Maps p250, p252 & p256)



**Monti, Esquilino & San Lorenzo**  
Busy areas, speckled with glittering churches and some cool restaurants. (Maps p252 & p255)



**Ancient Rome**  
No other city has such an evocative ancient heart. (Map p246)

## 2 PLAN YOUR TRIP ROME

# Contents

### Plan Your Trip

This Year in Rome.....	4
Need to Know.....	18
Top Days in Rome.....	20
Hotspots for.....	28
What's New.....	30
For Free.....	31
Family Travel.....	32

### Top Experiences..... 35

Colosseum.....	36
Vatican Museums.....	40
St Peter's Basilica.....	46
Pantheon.....	50
Museo e Galleria Borghese.....	54
Palatino.....	58
Piazza Navona.....	62
Museo Nazionale Romano:	
Palazzo Massimo alle Terme.....	66
Capitoline Museums.....	70
Via Appia Antica.....	74
Roman Forum.....	78
Trevi Fountain.....	84
Basilica di Santa Maria del Popolo... ..	86
Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano.....	88
Spanish Steps.....	90
Day Trip:	
Ostia Antica.....	92
Basilica di San Clemente.....	94
Terme di Caracalla.....	96
Modern Architecture.....	98
Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore... ..	102
Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere.....	104
Galleria Doria Pamphilj.....	106
Via Margutta.....	108
Day Trip: Tivoli.....	110
Walking Tour:	
Centro Storico Piazzas.....	112
Walking Tour:	
Literary Footsteps.....	114

### Dining Out..... 117

<b>The Best.....</b>	<b>120</b>
Ancient Rome.....	122
Centro Storico.....	122
Tridente, Trevi & the Quirinale.....	127
Vatican City, Borgo & Prati.....	129
Monti, Esquilino & San Lorenzo.....	132
Trastevere & Gianicolo.....	134
San Giovanni & Testaccio.....	138
Villa Borghese & Northern Rome.....	139
Southern Rome.....	140

### Treasure Hunt..... 143

<b>The Best.....</b>	<b>146</b>
Centro Storico.....	148
Tridente, Trevi & the Quirinale.....	153
Vatican City, Borgo & Prati.....	156
Monti, Esquilino & San Lorenzo.....	157
Trastevere & Gianicolo.....	159
San Giovanni & Testaccio.....	161
Villa Borghese & Northern Rome.....	161

### Bar Open..... 163

<b>The Best.....</b>	<b>166</b>
Ancient Rome.....	168
Centro Storico.....	168
Tridente, Trevi & the Quirinale.....	170
Vatican City, Borgo & Prati.....	170
Monti, Esquilino & San Lorenzo.....	171
Trastevere & Gianicolo.....	175
San Giovanni & Testaccio.....	177
Villa Borghese & Northern Rome.....	178
Southern Rome.....	179



## Showtime.....181

### The Best .....183

Centro Storico.....	184
Tridente, Trevi & the Quirinale.....	184
Vatican City, Borgo & Prati.....	184
Monti, Esquilino & San Lorenzo .....	186
Trastevere & Gianicolo.....	186
San Giovanni & Testaccio .....	187
Villa Borghese & Northern Rome.....	187
Southern Rome.....	188

## Active Rome .....191

### The Best .....193

Spectator Sports .....	194
Tours .....	194
Courses .....	197
Spas.....	197

## Rest Your Head .....199

Accommodation Types.....	202
Seasons & Rates.....	203
Getting There .....	203
Useful Websites.....	204
Where to Stay.....	205

## In Focus

Rome Today.....	208
History .....	210
The Arts .....	218
Architecture .....	222
The Roman Way of Life.....	227

## Survival Guide

Directory A–Z .....	230
Transport .....	233
Language.....	238
Index .....	240
Rome Maps .....	245
Symbols & Map Key.....	257



