

Trastevere & Gianicolo

EAST OF VIALE DI TRASTEVERE | WEST OF VIALE DI TRASTEVERE | GIANICOLO

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Discovering the Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere and visiting its beautiful **church** (p171), with its exquisite interior and exterior mosaics.
- 2 Setting down at a bar, such as **Ombre Rosse** (p180), and watching the world go by.
- 3 Visiting the nuns' choir of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere to see the **Cavallini fresco** (p171).
- 4 Seeing the bird's eye views over Rome from **Gianicolo hill** (p173).
- 5 Spending a wonderfully tranquil afternoon amid tall palms and exotic flora in the **Orto Botanico** (p173).



For more detail of this area see Map p360 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Time your visit to Santa Cecilia (p171) so that you can gain entrance to the hushed convent next door to see the Cavallini fresco in the nuns' choir. It feels a tremendous privilege to visit this hidden secret.



Best Places to Eat

- Glass Hostaria (p176)
- Le Mani in Pasta (p177)
- Artigiano Innocenti (p174)
- Da Lucia (p176)
- Sisini (p175)

For reviews see p174 ➡



Best Places to Drink

- Ma Che Siete Venuti a Fa' (p177)
- Il Barretto (p180)
- Ombre Rosse (p180)
- Freni e Frizioni (p180)
- Bar San Calisto (p177)

For reviews see p177 ➡



Best Works of Art

- Santa Maria in Trastevere (p171)
- Stefano Moderno's sculpture in Santa Cecilia in Trastevere (p171)
- Frescoes in Villa Farnesina (p175)
- Caravaggio in Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica di Palazzo Corsini (p172)

For reviews see p172 ➡

Explore: Trastevere & Gianicolo

Trastevere is Rome's most vivacious neighbourhood, an outdoor circus of ochre and butterscotch palazzi, ivy-clad facades and photogenic cobbled lanes, peopled with a bohemian and eclectic cast of tourists, travellers, students and street sellers. The bohohs and original Romans might be increasingly rubbing shoulders with wealthy expats, as rental prices in this most beguiling district go through the roof, but Trastevere still retains its distinct and very Roman character. The very name means 'across the Tiber' (*tras Tevere*), emphasising the sense of difference.

The area is ideal for aimless, contented wandering, lazy coffees outside piazza cafes, home-cooked meals in local trattorias, and an evening drink to watch the world go by. There are also some beautiful sights here: glittering Basilica di Santa Maria is one of Rome's most charming churches, Villa Farnesina contains superb frescoes by Raphael and others, and exquisitely frescoed Palazzo Corsini is home to an impressive art collection. Close by are the tranquil botanical gardens; hike up Gianicolo (Janiculum hill) to be rewarded by some of Rome's most awe-inspiring views and a chance to see Bramante's perfect little Tempio. To the east, Basilica di Santa Cecilia is the resting place of Santa Cecilia, patron saint of music, with a wonderful, hidden Cavallini fresco and fascinating excavations.

Despite all this, it's after dark that Trastevere really comes into its own. Narrow alleyways heave late into the night as Romans and tourists flock to the pizzerias, trattorias, bars and cafes that pepper the atmospheric lanes, and on a summer's evening, you can barely move for people in the main streets, as bars overflow and hordes of people enjoy a *passeggiata* (evening stroll).

Local Life

- **Drinking** A coffee or a *sambuca alla mosca* ('with flies' – coffee beans) at Bar San Calisto
- **Passeggiata** An evening stroll to see and be seen, with a stop for an ice cream.
- **Football** Trastevere is a Roma supporters' stronghold: come a big game, the air of excitement is palpable.
- **Biscuits** Buying *brutti ma buoni* 'ugly but good' biscuits, from bakery of Artigiano Innocenti (p174).

Getting There & Away

- **Tram** No 8 from Largo di Torre Argentina runs to the main drag of Viale Trastevere.
- **Bus** From Termini, bus H runs to Viale di Trastevere. For Gianicolo, if you don't fancy the steep steps from Via G Mameli, take bus 870 from Piazza delle Rovere.