

ROME

SPRING & SUMMER GUIDE 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play in Rome this spring and summer

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 555,000 hotels, 200,000 vacation rentals, 175,000 attractions and 780,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

- 1. Modest attire**—"Women may wear a skirt to the Vatican as long as the knees are totally covered. Remember that your shoulders must also be covered—a large scarf or shawl will do if you're wearing a sleeveless top. Men must wear long trousers, not shorts. This rule applies to most churches in Rome."—TripAdvisor Member, Warwick, U.K.
- 2. Umbrella and weather-proof shoes**—to stay dry, "bring a light umbrella and wear shoes that will keep your feet dry and you'll be ready for anything."—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia
- 3. Sample Packs**—"I take **sample sachets of shampoo, conditioner, moisturizer with sun screen** instead of large bottles and buy more when I get there. I get **sample toothpaste** from my dentist, it lasts for a while."—TripAdvisor Member, Perth, Australia

Inside ROME

According to mythology, in 753 B.C.E., twins Romulus and Remus fought for the area that is now Rome. After killing his brother, Romulus became the first of the seven kings of Rome. For more than a thousand years, Rome was considered the most influential city in the world. Today, this cultural, social and political powerhouse—the capital city of Italy—is home to more than 2.5 million people. Romans on the whole are extremely gracious and friendly, with particular passions for food and music.

While rain is a possibility at any time, travelers enjoy spring warmth and autumn's pleasant temperatures. The summer heat can be stifling; many Romans flee the city in August. Winters are generally mild, but wet.

Top VIEWS



ROME'S BEST VIEWS



"At night, walk up **Capitoline Hill** aka **Campidoglio** and take in the floodlit view of the Forum with the Colosseum in the background." —TripAdvisor Member, Sussex, England

"The views from **Castel Sant'Angelo** are spectacular. Enjoy a leisurely cappuccino in the cafe with a framed view of St. Peter's. (Yes, splurge and spend that little extra for a sit-down coffee!) You'll enjoy the quiet, the view, the fresh air and nice service." —TripAdvisor Member, Ascoli Piceno, Italy

Castel Sant'Angelo, Lungotevere Castello, 06 3996 7600

"The **Dome of St. Peter's** will take your breath away. The sheer size of it is staggering. But do NOT attempt the climb up the dome if you are in any way claustrophobic or unfit; there are A LOT of steps. If you think you can handle that, the view IS the best in Rome, without a doubt." —TripAdvisor Member, Ireland

St. Peter's Basilica, St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, 06 6982

Where to PLAY

"...a framed view of St. Peter's"

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Le Domus Romane di Palazzo Valentini, Via IV Novembre 119, 06 32810
2. Church of San Luigi dei Francesi, Via Santa Giovanna d'Arco 5, 06 688271
3. Basilica di San Giovanni, Piazza San Giovanni, 06 6988 6433
4. Centro Storico
5. Basilica di San Clemente, Via Labicana 95, 06 7740 021
6. Pantheon, Piazza della Rotonda, 06 6830 0230
7. Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, Largo di Villa Peretti 67, Museo Nazionale Romano, 06 3996 7700
8. The Borghese Gallery (Galleria Borghese), Piazzale del Museo Borghese, 06 32810
9. Colosseum (Colosseo), Piazza del Colosseo, Via dei Fori Imperiali, 06 3996 7700
10. Basilica di San Paolo Fuori le Mura, Via Ostiense 184, 06 5410 341

FAMILIES



"**3D Rewind** provided a perfect historical background to ancient Rome and was much more exciting than a tour group or audio guide. The kids loved the visuals, 3D movies and costumes and the break from walking around ruins and museums." —TripAdvisor Member, New York City, N.Y.

3D Rewind, Via Capo d'Africa 5, 06 7707 6627

"Have your kids been truthful? Are they brave enough to put their hand in the **Mouth of Truth**," the image of a pagan god, said to be a marble lie detector, cutting off the hands of those who deceive! —TripAdvisor Member, Bronx, N.Y.

Mouth of Truth (Bocca della Verità), Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Piazza della Bocca della Verità, 18

The **Explora**, in an old bus depot, fascinates everyone who visits and is "a hands-on children's museum."

