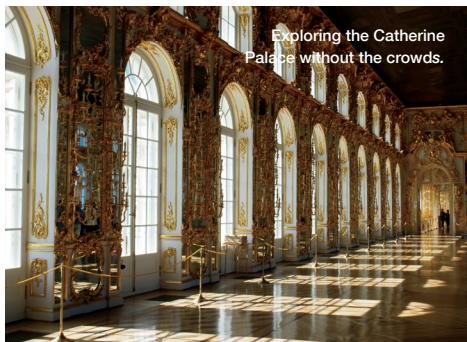


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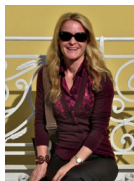
The next generation of travel wisdom<sup>®</sup>

Rome & Beyond

# Travel Timing



Exploring the Catherine Palace without the crowds.



When I visited Russia in May with our Insider Trip, our group was allowed to enter the Kremlin early. Walking in Cathedral Square before it filled with tourists was magical. A

few days later in the Church of the Spilled Blood in St Petersburg, crammed in with crowds (and it wasn't yet high season), I was struck how lucky I have been to see so many places without the masses. This year international tourist arrivals are projected to hit 1 billion. In fact, just as it is now necessary to get a permit for self-guided raft trips in the Grand Canyon or to hike on the Inca Trail, it is not inconceivable that sites like the Louvre or the Vatican, or the pyramids or Angkor Wat, will require permits and lotteries one day. I feel that the more of the greatest hits I can share with my children now, the better off they will be. Perhaps this concern fuels some of the urgency I feel to travel. As a child, I got to sleep in tents on the Serengeti with not a light visible from another camp, only the stars. I have been able to do the same with my kids but I doubt that they will have the chance with theirs.

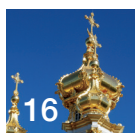
And yet...A few weeks ago when I was in the South of France before the onslaught of the full summer season. I found myself alone in the me-

dieval town of Eze. The evening was warm, the air filled with blooming jasmine, and the only sound was my footsteps on the cobblestones. In the morning, the tourists would fill the narrow alleys until dusk, but in the solitude, I could feel the quiet endurance of the stones. The centuries-old rampart walls seemed different when I was alone within them—graver, more serious, as though I were surrounded by witnesses to history. It reminded me of years before, when I went to Angkor Wat with a photographer to catch the best light at sunrise. We had seen the temples the day before (with busloads of tourists), but in the early morning, the only other people there were monks and pilgrims. In their midst we were in a spiritual moment. In India last year, on an Insider trip, we had a monk meet us at the Shankheshwar Parshwanath Jain temples. We sat in an alcove while he blessed our group. It had the same transformative effect.

While I believe that the crowds are inevitable—so the sooner we go, the better—I also think that there are ways to game travel. In fact, one of the reasons that I started Indagare was to trade tips and share strategies with a community of passionate travelers. There are tricks like going off-season. Sights like Rome's Pantheon and Trevi Fountain (see our Destination Report on Rome starting on page 28) are almost empty early in the morning. There are restaurants and regions that have yet to be discovered by nonlocals and others that are hard to reach but worth the effort. Call it a game or an art, but there are better ways to travel—and you know when you're traveling well and when you're not.

Here's to more of the best of travels.

*Melissa Bizz Bradley*



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## The World of Indagare



### About Indagare

Indagare comes from the Latin word that means to seek, scout, discover. Indagare Travel is a high-end travel company with robust online editorial content and a boutique in-house travel agency. We travel, we write, and we plan memorable journeys for our members. To learn about our travel community, visit [www.indagare.com](http://www.indagare.com) or call 212-988-2611. Annual membership rates begin at \$350.



### Bookings

At Indagare you can research ideas for a trip on our site and consult with a specialist on the phone or by email to create, refine or expand your itinerary. Our Bookings Team can help you with something as simple as a hotel room reservation or as complex as a multi-stop itinerary. We have special rates and amenities at hundreds of properties. Email [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com) or call 212-988-2611.



### Insider Trips

Insider Trips are special journeys designed exclusively for Indagare members. With their insider access, mapped-out itineraries and exciting immersion in far-flung destinations, the trips offer members a rich and rewarding way to explore the world. Upcoming destinations include India, Cuba and Russia. For more information, call 646-963-2242 or email [info@indagare.com](mailto:info@indagare.com).

# London: Summer in the City

California-born, London-based contributor **Elena Bowes** highlights the best of “the season,” as the British capital heads into the Summer Olympics.



This is London's summer in the spotlight, and the British capital is awash in magnificent Union Jack and patriotic cheer. Not only will these warmer months see the annual hubbub around Wimbledon and Ascot, but the celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, honoring sixty years of reign, will lead straight into the 2012 Summer Olympics, which kick off on July 27. Museums, theaters and restaurants are hosting special exhibitions and new features, and even the 150-year-old underground system is getting a new perk: free Wi-fi for riders. Here are some of the highlights not to miss when visiting this summer.

## Dining Update

The British capital is celebrating the classics in London restaurants, including **34**, an upscale steakhouse owned by Richard Caring's Caprice Holdings. Venerable **Café Royal**, famously frequented by Oscar Wilde and Elizabeth Taylor, is re-opening this summer in a new location on Regent Street. Cherished chef **Tom Aikens** has transformed his flaship restaurant into a casual spot with oak floors and evocative quotes scribbled on the walls. And revamped **Quo Vadis** continues to offer old-school British dishes in an updated and buzzy atmosphere in Soho.



Clockwise, from opposite: British Museum; Olympic Arena; Spuntino; Andy Warhol on view at the Dulwich Picture Gallery; and *British Design: Innovation in the Modern Age* on view at the V&A.

This summer also sees two acclaimed pop-up restaurants: Danish foodie temple **NOMA**, which receives about 100,000 reservation requests per month, is opening a venue at Claridge's during the Olympics. **Cube by Electrolux** will be temporarily ensconced atop Royal Festival Hall overlooking Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye. With seating for eighteen around an open-plan kitchen, the Cube will host Michelin-starred chefs. Prices are steep but the experience will be a once in a lifetime one.

### Trendy Dining: No Reservations

Although the trend of hip restaurants not ac-

cepting reservations can annoy some diners, sometimes the food and scene of these cool spots justifies the wait. **Spuntino**, the latest offshoot from **Da Polpo**, oozes charm with its bar seating, distressed-tile wall and menu featuring such American staples as mac and cheese. Mayfair's **Burger & Lobster**, offering a truly small menu (three dishes all priced at £20), is also worth its "queue."

### Style File

A high-end version of an indoor market, the new boutique **Wolf & Badger** is owned by two brothers, Henry and George Graham, who carry ►►



## The Best of Theater & Museums Shows

Organized to coincide with the seventeen-day Olympics, **London 2012 Festival** runs through September 9. The event will appeal to Shakespeare fans in particular: seventy plays in thirty locations will be put on, with Shakespeare's Globe as the headquarters. Beyond Shakespeare, the Apollo is producing Eugene O'Neill's **Long Day's Journey into Night**, starring Laurie Metcalf and David Suchet. Those craving something lighter should see Danny De Vito and Richard Griffiths in Neil Simon's **Sunshine Boys** or Stephen Beresford's poignant new play **The Last of the Haussmans**. A classic satire of class conflict and sexual desire in Swinging Sixties London, **Play Without Words** (above) is appearing at Sadler's Wells for four weeks only starting July 12th.

London museums are toasting works from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Exhibitions include Munch's Norwegian Expressionism at the **Tate Modern** and Bauhaus design at the Barbican, as well as Warhol prints at the **Dulwich Picture Gallery** and Damien Hirst's first large-scale survey at **Tate Modern**. The **Serpentine Gallery's** summer pavilion was designed by Swiss architects Herzog & De Meuron and Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. The **Victoria & Albert Museum** looks at *British Design: Innovation in the Modern Age*. The **Design Museum's** Christian Louboutin retrospective features the shoe designer's vertiginous objects of desire.

pieces from up-and-coming UK designers. Offerings include particularly fun and unique jewelry and quirky housewares. With cutting edge **Dover Street Market** a few doors down, and adventurous designers like Issey Miyake a short stroll away, the location couldn't be hotter. Rem D. Koolhaas has taken his inherited love of architecture (his uncle is Rem Koolhaas) and applied it to footwear. At **United Nude**, Koolhaas showcases shoes like 'Eamz,' modeled after an Eames chair leg. The creations are not just interesting: the clever architecture actually makes women's feet appear smaller.

### Pop-Up Store

For six weeks this summer, South Africa's most forward-thinking concept store, Merchants on Long, is coming to the **Bluebird** shop on the Kings Road. Curated by Hanneli Rupert, the great mind behind the original Cape Town outpost, this pop-up shop (within a shop) will feature about twenty of Rupert's favorite labels, all difficult to find outside South Africa.

### Check In: New Hotels

Fans of Firmdale (the brand behind such gems as the Crosby Street Hotel, in New York, and several boutique properties in London) will flock to **Dorset Square**. The 38-bedroom Regency town house in Marylebone, overlooking a leafy square, is the latest addition to the group's stylishly quirky portfolio, and it showcases owner and designer Kit Kemp's signature design beautifully. Expect a mix of bold colors and textures, as well as bespoke and vintage furniture and art—a cool yet stylish setting that captures the energy of London now. ■

Read our destination report about London, including more summer recommendations, on [Indagare](#). For help planning your next trip, contact our Bookings Team at 212-988-2611 or [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com).

# Summer Look Book

Style editors Anna Lonergan and Monique Brendel choose cool fashion and accessories for summer pleasures. Available on [www.indagare.com/souk](http://www.indagare.com/souk).



**India: Melissa's Finds**

Cashmere scarf in delicate pastels (\$385)



**Kenya: Adele Dejak**

Ayira necklace in bone and brass (\$190)



**Philippines**

Multicolored beaded T'Boi belts (\$90)



**Turkey: Haremique**

Kaftan in Italian handkerchief linen (\$380)



**Brazil: Cecilia Machado**

Woven leather clutches in vibrant colors (\$250)



**U.S.: City Secrets**

Guide book with insider tips on London (\$19.95)



**Kenya: Shompole**

Bone and gold elephant charm (\$250)



**U.S.: Indagare**

Mapped Out series (\$55), including Paris & London.



**India: Love Guides**

Fiona Cauffield's *Love Delhi* guide book (\$40)



**India: Irving and Fine**

I&F's signature Patmos tunic (\$250) in cotton



**Philippines: Filip & Inna**

Embroidered Biti shorts in linen (\$140)



**Kenya: Adele Dejak**

Kisemei ebony and brass bracelet (\$105)



**India: Melissa's Finds**

Vintage Ikat fabric from India (\$700)



**Kenya: Shompole**

Signature cuff from the Elephant Collection (\$1250)



**Kenya: Emily Dryer**

Terrycloth-backed Kikoy beach towels (\$58)



**Kenya: Ashe Collection**

Love weekend bag in canvas (\$300)

just back from

# Charleston Insider

South Carolina's charmer of a city has historic houses, award-winning food and a cool vibe. **Amelia Osborne** reports on the destination's best offerings.

Wentworth Mansion



As someone who spent formative years in Europe, and was raised by a Southern belle mother, I fancy myself a girl who appreciates charm. But it wasn't until recently that I discovered a place encompassing the best of two disparate but equally engaging cultures: the aged hush of cobblestoned European hamlets, and the welcoming hospitality of the American South. The destination is Charleston, South Carolina, one of the United States' first cities, which exists today as a living museum of early American urban planning, architecture and furniture, as well as social customs and impeccable manners.

My latest visit proved two things: a weekend in the South, when azaleas are in bloom and days are long but not yet hot, is a glorious occasion. And Charleston provides an ideal quick

break from the Northeast because of its easy access. (It could easily captivate visitors for a full week, or at least multiple returns.) The town welcomes couples on romantic getaways, offering charming walks and horse-drawn carriage tours on cobblestoned streets, incredible meals, visits to gorgeous beaches and plantations and stays in historic hotels.

Parents can use a visit to Charleston as an opportunity to teach their children about American history, starting with the city's founding in 1680 by the King Charles of England (who, thoughtfully, named the town for himself). The region was the site of major battles in the Revolutionary War, and famously hosted George Washington on his tour of the Southern colonies. The 18th- and 19th-century shipping and plantation industries brought great wealth to

Charleston, as well as turning the port town into a bustling seaport, trading goods with Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. As a result, Charleston could compete with New York, Boston and Philadelphia as one of America's most fashionable and advanced cities. Unfortunately, the 1860s saw another bloody battle on Charleston's soil: the Civil War's first shots were fired on Fort Sumter, located in the harbor.

Charleston is a destination all twelve months of the year. Summer is lazily spent at the area's beaches, and the season kicks off with the famed Spoleto Festival, a celebration of music, drama and art that runs from the end of May through

mid-June. Northerners love the fall for its continuation of summer's weather. Charleston winters are cozy affairs, with beautiful holiday decorations, and spring brings flower blossoms, including azaleas in such saturated colors they seem almost neon.

Like a town frozen in time, Charleston boasts (architecturally, at least) numerous wonderful examples of how the wealthy lived and socialized in the past. This mecca of early American architecture must be the only place in the world where residents would move into the city during the year's hottest months (to escape malaria scares in the swampy Carolina bogs), thus ►►

## Tip Sheet

Much like Manhattan, Charleston is located on a peninsula bordered by two rivers: the Cooper and Ashley. The town centers around buzzing Market and Queen Streets. Here's what not to miss.



