

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** (p103), with its exquisite interior and exterior mosaics.
- 2 Exploring the lavishly ornate **Palazzo Corsini** (p184) and settling down to gaze at Caravaggio's

sensual, youthful depiction of St John the Baptist.

- 3 Visiting the nuns' choir of the **Basilica di Santa Cecilia in Trastevere** (p184) to see the Cavallini fresco.

- 4 Feeling as if you're soaring over Rome: the views from **Gianicolo Hill** (p185).
- 5 Enjoying the fantastical Raphael frescoes of **Villa Farnesina** (p188).



For more detail of this area, see Map p372 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Time your visit to Santa Cecilia for between 10am and 2.30pm Monday to Saturday, so that you can gain entrance to the hushed convent next door to see the Cavallini fresco.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Glass Hostaria (p109)
- ➔ La Gensola (p189)
- ➔ Le Mani in Pasta (p189)
- ➔ Fatamorgana (p189)

For reviews, see p189 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ma Che Siete Venuti a Fà (p191)
- ➔ Bar San Calisto (p191)
- ➔ Freni e Frizioni (p191)
- ➔ Ombre Rosse (p192)
- ➔ Bar Stuzzichini (p192)

For reviews, see p191 ➔

Best Works of Art

- ➔ Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere (p183)
- ➔ Stefano Maderno's sculpture in the Basilica di Santa Cecilia in Trastevere (p184)
- ➔ Frescoes in Villa Farnesina (p188)
- ➔ Caravaggios in Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica di Palazzo Corsini (p184)

For reviews, see p183 ➔

Explore: Trastevere & Gianicolo

Trastevere is one of Rome's most vivacious neighbourhoods, an outdoor circus of ochre and butterscotch *palazzi* (mansions), ivy-clad facades and photogenic cobbled lanes, peopled with a bohemian and eclectic cast of tourists, travellers, students and street sellers. The bohohos and original Romans might be increasingly rubbing shoulders with wealthy expats and American students from the local John Cabot University, as rental prices in this most beguiling district go through the roof, but Trastevere still retains its distinct, 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, home cooking in local trattorias and an evening drink to watch the world go by: it's one of Rome's most happening districts after dark, especially on summer evenings. There are also some beautiful sights here: glittering Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere 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 a dazzling, almost forgotten-feeling art collection. Close by are the tranquil botanical gardens, and you can hike up Gianicolo (Janiculum Hill) to see Rome laid out before you like a dome-punctuated patchwork. Don't neglect to see Bramante's perfect little Tempietto on your way up. To the east, Basilica di Santa Cecilia in Trastevere is the resting place of St Cecilia, patron saint of music, with a wonderful, hidden Cavallini fresco.

Local Life

- ➔ **Drinking** A coffee or a *sambuca con la mosca* ('with a fly' – coffee bean) at Bar San Calisto (p191).
- ➔ **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.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Tram** From Largo di Torre Argentina tram 8 runs along Viale di Trastevere, ending up at Villa Doria Pamphilj. Tram 3 also stops at the southern end of Viale di Trastevere, connecting with Testaccio (Via Marmorata), Colosseo, San Giovanni and Villa Borghese.
- ➔ **Bus** From Termini, bus H runs to Viale di Trastevere, while bus 780 runs from Piazza Venezia. For Gianicolo, if you don't fancy the steep steps from Via G Mameli, take bus 870 from Piazza delle Rovere.