# Plan Your Trip This Year in Rome

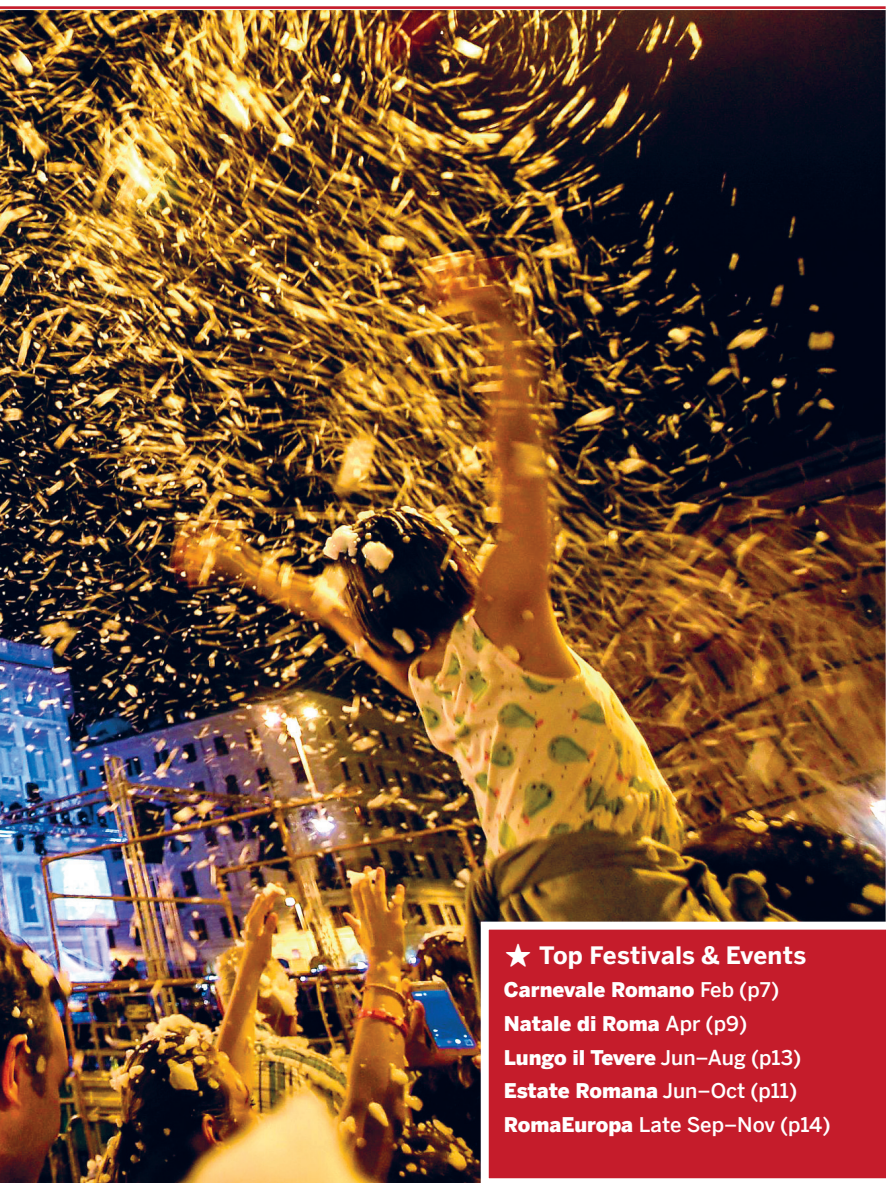
# 2018



## Rome

*From saints' days and neighbourhood shindigs to shopping bonanzas and major cultural festivals, Rome's calendar bursts with events. History, architecture and art might have called you here, but food, wine, music, theatre and parades will etch Rome into your memory.*





★ **Top Festivals & Events**

**Carnevale Romano** Feb (p7)

**Natale di Roma** Apr (p9)

**Lungo il Tevere** Jun–Aug (p13)

**Estate Romana** Jun–Oct (p11)

**RomaEuropa** Late Sep–Nov (p14)



# Plan Your Trip

## This Year in Rome



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### March

03

*The onset of spring brings blooming flowers, rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall. With Good Friday falling on 30 March 2018, prices increase as the end of the month approaches.*

#### ✳️ **Festa di Santa Francesca Romana**

9 Mar

Traffic jams galore! Every year on the feast day of Francesca Romana, patron saint of drivers, devout motorists drive their cars to the Monastero della Oblate di Santa Francesca Romana for a vehicular blessing.

#### ✳️ **Festa di San Giuseppe**

19 Mar

Previously an official public holiday, the Feast of St Joseph is still a cherished event, particularly in the Trionfale district near the Vatican City, where local *pasticcerie* (pastry shops) prepare delicious cream puffs known as *bignè di san Giuseppe* (pictured above).

#### 👁️ **Giornate FAI di Primavera**

Late Mar

*Palazzi* (mansions), churches and archaeological sites that are generally closed to the

#### ✳️ **Easter**

30 Mar–2 Apr

In the capital of the Catholic world, Easter is a big deal. On Good Friday, the pope leads a candlelit procession around the Colosseum. At noon on Easter Sunday he blesses the crowds in St Peter's Square.