—TripAdvisor Member, Rome

Explora il Museo dei Bambini di Roma, Via Flaminia, 82, 06 361 3776

ROMANCE



"What an experience to see the **Trevi Fountain** at midnight. Absolutely stunning. At midnight, there were few tourists around, making it more magical with the expressive lighting. Worth losing sleep to see!" —TripAdvisor Member, Scotland

Trevi Fountain, Piazzzi di Trevi

End a busy day of sightseeing on the rooftop lounge at **The Eden Hotel**, "an especially beautiful and romantic place to have a cocktail and enjoy the beautiful Roman sunset." —TripAdvisor Member, Norwalk, Conn.

The Eden Hotel, Via Ludovisi, 49, 06 478121

"...the perfect meeting place."

"The **Spanish Steps** are the perfect meeting place. The best gelato is nearby, great shopping on the Corso, several wonderful restaurants within a block or two." —TripAdvisor Member, Birmingham, Ala.

Spanish Steps, Piazza di Spagna

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

On the last Sunday of the month, it's free to explore the city's museums, including the **Vatican Museum**, where "if it's crowded, head straight to the Sistine Chapel and marvel at Michelangelo's frescos."

—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Vatican Museum, Viale del Vaticano, 06 6982

"The **Jewish Ghetto** is a marvelous area to visit—small, but full of history. One of my most memorable experiences was walking along the Tiber after a rainstorm and seeing a rainbow directly over the Great Synagogue."—TripAdvisor Member, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Jewish Ghetto

"During the day, the **Trastevere** is the place to have coffee and ice cream while enjoying the peace of a sunny afternoon. Once the sun sets, there's live music and plenty of true Roman experiences to be made."—TripAdvisor Member, Rome

Trastevere neighborhood

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 10 million traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

Try not to get lost in **Trimani Wine Bar**, one of the largest wine shop/restaurants in Rome.

"It's a transcendent wine bar with extras."—TripAdvisor Member, Pacifica, Calif.

Trimani Wine Bar, Via Cernaia 37B, 06 446 9630

Whether on foot, on bicycle or on horseback, "the visit to the **Appian Way** is absolutely recommended: the catacombs, Cecilia Metella's monument, Majencio's Circus, the road itself."—TripAdvisor Member, Merida, Spain

Appian Way, Park Services, 06 780 1214

"The **Rome Segway Tour** was a great idea. It really felt good to zoom past all the poor tourists walking around the Colosseum in the warm sun while we enjoyed a cool breeze as we jetted along."—TripAdvisor Member, Chula Vista, Calif.

Rome Segway Tour, Via Ostilia 29, 06 7759 1822

"Not to be missed."



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

"Yes, what you see from the outside of the **Colosseum** is the most picturesque and awe-inspiring (and free). However, as long as you're there, you might as well go in! The view across the interior of the mighty Colosseum was terrific."—TripAdvisor Member, Wiesbaden, Germany

Colosseum, Piazza del Colosseo, Via dei Fori Imperiali 06 3996 7700

"You cannot 'do' the **Forum** in an hour. In five days we went twice, plus pausing in the evenings and taking in the fabulous sights by moonlight and floodlight. Not to be missed."—TripAdvisor Member, St. Andrews, Scotland

Roman Forum, Piazza Santa Maria Nova, 53, 06 3996 7700

"Go to the **Pantheon** at night and by day. By night, it's lit up, and we thought it was much more impressive then. You can't see all the colors as well at night, though, and the opening in the dome is rather impressive by day."—TripAdvisor Member, Limburg, Netherlands

Pantheon, Piazza della Rotonda, 06 6830 0230

"Behold the Caravaggio masterpieces!"



RELAXATION

Located inside a crumbling collection of Roman ruins, the **Torre Argentina Cat Sanctuary** "is an amazing, peaceful respite in the heart of a hectic, big city! You can imagine our delight when we learned we could actually HANG OUT WITH THE CATS! Four paws up for Torre Argentina!"—TripAdvisor Member, Tampa, Fla.