### Stay

#### **Wentworth Mansion**

Built in 1886 as a private home (for a family with thirteen kids), this five-floor mansion was converted to a hotel in 1996. Most rooms have fireplaces; all come with kingsize beds, marble bathrooms with separate showers and whirlpool baths. Some rooms (which range from 400 to 1,000 square feet) also have daybeds and plenty of space for rollaway beds to accommodate children. Rooms are filled with tasteful Victorian dark wood furniture, heavy upholstery and velvet coronet canopied beds. The cupola on the fifth floor has a stunning outdoor terrace that is ideal for sunset watching or for an after-dinner drink. *Read Indagare's review.*



### Eat

#### **FIG**

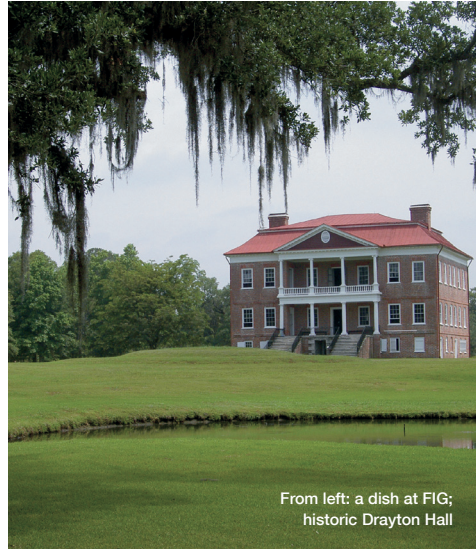
FIG is short for "food is good," and its buzzing dining room is a favorite among locals, and for good reason. The pioneering restaurant features ingredients from the greater Charleston area, prepared in exciting and thoughtful ways. Culinary specialties include soft-shell crab and an extraordinary coddled egg dish, which includes English peas, blue lump crab, chives and scallions and uses the egg whites to make a rich soup, all the while keeping the yolk intact. A recent visit delivered a melt-in-your-mouth appetizer of lemony leeks with mustard vinaigrette. It comes as no surprise that chef Mike Lata won a James Beard award. *Read Indagare's review.*



### See

#### **Historic Houses**

Many of Charleston's grandest houses were in fact just one of multiple residences owned by wealthy landowners. The town homes could have been built to be the winter lodgings, situated to take advantage of the cultural offerings and social gatherings. Alternatively, they could have been meant for summer living, away from the malaria-ridden swamps. The house's second floors were used for entertaining, as they were slightly more removed from the smells, sounds and dirt of the street, and offered a bit more of a breeze. If you have time to see only one or two, visit Heyward-Washington House and Nathaniel Russell House. *Read more about Historic Houses.*



From left: a dish at FIG;  
historic Drayton Hall

creating an architecture specifically designed to battle heat, long before cooling systems were invented. Long, narrow houses, with multiple windows and verandas were instituted to make the most of ocean breezes, and chunks of ice were transported from way up north to keep drinks cool.

Charlestonians exhibit evident historical and cultural pride. Locals have a desire to preserve their city's traditions, adding fun and interesting updates along the way. Fashion boutiques dot the shopping streets, displaying new takes on Charleston's oldest exports: cotton and indigo. The restaurants of the town embrace low country cooking, but with updates and modern twists. Horse-drawn carriages rival pedicabs for transportation—the ultimate in “green” transportation.

Yet the town plays by its own rules. One of today's popular bars is the Blind Tiger, a name left over from the days of Prohibition, when patrons were forbidden to purchase alcoholic

beverages. To get around this temperance law, tavern owners started selling tickets to the public to see a “blind tiger,” which purportedly was stationed inside the pub. While patrons waited for the animal, which, of course, would never arrive, they would be served “complimentary” beverages. In an era when unwed couples were hardly allowed to be left unsupervised, Charleston invented the joggling board, a bench that, because of its sloping incline in the middle, causes two people sitting on it to inch closer and closer together (a prime example can be seen on the porch of Husk restaurant).

I typically steer clear of humorous souvenirs, but on my last day in town I came across a dishtowel with a slogan that seemed to sum up the Charleston experience: “Bon Appetite, Y'all!” I couldn't resist bringing one home. It adds a little Southern charm to my Yankee kitchen. ■

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Read the complete destination report at [Indagare.com](http://Indagare.com). If you are planning a trip to the American South, contact our Bookings Team: [bookings@indagare.com](mailto:bookings@indagare.com).

# Traveling with Indagare

With their insider access, mapped-out itineraries and exciting immersion in far-flung destinations, Insider Trips offer members a rewarding way to explore the world.



In Jordan

Like many of our favorite features, Insider Trips grew out of an exchange between our staff and members. These special journeys take travelers behind the scenes of a destination and are designed exclusively for members. Past trips have included Turkey; Mexico; Marrakech; Cuba; India; Jordan and Russia. Here's what participants said upon their return. *For information about this fall's trips, contact Brooke Pearson at 646-963-2242.*

**“Jordan** was a life-changing experience, in turns educational, spiritual and, above all, a lot of fun. The Insider Trips really are just that; in the course of a week you feel as though you have learned more about a country than you would if you lived there.” ~Melanie Vere-Nicol

**“The experience at the Ranch at Live Oak Malibu** was amazing. Even though the routine was intense, the people and unique exclusive additions to the trip were what made it an unforgettable experience, and that is what Indagare Insider trips are all about.” ~Alexandra Knight

**“I had wanted to go to Cuba** for many years but wanted to go legally. Indagare provided the opportunity as well as excellent plan prepping and an itinerary that focused on cultural enrichment and meeting Cuban residents.” ~K.C.

**“Traveling with friends (old and new) to unique places** has been a most wonderful way to make memories. Riding a camel through Petra in **Jordan**, sleeping in a tent in the Wadi Run, sharing a good laugh after a 12-mile hike through the **Santa Monica** mountains. The memories made on the Insider trips are fuel for my soul.” ~H.C.

**“The Russia** trip was more than worthwhile: it was enriching, enlightening, stimulating and fun. The weather was dead-on perfect; I don't know what role you had in making that happen. The guides were thoughtful, knowledgeable, helpful and accommodating. I will look for opportunities to go on other Indagare trips.” ■

## Upcoming Insider Trips: Myanmar, Russia & Berlin

Indagare founder Melissa Biggs Bradley hosts debut Insider Trips. This fall, she will be taking small groups to Myanmar, Berlin and possibly Beirut (see p. 19). We will also offer a repeat of our Russia Trip (see p. 16).

**Myanmar:** Starting in the former capital of Yangon, we will explore the ancient temples of Bagan before departing for a four-night cruise up the Ayeyarwady to Mandalay, plus an optional extension to Inle Lake. Scheduled from January 31–February 7, 2013.

**Russia:** We will return to Moscow and St. Petersburg from October 12–18. Our group will have a private visit to the Diamond Vaults of the Kremlin, take in a performance at the Mariinsky Theater, discover the treasures of the Hermitage and visit Catherine's Palace in the countryside.

**Berlin:** For art and history lovers, we are developing a four-night Insider Trip to Berlin to see the highlights of this vibrant capital. Fall dates will be announced soon.

*For more information on these or other Insider Trips, contact Brooke Pearson at 646-963-2242.*

# Diving Adventures in Palau

Boston-based Indagare member **Laura Caputo** and her husband, **Brian**, spent four days diving in Palau, part of Micronesia. Here are some highlights.



Seasoned divers will tell you that Palau, in Micronesia, is one of the greatest diving destinations in the world. The reefs are healthy and varied and the marine life is exceptional: manta rays, sharks, sea turtles and dozens of varieties of fish. Palau's underwater wonders are accessible to novices as well; many sights can be seen in just 30 or 40 feet of water, and there are more than thirty well-established and spectacular dive spots.

Under the guidance of the very capable instructors from Sam's Dive Tours ([www.sams-tours.com](http://www.sams-tours.com)), we saw several of the most famous dive spots over the course of three days, doing two dives a day. We had two different dive masters, and both were that great combination of highly competent and marvelously relaxed. My favorite dive was the Blue Hole. We started by dropping down a circular reef that was about twenty feet wide. As we went further down, we would look up and see glittering blue above us where the sunlight hit the water. About sixty or seventy feet down, it opened into a big cavern. We

followed a wall and came to a coral garden of incredible variety, with hidden nooks and softly flowing anemones. At one point, we were gazing at a great school of moorish idols, with their long dorsal fins and vivid stripes, when we realized they were being trailed by dozens of reef sharks. We later learned that Palau is known for having one of the first shark preserves. The locals take wonderful care of their ecosystem, one reason the region has stayed so unspoiled.

On our last day, we swam with dolphins with an outfit called Dolphins Pacific. You would hold your hand out and as a dolphin swam by, you would grab onto its dorsal fin with one hand, then bring your other hand across its smooth skin until you were riding on its back. It was completely amazing. Their movement is so smooth and powerful.

Although we only spent a few days in Palau, I tried to mentally record every minute, because I know I will be feeding off of those memories for years to come. When I close my eyes, I still see the rock islands and the clear blue water. ■

# Myanmar Family Travels

Indagare member **Lisle Davies** recently traveled to Southeast Asia with her husband and two children. Here are her impressions of Myanmar.



We started in Yangon, where we stayed at Governor's Residence, whose setting is just beautiful. The Shwedagon Pagoda there was beautiful. The complex is huge and has different areas designated for prayer. For example, people born on Wednesdays have a specific section where they can pray. There is a beautiful tradition of pouring one cup of water over the Buddha's head for each year you have been alive. We went early in the day, which I recommend because it gets hot.

We continued to Inle Lake, where we stayed at Inle Princess Resort. This hotel reminded me of a high-end, ecofriendly sleep-away summer camp. The lake is pristine, and we felt very removed. We were able to see workshops where people were rolling cigars, weaving textiles and making jewelry. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch overlooking the lake at the Burmese Cats Café. Our next stop was a river cruise from Mandalay to Bagan on the Irrawaddy River. We cruised on the *RV Pauken 2007*, a replica of a 1940s river-cruising vessel built by a Scottish ship builder. The cabins were nice and luckily air-condi-

tioned. The scenery was beautiful but felt sort of repetitive. Our final stop was the beautiful city of Bagan. The hot-air balloons Bagan is known for had not been flying for several days due to high morning temperatures and wind, but we enjoyed taking a horse-drawn carriage around the temples and climbing some of them.

I was surprised by how open Myanmar felt. Considering the recent political turmoil, it had a more relaxed vibe than I was expecting. Everyone we met was sweet and seemed genuinely happy to meet us. Everyone speaks English (in varying degrees), and while there are few American visitors, the country is becoming set up for tourism. I never dreamed that I would love it so much and not want to come home. My entire family wanted to continue our journey. ■

**Myanmar Tips:** Bring U.S. dollars, but only crisp, recent bills. Print out all confirmation emails ahead of time: hotels, cars, flights, wire transfers, etc. We have all become so dependent on our phones and laptops, but in Burma it's nearly impossible to get Internet access. Visit temples early in the morning, as the weather gets very hot toward midday.

# Summertime Salzburg

The hills are alive with the sound of music, indeed, when the Austrian city hosts its annual summer festival. **Simone Girner** reports.



From left: Salzburg; a room at the Sacher



Salzburg sits like a baroque jewel on the banks of the river Salzach, at the northern boundary of the Alps. Shaped as much by its natural setting as by industrious human creativity, the city inspired Mozart, Strauss and Toscanini, amongst others. Every summer, the Salzburg Festival draws the greats of opera, symphony and theater to the cozy Austrian town, and hotels and restaurants are booked months in advance.

## Where to Stay

The city's two best hotels are the **Sacher** and **Goldener Hirsch**, although smaller boutique properties have also sprung up in recent years. Outside the city, a palatial option is **Schloss Fuschl** or the congenial **Schlosswirt zu Anif**. Writes one Indagare member and longtime Salzburg habitué: "If you're staying just one night, it doesn't make sense to be based outside Salzburg proper, but for a multinight stay, I would prefer Fuschl and Anif. It's beautiful to be based in the countryside that surrounds the city."

## Where to Eat: Big Night Out

The elegant old-world dining rooms of the **Goldener Hirsch** and **Sacher** make gorgeous backdrops and the menus in both places feature a fusion of Swiss, Austrian and German cuisines. About a 40-minute drive away is **Schloss Fuschl**, whose restaurant also has a fabulous terrace and is a good spot for lunch or dinner.

## Where to Eat: Local Cuisine

A relaxed ambiance is found at the **Blaue Gans**, close to the Opera House, which serves local food in a pretty setting. Another local favorite is **Tavern S' Herzl**, the Goldener Hirsch's cozy taverna, with wood-clad interiors and hearty portions of meat, sauerkraut and dumplings. Less caloric fare is served at **Purzelbaum**, in a mostly residential neighborhood. The dining room has a beautiful Art Nouveau ceiling, although on nice days most prefer to dine in the garden.

## Where to Eat: Setting

For a unique dining experience, don't miss

**Ikarus in Hangar 7**, housed in an ultramodern glass-and-steel construction near the airport. The restaurant operates on a rotating-guest-chef concept, and every month a different up-and-coming chef takes over the kitchen. Another good one is **Pfefferschiff**, located in a suburb about a fifteen-minute taxi ride from the center. Book a table in the pretty garden. **Gasthof Schloss Aigen**, outside the city center, has a marvelous garden. The menus are seasonal and local, and there are even vegetarian options, not always a given in Austria.

### What to See & Do: Sights

First timers should tour the city's greatest hits—the Hohensalzburg Fortress, the Salzburg Cathedral, the Peterskirche and its old cemetery and the Residenz Palace. Salzburg is the birthplace of Mozart, and his early life can be traced in several museums and historic buildings (the composer's birthplace is a few doors down from the Goldener Hirsch). Of course, seeing one of his operas performed during the festival may be the best way to celebrate the Austrian composer.

### What to See & Do: Hiking

**Berchtesgarden National Park** is scenic. Drive down to the **Königssee**, a deep glacial lake that is very scenic and near the famous **Watzmann**, one of the region's most impressive (and Germany's third-largest) mountains. There's great hiking in this area, and you can explore the lake via a boat. A gorgeous castle to visit is **Schloss Herrenchiemsee**, about an hour's drive.

### What to See & Do: Museums

Art aficionados should make the trip up to the **Museum der Moderne Mönchsberg**, which houses an interesting collection of modern and contemporary art and has a fabulous museum café with lofty views.

### What to See & Do: Typical Salzburg

In a choice location with beautiful views of the Alps, the historic **Gössl Gewandhaus** houses a restaurant, café, museum and gourmet store. Gössel, a manufacturer of *Trachten*, the traditional dress, is about as Austrian as it gets. Here, visitors can view the beautifully made *dirndl* and Lederhosen on display in a museum, as well as dine on Austrian specialties in the restaurant and café, all with a view of the nearby Alps. ■

[Read more about Austria, including a destination report on Vienna at Indagare.com.](#)



## Best of the Festival

The annual music, opera and theater festival is one of Europe's most prestigious cultural events. The venues run from the sumptuous Festival Hall and alfresco Domplatz (the square in front of the cathedral) to the beautifully decorated Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter. The festival draws the biggest names, and the most coveted productions are booked months in advance. This year's festival (July 20 through September 2) includes Anna Netrebko's moving interpretation of Mimi, in a new production of *La Bohème* and Sir Simon Rattle conducting the Vienna Philharmonic in *Carmen* (above), with hunk tenor Jonas Kaufmann as Don José.

