

Villa Borghese & Northern Rome

VILLA BORGHESE & AROUND | FLAMINIO | SALARIO | NOMENTANO | PARIOLI

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Museo e Galleria Borghese (p178)

Getting to grips with artistic genius at this lavish gallery.

2 Villa Borghese (p181)

Escaping the crowds as you explore the leafy lanes and glades of Rome's most famous park.

3 Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia

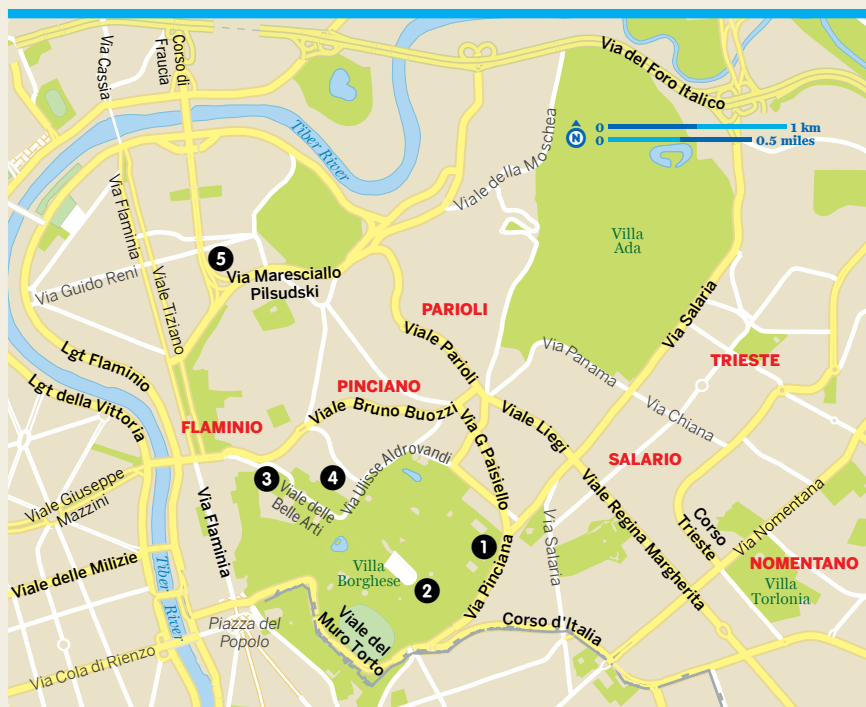
(p182) Applauding Italy's most comprehensive collection of Etruscan treasures at this splendid museum.

4 La Galleria Nazionale

(p181) Coming face to face with the giants of modern art in the halls of a stately belle-époque palace.

5 Auditorium Parco della Musica (p186)

Catching a world-class concert and admiring Renzo Piano's trend-setting architecture at this eye-catching cultural centre.



For more detail of this area see Map p316 ➔

Explore: Villa Borghese & Northern Rome

Although less packed with traditional sights than elsewhere, this large swathe of northern Rome is rich in interest. The obvious starting point is Villa Borghese (p181), an attractive park counting the city's zoo, its largest modern art gallery, and a stunning Etruscan museum among its myriad attractions. But its great scene-stealing highlight is the Museo e Galleria Borghese (p178), one of Rome's top art museums.

From Piazzale Flaminio, a tram heads up Via Flaminia to two of Rome's most important modern buildings: the Auditorium Parco della Musica (p186), Renzo Piano's concert centre, and MAXXI (p181), Zaha Hadid's contemporary art gallery. Continue up the road and you come to Ponte Milvio (p182), a handsome footbridge and scene of an ancient Roman battle. Over the river, Piazzale Ponte Milvio is a favourite hang-out, its busy eateries much frequented by the area's well-to-do residents. To the west, crowds flock to the Stadio Olimpico (p186) for top-flight football and Six Nations rugby.

To the east of Villa Borghese, Via Salaria, the old Roman *sala* (salt) road, runs through a smart residential and business district. To the north, Villa Ada park expands northwards while, to the south, Via Nomentana traverses acres of housing as it heads out of town. On Via Nomentana, Villa Torlonia (p183) is a captivating park, and the Basilica di Sant'Agnese Fuori le Mura (p184) claims Rome's oldest Christian mosaics.

Local Life

➔ **Concerts and events** Rome's culture vultures keep a close eye on what's going on at the Auditorium Parco della Musica (p186), which stages a year-round program of concerts, screenings and festivals.

➔ **Parks** Tourists tend to stop at Villa Borghese (p181), but locals often head to Villa Torlonia (p183) on Via Nomentana or Villa Ada (p183).

➔ **Football** For football fans, Sunday is match day. And for Rome's ardent fans that means a pilgrimage to the Stadio Olimpico (p186) to cheer their team on.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Buses 53 and 160 go to Villa Borghese from Via Vittorio Veneto near Barberini metro station. There are also regular buses along Via Nomentana and Via Salaria.

➔ **Metro** Villa Borghese is accessible from Flaminio and Spagna stations (both line A).

➔ **Tram** Tram 2 trundles up Via Flaminia and Viale Tiziano from Piazzale Flaminio; number 3 connects Villa Borghese with San Lorenzo, San Giovanni, Testaccio and Trastevere; number 19 runs from Piazza del Risorgimento to Villa Borghese and Viale Regina Margherita.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Monday is not a good day to explore Villa Borghese. Sure, you can walk in the park, but all of the museums and galleries are shut – they open Tuesday through Sunday. Also remember to book tickets for the **Museo e Galleria Borghese** (p178). It's easy to do, either online (plus a €2 booking fee) or by phoning the museum directly, and you won't get in without a reservation.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Metamorfosi (p185)
- ➔ Osteria Flaminio (p184)
- ➔ Pro Loco Pinciano (p185)
- ➔ Neve di Latte (p185)
- ➔ Serenella (p184)

For reviews, see p184. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Momart (p185)
- ➔ Lanificio 159 (p186)
- ➔ Chioschetto di Ponte Milvio (p186)
- ➔ Lemoncocco (p186)

For reviews, see p185. ➔

Best Museums & Galleries

- ➔ Museo e Galleria Borghese (p178)
- ➔ Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia (p182)
- ➔ La Galleria Nazionale (p181)
- ➔ MAXXI (p181)
- ➔ MACRO (p182)

For reviews, see p181. ➔