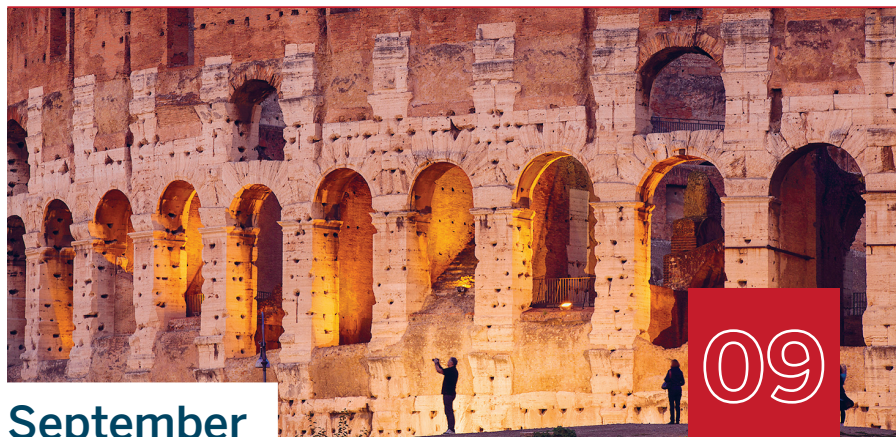
ANDREAS SOLARO/FP/GETTY IMAGES ©

public unbolt their doors for a weekend of special openings, courtesy of Italy's main conservation body, the Fondo Ambiente Italiano ([www.fondoambiente.it](http://www.fondoambiente.it)).



# Plan Your Trip

## This Year in Rome



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### September

*In the dying days of summer, the weather is still pleasantly warm, but cooler nights mean the city starts to shrug off its heat-induced torpor. The kids go back to school and locals return to work.*

#### 🕒 Evening Openings Jun-Sep

A number of Rome's headline sights offer night visits over the summer and through September. In past years, these have included the Colosseum (pictured above) and Vatican Museums.

#### 🍷 City Clubbing Late Sep

The end of the month is a good time for party-goers as the city's main clubs return to town after their summer exodus. Curtain-raiser events are a guarantee of big nights and sweaty dance floors.

#### ★ RomaEuropa Late Sep-Nov

Established international performers join emerging stars at Rome's premier dance and drama festival (<http://romaeuropa.net>).

09

#### 🍴 Taste of Roma

Mid-Sep

Foodies flock to the Auditorium Parco della Musica to revel in world food. Join Rome's top chefs for tastings, performances and three days of food-related events ([www.tasteofroma.it](http://www.tasteofroma.it)).



GARI WYN WILLIAMS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO ©

Events range from avant-garde dance performances to installations, multimedia shows, recitals and readings.



# Plan Your Trip

## Need to Know

### Daily Costs

#### Budget

##### Less than €100

- Dorm bed: €20–35
- Double room in a budget hotel: €60–110
- Pizza plus beer: €15

#### Midrange

##### €100–250

- Double room in a hotel: €110–200
- Lunch and dinner in local restaurants: €25–45
- Museum admission: €5–15
- Three-day Roma Pass covering museum entry and public transport: €38.50

#### Top end

##### More than €250

- Double room in a four- or five-star hotel: €200–450
- Top restaurant dinner: €45–150
- Opera ticket: €17–150
- City-centre taxi ride: €10–15
- Auditorium concert ticket: €25–90

### Advance Planning

**Two months before** Book high-season accommodation.

#### Three to four weeks before

Check for concerts at [www.auditorium.com](http://www.auditorium.com) and [www.operaroma.it](http://www.operaroma.it).

#### One to two weeks before

Reserve tables at A-list restaurants. Sort tickets to the pope's weekly audience at St Peter's.

**A few days before** Book for the Museo e Galleria Borghese (compulsory) and for the Vatican Museums (advisable to avoid queues).

### Useful Websites

- **Lonely Planet** ([lonelyplanet.com/rome](http://lonelyplanet.com/rome)) Destination low-down, hotel bookings and traveller forum.
- **060608** ([www.060608.it](http://www.060608.it)) Rome's official tourist website.
- **Coopculture** ([www.coopculture.it](http://www.coopculture.it)) Information and ticket booking for Rome's monuments.
- **Vatican Museums** ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)) Book tickets and avoid the queues.
- **Auditorium** ([www.auditorium.com](http://www.auditorium.com)) Check concert listings.

### Currency

Euro (€)

### Language

Italian

### Visas

Not required by EU citizens. Not required by nationals of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA for stays of up to 90 days.

### Money

ATMs are widespread. Major credit cards are widely accepted but some smaller shops, trattorias and *pensioni* may not take them.

### Mobile Phones

Local SIM cards can be used in unlocked European, Australian and US phones. Other phones must be set to roaming.

### Time

Western European Time (GMT/UTC plus one hour)

### Tourist Information

Information points around town are open from 9.30am to 7pm for maps, brochures and the Roma Pass.

For more, see the **Survival Guide** (p229)