# Just Back From...Russia

Back from leading Indagare's first Insider Trip, founder **Melissa Biggs Bradley** shares advice on how to tour the wealth of sights in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Church on Spilled Blood, in St. Petersburg



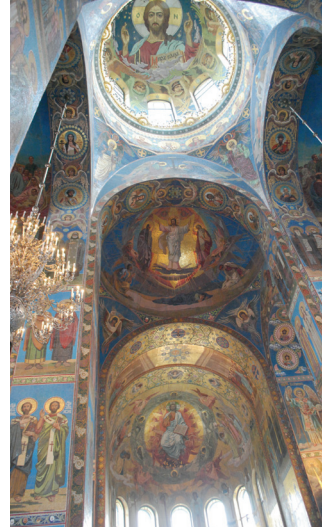
Before I left for Russia in May, a well-traveled friend asked, “What’s the appeal?” I was stunned. Aside from the fact that it is a superpower in a moment of major transition, Russia has been one of the world’s most influential empires for centuries. Consider the art, literature, music, theater and ballets that have come out of the country. The significance of Tolstoy, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Diaghliev, Chagall, Chekhov and so many more. Frankly, before I visited, I felt there was a major gap in my understanding of Western arts and civilization. Just back from our first Indagare Insider weeklong trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg, I feel that even more strongly.

We visited Moscow and St. Petersburg, cities that boast such richness of history, art and beauty that one is truly poorer for not having seen them. The fact that the underwriters of much of that beauty are legendary characters only makes visiting more fascinating. Recent miniseries have focused on the travails of the Tudors and the Borgias, but the saga of the Romanovs comes with even more excess. Add to that the current tensions between the Putin government and Russian reformers, which the whole world is watching. The country’s centuries-old tug-of-war between autocrats and the masses, peopled by such pivotal characters as Ivan the Terrible, Peter the

Great, Lenin and Stalin, is being played out again with the Oligarchs. So the question is not “Why go?” but “Why aren’t more people clamoring to come?” And, for me, “When can I go back?”

“Moscow is so underrated,” declared one of our group on our second day. “It has so much to offer.” Starting with the Diamond Vaults of the Kremlin, which display jewels which are surpassed only by the British crown jewels. Then there is the Bolshoi Theater, which reopened in late 2011 after a six-year, \$760 million restoration. Whether it is judged by its facilities (it has fourteen underground floors, an electronic stage, an eighteen-foot crystal chande-

From left: Peterhof, inside the Church on Spilled Blood



lier, and individual air vents for every chair in the house) or by its pedigree (it is where *Swan Lake*, *Boris Godunov* and *Aleko* premiered), the Bolshoi is a cultural mecca.

One could spend a day exploring the Kremlin, which is an entire city, not just Russia's version of the White House. It is a walled city of sixty acres, containing palaces, cathedrals, government buildings and Russia's version of the Smithsonian, the Armory, which is packed with treasures collected over the centuries by the royal families. (Among the priceless pieces: Fabergé eggs, the world's second-largest collection of royal carriages and Catherine the Great's wedding dress.) Lesser-known land-

marks that are worth a few stops are the Moscow metro stations. The public transport hubs were meant to act as palaces for the everyman, so some of them have marble decorations and benches pilaged from historic churches. Another way that the Soviets shared their treasures with the masses was to adorn chocolate boxes with famous paintings from the national collection,

"If you were to spend thirty seconds looking at each treasure in the Hermitage, it would take close to three years to see everything."

which also enticed the public into the state museums.

The treasures are jaw-dropping. And not just those in the Hermitage. Moscow has the Pushkin Museum, and the Tretyakov collection. The Russian painters of the 19th century were on par with those working in France and America, who have become household names. "You realize that if the revolution hadn't trapped them and their works behind the Iron Curtain, the names Shishkin and Repin would be as well known as Monet and Sargent," exclaimed one of our group.

We could have spent days in the museums of Moscow, but if you were to spend just thirty seconds looking at every ►►



## First Look: Four Seasons St. Petersburg

When I was in Russia in May, I was able to take a tour of the Four Seasons hotel, which will open in late 2012 or early 2013. There is no question that it will be the most wonderful hotel in the city.

Built as a palace for Princess Lobanova-Rostovskaya in 1820, the grand yellow residence on Nevsky Prospect, just two blocks from the Hermitage, has been meticulously renovated by craftsmen. St. Petersburg preservationists take their restoration very seriously, which is why it has taken the Four Seasons hotel group years more than four years to open this five-star, 177-room property.

The gilding on the elaborate coffered ceiling of the lobby is real gold. There is heating under the front steps but the original marble remains intact. The lobby library has working double fireplaces and wood paneling approved by the landmark society.

Merge this reverence for the past with such modern amenities as heated terrace stones, restaurants that will surely be the hottest spots in town and wifi in the cars that pick you up from the airport and you can understand why the hotel will open as the number one hotel in the city,

one of the more than 3 million treasures in the Hermitage, it would take close to three years (without sleeping). The collection, truly one of the best in the world, occupies the Winter Palace, the former residence of the Russian royals, and numerous adjacent buildings. One highlight was Hidden Treasures Revealed, the cache of seventy-four 19th-century paintings stolen from Germany at the end of World War II. It was only in 1995 that the Hermitage revealed the survival of some of the greatest works of the Impressionists and 20th-century masters.

Our six days of taking in the paintings, the palaces and the plots and pamperings of the Romanovs and the Oligarchs were like a cultural cram session. But thanks to our amazing guides, we were spoon-fed the facts, so we could wander, gaze and soak it all in. We felt fortunate to be there under bright blue, sunny skies in May and yet wondered if we should come back and see the country under snow, when rather than taking a hydrofoil to the Peterhof, we could ride in a sleigh.

St. Petersburg, in particular, is a city whose past is present. The focus of a visit may be the paintings and the palaces of its golden era under the Greats, Peter and Catherine. But since

their reign, the city and its inhabitants have been ravaged under Stalin and the Nazis, and traces of hardship linger on the faces of its buildings and its citizens.

Both cities have restored their treasures, so exceptional churches, such as the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow and the Church of the Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg, and wonders like the Catherine Palace, Peterhof and Pavlosk Palace now glitter under kilos of fresh gold. The Bolshoi and Marinsky have been rebuilt, and their ballet companies flourish. Case in point: after years of Russian dancers' defecting, the Bolshoi lured American ballet star David Hallberg to its ranks last year.

Moscow and St. Petersburg have been rivals for centuries, and the pride of their citizens enriched our sense of Russia as a whole. Visitors will also see that the quality of the hotels, the food and the condition of its landmarks have never been better. Once the Four Seasons St. Petersburg opens next year, visitors will be able to stay in a restored palace on Nevsky Prospect. The time to go is now—whatever the season.

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Read more about Insider Trips on page 11. If you are planning on traveling to Russia, contact our Bookings Team: 212-988-2611.

# Bittersweet Beirut

**Cabell Belk** interviews author Salma Abdelnour whose evocative book *Jasmine and Fire* traces a year in Lebanon, focusing in particular on its food scene.



In Beirut

**N**ew York-based travel and food writer Salma Abdelnour's first book is a memoir about rediscovering Beirut, the city her family left when she was nine. Abdelnour's evocative *Jasmine and Fire* traces her year in Lebanon, focusing in particular on its food scene. "Whenever I take walks in any city in the world, I always have some kind of food adventure in mind," says the author. "The ones I went on in Beirut and smaller villages in Lebanon helped me find my way around, geographically and, in a way, emotionally too." The book is full of wonderful culinary observations, restaurant recommendations and descrip-

tions of Lebanese dishes, fruit and products so delicious that they might just inspire your next trip. Indagare spoke with Abdelnour about the book and the adventure that inspired it.

**During your first weeks in Beirut, you felt homesick.**

**How did you cope?**

One thing that never failed to help me feel sane was to take a long walk. I'm not eager to jump in cabs or even public transportation when I travel. I want to see as much as I can step by step—to actually watch the sidewalk roll out in front of me. As a bonus, my neighborhood was abundantly supplied with stands selling *man'ouche* (Beirut's quintessential break-

fast flatbread slathered with *za'atar* and olive oil) maybe my favorite food in the entire world. When my walk seemed to need a destination, I would go and try a *man'ouche* from a new vendor and make mental notes about what I liked about it and how it compared with other *man'ouches* I had sampled. These self-imposed mini-assignments gave welcome structure to my wanderings.

**Did you make new discoveries about Lebanese cuisine?**

One gorgeous summer day, I was at a cherry festival in a town outside Beirut when I noticed a woman stirring a pot that smelled amazing. When I asked her what was inside, she

“Taking walks in a city, I always have a food adventure in mind. It helps me find my way geographically and emotionally.”

said *zingol*. The fragrant lemony broth with little marble-sized balls of chickpeas and bulgur was so warming and rich and delicious that when I finished my bowl, I went back to tell her how much I had enjoyed it. She insisted I have another one on the house.

### Now that you're back in the U.S., what Lebanese foods do you miss the most?

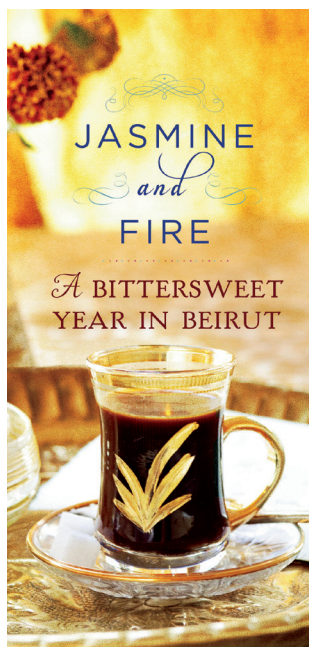
Going to a farmer's market in Lebanon is unbelievable. Certain fruits grow there that I've never had anywhere else, mulberries, for example. I've never had fresh mulberries outside the Middle East. They are dark

purple and juicy and have a certain floral quality. Another one of my seasonal favorites is called *janarek*. Though related to the plum, they never lose their green hue, even when ripe. Many people prefer them at the beginning of the season, when they're very sour and crunchy—it's even common to sprinkle them with salt to heighten the tanginess.

### Take us on one of your favorite long walks around Beirut.

I would start out in Hamra, the neighborhood where I grew up. It's an area with a lot of street life and energy, where brand-new luxury condo

high-rises abut rundown old buildings in total disrepair. Stop at **De Prague** (*Makdissi Street; 96 1174 4864*) for a cup of strong Arabic coffee, then walk two blocks to Bliss Street, where you'll find the entrance to the American University of Beirut. The AUB is arguably the most prestigious university in the Middle East, and its campus is spectacular, built on a beautiful landscaped hillside that tumbles to the sea. Usually you can walk right by the security guards, but if they ask to see a student ID, just request a guided tour. Exit onto the Corniche, Beirut's palm-lined seafront boulevard, and make your way downtown, passing a couple of fantastic textile shops. You'll eventually arrive at the ancient Roman baths, which weren't discovered and excavated until after the war. This is an ideal place to sit and see the city sprawling before you. When you're feeling refreshed, continue across Martyrs' Square into Saifi Village to check out its fabulous artisan boutiques. Just to the west of Saifi is Achrafieh, one of Beirut's oldest and most posh Christian neighborhoods; end your walk by meandering its winding streets or at a café like Al Mandaloun, with its breezy terrace and great peoplewatching.



(BOTTOM RIGHT): COURTESY FOUR SEASONS BEIRUT

### Is there good Lebanese food in New York?

The best place in New York to get Lebanese food, and Middle Eastern food in general, is Bay Ridge. There's a tiny place I love called Karam that's always packed. The food is incredibly fresh and vibrant. There's a pastry shop called Cedars that sells the stretchy Lebanese ice cream I write about in the book. Stretchy ice cream is a foreign concept here, but for anyone who grew up in Lebanon, it's the way ice cream

is supposed to be. Its elasticity comes from a derivative of the orchid-tree root.

### How did the year in Beirut influence the way you experience New York?

After living in Beirut, my blood pressure is a lot lower on New York subway platforms. MTA delays and construction pale in comparison with the constant blackouts and Internet outages that are routine in Beirut. My time in Beirut has also helped me to focus on taking certain

things slower. Everyone is very busy, running from one thing to the next, but Beirut natives still take the time to have long coffees with friends. They make time to linger over weekend lunches with family. It's a priority that's woven into Lebanese culture and one that's often difficult to reconcile with New York life."

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[Read the complete Q&A with Salma at Indagare.](#) [Contact Indagare's Bookings Team for help planning a trip to Lebanon:](#) 212-988-2699.

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## Beirut Tip Sheet

The Lebanese city is a thrilling tapestry of traditional scenes and cosmopolitan buzz. Salma Abdelnour covers both sides in her beautifully written memoir. Many more tips can be found on [Indagare.com](#).



### Stay (Five Star) *Four Seasons Beirut*

The Four Seasons opened in early 2010, and its location right on the Corniche, Beirut's famous boardwalk, is its biggest draw and drawback (it's incredibly scenic but a lengthy taxi drive away from the downtown area). Interiors were designed by Paris-based Pierre-Yves Rochon (who has overseen such European properties as the Savoy in London). All rooms have balconies with views of the Mediterranean across the marina or toward the mountains. [Read Indagare's review.](#)



### Stay (Boutique) *Albergo*

Travelers who want to be centrally based should check into Albergo, a lovely boutique hotel and Lebanon's only Relais & Châteaux property. Located in the old quarter of Achrafieh, the hotel has a beautifully ornate, retro-chic design scheme, with a mix of Ottoman and 18th-century French decor accents. The on-property Italian restaurant is renowned as one of the city's best, and the rooftop terrace has expansive views of the city. [Read Indagare's review.](#)



### Shopping *Nada Debs & Bokja*

Known as Le Quartier des Arts, Saifi Village is a great place for fabulous artisan boutiques. Japan-raised designer **Nada Debs** uses traditional Lebanese materials to create minimalist Eastern-inspired furniture and accessories.

**Bokja** carries highly original chairs, benches, and sofas—contemporary silhouettes upholstered in antique and vintage fabrics—displayed in a restored mansion (above, a Bokja Opium Sofa).

# Patricia Wells on Paris & Provence

To foodies, the name Patricia Wells has been synonymous with culinary Paris for decades. **Amelia Osborne** speaks to the Francophile about her summer plans.