Torre Argentina Cat Sanctuary, Via Marco Paio 15, 06 4542 5240

When you find the doors open at the **Church of San Luigi dei Francesi**, "by all means, take advantage and rush in to behold the Caravaggio masterpieces! Bella."—TripAdvisor Member, Ascoli Piceno, Italy

Church of San Luigi dei Francesi, Via Santa Giovanna d'Arco 5, 06 688 271

"**Villa Borghese** and its surrounding garden were absolutely stunning. You felt so peaceful inside the grounds and inside the gallery you could take your time looking at the works of art. And there was plenty! Take at least half a day to explore Villa Borghese. It is most certainly worth it!"—TripAdvisor Member, Netherlands

The Borghese Gallery (Galleria Borghese), Piazzale del Museo Borghese, 06 32810

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



Nighttime drive—"As the lights of the street reflect against the many ancient sites, you will be awestruck by what you are seeing." —TripAdvisor Member

X marks the spot—Rome's Metro is a simple "x," two lines connecting in the middle. Taxis can be difficult to get at times, so try the Metro instead.

Oldest form of transport—With so much history, walking tours that are available throughout the city may be the best way to see Rome.

Want more information on Rome? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Rome or any other destination you choose.



WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

"We could not get enough of the food at **Le Fric**. Fresh and tasty, with good portions. It was personal and quiet, and the waiter made it a fun experience for the whole family." —TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia

Le Fric, Via San Nicola Da Tolentino 23, 06 481 4845

"It's not just the delicious recipes that make **Hostaria Antica Roma** truly unique—it's the family that runs it. The owners are so passionate about their food, and you can tell by the quality. They made dinner so much fun by telling stories about the history of the restaurant." —TripAdvisor Member, Netherlands

Hostaria Antica Roma, Via Appia Antica 87, 06 513 2888

"**Pizzeria da Remo** was well worth the wait! The pizza was delicious, as were the fried appetizers. I highly recommend this place for a true Roma experience." —TripAdvisor Member

Pizzeria da Remo, Piazza Santa Maria Liberatrice 44, 06 574 6270

ROMANCE

"**The Library** is so small that you share it with only half a dozen other diners. The decor is exotic with rich colors and fabrics, lit with old-fashioned lamps and candles. You immediately feel you are somewhere special and secret." —TripAdvisor Member, County Durham, England

The Library, Vicolo della Cancelleria 7, 06 9727 5442

There are endless romantic dining options in the Eternal City. For a stunning backdrop, get a table at **La Pergola**. "It was one of the most beautiful dining experiences I've ever had. It is set up on a hill and overlooks the city, so the view is spectacular. It was a whole dining experience, like a show. The food was delicious." —TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

La Pergola, Cavalieri Hilton, Via Cadlolo, 101, 06 3509 2152

Bistrot 23 has "an inviting atmosphere of soft light, white plastered crown molding, barrel vaulted brick ceilings and wainscoted walls. You'll never forget you are dining in one of the oldest cities in the world." —TripAdvisor Member, Pozzuoli, Italy

Bistrot 23, Santamaura 23, 06 8968 3776

"...one of the most beautiful dining experiences"

BUDGET

"**Rosticceria I Molisani** is a gem. You pick out the food you want at the counter and you can order full or half portions, which makes it possible to try three or even four different dishes at one meal without stuffing yourself or busting your budget." —TripAdvisor Member, Berlin, Germany

Rosticceria I Molisani, Via Bergamo 5b, 06 8535 4265

"After looking at the expensive prices at various restaurants, we decided to find an authentic Italian restaurant off the beaten path. We found it at **Papa's Cafe!** The food was amazing, the prices were very reasonable, and the atmosphere made us feel a part of this wonderful city." —TripAdvisor Member, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Papa's Cafe, Via Dell Orso, 76, 06 6813 5494

"**Il Cartoccio** is a little hole in the wall that oozes Parisian charm, yet is very much about good, inexpensive Italian snacks. There is a selection of fresh fried calamari, chicken nuggets, vegetable frittura and a wide selection of wines." —TripAdvisor Member, Rome

Il Cartoccio, Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 200, 06 8721 20156

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“**Sanacafe** is a place to go back to, full of courtesy in a beautiful atmosphere. Everything was healthy and delicious. The fish was the best and the vegetable parmesan was so delicate and very, very good.”—TripAdvisor Member, Jersey City, N.J.

