

# Villa Borghese & Northern Rome

VILLA BORGHESE | FLAMINIO | SALARIO | NOMENTANO | PARIOLI

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- ① Getting to grips with artistic genius at the lavish **Museo e Galleria Borghese** (p183), where Bernini's sculptures steal the show, but you'll also find masterpieces by Canova, Caravaggio, Titian and Raphael.
- ② Strolling the leafy lanes of Rome's most famous park, **Villa Borghese** (p186).
- ③ Applauding the sophistication of Etruscan art at the **Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia** (p186).
- ④ Going face to face with the greats of modern art at the **Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea** (p187).
- ⑤ Catching a world-class concert at the **Auditorium Parco della Musica** (p191).



For more detail of this area see Map p324 ➔

## 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.

On football and rugby match days – usually a Saturday or Sunday – the routes into the Stadio Olimpico get very busy, so watch out around Piazza Mancini and in the river area near the stadium.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Metamorfosi (p191)
- ➔ Neve di Latte (p190)
- ➔ Molto (p191)
- ➔ Bar Pompei (p190)

For reviews, see p190. ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Momart (p191)
- ➔ Brancalone (p191)
- ➔ Lanificio 159 (p191)
- ➔ Chioschetto di Ponte Milvio (p191)

For reviews, see p191. ➔



### Best Museums & Galleries

- ➔ Museo e Galleria Borghese (p183)
- ➔ Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia (p186)
- ➔ Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea (p187)
- ➔ MAXXI (p187)
- ➔ MACRO (p188)

For reviews, see p186. ➔

## Explore Villa Borghese & Northern Rome

Although less packed with traditional sights than elsewhere, this large swathe of northern Rome is rich in interest. 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 great scene-stealing highlight is the Museo e Galleria Borghese, one of Rome's top art museums.

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

To the east of Villa Borghese, Via Salaria, the old Roman *sale* (salt) road, runs through a smart residential and business district. To the north, Villa Ada 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'Agnese 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 (p191). Also check for events at the MAXXI and MACRO art galleries.

➔ **Parks** Tourists tend to stop at Villa Borghese (p186), but locals often head to Villa Torlonia (p189) and Villa Ada (p188).

➔ **Hang-outs** Piazzale Ponte Milvio is a favourite lunchtime haunt and an evening meeting point for young locals.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Buses 116 and 53 head up to Villa Borghese from Via Vittorio Veneto near Barberini metro station. There are regular buses along Via Nomentana and Via Salaria.

➔ **Metro** Villa Borghese is accessible from Flaminio and Spagna stations (both line A).

➔ **Tram** Tram 2 trundles up Via Flaminia from Piazzale Flaminio; tram 3 connects Villa Borghese with San Lorenzo, San Giovanni and Testaccio; tram 19 runs from Piazza del Risorgimento (near the Vatican) to Villa Borghese and Viale Regina Margherita.