Patricia Wells; (from top) dishes at L'Oustau de Beaumaniere and Le Grand Pré



To Francophiles and foodies, the name Patricia Wells has been synonymous with culinary Paris for decades. Wells, the food critic for the *International Herald Tribune* until 2007, first published *The Food Lover's Guide to Paris* in 1984. The book, with a wealth of recommendations and know-how on everything from restaurants and cafés to bakeries and markets, became an instant must-read for anyone visiting the City of Light.

Today, Wells's French *savoir vivre* is available to the next generation, thanks to the new Food Lover's Guide app for the iPhone and iPad.

"For years people asked me when I was going to update the book," says Wells. "My instant response was always an emphatic never!" But when the opportunity to turn it into an interactive app arose, everything fell into place: "It was as if the book I dreamed up in the late seventies was made to be an app," says the author, who splits her time between Paris and Provence. "We could add maps, sortable lists and had the ability to easily contact the restaurants."

She makes it sound easy, but in reality the app required revisiting the 350 restaurants, cafés and food shops listed, revising the articles and add-

ing new photos (shot by Wells and her team with, *bien sûr*, iPhones). Indagare spoke with Wells about her new discoveries in Paris and summer restaurants in Provence, as well as about bringing such a beloved source into the 21st century.

## As you were revisiting the addresses to include in the app, what were your favorite new discoveries?

It's been exciting to see the restaurant scene change in the past years, with chefs moving to out-of-the-way neighborhoods and opening small, casual spots with reasonable prices and simple menus featuring ultrafresh ingredi-

ents. Paris has also recently seen restaurants staying open seven days a week, a whole new—and much appreciated—concept in this city.

**If you had the power to keep a handful of Paris restaurants open for eternity, which would they be?**

This is tough, so I am listing those that have stood the test of time that I have known and loved for years: Guy Savoy, Le Pré Catelan, Atelier de Joel Robuchon Saint-Germain, As-trance and Ze Kitchen Galerie.

**Which Paris neighborhood do you find most exciting at the moment?**

The 9th and 10th arrondissements are hopping with all sorts of new spots, and the Saint Germain area has also welcomed several new and wonderful restaurants. To my mind, the city has never been more alive and energetic, with lots of youthful input and enthusiasm.

**Do you think Le Fooding is a trendy fad or is here to stay?**

I actually don't like the term Le Fooding and do believe it is a trendy fad. Too much is made of young chefs using "fresh" ingredients, as if they invented freshness. Chefs have been sourcing fresh local

ingredients for ages; this is not a new concept. However, there are a handful of places who approach this new wave with their own personality and point of view: Spring, Saturne, Septime, Agapé Substance, Akrame, Chateaubriand, Le Dauphin, Frenchie and Vivant.

**Which restaurants would make your Top Five list for summer in Provence?**

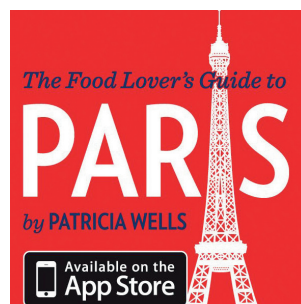
Le Pré du Moulin, in Serignan du Comtat in the Vaucluse; Le Grand Pré and Les Abeilles, outside Vaison-la-Romaine; Le Bistrot du Paradou, near Les Baux; and lunch on the terrace at L'Oustau de Beaumanière, especially for its incredible tomato menu.

**What is your favorite French dining ritual?**

The first sip of Champagne and a toast with friends and family as we sit at the table.

**You are a passionate runner. What are some of your favorite jogging routes in Paris?**

I used to say that if you ran five miles before 9 AM, nothing bad could happen to you the rest of the day. For our first twenty-five years in Paris, I had a ritual of running in Parc Monceau, in the 8th arrondissement near our Right Bank apartment. For the past



## The Food Lover's Paris

With this interactive app, foodies can search a large database of Wells' Paris favorites. Highlights include restaurants that are open on Monday; finding the best steak tartare, and tips for all arrondissements. If a place closes, changes hours or declines in quality, the information is instantly changed. *The Food Lover's Guide to Paris* is now available in the App Store.

ten years we have lived on the Left Bank, a fifteen-minute walk from the Luxembourg Gardens, which I love for its grandeur, history, size, and the ability to get a post-run Perrier or coffee at one of the pavilions in the park.

**What is your current project?**

I am currently doing what I always said I would never do: reporting and writing the newest installation of *The Food Lover's Guide to Paris*, due in print in 2014. ■

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Read the complete QA with Wells, as well as a complete destination report on Paris and many more foodie interviews at [Indagare](#).

# Interview with a Travel Expert

**Brooke Pearson**, the director of Indagare's Insider Trips, talks about her favorite destinations and shares travel tips and tricks.



## What was a destination that surprised you?

The Andaman Islands, a place that is so remote, so gorgeous and so raw—what I imagine Bali and Phuket were like fifty years ago. When I was traveling in Southern India, I kept hearing people rave about the Andaman Islands, so I bought a ticket on a whim and went for ten days. The Andamans are a group of over 500 islands in the Bay of Bengal that belong to India but are geographically closer to Myanmar and Thailand. Many islands are populated by indigenous tribes, and access is extremely limited by the Indian government, but the island of Havelock, which I visited, had a primitive tourist infrastructure and untouched beaches.

## You have done an around-the-world trip. What were the highlights and what advice do you have for planning a similar journey?

I spent the year 2007 traveling east—from London to India, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and finally home. With a round-the-world ticket of open-ended flights and a

very rough plan in mind, I had the ultimate freedom to explore and experience at my own pace. Young people now grow up with such a regimented and scheduled path to adulthood, and I believe there is significant value in having a break from that life to challenge yourself, have time to really think and reflect on your priorities and to gain a different perspective.

For anyone embarking on a RTW trip, my advice would be to not overplan (flexibility and spontaneity are rare elements of long-term travel that should be taken advantage of). Also, keep a journal, and don't feel guilty about having downtime to simply enjoy being in a place without rushing around to check items off your list. And engage others around you; make friends with strangers. Looking back, my 2007 trip seems like a yearlong dream, like a gift that I continue to unwrap.

## What were some of your favorite discoveries on recent trips?

On a recent Insider Trip to Cuba, I visited a *paladar* (restaurant in a private home) in

Havana's western suburb of Jaimanitas. Paladar Santi was in a small home on the Rio Jaimanitas, which flows into the ocean. Dim lanterns hung over three tables that faced the water, and they served sashimi, tuna tataki and tartar sliced fresh from the chef's morning fishing trip. It was so unexpected and simple, but absolutely delicious. This spring, my boyfriend and I also

"Havelock, part of India's Andaman Islands, is a destination that truly surprised me. It had a primitive tourist infrastructure and stunning, untouched beaches."

spent a perfect long weekend in Savannah and at the Inn at Palmetto Bluff, in South Carolina. It's a gorgeous property; we attended a dinner featuring two Sonoma winemakers and had an incredible meal at Savannah's Local 11 Ten.

#### **What are the destinations to which you most like to plan trips for members?**

I wouldn't say that I have a favorite destination. Planning a magical first trip to Paris for a little girl can be just as rewarding as a multigenerational family safari to Tanzania. Our members

trust us with planning their precious free time, and it's extremely gratifying to create an inspiring and impactful experience for someone.

#### **Can you share some trade travel secrets?**

If my flight gets canceled, I call the airline from the airport instead of waiting in a dreadful line. When someone doesn't give you the answer you want, ask someone else.

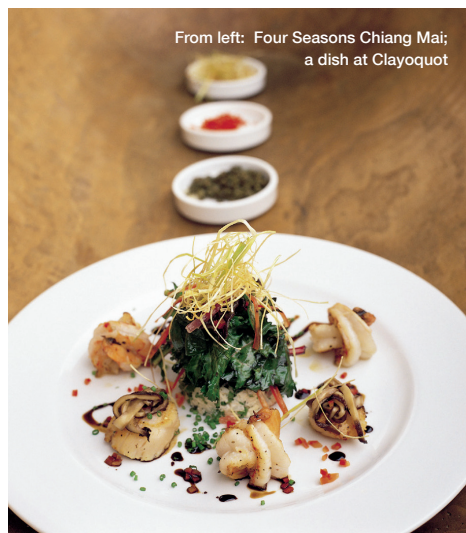
#### **What's a slam-dunk destination to you?**

Destinations that offer a little city time, a little beach and a little adventure: Thailand, South

Africa, New Zealand, Argentina/Uruguay.

#### **Where are you dying to go next?**

My list is so long! I have plans to visit Russia and Bhutan in the coming months, which I'm thrilled about. I'm dying to go to Myanmar, South Africa, Rwanda and Berlin, and my craving for Paris and Rome will never wane. I will also drop everything for an opportunity to go to Laucala, in Fiji, or Clayoquot Wilderness Resort (see page 26), in British Columbia. ■



From left: Four Seasons Chiang Mai; a dish at Clayoquot

# Wild About Clayoquot

Indagare member **Emma Pierce** traveled with her family and some friends to Vancouver Island's incredible wilderness resort. Here are her impressions.



**A**fter landing in Vancouver, we hopped on a seaplane for a 45-minute flight over spectacular views, keeping our eyes peeled for bears in the woods and whales in the water below. Once we arrived at the resort, we were greeted by the ever-friendly staff and rode in a wagon up to the “campsite”... though I don’t know if it is fair to call this camping. The resident dogs followed, as they would throughout our stay on the property, much to our delight.

All accommodations are tucked between trees and connected by elevated boardwalks, giving the impression of a series of tree houses. Though they are referred to as tents, our rooms

(the Deluxe Outpost Tents) featured thermostat—controlled propane wood stoves, antique furniture and beds with lush linens and down duvets. We were always comfortable and warm even during chilly nights, though mornings were brisk, especially while walking to the shower house.

If the beautifully rugged scenery is Clayoquot’s top highlight, its food is definitely a close second. Chef Ryan Orr cooks modern, natural cuisine, turning out meals so delectable and popular that Clayoquot has posted recipes on their website. Throughout the day there would always be a sprawling display of freshly baked



cookies and candy in glass jars. Keeping these jars full in such a family-friendly location is a hard task, but the exceptional staff manages it.

There are an abundance of activities on the property and on our first day we went on a whale and bear-watching excursion. We suited up in layers of warm clothing and a bright red full-body lifejacket. We piled into a pontoon boat that was so fast and powerful, we felt like we were on a roller coaster. My sisters and I loved seeing the bears, which were so cute we almost forgot how dangerous they can be. We visited Cow Bay, a feeding ground for grey whales and Seal Rock, home to dozens of seals



and a few boisterous sea lions. We also stopped on Flores Island where we hiked and enjoyed its beautiful beaches.

When I felt like unleashing my inner Annie Oakley, I shot rifles at clay pigeons and targets. Later, in an effort to get some tangible results, I spent an afternoon fishing, where we tested our skill (and luck) at catching salmon, sea bass and halibut. The catches were prepared for dinner for us that night, making the always-delicious cuisine even more special! While I maximized my relaxation time by reading by the fire some afternoons, my dad went on long biking trips and my sisters went horseback riding and had a blast jumping into the icy waters. A massage by the fabulous therapist was the ideal culmination of a either relaxing or activity-filled day.

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[For more on Vancouver Island, read our Destination Report on Indagare.](#)

## Vancouver Island Tips

Vancouver Island is rich enough as a region to entertain you for a week, but also makes a superb destination as a long weekend. Its beaches, rainforest trails and lively capital city, Victoria, are great for kids, while its sheer remoteness makes it unbelievably romantic. Victoria can be reached by high-speed ferry or seaplane from Vancouver (thirty-five minutes) or Seattle (forty-five minutes). Vancouver Island's weather is mild year-round, but the best time to visit is April through early October. Note: United States citizens should remember that they will need a passport to cross the Canadian border. **If you are planning a trip, contact Indagare's Bookings Team at 212-988-2611.**

“There are some cities that  
are overwhelmed by their  
history and monuments;  
Rome just absorbs them.”

*~Robert Kahn, architect*



# Rome & Beyond

There's a reason the Italian capital has figured on grand tours since Goethe's time. **Elizabeth Helman Minchilli** and **Simone Girner** visit *la città eterna*.

**W**hen we began researching the perfect quote about Rome for the back cover of this magazine, we could not agree on a single one. Too many writers, poets, artists and tastemakers have made poignant observations about the Eternal City. So we ended up with a page of many quotes. It seems fitting: Rome has always been a city of superlatives. It's a place whose incredible historic sights and monuments are full of ghosts: who can visit the Trevi Fountain without seeing the outline of Anita Ekberg splashing through the water in Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*? Who can look at the massive interior of the Colosseum without picturing the fierce games that took place here? Who can climb to the top of Castel Sant'Angelo without hearing the final act of Puccini's *Tosca*?

But, architect Robert Kahn, editor of the wonderful *City Secrets* guide series, points out that Rome is also a place where ancient history and contemporary life breezily coexist, where you can sip cocktails at a trendy bar while gaz-

ing upon a temple colonnade from the year 145 (that would be at Salotto 42, on Piazza della Pietra). There's nothing precious or roped off about the city, as evidenced by the fact that so many of its most exquisite treasures, from smooth Berninis to dramatic Caravaggios, are displayed in unassuming churches or palazzi that are off-the-beaten tourist path (stunning frescoes by Raphael can be seen in Trastevere's rarely visited Villa Farnesina).

Bustling, chaotic Rome continues to inspire today's visitors precisely because of its many faces: historic, cultural, religious, culinary, green, contemporary. Says the filmmaker Woody Allen, whose latest movie, *To Rome with Love*, was released in June (for a Q&A, see page 52): "The city itself is a work of art." In this Black Book magazine, we highlight the best of the capital. More recommendations can be found on Indagare.com. If you are planning a trip, contact our Bookings Team for personalized recommendations. *Buon viaggio!*

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## INDAGARE CHEAT SHEET

**Drink...**with a view at these rooftop lounges (p.41)

**Know...**what books to read and films to see (p.42)

**Splurge...**on a stay at one of Rome's top hotels (p. 32)

**Eat...**pizza Romana at these acclaimed restaurants (p. 37)

**Savor...**authentic Roman food at local trattorias (p. 37)

**Hunt...**for paintings by Caravaggio in these spots (p. 49)

**Learn...**about Roman history at these museums (p. 47)

**Read...**tips from Woody Allen's sister, Letty Aronson (p. 52)

**Shop...**for unique finds at these ten boutiques (p. 44)

**Explore...**the nearby coast (p. 39) and Tuscany (p. 34)

## WHEN TO GO

Spring and fall are the optimum times to tour Rome. The days are warm and sunny, so visitors can take advantage of the many outdoor cafés and restaurants with terraces. Summer is notoriously hot, and although fewer Romans are fleeing the city during the torrid months of July and August, it really gets too warm for an enjoyable extended stay.

