



Comune di Roma

[www.turismoroma.it](http://www.turismoroma.it)



## FROM THE ROOFTOPS OF ROME

TIPS ON ENJOYING THE CITY'S ALFRESCO SCENE



**Comune di Roma**

# FROM THE ROOFTOPS OF ROME

TIPS ON ENJOYING THE CITY'S  
ALFRESCO SCENE

## PREFACE

**E**mbrace the view of the city while sipping a glass of good wine. Admire the warm colours of the capital's rooftops in pleasant company, in front of a plate of delicious Roman food. Let yourself be charmed by the skyline of the Eternal City, savouring the unique sensations which it provokes.

2

This is a special invitation which the City of Rome would like to extend to those visitors who are looking for a memorable experience rather than just a break; to those who cultivate the good things in life and appreciate the finer differences.

Follow this original itinerary through places with unforgettable views and experience tastes that will satisfy the most discerning of palates; discover the typical dishes of Rome's traditional food and wine or seek out gourmet refinement, accompanied by the warmth of Roman hospitality and attention to detail.

A way of making your holiday unique, so you may dream of a swift return, to relish once more the flavours of Rome.

**Comune di Roma  
Department of Tourism**

3



The history of Rome goes back thousands of years, and it is probably the city with the highest concentration of monuments of historical and artistic interest in the world. Visiting its museums or just strolling through its streets leads to one breath-taking discovery after another.

4 An inspired way of taking in all this beauty is to enjoy the city in the open air, given that the climate is mild, at the very least, for 8 or 9 months of the year. This can be done simply by looking out from the most panoramic and suggestive points (such as the Janiculum or Monte Mario), or else by opting for places which not only feast the eye but also stimulate the taste-buds. There is a great deal on offer, ranging from places for just a drink to those for a gourmet dinner, all of them boasting magnificent, unusual views of the monuments spread over Rome's seven hills or of the parks of the Eternal City.

Following an imaginary itinerary, we cannot but start from what is the city's biggest tourist attraction, the Colosseum, the most imposing



5 Via Labicana, 125 - +39.0677591380 - [www.hotelgladiatori.it](http://www.hotelgladiatori.it)

5 Ancient Roman monument to have survived to the present day. It is worth viewing it from close up, entering its mighty walls and imagining the fights which took place in another time. Equally impressive, however, is to view it from above, or from unusual vantage points. For example, there is an excellent view of the Flavian Amphitheatre from the terrace of **Palazzo Manfredi**, and it is almost as though one could lean over and touch it. The hotel's roof garden is only open in the summer months, when this panorama may be enjoyed from breakfast to dinner, but the best time to go is undoubtedly for drinks, when the backdrop of the Colosseum lights up, as if by design, in the setting sun. In the same area, there is a very unusual view of the church of the Santi Quattro

Coronati, one of the most important examples of Christian architecture in the area of the Celio (the Caelian Hill), from the terrace of the **Hotel Capo d'Africa** (which was originally a school in the 1920s). Surrounded by lemon trees and flowers, this is an intimate, secluded place where tastefully prepared appetizers can be enjoyed, and there is also music, with jazz on Wednesdays in the spring. Heading down Via dei Fori Imperiali, we come to Piazza Venezia, one of the most important squares in the city.

Located at the foot of the Campidoglio, it owes its current appearance to the clearance and rebuilding schemes which were carried out in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the Vittoriano, the Monument of Victor Emmanuel II, was also built. This includes the

Via Capo d'Africa, 54 - +39.06772801 - [www.hotelcapodafrica.com](http://www.hotelcapodafrica.com)



Via di San Pietro in Carcere - +39.066780905

Altare della Patria (Altar of the Fatherland) and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in commemoration of all soldiers who fell without receiving a fit burial. At the level of the colonnade there is a first terrace with a partial view over Rome and a small café where one can stop for lunch, which offers rolls, salads, a few ready-to-serve dishes and hot and cold beverages. From here there are two glass elevators which, for the sum of 7 euros, will take you to up to the Terrazza delle Quadrighe (Terrace of the Four-Horse Chariots) at the top of the monument. Standing between the gilt-bronze statues of Unity and Freedom, you can enjoy one of Rome's most memorable panoramas, the view stretching as far as the eye can see. Next to the **Vittoriano** is the Campidoglio

