Walking Tour: Literary Footsteps

This walk through the Tridente district explores the literary haunts, both real and fictional, that litter the area. Discover the cafe where Casanova drank, the hotel that inspired Cocteau and the house where Keats breathed his last.

Start: Pincio Hill Gardens
Distance: 1km
Duration: 2½ hours

1 Begin your walk in the panoramic Pincio Hill Gardens, where Henry James’ Daisy Miller walked with Frederick Winterbourne.

2 Dan Brown’s Angels & Demons made use of the art-rich Basilica di Santa Maria del Popolo in its convoluted plot.

3 Jean Cocteau stayed at the Hotel de Russie with Picasso, and wrote a letter home describing picking oranges from outside his window.

4 Cobbled Via Margutta is where Truman Capote wrote his short story Lola. Fellini, Picasso, Stravinsky and Puccini all lived here at some point.

5 Head to Via dei Condotti, where William Thackeray stayed, and stop at Antico Caffè Greco, a former haunt of Casanova, Goethe, Keats, Byron and Shelley.

6 Leaving the cafe, you’re almost at the Spanish Steps, which Dickens described in his Pictures from Italy. Byron stayed at 25 Piazza di Spagna in 1817.

7 Overlooking the Spanish Steps, the Keats-Shelley House is now a small museum devoted to the Romantic poets.

Take a Break... Compose your own whimsical tale in the Hassler Hotel’s romantic rooftop restaurant, Imàgo.