## GETTING AROUND

Rome's city center is compact, so walking is the preferred mode of getting around. A walk from St. Peter's to the Colosseum takes an hour at a very leisurely pace (even allowing for a cappuccino stop). There are just two metro lines, which are practically useless for getting where you want to go. It's easy to call a taxi or get one at the city's many taxi stands.

## LAY OF THE LAND

The Rome of today is huge—almost fifteen times the size of Manhattan or Paris—but it is divided into seven distinct areas, scattered among Rome's seven hills. To make city navigation more complicated, many neighborhoods are known by more than one. Let this short guide be your key to understanding the city.

Original settlers were drawn to the region's location on a bend in the Tiber River, and the oldest historical sites exist in this area, the **Centro Storico**. Visitors can walk easily between the **Piazza Navona**, the **Pantheon** and the **Ghetto** located in the **Campo dei Fiori** on the charming, narrow streets.

To the northeast sits glamorous **Piazza di Spagna**, or **Tridente**, so called because of its three main streets shooting out from the Piazza del Popolo. The **Spanish Steps**, many luxury brand shops (on Via dei Condotti, Via Borgognona and Via Frattina) and famed hotels Hotel de Russie and Hotel Hassler can be found here. Neighboring regions include **Villa Borghese** (including Galleria Borghese), to the northeast, and **Via Veneto** (site of Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*

and most other films set in Roma) to the east.

To the east of the city proper is the **Quirinale**, or **Trevi** area, originally a residential neighborhood for the Roman Empire's rich and powerful (the pope had a summer home here) and now home to the **Trevi Fountain**. The **Esquilino & Monti** area, to the southeast, is one of the chicest in Rome, boasting cool shops and restaurants as well as the stunning **Santa Maria Maggiore** and **San Pietro in Vincoli**, which houses Michaelangelo's *Moses*.

The **Forum** and **Colosseum**, two stars of the Roman Empire, are located in the **Capitoline**, or **Campidoglio**, region to the southeast of **Centro Storico**. Like most of Rome, this area is best explored on foot and will enthrall visitors of all ages for the better part of a day (but eat elsewhere; restaurants here cater to tourists).

To the south is the **Aventine**, a pretty, tree-lined residential area for the well-heeled, and **Testaccio**, the bohemian, fun neighborhood, Rome's equivalent to New York's Lower East Side (it's home to MACRO, a cool contemporary art space). West of the Tiber lie **Trastevere** and, directly above it, **Gianicolo**. Once rural farmland, these are now residential alternatives to the bustling city, with a strong sense of neighborhood pride. The **Vatican** is not only its own neighborhood but its own country, in the northwest corner of Rome. The area includes **St. Peter's Basilica**, the **Sistine Chapel** and the **Vatican Museum**. Although it is to the west of the Tiber, the walk across any of the river-spanning bridges is quick.





Clockwise from top: reclining in stone; Castel Sant'Angelo; a peaceful corner at Aroma restaurant



## WHERE TO STAY

Rome's historic center, where most of the city's upscale hotels are located, can be easily navigated on foot. Here are some of Indagare's preferred options; many more can be found on the site. For help with reservations, contact our Bookings Team at 212-988-2611. The hotels in this report are rated as \$\$\$ (expensive), \$\$ (moderately expensive) or \$ (reasonable).

### LUXURY

**+** **Hotel de Russie**  
Arguably Rome's best address, the Hotel de Russie belongs to the Rocco Forte hotel portfolio (which also manages Berlin's Hotel de Rome and Prague's Hotel Augustine). Located on fashionable Via del Babuino, a stone's throw

**+** **Indagare Plus**

Members who book through Indagare receive preferential rates and/or special amenities at the properties with the Indagare Plus symbol. Indagare is also a Preferred Partner of Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts, which means that members booking through Indagare receive preferred rates, special amenities and VIP treatment at all of the brand's worldwide properties.

from the Spanish Steps and close to Piazza del Popolo, the hotel has modern interiors, an amenity hard to find in this history-laden town. The garden, which rises up a hill at the rear of the hotel, contains a lovely restaurant and provides guests with a tranquil oasis from the neighborhood's bustle. (There is no pool at the hotel). \$\$\$ *Via del Babuino 9; (39) 06-32-88-81. Read Indagare's review.*

**+** **Portrait Suites**  
The Ferragamo family originally branched out of the shoe and fashion business with a number of stylish hotels in its home base of Florence. They also own this wonderful hotel in Rome. Staying at this centrally located property is more like renting a private apartment: there is no lobby or restaurant, although the gorgeous rooftop bar and lounge make up for this lack. The discreet and charming town house is just off Via Condotti, the city's most important shopping street. The penthouse suite opens onto a private roof terrace outfitted with teak furniture. \$\$\$ *Via Bocca di Leone 23; (39) 06-60-38-0742. Read Indagare's review.*

# History 101: Roman Timeline

**753 BC**

*According to legend, Romulus and Remus found Rome*

**509 BC**

*The Roman Republic is founded*

## BOUTIQUE

### Babuino 181

In a fantastic location within walking distance of the Spanish Steps and Piazza del Popolo, Babuino 181 is the brainchild of stylish Alberto Moncada, whose noble family have been patrons of artists, from Caravaggio to Picasso. The three-story palazzo has just fourteen individually decorated suites, all come with king-size beds, spacious marble bathrooms and an understated, modern design scheme with beautiful textiles, original works of art and high-tech amenities. There's no restaurant or around-the-clock room service, but for independent travelers who want to feel like locals, this is a great option. \$. *Babuino 181; Via del Babuino 181; (39) 06-6992-1907. Read Indagare's review.*

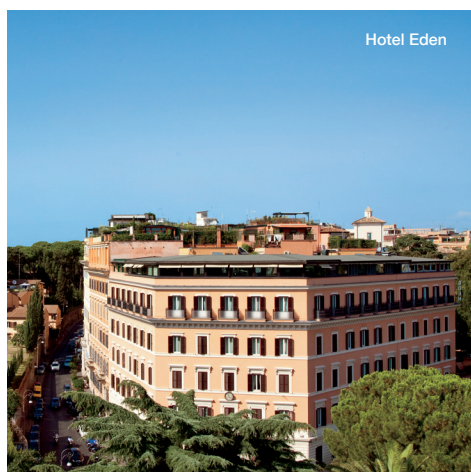
### Villa Spalletti

Nothing about Villa Spalletti, the home of a Roman nobleman, says "hotel." After you ring the bell, you're let in by a charming staff member and asked to have a seat in the gorgeous library. Interiors of the living spaces are tastefully



lavish, with polished antiques, wood-paneled walls and high ceilings. The twelve suites are uncluttered and on the small side; each features a unique design and color scheme, with beautiful fabrics and original art adding touches of personality and color. Six look toward the nearby Quirinale park. There's no room service or around-the-clock staff at Spalletti, making it a good fit for independent travelers who love the ambiance of a private home. \$\$\$. *Via Piacenza, 4; (39) 06-4890-7934. Read Indagare's review.*

For more hotel recommendations and reviews, visit [Indagare](#) or contact our [Bookings Team](#) to talk through the options: 212-988-2611.



Hotel Eden

## Hotel Matchmaker

*Many longtime devotees of Rome know that there's no such thing as the perfect hotel in the city (even the Russie is not an ideal match for many families, because of the lack of a pool). But the good news is that each property offers its own spin on the historic capital and has unique benefits.*

*Here's where to book if you are seeking...*

- ...a resort setting outside the city: **Rome Cavalieri**
- ...a lavish hideaway: **La Residenza Napoleone III**
- ...an old-world vibe and killer views: **Hotel Hassler**
- ...a classic with a rooftop terrace: **Hotel Eden**
- ...a hip scene and design: **First Hotel Roma**

# Castiglion del Bosco, Tuscany

This resort and winery in the Montalcino region has it all: vistas of rolling hills, glorious food and picture-perfect accommodations.



Perhaps no other Italian property has received as many raves from the Indagare community as Castiglion del Bosco, the Ferragamo-owned resort and winery in the hills of Tuscany. It has only twenty-three suites and is located an easy drive from both Florence and Rome, so reserve well ahead of time for trips during peak season. Here are some member comments that sum up how special this place is:

“I have been lucky enough to visit Castiglion del Bosco several times, and I highly recommend it. The location is fantastic: Siena, Montalcino, and Pienza are all very close. It is hard to leave the property, however. The views are spectacular and the decor of the rooms/villas are incredibly tasteful, elegant, and very comfortable. Every luxury awaits you but in a very subtle way. You feel as if you were a guest in someone’s Italian villa. The food is superb, and to take a tour of the garden and winery is something else. There are cooking classes available.”

“We stayed at Castiglion del Bosco last summer for one night. The resort is very beautiful, the vistas stunning, and the gym must have the best view of all of Tuscany! We stayed in the cottages next to the main house which seem roomier and airier. The service was very good and the food was excellent.”

“On our first trip to Italy, we visited the Tuscan town of Montalcino, known for its Brunellos. We stayed at Castiglion del Bosco, which was twenty minutes from the main town. The rolling hills of Tuscany provide some of the most picture-perfect scenes a photographer could ask for.” *Read more about the property.*

**GETTING THERE:** From Rome, the drive to Castiglion takes about three hours.

**WHO SHOULD STAY:** Couples and families looking for a classic Tuscan countryside escape are equally happy here.

## INDAGARE TIP:

Make the scenic, forty-five-minute drive to the Val d’Orcia’s largest town, Pienza, where you can tour the impressive cathedral and hanging gardens of Palazzo Piccolomini. Don’t miss the fantastic photo opportunities on the panoramic *passegiatas*: Via del Bacio (street of the kiss) and Via dell’Amore (street of love).

# Figline, Tuscany

Restoring this hamlet, perched in the hills of Tuscany with endless views of rolling vineyards, has been a labor of love for its dedicated owners.



**T**he Tuscan hamlet of Figline has been a labor of love since Joy and Max Ulfane first purchased the castle estate more than a decade ago. Lovingly restored, the property is now an incredible spot from which to explore this scenic southeastern corner of Tuscany, including the nearby towns of Montepulciano and Orvieto.

Writes Indagare member Thomas Harte, who visited Figline when it first opened in 2012: “Figline is surrounded by wooded countryside and well-tended olive groves, accessed by gravel roads from the nearest towns. You enter the village through an arched gate connected to the castle on a one-loop road. There are about fifteen buildings in total, including the five rentable villas, houses for the staff and long-term residents, a clubhouse and restaurant, a hall and a small church, which seems to have both new and restored frescoes. The castle itself dates to the 11th-century.

“Ristorante di Figline deserves a special mention. In the summer, there is an outdoor garden for alfresco dining. The beauty of Figline is its remoteness and solitude, which could also be the downside for some. It was ideal for my wife and me, but may seem a bit too remote for others (and driving up the hill’s switchbacks is a challenge after a few glasses of wine). We both felt it would be fun to return with friends and rent a few houses to get the best out of this extraordinary place. What the Ulfane family has done is not only remarkable—it is important.” *Read more about the property.*

**GETTING THERE:** From Rome, the drive to Figline takes about two and a half hours.

**WHO SHOULD STAY:** Couples and families looking for a remote Tuscan countryside escape; it’s also a great place for groups of friend’s looking to rent several villas.

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## INDAGARE TIP:

Figline is surrounded by many picturesque historic villages and towns, including **Montepulciano**; **Pienza**; **San Casciano dei Bagni**; **Città della Pieve**; and **Orvieto**.

## destination report: where to eat



Clockwise from left: Mozzarella at Obika; the chef at Aroma; alfresco dining



### WHERE TO EAT

There's something undeniably old-school about the Italian capital, especially when it comes to dining. Yes, there are some sleek restaurants with minimalist decor, but for the most part, visitors seek out the mom-and-pop trattorias of yesteryear or, in some cases, yester century. Here are some of the city's best; many more recommendations can be found at Indagare.

#### BIG NIGHT OUT

##### **Aroma**

Either lunch or dinner is memorable on the roof terrace of Hotel Palazzo Manfredi, thanks to its dead-center view of the Colosseum. Diners enjoy the innovative Italian cuisine while marveling at the smooth curves of the historic structure. **What's Nearby:** Colosseum. *Via Labicana 125; (39) 06-7759-1380.*

##### **Antico Arco**

With a magical setting, especially on a warm summer night, Antico Arco is perched high up on Trastevere's Gianicolo Hill. The menu is creative Italian, based on local ingredients Mama might have used, but with a contemporary flair. Oenophiles will love the robust wine list, but for those less familiar with wine, the restaurant is equipped with a knowledgeable sommelier.

**What's Nearby:** Villa Farnesina. *Piazzale Aurelio 7; (39) 06-581-5274.*

##### **Checcino Dal 1897**

Those craving traditional Roman cuisine (oxtail, wild boar) should make a reservation at this old-world favorite in a hidden corner of Testaccio, a fifteen-minute taxi ride from the historic center. The wine list is excellent. **What's Nearby:** Macro Testaccio. *Via di Monte Testaccio 30; (39) 06-574-3816.*



**507 BC**  
*Romans fight Etruscans (to the north)*

**434 BC**  
*Romans fight Etruscans again*

**390 BC**  
*The Gauls invade Rome*

### Jardin de Russie

One of Rome's most magical settings is the candlelit garden behind the Hotel de Russie. Dinners are formal and pricey, but the food and ambience is excellent. **What's Nearby:** Spanish Steps. *Via del Babuino 9; (39) 06-328-881.*

### LOCAL CUISINE: DINNER

#### All'Oro

In the residential Parioli neighborhood, this restaurant is not to be missed. **What's Nearby:** 20-minute taxi ride from the city center. *Via Eleonora Duse 1E; (39) 06-9799-6907.*

#### Armando al Pantheon

At this excellent trattoria near the Pantheon, the food is always fantastic and reservations necessary for dinner. **What's Nearby:** The Pantheon. *Salita dei Crescenzi 31; (39) 06-6880-3034.*

#### Felice a Testaccio

Ever since it was featured in *The New York Times* as "the best trattoria in Rome," Felice has been less of a find, but loyal visitors report that the quality of the food and atmosphere remains

high. **What's Nearby:** Macro Testaccio. *Via Mastro Giorgio 29; (39) 06-574-6800.*

#### Dal Bolognese

A favorite of Rome's jet set, Dal Bolognese serves great food in an unbeatable location on Piazza del Popolo. **What's Nearby:** Spanish Steps. *Piazza del Popolo 1-2; (39) 06-361-1426.*

#### Fiaschetteria Beltramme

This restaurant doesn't have a phone, doesn't take reservations and doesn't serve coffee. Yet it's charming and always packed. **What's Nearby:** Spanish Steps. *Via della Croce 39.*

#### Gli Ulivi

The owners of this local gem also run Umbria's Relais Gli Ulivi, which includes a vineyard and a farm, so the focus is on seasonal dishes. **What's Nearby:** A 15-minute taxi drive to the historic center. *Via Luciani 23; (39) 06-3260-0301.*

#### Sora Margherita

This tiny place in the Jewish Ghetto is open for lunch and dinner (weekends only). It's a great



## Top Picks: Gelato & Pizza

No wonder Rome is such a kid-friendly destination: its best-known food groups are ice cream and pizza. The debate over which places serve the most authentic versions rages; here are our favorite *gelaterias* and *pizzerias*:

To find the **best gelato**, try **Fior di Luna** (*Via della Lungaretta 96*), in Trastevere, for innovative, artisanal flavors; **Giolitti** (*Via Uffici del Vicario 40*), near the Pantheon for an old-world ambience; **Gelateria del Teatro** (*Via di San Simone 70*), near Piazza Navona, for an incredible assortment; **San Crispino** (*Via della Panetteria 42*), near Fontana di Trevi.