6

7

(Capitoline Hill), which was the city's Acropolis in ancient times. Now it is the seat of the City Council and the Capitoline Museums, which are composed of the Palazzo dei Conservatori and the Palazzo Nuovo, and represent the city's most important public museum. After a plunge into the past visiting the numerous historical exhibits which document Rome's origin, we cross Michelangelo's square, with its statue of Marcus Aurelius in the centre and come to

**Palazzo Caffarelli**, which has a terrace with unforgettable views over the rooftops of Rome and of the Teatro di Marcello (Theatre of Marcellus), the city's only surviving ancient theatre. The café here is open from morning to evening (following the opening hours of the Capitoline Museums) and serves rolls, salads

Piazza Caffarelli, 4 - +39.0669190564



Via Petroselli, 47 - +39.066787816 - [www.circusbar.it](http://www.circusbar.it)

and the practical formula "dish, drink and coffee", which is on offer every day until 3 pm. Another good view of the ancient theatre may be enjoyed from the **Circus Bar** of the Hotel Fortytseven in Via Petroselli. Despite its modern appearance, this building fits in perfectly with its surrounding antique context. From the height of its roof garden, the view pans round from Santa Maria in Cosmedin (which contains the famous mask of the Bocca della Verità) to the Temple of Vesta and finally the Theatre of Marcellus, against the natural backdrop of the Janiculum. Lunch, aperitifs and dinner are served here every day, but on Sundays there is a hearty brunch accompanied by excellent live music.

8

9

Another attraction is undoubtedly Piazza di Spagna, with its beautiful Spanish Steps (a flight of 135 of them) leading up to the church of Trinità dei Monti, one of the capital's most romantic spots. The place's suggestive atmosphere may be enjoyed both during the day and at night. But if you want a seat in the front row, grab a table at **Il Palazzetto**, a little jewel of the 16th century, now a hotel. Its terrace looks directly over the Spanish steps, so that you can enjoy the view while lingering over the menu of its wine bar. We continue along Viale della Trinità dei Monti, which turns into Viale Gabriele D'Annunzio, and descend into Piazza del Popolo, another of the city's famous squares. Marked off on one side by the belvedere of the Pincio (Pincian Hill), and on

Vicolo del Bottino, 8 - +39.06699341000 - [www.ilpalazzettoroma.com](http://www.ilpalazzettoroma.com)



Via del Babuino, 9 - +39.06328881 - [www.roccofortecollection.com](http://www.roccofortecollection.com)

another by the church of Santa Maria del Popolo, this space has become a venue for important public events, as it can contain up to 30,000 people. Not far from here, however, there is also a beautiful "secret garden" enclosed in the splendid **Hotel De Russie** on Via del Babuino. Inside the hotel, a double stairway in marble at the back of the building leads to the inner garden, where it is possible to dine by candlelight amid pines, magnolias, citrus trees, palms and flowers of all kinds. This scrupulously tended green spot also contains the pretty Oasi delle Farfalle (a WWF-sponsored butterfly oasis), which is well worth a visit. Here these delicate, charming insects can fly around undisturbed in a protected environment.

10

11

The view from the high ground of the city consists principally of domes which, in their extraordinary variety of shape and size, create an irregular, picturesque panorama. A unique and characteristic example is certainly that of the Pantheon, the first instance of a pagan temple to have been transformed into a Christian place of worship. The interior is very suggestive (with its five rows of coffering and central oculus measuring 8.92 metres in diameter, which provides light to the inner dome), but the view of the exterior is equally beautiful and remarkable, especially when it seems that one could actually reach out and touch it, as is the case from the splendid terrace of the **Hotel Minerva**. Located on the little square of

Piazza della Minerva, 69 - +39.06695201 - [www.grandhoteldelaminerve.it](http://www.grandhoteldelaminerve.it)



Via Vittorio Veneto, 50 - +39.06421441 - [www.rome-hotels-majestic.com](http://www.rome-hotels-majestic.com)

the same name, a short walk away from the Pantheon, the hotel has a magnificent roof garden (divided into two areas, one for the bar and the other for the restaurant), where it is possible to enjoy a sweeping view which takes in the Janiculum, the Vittoriano, the Quirinal Hill and its palace, and St. Peter's.

