

# Villa Borghese & Northern Rome

VILLA BORGHESE | FLAMINIO | PARIOLI | NONENTANO | SALARIO

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- Getting to grips with genius at the lavish **Museo e Galleria Borghese** (p207). Gian Lorenzo Bernini's sculptures are the star of the show but look out for Antonio Canova's racy depiction of the voluptuous Paolina Bonaparte.
- Strolling the leafy lanes of Rome's most famous park, **Villa Borghese** (p212).
- Catching a world-class concert at the **Auditorium Parco della Musica** (p212).
- Applauding the sophistication of Etruscan art at the **Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia** (p213).
- Spying some of Christendom's oldest frescoes at the **Mausoleo di Santa Costanza** (p215).



For more detail of this area see Map p366 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Be sure to book your visit to the Museo e Galleria Borghese. It only takes a quick phone call and you won't get in without a reservation, which would be a real shame.

Many of the museums and galleries listed in this chapter have lovely cafes, ideal for a recuperative coffee or small snack.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Palotta (p216)
- ➔ Bar Pompei (p215)
- ➔ Ensô (p216)

For reviews see p215 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Chioscetto di Ponte Milvio (p216)
- ➔ Casina del Lago (p216)
- ➔ Brancaleone (p217)

For reviews see p216 ➔



### Best Museums & Galleries

- ➔ Museo e Galleria Borghese (p207)
- ➔ Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia (p213)
- ➔ Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (p212)
- ➔ MAXXI (p213)
- ➔ MACRO (p214)

For reviews see p212 ➔

## Explore: Villa Borghese & Northern Rome

Although less packed with traditional sights than elsewhere, this large swathe of northern Rome is well worth investigating. The obvious starting point is Villa Borghese, an attractive park counting the city's zoo, its largest modern art gallery and a stunning Etruscan museum among its myriad attractions. But its *pièce de résistance* is the Museo e Galleria Borghese, one of Rome's top art galleries. The park is easily explored on foot but to get to most of the other sights in this neighbourhood, take public transport.

From Piazzale Flaminio, a tram heads up Via Flaminia to two of Rome's most important modern buildings: Renzo Piano's extraordinary Auditorium Parco della Musica and Zaha Hadid's contemporary art gallery, MAXXI. Continue up the road and you come to Ponte Milvio, a bridge popular with starstruck lovers and scene of an ancient Roman battle. Over the river, and to the west, the Stadio Olimpico is Rome's impressive football stadium.

Over on the eastern side of Villa Borghese, Via Salara, the old Roman *sale* (salt) road, is now the heart of a smart residential and business district. To the north, the vast 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 is a captivating park, and the Basilica di Sant'Agnes fuori le Mura claims Rome's oldest Christian mosaic.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Concerts & Events** Romans are avid supporters of concerts at the Auditorium Parco della Musica (p217). Check also for events at the MAXXI (p213) and MACRO (p214) art galleries.
- ➔ **Parks** Tourists tend to stop at Villa Borghese (p212) but locals often head to Villa Torlonia (p215) and Villa Ada (p214).
- ➔ **Hangouts** The bars and eateries on Piazzale Ponte Milvio (p216) are a favourite of lunching locals and a young drinking crowd.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Buses 116, 52 and 53 head up to Villa Borghese from Via Vittorio Veneto near Barberini metro station. There are regular buses along Via Nomentana and Via Salara.
- ➔ **Metro** To get to Villa Borghese by metro, follow the signs up from Spagna station (line A).
- ➔ **Tram** Tram 2 trundles up Via Flaminia from Piazzale Flaminio above Flaminio metro station (line A).