For the city's **best pizza**, head to **Popi Popi** (*Via delle Fratte di Trastevere 45*) and **Ivo a Trastevere** (*Via San Francesco a Ripa 158*), both in arty Trastevere and **Pizzeria Remo** (*Piazza Santa Maria Liberatrice 44*), a Testaccio institution that's right across the street from a park with swings, another reason it's a favorite with kids.

## destination report: where to eat



**312 BC**

*First aqueduct is built in Rome*

**264-146 BC**

*The Punic Wars are fought*

**60-50 BC**

*Caesar, Pompey and Crassus create the first triumvirate*

**49 BC**

*Caesar becomes emperor*

spot for Roman specialties. **What's Nearby:** Isola Tiber; 10-minute walk to Musei Capitolini. *Piazza delle Cinque Scole 30; (39) 06-687-4216.*

### LOCAL CUISINE: LUNCH

#### Babette

The courtyard of this restaurant, named after the film *Babette's Feast*, is a good spot for lunch. **What's Nearby:** Spanish Steps; Piazza del Popolo. *Via Margutta 1-3; (39) 06-321-1559.*

#### Caffè Capitolino

The Capitoline Museum's Caffarelli Terrace is a good spot to stop at after touring the Colosseum. **What's Nearby:** Colosseum. *Piazza del Campidoglio 19; (39) 06-6919-0564.*

#### Fleur

The restaurant of this concept store (see page 45) serves excellent light lunch fare. **What's Nearby:** Spanish Steps; Piazza del Popolo. *Via Bocca di Leone 46; (39) 06-6992-3705.*

#### Obikà Campo dei Fiori

This Obikà outpost on Campo Fiori serves the

freshest mozzarella di bufala. **What's Nearby:** Palazzo Farnese, Piazza Navona. *Piazza Campo dei Fiori; (39) 06-6880-2366.*

#### Open Colonna

This terrific restaurant occupies a glass-paneled space in the Palazzo delle Esposizioni. **What's Nearby:** 15-minute walk to Galleria Doria Pamphilij. *Scalinata di via Milano 9A; (39) 06-4782-2641.*

#### La Gensola

This is a good seafood restaurant in Trastevere. *Piazza della Gensola 15; (39) 06-581-6312.*

#### Pier Luigi

On a quiet street near Palazzo Farnese, Pier Luigi serves great grilled fish and meats. There are tables outside. **What's Nearby:** Campo dei Fiori. *Piazza de Ricci 144; (39) 06-686-1302.*

### NEIGHBORHOOD PLACES

#### Al Moro

Al Moro is known for its delicious food and grumpy owners (Fellini, a regular, gave the elder



From left: La Buvette; dessert at Fleur

## Il Pellicano, Porto Ercole

Many places with a glamorous past fail to live up to their legendary status. Il Pellicano is one that succeeds.



**A**rarity among luxury hotels, Il Pellicano, the cliffside resort in Italy's Porto Ercole, is a singular spot that continues, year after year, to merit its venerable reputation, particularly among romantics. Carved into the rocky coastline of the Monte Argentario peninsula, the pastel-colored, 50-room hotel showcases its sea views with old-world pomp. White umbrellas encircle the squiggle-shaped pool like daisy petals, while linen tablecloths reflect the sun from various rocky terraced perches.

The guest-rooms, divided between deluxe rooms, junior suites and deluxe suites, feature creamy neutral palettes, terra-cotta floors and floral upholstered headboards. The deluxe suites are the largest and offer the most-prized views of the sea from arched windows and small terraces, guaranteeing a breezy, romantic atmosphere. During the day, the most taxing decision is whether to lounge by the pool or take a dip in the sea. Everyone gathers for cocktails when the

coastline turns crimson at sunset. Do dress for the occasion, as the heavily Italian and French guest base will be outfitted to impress, especially for dinner at Pellicano restaurant.

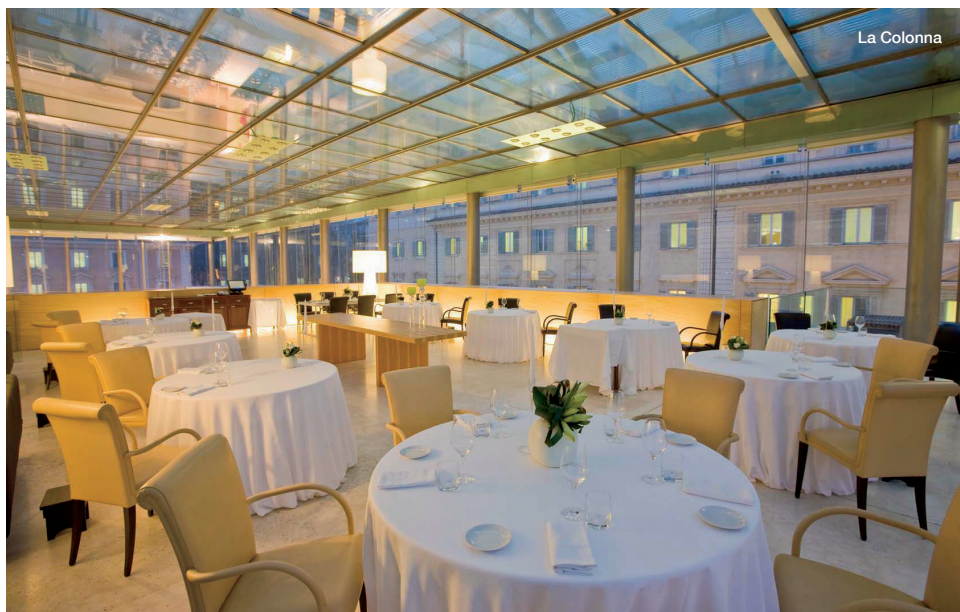
Raves Indagare's Paige M. Clarke: "Il Pellicano is absolutely gorgeous; it feels very exclusive without being obnoxious. Anyone staying here for more than two days should rent a boat for one of the days, as swimming into the little caves and jumping off the rocks is so much fun. Another great day trip is to La Feniglia beach or Ultima Spiaggia, both of which Il Pellicano can help arrange." *Read more about the property.*

**GETTING THERE:** From Rome the drive to the coast takes a little more than two hours.

**WHO SHOULD STAY:** Couples looking for a romantic seaside setting; some families but only those with older children (there's a minimum age requirement).

### INDAGARE TIP:

Visit Capalbio, a medieval hilltop village that is surrounded by park forest. Walking around the charming stone village is enchanting, and the views from the wall are divine. The best time to go is for the stunning sunset. Have a meal at **Da Maria**, which has a great view, or at **Frantoio**.



Moro a part in his film *Satyricon*). Favorite dishes include pasta al Moro (a light version of carbonara). **What's Nearby:** Fontana di Trevi. *Vicolo delle Bollette 13; (39) 06-678-3495.*

### Le Mani in Pasta

This wonderful small trattoria deep in Trastevere has an open kitchen where the charming young chef whips up some of the city's best pasta dishes. Expect a boisterous local scene. **What's Nearby:** Villa Farnesina. *Via dei Genovesi 37; (39) 06-581-6017.*

### Roscioli

This *salumeria*, wine bar and intimate restaurant specializes in artisanal meats and cheeses. The cozy candlelit dining room in the back of the store is a great spot for lunch or dinner. **What's Nearby:** Campo dei Fiori. *Via dei Giubbonari 21; (39) 06-687-5287.*

### COCKTAILS

#### Freni e Frizioni

Rub shoulders with Trastevere's trendy set at this garage-turned-bar-turned-art-space. *Via del Politeama 4/6; (39) 06-4549-7499.*

### Gusto Tati 'Al 28

Come for *aperitivo* and a snack from a buffet of delectable antipasti and small-plate dishes. **What's Nearby:** Ara Pacis. *Piazza Augusto Imperatore 28; (39) 06-6813-4221.*

### Salotto 42

This trendy spot on Piazza di Pietra attracts everyone from young hipsters to older sophisticates. Across the piazza is the Temple of Hadrian, with its ancient Roman columns. **What's Nearby:** The Pantheon. *Piazza di Pietra 42; 39-06-678-5804.*

### Il Palazetto Wine Bar

The alfresco wine bar on the fifth floor of Il Palazetto hotel is located at the top of the Spanish Steps, with perfect people-watching views. **What's Nearby:** Hotel de Russie, Babuino 181. *Vicolo del Bottino 8; (39) 06-6993-41000.*

### QUICK BREAK

#### Canova

This café on Piazza del Popolo is a top spot for watching the world stroll by and to enjoy a cup of coffee or light meal. **What's Nearby:** Spanish



**44 BC**  
*Caesar is killed*

**43-32 BC**  
*Octavian, Mark Antony and Lepidus form the second triumvirate*

**31 BC**  
*Octavian defeats Antony and Cleopatra and makes himself emperor, changing his name to Augustus*

Steps; Hotel de Russie; Babuino 181. *Piazza del Popolo 16-17; (39) 06-361-2231.*

### Casa & Bottega

The teeny dining room of this well-located gem teems with locals from the neighborhood who come for the salads, sandwiches and homemade cakes. **What's Nearby:** Piazza Navona. *Via dei Coronari 183; (39) 06-686-4358.*

### Dilla

Run by the same team as Buvette, this charming restaurant has a local vibe and is open on Sundays, a rarity in Rome. **What's Nearby:** Spanish Steps; Hotel de Russie; Babuino 181. *Via Mario de Fiori 41; (39) 06-6979-7778.*

### Panella l'Arte del Pane

This gorgeous bakery and café serves wonderful cappuccinos and pastries. **What's Nearby:** Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore; 10-15 minute walk to the Colosseum. *Via Merulana 54; (39) 06-487-2435.*

### La Buvette

This is the perfect spot to greet the day with a cappuccino and *cornetto* for a pick-me-up after shopping Via Condotti. **What's Nearby:** Spanish Steps; Hotel de Russie; Babuino 181. *Via Vittoria 47; (39) 06-679-0383.*

### Sant' Eustachio Il Caffè

The frothiest cappuccinos in Rome are whipped up at this classic. Afterward, head to nearby San Luigi dei Francesi church to see its Caravaggio. **What's Nearby:** The Pantheon. *Piazza di Sant'Eustachio 82; (39) 06-6880-2048.*

Many more recommendations for where to eat and drink can be found at Indagare. For help planning your next trip, contact our Bookings Team: 212-988-2611.



Hotel Raphael

## Best Rooftop Lounges

Rome's seven hills are best seen while sipping aperitifs at these lofty locations.

*Hotel Eden...has the city's most glamorous rooftop lounge; if price is no object, nothing beats a glass of pink Champagne there. Via Ludovisi 49.*

*Hotel Radisson Blu Es... has a roof terrace bar and incredible views of the train station and beautiful Porta Maggiore. Via Filippo Turati 171.*

*Hotel Raphael... is quaint and has a great location in the center of the city. Largo Febo 2.*

*Musei Capitolini...has a romantic terrace with stupendous views. Piazza del Campidoglio 1.*

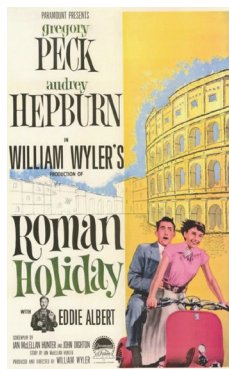
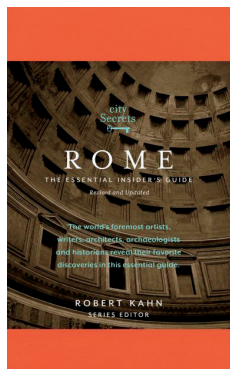
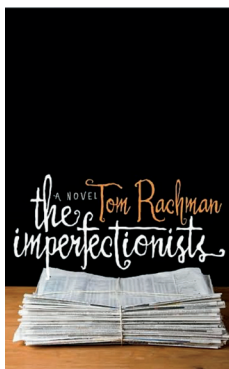
*Hotel 47...offers Tiber views. Via Petroselli 47.*

*Palazzo delle Esposizioni...has a great bar overlooking the Quirinale and surrounding area. Via Nazionale 194.*

destination report: library

# What to Read & View

“O Rome! my country! city of the soul!” ~Lord Byron



## FICTION

### **Pompeii, Robert Harris, 2003**

A fictionalized account of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius that destroyed Pompeii.

### **Italian Hours, Henry James, 1909**

A compilation of the author's essays on Italy, including many on Rome, from 1872 to 1909.

### **Masters of Rome, Colleen McCullough, 1990-2007**

A fictional series set in Rome's late republic.

### **The Imperfectionists, Tom Rachman, 2010**

A story about an English-language newspaper based in Rome, and the cast of characters that runs it.

### **The Agony and the Ecstasy, Irving Stone, 1961**

A riveting fictional account based on the struggles Michelangelo faced as he painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

## NONFICTION

### **Whispering City, R. J. B. Bosworth, 2011**

A look at Rome's most important historical figures and monuments.