But Rome is also famous for its *dolce vita*, the symbol of which is undeniably Via Veneto and its luxury hotels, magnificently immortalized in Federico Fellini's famous film. The view is wonderful from a great many of these places (not all of them accessible to the public), but the most original is undoubtedly from the **Hotel Majestic**, the area's first hotel, opened in 1889. Its unique, original "piano" shape was espe-

12

13

cially designed to exploit the view of Piazza Barberini. From its terrace it is possible to admire the bustle of the street below and also to taste the delicacies of chef Filippo La Mantia's Sicilian cuisine. The panorama is broader from Piazza Barberini - which lies between the Quirinal Hill and the Gardens of Sallust - with its beautiful Fontana del Tritone in the middle, by Bernini. This was built in honour of the Barberini family, after which the square is named. To admire it from above is a unique experience, which is possible thanks to the **Hotel Bernini's** aptly named "Olimpo" roof garden, and it really is like being in heaven, with a truly exceptional view over Rome.

14

Rome's gardens and city parks deserve a para-

Piazza Barberini, 23 - +39.064883051 - [www.berninibristol.com](http://www.berninibristol.com)



Piazza Bucarest - +39.0669922090 - [www.casinavaladier.it](http://www.casinavaladier.it)

graph of their own. These are true oases of green in the city, where one can eat and drink, play sport, walk the dog and attend various events and concerts. The most renowned is Villa Borghese in the heart of the city which, with its terrace, the Pincian Hill, is one of the most popular in Rome. And on the highest point of the Pincian Hill stands the **Casina Valadier**, designed in the mid 19th century by the architect of the same name. The idea was to provide the city with a meeting point from which to admire its infinite beauty and at the same time socialize and get something to eat or drink. And this is still possible today, both in the villa's renovated rooms and in the garden below, where aperitifs may be taken with a good selection of buffet snacks. To the west of

15

the city is Villa Doria Pamphili, which at 180 hectares is the capital's largest park. Originally belonging to the family of the same name, it still contains several well preserved buildings, such as the Casino, by the architect Algardi, and the Secret Garden, a beautiful labyrinth of hedges. Then, as if in a picture by Manet, you can stop for a pleasant "déjeuner sur l'herbe" at the **ViviBistrot**, which provides all the accoutre-

ments for a modern picnic, so that you can enjoy the natural surroundings to the full. Further to the north is Monte Mario which, at 139 metres, dominates the Eternal City and contains a nature reserve which represents a true mosaic of biodiversity, something which is becoming increasingly rare. Here it is also possible to visit the old Rome Observatory (now

Via Vitellia, 102 - +39.065827540 - www.vivibistrot.com



16



Via Alberto Cadlolo, 101 - +39.0635091 - www.romecavalieri.it

the Museo Astronomico Copernicano) and enjoy the beautiful view from the point known as the "Zodiaco". But if you really want a 360-degree view of Rome, carry on a little further up to the top floor of the **Rome Cavalieri**, where famous German chef Heinz Beck's restaurant "La Pergola" awaits you for an unforgettable dinner and a breathtaking view.

17

What we have suggested here is just a cross-section of Rome's open-air opportunities. Indeed, if you wander through its streets you will come across a whole series of other magical places, unknown even to most Romans. Now it is up to you to discover them and enjoy their views, seated comfortably in front of some good Italian food and wine.



**Comune di Roma**

**Department of Tourism**

**Published by**  
La Pecora Nera Editore  
*www.lapecoranera.net*

**English translation by**  
Annabel J. Potter

**Cover photo**  
© Gabriele Morano  
*photo@morano.it*