

Trastevere & Gianicolo

Neighbourhood Top Five

- ➊ Discovering the Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere and visiting its beautiful **church** (p160), with its exquisite interior and exterior mosaics.
- ➋ Visiting the nuns' choir of **Basilica di Santa Cecilia in Trastevere** (p164) to see the Cavallini fresco.
- ➌ Feeling as if you're soaring over Rome: the views from **Gianicolo Hill** (p161).
- ➍ Enjoying the breathtakingly beautiful, Renaissance **Villa Farnesina** (p163), with interior decor by Raphael.



For more detail of this area see Map p316 ➔

Explore: Trastevere & Gianicolo

Trastevere is one of Rome's most vivacious neighbourhoods, an outdoor circus of ochre *palazzi*, ivy-clad facades and photogenic cobblestoned lanes, peopled with a bohemian and eclectic cast of tourists, travellers, students and street hawkers. The bohós 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 clings onto its distinct, 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 buzzes after dark, especially on summer evenings. There are also some beautiful sights here: glittering Basilica di Santa Maria is one of Rome's most charming churches, Villa Farnesina is the most breathtaking frescoed mansion you're ever likely to see (home decor by Raphael and others), and exquisitely frescoed Palazzo Corsini is home to a dazzling, almost forgotten-feeling art collection. Close by is its former park, now 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 is the resting place of Santa 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'; sambuca with a coffee bean) at Bar San Calisto (p168).
- ➔ **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 the main drag of Viale di Trastevere, ending up at Villa Doria Pamphilj. Tram 3 also stops at the southern end of Viale Trastevere, connecting with Testaccio (Via Marmorata), Colosseo, San Giovanni and Villa Borghese.
- ➔ **Bus** From Termini, bus H runs to Viale di Trastevere, while the 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.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Visit Santa Cecilia 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 (p168)
- ➔ La Gensola (p163)
- ➔ Pianostrada Laboratorio di Cucina (p165)
- ➔ Fatamorgana (p164)

For reviews, see p163. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ma Che Siete Venuti a Fà (p168)
- ➔ Ombre Rosse (p169)
- ➔ Freni e Frizioni (p169)
- ➔ Bar San Calisto (p168)

For reviews, see p168. ➔

Best Works of Art

- ➔ Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere (p160)
- ➔ Stefano Maderno's sculpture in Santa Cecilia in Trastevere (p164)
- ➔ Frescoes in Villa Farnesina (p163)
- ➔ Caravaggios in Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica di Palazzo Corsini (p161)

For reviews, see p160. ➔