

Monti, Esquilino & San Lorenzo

MONTI | ESQUILINO | PIAZZA DELLA REPUBBLICA & AROUND | SAN LORENZO & BEYOND | SAN LORENZO

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Visiting the **Palazzo Massimo alle Terme** (p142), with its incredible frescoes from imperial Rome.

2 Lingering at wine bars and pottering around the bohemian-chic neighbourhood of **Monti** (p145).

3 Hobnobbing with the bohos in Pigneto (p151), the iconic working-class district immortalised by Pasolini.

4 Taking in the splendours of **Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore** (p143).

5 Exploring the underground wonders of **Domus Aurea** (p144), Nero's great, golden palace that now lies beneath Oppian Hill.



For more detail of this area see Map p320 and p319 ➔

Explore: Monti, Esquilino & San Lorenzo

Esquilino is one of Rome's seven hills, and the area encompasses the sometimes scruffy area around Stazione Termini and Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II. It is also home to some fantastic sights, including some of Rome's finest medieval churches, and the Museo Nazionale Romano: Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, which displays stunning classical art.

Heading downhill, Monti was the ancient city's notorious Suburra slum – a red-light district and the childhood home of Julius Caesar – but is now a charming neighbourhood of inviting eateries, shops and *enoteche* (wine bars) that's ever more popular with tourists and hip locals.

San Lorenzo is a lively student quarter east of Termini, home to the beautiful but little-visited Basilica di San Lorenzo Fuori le Mura. It was the area most damaged by Allied bombing during WWII, which is ironic given the area's vehemently anti-Fascist politics. By day the area feels hungover, a grid of graffitied streets that nonetheless harbour some gemlike boutiques, but after dark it shows its true colours as a student nightlife haunt; it's also home to some excellent restaurants.

A quick tram ride (and on Metro line C when it's finished) southeast, Pigneto also has edge, the Roman equivalent of London's Dalston. Its ever-burgeoning bars and restaurants attract a regular crowd of artists and boho urbanites.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hang-outs** While away an hour or so at Monti's La Bottega del Caffè (p152), watching the world go by.
- ➔ **Shopping** Potter around the vintage and fashion boutiques of Via Serpenti and Via Boschetto in Monti.
- ➔ **Drinking** Have a drink amid artists, bohós, hipsters, and wannabes in buzzing Pigneto.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** The Cavour metro stop (line B) is most convenient for Monti, while the Termini (lines A and B), Castro Pretorio (line B) and Vittorio Emanuele (line A) stations are useful for Esquilino. The section of line C that will serve Pigneto won't be completed until 2020.
- ➔ **Bus** Termini is the city's main bus hub, connected to places all over the city. Access Monti from buses stopping on Via Nazionale or Via Cavour. San Lorenzo is served by buses 71 and 492; Pigneto is served by buses 81, 810 and 105, and night bus n12.
- ➔ **Tram** This is an easy way to access San Lorenzo (tram 3) or Pigneto and Centocelle (trams 5, 14 or 19).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Don't neglect to visit the oft-overlooked patriarchal **Basilica di San Lorenzo Fuori le Mura** (p147) – it's starkly beautiful.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ L'Asino d'Oro (p148)
- ➔ Trattoria Monti (p150)
- ➔ Open Colonna (p150)
- ➔ Panella l'Arte del Pane (p149)

For reviews, see p148. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ai Tre Scalini (p152)
- ➔ La Bottega del Caffè (p152)
- ➔ Il Tiaso (p151)
- ➔ Co.So (p151)

For reviews, see p152. ➔

Best Works of Art

- ➔ Frescoes at Palazzo Massimo alle Terme (p142)
- ➔ Michelangelo's colossal Moses (p144)
- ➔ Fuga's 13th-century facade mosaics (p143)
- ➔ Richard Meier's modernist Chiesa Dio Padre Misericordioso (p145)

For reviews, see p144. ➔