Sanacafe, Via Pompeo Magno 12 C/D/E/F, 06 9603 5669

“**Isole di Sicilia** is the best place to eat fresh seafood in Rome. The restaurant is tucked away in a small street, but once you get inside, it’s full of sunshine. They have a wine collection on display, and the bright colors give the place life and a touch of fresh air.”—TripAdvisor Member, Edinburgh, Scotland

Isole di Sicilia, Via Garibaldi, 68/69, 06 5833 4212

“**Nonna Betta** is an excellent kosher Italian restaurant in the hear of the Jewish Quarter. The food was delicious and the service was very good. Note that no meat is served but there are plenty of pasta and fish dishes to choose from.”—TripAdvisor Member, Montreal, Quebec

Nonna Betta, Via del Portico d’Ottavia, 16, 06 6880 6263

HIDDEN GEMS

“**Apuleius** is a hidden gem at the Aventine hill. Once you’re inside the modest entrance, you’ll find an elegant, tranquil restaurant. Classy interior, frescos on the wall, home-made food and a friendly staff.”—TripAdvisor Member, Trondheim, Norway

Apuleius, Via del Tempio di Diana, 15, 06 5728 9229

“**La Rosetta** is deceiving. The simple decor and side-street location conceal one of the finest restaurants in Rome. They serve seafood exclusively. And it’s marvelous—fresh and creative without being precious.”—TripAdvisor Member, Arizona

La Rosetta, 8/9 Via Della Rosetta, 06 686 1002

“We had our best meal in all of Rome at **Santopadre**. When we got there, the table was already overflowing with cured ham, meatballs, sweet potatoes with chilis, cheese, bread and the most amazing grilled chicken. It wasn’t overrun by tourists, but was more of a neighborhood place.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Santopadre, Via Collina, 18, 06 474 5405

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Spanish Steps bloom into spring during the **Azalea Festival**. Pots of the bright red blossoms adorn the steps to commemorate Proserpine’s (Persephone’s) escape from the Underworld. (March – May)

Azalea Festival, Spanish Steps

Shop for rare plants, the latest in outdoor furniture and scope out the hottest trends on how to revolutionize your garden during **Giardininterrazza**, Rome’s premier landscaping event. (May 18 - 20)

Giardininterrazza, Auditorium Parco della Musica di Roma, 06 8790 9043, <http://www.festivaldelverdeedelpaesaggio.it>

Gay and straight visitors alike are invited to celebrate diversity with music, performances, dancing and even a film festival as the PalaLottomatica in the Eur area is transformed into the summer-long **Gay Village**, part of the Estate Romana. (June – September)

Gay Village, PalaLottomatica, Eur, <http://www.gayvillage.it>



Festivities abound throughout Rome during **Estate Romana**, a festival of concerts, live performances, open-air film screenings, cabaret shows and children’s entertainment offered in venues ranging from the city’s parks to galleries and nightclubs. (June 16 – September 28)

Estate Romana, Various venues, <http://www.estateromana.comune.roma.it>

On the evening of the Feast of the Assumption, performers in major squares throughout the city engage passersby in dance of all sorts, from tango to hip hop to classical, as part of the **Gran Ballo di Ferragosto**. (August 15)

Gran Ballo di Ferragosto, Various locations

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

“We stayed at the **Best Western** with our two kids. There was plenty of room—surprisingly large rooms for a European hotel. Excellent location with numerous restaurants close by, so it was easy to eat with the kids and get back to the hotel.”—TripAdvisor Member, England

Best Western Hotel Canada, Via Vicenza 58, 06 445 7770

The **Palm Gallery Hotel** is “perfect. The room was spacious, and the surrounding area was quiet and very nice. Bringing our one-year-old was no problem at all. They had nearly everything that we needed for him, including a brand new stroller!”—TripAdvisor Member, Bergen, Norway

Palm Gallery Hotel, Via delle Alpi 15D, 06 6478 1859

“We could not have selected a better hotel than **Albergo del Senato**. Good shopping and eating are close at hand. Many of the favorite sights in Rome are in easy walking distance”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Town, South Africa

Albergo Del Senato, Piazza della Rotonda, 73, 06 678 4343

“Within this hot spot, the hotel is like an oasis.”