### **The Smiles of Rome, Susan Cahill, 2005**

Passages from 29 sources, ranging from Ovid to John Updike.

### **Rome and Environs, An Archaeological Guide, Filippo Coarelli, 2008**

A guide that leads visitors around Rome's myriad archaeological sites, with easy-to-read maps.

### **Four Seasons in Rome, Anthony Doerr, 2008**

A memoir of the author's experience as a fellow at the American Academy in Rome.

### **Caravaggio: A Life Sacred and Profane, Andrew Graham-Dixon, 2010**

Biography of the brilliant but deeply troubled artist.

### **Rome, Robert Hughes, 2011**

A memoir and guide to the city by one of the world's most respected art historians.

### **City Secrets Rome, 2011**

A guide to Rome's most magical sights, by a range of specialists, from architects to professors.

### **A Cabinet of Roman Curiosities, J. C. McKeown, 2010**

Fantastic miscellany from all of Rome's eras.

### **City of the Soul, A Walk in Rome, William Murray, 2003**

From a writer for *The New Yorker*, a memoir about his childhood growing up in Rome.

## FILM

### **Roman Holiday, 1953**

In Audrey Hepburn's first feature role, she plays a princess exploring the Eternal City with Gregory Peck.

### **Ben Hur, 1959**

This classic about chariot racing in ancient Rome was famously expensive and earned eleven Oscars.

### **La Dolce Vita, 1960**

Written and directed by Fellini, this story of "the sweet life" famously features a romp in the Trevi Fountain.

### **Fellini's Roma, 1972**

The city is the star in Fellini's impressionistic, often autobiographical celebration of the Italian capital.

### **Gladiator, 2000**

Russell Crowe's turn as a gladiator in ancient Rome features a fabulous recreation of the Colosseum.

### **Angels & Demons, 2009**

Dan Brown's bestselling novel centers on a conspiracy in the Vatican; the film, starring Tom Hanks, crisscrosses Rome's best-known sites.

### **Eat Pray Love, 2010**

Julia Roberts plays Liz Gilbert, who took a year to travel the world, beginning in Rome, where she studied Italian and ate her way around the city.

# Le Sirenuse, Amalfi Coast

To many, Positano *is* Le Sirenuse, the legendary property that has been expertly run by the Sersale family for nearly six decades.



Since it opened as an *albergo* in 1951, Le Sirenuse has garnered an international reputation, living up to the hype with Italian aplomb. The sixty-two-room property is built into the steep hillside of Positano, whose stacked tangle of pastel-colored houses, lush gardens and crumbling palazzos look like a cross between the works of Egon Schiele and Dr. Seuss. In contrast to the frenzied setting, the Sirenuse exudes serenity; it's the kind of place where you audibly exhale upon arrival and vow not to leave for the remainder of your stay.

Many details remind one that this was once a handsome private estate: rooms throughout are filled with museum-worthy antiques. The many terraces, patios and sitting areas are lined with heavy terra-cotta pots and urns, which are planted with lemon trees and fragrant flowers. But even though the decor is classic Positano, with ceramic-tile floors, antiques and tasteful furnishings, the Sirenuse is not stuck in the

past, thanks in large part to general manager Antonio Sersale. Under his guidance, a high-tech spa and buzzy Champagne and oyster bar were added, and both draw a chic young crowd.

The pool area, on a large terrace overlooking the sea, is one of the most delicious spots for relaxing: sitting on one of the white poolside lounges, it's easy to feel as if you're on the deck of a giant boat. As honeymooners figure prominently among guests, many guests rarely emerge from their suites. The lovely staff is happy to arrange day trips. *Via Cristoforo Colombo 30; (39) 089-875-066. Read more about the property.*

**GETTING THERE:** The high-speed train to Naples takes a little over an hour. From Naples the drive to Positano takes about 1-1/2 hours.

**WHO SHOULD STAY:** Romantics, sybarites, art aficionados and those willing to splurge on one of Italy's most fabled resorts.

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## INDAGARE TIP:

Illuminated by hundreds of candles every night, **La Sponda** restaurant is one of the coast's most romantic spots for dinner. Shoppers, meanwhile, should head to **Emporio**, the stylish boutique curated by Le Sirenuse.

## destination report: where to shop



Clockwise: Fleur concept boutique; Soledad Twombly in her atelier; Re(f)use

## WHERE TO SHOP

Rome is not a shopping mecca like Florence or Milan, but there are some lovely independent boutiques. The best shops are clustered in Tridente; the area's most famous thoroughfare is the eternally packed Via de Condotti, which is chockablock with designer brands. It pays, however, to head down smaller streets and discover where real Romans shop. Here are the ones not to miss.

### FASHION & ACCESSORIES

#### Adriana Campanile

Fashionable Romans share the address of this shoe fetishist's fantasy shop only their best friends. *Viale Parioli 178; (39) 06-807-0951.*

#### Daive Cenci

The Cenci family has been dressing fashionable Italians for eighty-plus years. At this flagship you'll find the largest selection of their clothes, as well as brands like Burberry and Ralph Lauren. *Via Campo Marzio 1-7; (39) 06-699-0681.*

#### Laura Urbinati

This is the top swimsuit shop in the city—a must for anyone in Rome on their way to Capri, Amalfi or anyplace along the Mediterranean. *Via dei Banchi Vecchi 50A; (39) 06-6813-6478.*

#### Re(f)use

This eco-concept store is the brainchild of Ilaria Venturini Fendi, whose Carmina Campus



**14 AD**  
*Augustus dies*

**37**  
*Caligula is crowned emperor*

**41**  
*Caligula is killed and replaced by Claudius*

**64**  
*Saint Peter is martyred*

project produces accessories, furniture and design pieces made from recycled, re-used and re-fashioned materials. *Via Fontanella Borghese 40; (39) 06-6813-6975.*

**Saddlers Union**

Saddlers Union sells beautiful hand-made leather accessories, including lovely bags, wallets and belts. This shop was the Gucci of the 1950s, but it didn't grow into a global brand. *Via Margutta 11; (39) 06-3212-0237.*

**Sole**

Stylish Roman women head to Soledad Twombly's atelier for her feminine, one-of-a-kind creations that flatter and impress. By appointment only. *Via Gregoriana 3; (39) 06-6992-4512.*

**FOR THE HOME/DESIGN**

**Fleur**

This sleek concept store carries everything from photography books and perfumed candles to furniture and sumptuous fabrics. There's a tea salon and restaurant on the premises. *Via Bocca di Leone 46; (39) 06-6992-3705.*

**Ilaria Miani**

The designer who has decorated some of Tuscany's most stylish houses takes an artisanal approach to her furnishings. Most of her designs can be taken apart, so are easy to transport. *Via di Monserrato 35; (39) 06-683-3160.*

**La Bottega del Marmoraro**

At this artist's workshop you can buy slabs of marble engraved with either a name or a proverb. Think of it as a little piece of Rome. *Via Margutta 53B; (39) 06-320-7660.*

**TAD**

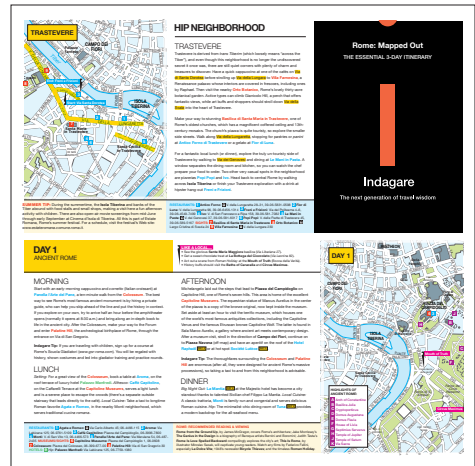
This concept store has a bit of everything, from

trendy clothing and accessories to whimsical plates, vases and fabrics. *Via del Babuino 155/A; (39) 06-3269-5131.*

**White Gallery**

Part of an urban redevelopment project in the EUR district (a half-hour taxi ride from the city center), this massive concept store mixes luxury brands (Lanvin, Jil Sander, Yamamoto) with up-and-coming labels. There are also some upscale food outlets. *Piazza Guglielmo Marconi 18/19. (39) 06-5247-7400.*

Many more shopping recommendations, including best boutiques for jewelry, paper and gourmet finds can be found on Indagare.



**Mapped Out: Rome**

Rome is one of the Indagare community's favorite cities. We have designed itineraries for so many members (and benefited from their feedback) that we have created a **Mapped Out: Rome**, an essential three-day itinerary. The Mapped Out series is part city guide, part city map, breaking down the destination into three insider itineraries with hotel, restaurant and shopping suggestions marked on maps. You can order **Mapped Out: Rome** (\$12.95) at the Indagare Souk. Those who want a custom itinerary, which will include our favorite guides as well as special family activities, should contact our Bookings Team (bookings@indagare.com).



Trevi Fountain

## WHAT TO SEE & DO

Rome is one of those places that harbor treasures from seemingly every historic period yet also incorporate them into contemporary life. Says City Secrets founder Robert Kahn: “There are some cities that are overwhelmed by their history and monuments; Rome just absorbs them.” The cultured traveler can spend a lifetime making discoveries—big and small—in *la città eterna*; here are some of the highlights not to miss. It is not recommended, however, to try and stuff them all into one trip; instead, choose a handful and plan in time to soak in the Roman mix of past and present-tense at an outdoor café, mingling with the locals and just ambling through the stunning capital.

### ANCIENT ROME

#### Colosseum

“The Coliseum is unlike any work of human hands I ever saw before,” Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote in 1818. Constructed between A.D. 70 and 80, the structure is an icon of imperial Rome and remains an engineering feat. Advance tickets or going with a guide is key.

#### Palatine Hill/The Forum

After touring the Colosseum, walk to the Forum and enter Il Palatino (Palatine), the archeological birthplace of Rome, through the “back entrance” on Via Gregorio. Ancient highlights not to miss: Arch of Constantine; Basilica Julia; Cryptoporticus; Domus Augustana; Domus Flavia; House of Livia; Septimius Severus; Temple of Jupiter; Temple of Saturn and the Via Sacra.

#### Museo Capitolino

The Capitoline Museums are a group of art and archeological museums located on top of Capitoline Hill in the Piazza del Campidoglio. The architectural plan for the space was conceived by Michelangelo in 1536 and executed over the course of 400 years. The museums contain a number of ancient Roman statues, including of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. *Piazza del Campidoglio*; (39) 06-6710-2071.

#### Ara Pacis

Richard Meier has left his mark on Rome with the museum surrounding the Ara Pacis. The altar to peace, commissioned by the Emperor

64

Rome's slums burn, a massive tragedy

67

Saint Paul is killed as martyr



70-82

Colosseum is constructed

79

Vesuvius erupts, destroying Pompeii and Herculaneum

Augustus in the first century B.C., has superb bas-relief. The contrast between the window-clad contemporary architecture and the ancient monument is remarkable. *Lungotevere in Augustus*; (39) 06-8205-9127.

## CLASSIC ROME

### Pantheon

The Pantheon's columned façade and 141-foot dome have remained intact since its completion in AD 2nd century. Numerous artists and composers are entombed here, including Raphael and Corelli. During Pentecost, Roman firemen climb the roof at the end of the service and drop red rose petals through the oculus. *Piazza della Rotonda*.

### Fontana di Trevi

This massive Baroque fountain, which rises higher than 85 feet, has been featured in many films and draws crowds of tourists. Reportedly some €3,000 worth of coins are tossed into its turquoise water every day (if you come early in the morning, you can observe city workers fishing out the loot). *Piazza di Trevi*.

### Piazza Navona

Tourist hordes and bad restaurants somewhat diminish the visitor's experience, but seek out Bernini's incredible Fountain of the Four Rivers, with its obelisk at the center of the piazza. The four rivers represented are the Nile, Danube, Ganges and Plate.

### Castel Sant'Angelo

Originally constructed as a tomb by the Emperor Hadrian, Sant'Angelo served as a papal fortress, as well as a prison. It's the famous backdrop of the last scene of the opera *Tosca*; the underground Passetto di Borgo, which connects the castle to St. Peter's Basilica, made an

appearance in Dan Brown's novel *Angels and Demons*. It's touristy but offers wonderful views. *50 Lungotevere Castello*; (39) 06-681-9111.

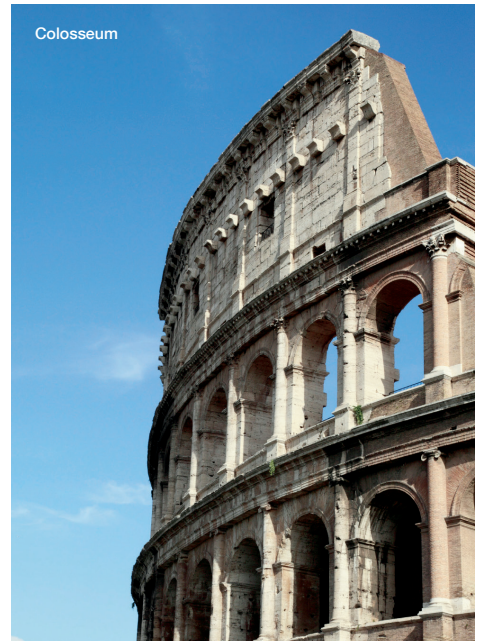
## ART-FILLED ROME

### Galleria Borghese

The city's finest collection of Baroque art is housed in a beautiful palazzo. The rooms, adorned with frescoes and gilt carvings, are the perfect showcase for Bernini, Raphael, Canova and Caravaggio. Reservations are mandatory. *Villa Borghese Park*; (39) 06-32810.

### Palazzo Doria Pamphili

This stunning palazzo and museum contains two works by Caravaggio and Velázquez's portrait *Pope Innocent X*. Opening hours vary; visit the museum Web site for details. *Piazza del Collegio Romano 2*; (39) 06-679-7323.



Colosseum



### Villa Farnesina

This Renaissance villa is located in Trastevere and has glorious interiors decorated with frescoes, including Raphael. It was built in the early 16th century for Sienese merchant Agostino Chigi, who was known for his lavish lifestyle. *Via della Lungara 230; (39) 06-680-27268.*

## VATICAN CITY

The world's most visited religious destination, Vatican City is a massive place to tour. (As at the Colosseum, it pays to arrange for a tour guide.) The incredible treasures include the **Sistine Chapel**, the **Gallery of Maps**, the **Raphael Room** and the **Niccoline Chapel**. Two of the most visited museums are the **Vatican Pinacoteca**, housing masterpieces by Caravaggio, Cresspi, Giotto, da Vinci, Raphael, Tiziano and Veronese; and the **Pio-Clementino**, containing Greek and Roman sculpture.

