

San Giovanni & Testaccio

SAN GIOVANNI | CELIO | AVENTINO | TESTACCIO

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Facing up to the monumental splendour of the **Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano** (p173), and feeling very small as you explore the echoing baroque interior of Rome's oldest Christian basilica.
- 2 Being over-awed by the colossal ruins of the **Terme di Caracalla** (p176).
- 3 Looking through the keyhole of the **Priorato dei Cavalieri di Malta** (p176).
- 4 Going underground through layers of history at the **Basilica di San Clemente** (p174).
- 5 Grave-spotting in the **Cimitero Acattolico per gli Stranieri** (p177).



For more detail of this area see Map p314 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you like opera and ballet, check www.operaroma.it for details of summer performances at the Terme di Caracalla. If contemporary art in a gritty urban setting is more your thing, look out for exhibitions and installations at MACRO Testaccio, a gallery space in Rome's former abattoir.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Flavio al Velavevodetto (p178)
- ➔ Café Café (p177)
- ➔ Da Felice (p179)
- ➔ Pizzeria Da Remo (p178)
- ➔ Aroma (p178)

For reviews, see p177. ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Rec 23 (p179)
- ➔ Il Pentagrappolo (p179)
- ➔ Linari (p179)
- ➔ L'Oasi della Birra (p180)

For reviews, see p179. ➔



Best Little-Known Gems

- ➔ Priorato dei Cavalieri di Malta (p176)
- ➔ Cimitero Acattolico per gli Stranieri (p177)
- ➔ Chiesa di Santo Stefano Rotondo (p175)
- ➔ Basilica di SS Quattro Coronati (p175)

For reviews, see p174. ➔

Explore: San Giovanni & Testaccio

Encompassing two of Rome's seven hills, this oft-overlooked part of town offers everything from barnstorming basilicas and medieval churches to ancient ruins, busy markets and hip clubs. The area can easily be divided into two separate patches: San Giovanni and the Celio; and Aventino and Testaccio. A day in each is more than enough to cover the main sights.

Start off at the landmark Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano, the focal point of the largely residential San Giovanni neighbourhood. It's easily accessible by metro and quite magnificent, both inside and out. Once you've explored the cathedral and surrounding piazza, head down Via di San Giovanni in Laterano towards the Colosseum. Near the bottom, the Basilica di San Clemente is a fascinating church with some thrilling underground ruins. From there, you can walk across to the Celio, the green hill that rises south of the Colosseum. There's not a lot to see, but the graceful Villa Celimontana park is a great place to escape the crowds. Further south, the ruins of the Terme di Caracalla are a thrilling sight.

Further west, on the banks of the Tiber, the once working-class area of Testaccio is a foodie hotspot with a number of excellent trattorias and a popular nightlife district. Rising above it, the Aventino hill boasts a number of serene medieval churches and one of Rome's great curiosities – the famous keyhole view of St Peter's dome.

Local Life

➔ **Romance** Local Lotharios out to impress their loved ones take them to enjoy the sunset views from the Parco Savello (p176) on the Aventino.

➔ **Offal** Testaccio is the spiritual home of 'blood-and-guts' Roman cooking and its popular trattorias and restaurants are the place to try it.

➔ **Parks** You'll often see locals relaxing with a book or going for a leisurely lunchtime stroll in Villa Celimontana (p175).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Useful bus routes include 85 and 87, both of which stop near the Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano, and 714, which serves San Giovanni and the Terme di Caracalla.

➔ **Metro** San Giovanni is accessible by metro line A. For Testaccio take line B to Piramide. The Aventino is walkable from Testaccio and Circo Massimo.

➔ **Tram** From San Giovanni tram 3 runs along Viale Aventino to the Piramide area.