ROMANCE

“The **Donna Camilla Savelli** was gorgeous! The courtyard was filled with honeysuckle. The decor was interesting, and it was fun to walk around and look at the original artwork. It’s on the pricier side, but you definitely get what you pay for—luxury and relaxation!”—TripAdvisor Member, Newport News, Va.

Hotel Donna Camilla Savelli, Via Garibaldi 27, 06 588 861

“Cozy, charming and tasteful,” **Hotel Santa Maria** is “lovely and clean. It is located in the middle of a beautiful and vibrant quarter of Rome, very close to the historic sites. Within this hot spot, the hotel is like an oasis, offering a very relaxing, quiet and private atmosphere.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hamburg, Germany

Hotel Santa Maria, Vicolo del Piede, 2, 06 589 4626

Have questions about Rome? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.



“We just returned from our honeymoon at the **Hotel Artorius**. It is just ‘boutique-y’ enough to satisfy the pickiest traveler. The major ruins are within walking distance, and even the Vatican is reachable on foot. Bring a nice bottle of wine back to your room, sit on your patio and enjoy the Roman atmosphere.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tampa, Fla.

Hotel Artorius, Via del Boschetto 13, 06 482 1196

BUDGET

“**B&B Luciano Pascucci** is a great find! Luciano and Ana treat you like family! Great location—close to bars, discotheques, shopping. But the local nightlife (which starts to kick at midnight) is not intrusive, so you are assured peaceful sleep.”—TripAdvisor Member, France

B&B Luciano Pascucci, Via di Panico, 9, 06 686 9054

Hotel Maikol is “the best deal in Rome. The location is very convenient, and the rooms are much more spacious than I expected. They were comfortable and very clean. Not particularly stylish, but if you’re on a budget, this is a great place to stay.”—TripAdvisor Member, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hotel Maikol Rome, Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II, 138, 06 494 0789

For “affordable comfort located within walking distance to most of the sights, a great bed, funky apartment and free internet access,” check out **The Beehive**.—TripAdvisor Member, Munich, Germany

The Beehive, Via Marghera 8, 06 4470 4553

“All glittering marble and glass”

LUXURY

“I don’t have to say much because the **Villa Spalletti Trivelli** is the definition of excellence in service, facilities and luxury. We had an amazing time there.”—TripAdvisor Member, Berlin, Germany

Villa Spalletti Trivelli, Via Piacenza 4, 06 4890 7934

“From the moment we arrived at **Portrait Suites**, it was clear that the staff was exceptionally knowledgeable and willing to do whatever was necessary to make our stay perfect. My favorite part was the rooftop patio with comfy couches, a fireplace and a well stocked ‘honor bar.’”—TripAdvisor Member, Phoenix, Ariz.

Portrait Suites, Via Bocca Di Leone 23, 06 6938 0742


The **Artemide** is “all glittering marble and glass. No matter the hour, the concierge on duty was always extremely gracious. Don’t miss the roof top bar. A prosecco enjoyed high above frantic Rome is a fitting end to each day.”—TripAdvisor Member, New Jersey

Hotel Artemide, Via Nazionale 22, 06 489 911

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

 "I came, I saw, but didn't conquer! Actually we were conquered by the hospitality, the friendliness, the charm of **Anne's Place**. The rooms were large and clean. The breakfast was great. We loved the location: on Rome's doorstep, but out of the noise."—
TripAdvisor Member, Berlin, Germany

**Anne's Place, Via Loreto 220, Palestrina,
06 957 3554**

"Kindness, cleanliness, spaciousness. My wife, our two teenagers and I felt at home and spent five lovely days at **Caesar House Residenze Romane** in a very nice suite."—TripAdvisor
Member, Le Pecq, Paris, France

**Caesar House Residenze Romane,
Via Cavour, 310, 06 6792 674**

Residenza Cellini is "like coming home. The apartment was a real haven for my husband and me: spacious, thoughtfully put-together and well looked after by the conscientious family, who really do care about the comfort of their guests."—
TripAdvisor Member, Bucharest, Romania

**Residenza Cellini, Via Modena, 5, 3rd floor,
06 4782 5204**

"...on Rome's doorstep,
but out of the noise."

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