After your museum visit, head to the imposing late-Renaissance **St. Peter's Basilica**, the world's largest Christian church and most important Catholic site. Go with a guide or a good book about the church's interior: there is so much to see it's easy to miss one of the

treasures, which include works by Bernini and Michelangelo. **Indagare Tip:** if you know which day you want to visit the museums, you can book time-slot tickets online (*biglietteriamusei.vatican.va*), which allows you to jump ahead of the line. Note that visiting the **Vatican Gardens** is possible only if you sign up for a guided tour.

## RELIGIOUS ROME

### San Luigi dei Francesi

The national French church of Rome, built during the Renaissance in honor of the Virgin Mary and Louis IX of France contains Caravaggio's "St. Matthew" cycle of paintings. *Piazza San Luigi dei Francesi.*

### Sant'Ignazio

Look for the incredible trompe l'oeil on the ceiling. If you stand on strategically placed discs along the nave and look up, the cupola seems to collapse. Think of it as the Renaissance's version of seeing a film in 3D. *Piazza di Sant'Ignazio.*

### Sant'Agostino

Not far from the Piazza Navona, this is one of the first Roman Renaissance churches.



**c. 125 AD**  
*Pantheon is built*

**135-9 AD**  
*Castel Sant'Angelo is built*

**c. 217 AD**  
*Baths of Caracalla are built*

**313 AD**  
*Constantine issues the Edict of Milan, allowing Christianity*

The exterior is simple—architect Giacomo di Pietrasanta built the façade with marble taken from the Colosseum. But inside, the unassuming church contains the *Madonna di Loreto* (“Madonna of the Pilgrims”), one of Caravaggio’s most important and influential canvases as well as stunning works by other Renaissance artists. *Piazza Sant’Agostino*.

### Santa Maria del Popolo

This glorious church contains two Caravaggio paintings: *Crucifixion of Saint Peter* and *Conversion of Saint Paul*. This church is close to the steps that lead up to leafy Pincian Hill. *Piazza del Popolo 12*.

**Santa Maria in Vallicella** (also known as Chiesa Nuova)

Between Piazza Navona and Campo dei Fiori, don’t miss this Baroque church, housing Barocci’s stunning painting *Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple*. Adjacent, Casa dei Filipini includes an oratory designed by Francesco Borromini.

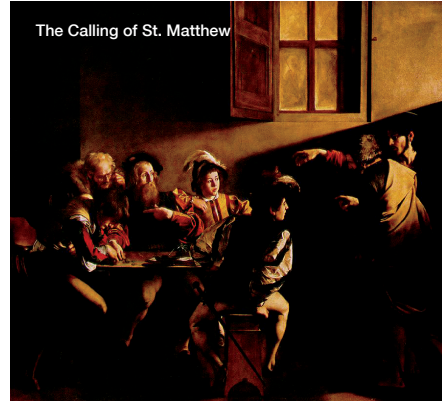
## GREEN ROME

### Villa Borghese

In Italian, the word “villa” refers to a country estate (not just a single building), so the “Villa Borghese” is actually the entire 148-acre park surrounding the palazzo that houses the Galleria Borghese. It’s a beautiful leafy enclave in the middle of Rome and perfect for a stroll, jog or picnic near one of its many fountains.

### Orto Botanico

After a visit to Trastevere’s stunning Villa Farnesina, walk to Rome’s thirty-acre Botanical Gardens, which comprise a lovely Japanese garden as well as several greenhouses. *Largo Cristina di Svezia 24*.



## Finding Caravaggio

The Baroque artist (1571–1610) was known for bad behavior and spectacular talent. One of his patrons, Cardinal Borghese, lived in Rome, as did the artist himself (until he fled after killing a man). Here’s where to find his works in the city.

**Where:** Galleria Borghese (p.47)

**What:** *David with the Head of Goliath; Boy with a Basket of Fruit; Portrait of Pope Paul V; Madonna of the Serpent*

**Where:** Capitoline Museum (p. 46)

**What:** *The Fortune Teller; St. John the Baptist*

**Where:** Palazzo Doria Pamphili (p.47)

**What:** *Rest on the Flight to Egypt; The Penitent Magdalene; Young Saint John the Baptist*

**Where:** Pinacoteca, Vatican Museum (p.48)

**What:** *The Entombment of Christ*

**Where:** Santa Maria del Popolo

**What:** *Crucifixion of Saint Peter; Crucifixion of Saint Paul*

**Where:** Sant’Agostino (p.49)

**What:** *Madonna of Loreto*

**Where:** San Luigi dei Francesi (p.48)

**What:** *Saint Matthew cycle*

**Where:** Palazzo Barberini (near the Quirinale)

**What:** *Narcissus; Judith Beheading Holofernes; Saint Francis in Meditation*

# destination report: what to see and do

**391 AD**

*Pagan worship  
is banned*

**476 AD**

*Western  
Roman  
Empire falls*



**609 AD**

*Pantheon  
becomes a church*

## Gianicolo Hill

The highest of the city's hills offers fabulous views. Active types can tackle a walk that kicks off at the top of the hill and snakes toward the Vatican, with spectacular views along the way. Make your way up to the Garibaldi Monument and follow Passeggiata del Gianicolo, which eventually turns into Via Gincolo. The path lets out at Piazza della Rovere and takes an hour and a half.

Alternatively, you can go by taxi a half hour before sunset to the Pauline Fountain. The terraced area in front of this magnificent late-17th-century fountain has one of the most romantic vistas in the world. Afterwards, dine at Antico Arco (see page 36).

## CONTEMPORARY ROME

### Maxxi

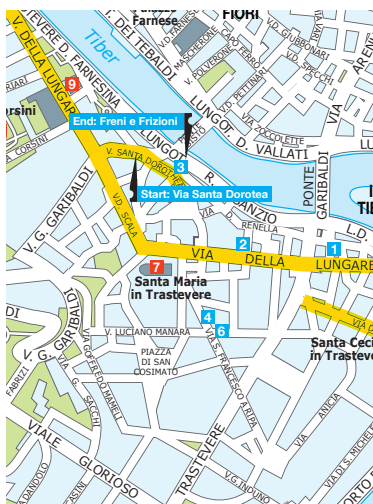
Take a taxi to Zaha Hadid's **Maxxi** museum,

opened in 2010 and located in a northern suburb. The collection includes Ruscha, Richter and Kapoor, but the real star is Hadid's architecture. *Via Guido Reni*; (39) 06-3996-7350.

### MACRO Testaccio

Located in a former slaughterhouse in the up-and-coming neighborhood of Testaccio, this outpost of Rome's contemporary art museum houses temporary exhibitions that include everything from installation and video art to photography and sculpture. It's particularly fun to visit during an opening-night vernissage when the neighborhood's nightlife meets the art world, and the whole thing transforms into a big party. *Piazza Orazio Giustiniani 4*; (39) 06-6710-70400.

[Read more about Rome on Indagare.](#) For help making your next Roman itinerary special, call **212-988-2611** or [email bookings](#).



## Neighborhood Walk: Trastevere

Trastevere comes from *trans Tiberim* ("across the Tiber"), and even though this neighborhood is no longer the undiscovered secret it once was, there are still quiet corners with plenty of charm and treasures to discover.

Have a cappuccino at one of the cafés on **Via di Santa Dorotea** before strolling up Via della Lungara to **Villa Farnesina**, a Renaissance palazzo whose interiors are covered in frescoes, including ones by Raphael. Then visit the nearby **Orto Botanico**, Rome's lovely thirty-acre botanical garden. Active types can climb **Gianicolo Hill**, a perch that offers fantastic views, while art buffs and shoppers should stroll down Via della Scala into the heart of Trastevere. Make your way to stunning **Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere**, one of Rome's oldest churches, which has a magnificent coffered ceiling and 13th-century mosaics. The church's piazza is quite touristy, so explore the smaller side streets. Walk along Via della Lungaretta, stopping for pastries or *panini* at **Antico Forno di Trastevere** or a gelato at **Fior di Luna**. For lunch, explore the truly un-touristy side of Trastevere by dining at **Le Mani in Pasta**. Two other very casual spots in the neighborhood are pizzerias **Popi Popi** and **Ivo**.

Before heading back to central Rome by walking across Isola Tiberina, have a drink at hipster hangout **Freni e Frizioni**.

# destination report: **timeline**



**800**  
*Charlemagne becomes Holy Roman Emperor, by order of the Pope*



**1096-9**  
*First Crusade*



**1300-1600**  
*Renaissance*



**1300**  
*Giotto comes to Rome to paint the Stefaneschi Polyptych*

**1348-50**  
*Black Death afflicts Rome*

**1498-9**  
*Michelangelo completes his Pietà*

**1506-1626**  
*Saint Peter's Basilica is built*



**1508-1512**  
*Michelangelo paints the Sistine Chapel's ceiling*



**1541**  
*Lutheran Reformation begins*

**1555**  
*Pope Paul IV confines all Jews in Rome to the Ghetto*



**1599-1600**  
*Caravaggio paints the cycle of Saint Matthew for the San Luigi dei Francesi*

**1701-14**  
*War of Spanish Succession*



**1723-5**  
*Spanish Steps are built*

**1732-62**  
*Trevi Fountain is built*

**1771**  
*Vatican palaces become museums*

**1792-1800**  
*Napoleon's Italian campaign*

**1808**  
*Rome is proclaimed a "free city" in Napoleonic Europe*

**1849**  
*Giuseppe Mazzini and Giuseppe Garibaldi found the Roman Republic*



**1861**  
*Kingdom of Italy is united as a Republic*



**1871**  
*Rome is made the capital of the Kingdom of Italy*



**1922**  
*Mussolini takes Rome and is given the premiership by King Victor Emmanuel III*

**1939-1945**  
*World War II*

**1960**  
*Olympic Games are held in Rome*



**1960s**  
*Sophia Loren famously quips, "Everything you see I owe to spaghetti."*

**1974**  
*Divorce is legalized*

**1975**  
*Fiat stops production on Fiat 500*



**1992**  
*Antimafia prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino are assassinated*



**2012**  
*Woody Allen's To Rome With Love premieres at the Cannes Film Festival*

# To Rome with Love

Letty Aronson, Woody Allen's sister and producer of his latest film, *To Rome with Love*, shares her favorite discoveries during filming on location in *la città eterna*.



Woody Allen's latest film stars such big names as Penélope Cruz, Alec Baldwin and Allen himself, but the true star is its setting: Rome. The Eternal City has never looked better than in this cinematic love story. Characters fall into and out of relationships, but the glorious ruins, romantic sidewalk trattorias and glamorous inhabitants of the city remain, well, eternal. Here, producer Letty Aronson talks about the filming and her favorite discoveries.

## How do you describe working in Rome?

To wake up every morning and go out to shoot in Rome's beautiful neighborhoods and amazing ruins is exhilarating. I never felt like I was 'at work.' Every day was filled with pure enjoyment because I got to be in such an atmosphere.

## What is Rome's best-kept secret?

Visiting Santa Maria del Popola, located in the Piazza del Popolo, is a breathtaking experience. The architecture is part Bramante, part Bernini, the dome is filled with mosaics by Raphael, and there are even Caravaggios hanging in the Cerasi Chapel. I also found the Maxxi museum fascinating, with its modern architecture by Zaha Hadid. About a twenty-minute drive outside town is Villa Quintill, home to ancient ruins and amazing stories. This is truly one of Rome's best-kept secrets.

## What were some of your favorite Roman restaurant finds?

You cannot have a bad meal in Rome. But a few of my favorites quickly became **Galura** (*Via Antonelli*; 39-068-072-971) for its outdoor terrace and fantastic seafood. The garden at the **Hotel de Russie** (*Via del Babuino 9*; 39-063-288-81) is a lovely spot for a drink or lunch. **Dal Bolognese** (*Piazza del Popolo 1*; 39-063-611-426) is a very trendy place with good food and a great location. The unassuming **Al Moro** (*Vicolo delle Bollette 13*; 39-066-783-495) and **Due Ladroni** (*Piazza Nicosia 24*; 39-066-861-013) also serve fantastic, traditional dishes. **Grappola d'Ora** (*Piazza della Cancelleria 80-84*; 39-066-897-080) has a delightful atmosphere, and the food is delicious.

## What advice would you give a friend traveling to Rome?

Don't race around trying to see everything, as this will take the enjoyment out of a trip. Walk all over the city and discover it for yourself, but relax—just enjoy the incredible sites, the food, the wine and the people.

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Read the complete interview with Aronson, as well as interviews with many more Rome insiders, at [Indagare](#). For help with your next trip, contact our [Bookings Team](#): 212-988-2611.

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“Rome was a poem pressed into service as a city.” ~Anatole Broyard

“Yes, I have finally arrived to this Capital of the World! I now see all the dreams of my youth coming to life... Only in Rome is it possible to understand Rome.”  
~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in *Italian Journey* (1816)

“Rome is the city of echoes, the city of illusions, and the city of yearning.” ~Giotto di Bondone

“From the dome of St. Peter’s one can see every notable object in Rome... He can see a panorama that is varied, extensive, beautiful to the eye, and more illustrious in history than any other in Europe.” ~Mark Twain in *The Innocents Abroad* (1869)

“In the Forum...if you get no sense of the sublime, you get gradually a sense of exquisite composition.” ~Henry James

“What is the fatal charm of Italy? What do we find there that can be found nowhere else? I believe it is a certain permission to be human, which other places, other countries, lost long ago.” ~Erica Jong

“O Rome!  
my country!  
city of the  
soul!” ~Lord Byron

“You fall in love with Rome very slowly, gradually, and then for life. In short all of Europe is only for looking, whereas Italy is for living.”  
~Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol

“Rome is like a book of fables, on every page you meet up with a prodigy. And at the same time we live in dream and reality.”  
~Hans Christian Andersen

“I have seen the ruins of Rome, the Vatican, St. Peter’s, and all the miracles of ancient and modern art contained in that majestic city. The impression of it exceeds anything I have ever experienced in my travels...”  
~Letters of Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1909

“The traveler who has contemplated the ruins of ancient Rome may conceive some imperfect idea of the sentiments which they must have inspired when they reared their heads in the splendor of unsullied beauty.”  
~Edward Gibbon, in *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1776)

“The Italian sensibility makes you want to tell certain types of stories. In Rome, there’s a built-in sense of enjoying life.” ~Woody Allen