

ISSN 2514-0787

LIVING ITALY

PAST AND PRESENT

Issue 3 Winter-Spring 2017



Piazza della Madonna, Loreto, Le Marche

Photo © GGH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	3
LE MARCHE	4
By Our Itinerant Reporter	4
WHERE TO GET A TASTE OF GENUINE ROMAN CUISINE	6
By Georgina Gordon-Ham	6
MINTURNO..	8
By John Jinks	8
SAVING A LEGEND: CINECITTÀ	10
By Georgina Gordon-Ham	10
MOZZARELLA LAND	11
By Rubina Montebello	11
TENNIS IN ITALY	12
By Georgina Jinks	12
BOOK REVIEW	14
IN OTHER WORDS	14
JOURNEYS THROUGH ANCIENT ROME	14
EXHIBITIONS IN ITALY AND ABROAD	15
FOOD AND WINE EVENTS IN ITALY	16
EVENTS IN ITALY	18

Editor

Georgina Jinks
gg@livingitalypastandpresent.co.uk

Graphics and Art Director

John Jinks
jj@livingitalypastandpresent.co.uk

Contributing Writers for this issue:

Our Itinerant Reporter
Georgina Gordon-Ham
John Jinks
Rubina Montebello
Georgina Jinks
Photographer GGH

Sales and Circulation Officer

info@livingitalypastandpresent.co.uk

Web:

www.livingitalypastandpresent.co.uk

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

.....

One normally associates spring with summer, and, likewise, autumn with winter. In our case we have looked at it from a different perspective bringing together summer with autumn and winter with spring. Our Winter-Spring issue focuses on rebirth from death to life. Life's cycle with life springing up again in whatever form.

Our sources of inspiration for this issue are, in particular, the effects of disruption either caused by nature or man-made. The former brings to mind the earthquakes, which recently hit central Italy, and the latter the brave people who gave their lives fighting to bring peace to future generations.

We invite the reader to enjoy this journey through living Italy past and present, taking time to pause, perceive, absorb and take pleasure in the beauty of nature and art. This brings to mind the words of John Keats in his poem Ode on a Grecian Urn, which perhaps in this case we should say on a Roman urn:

“Beauty is truth, truth beauty, - that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.”

It is a way of living and a philosophy of life in a country where human dimension prevails and is appreciated.

This is a periodical e-magazine covering a variety of topics from culture, history, places of interest, events, sport and more.



Articles are in English and, sometimes, also in Italian depending on the contributors. There will also be a limited number of paper copies. Please contact the sales and circulation officer if you are interested in purchasing any issues. Advertisements are most welcome as they help cover costs. Availability depends on space and size.

An addition to the LIVING ITALY PAST AND PRESENT website is the new menu option: LATEST NEWS and EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS (<http://livingitalypastandpresent.blogspot.it>), a supplement with regular updates for our readers.

The e-magazine has a blog page for comments from our readers. This will help us improve and broaden our spectrum.

All articles and photos are the copyright of Eurobridge Ltd apart from authorised copyright.

We thank all our contributors, advertisers, ENIT (the Italian Tourist Board), and all the other organisations for supporting us along this journey.

A special thank you to:
www.italia.it
www.enit.it

LE MARCHE

By Our Itinerant Reporter



Piazza Leopardi, Recanati

Like many parts of Italy, le Marche is a region with varied landscape according to its hills, mountains, flat land, sea and bordering neighbours. The undulating hills of Tuscany, for example, continue to flow across its border making it difficult to initially distinguish the two regions apart unless you are told where you are. For a long time the Marche, overshadowed by the fame and popularity of Tuscany, was considered off the beaten track.

This beautiful region, well known for its warm and welcoming people, its food, culture and natural beauty, has been badly hit by the earthquakes in central Italy. Although reconstruction and recovery started straight away, local mayors are afraid less visitors are likely to come in spite of their efforts to revive tourism.

It is hard to imagine that as the earth trembles below, alpine flowers carpet its mountain pastures in spring and early summer. Its valleys are covered with vivid green and beech wood, whilst lower down hedges and coppices emit perfume from scented flowers and shelter nightingales.

It has been considered an ideal location for peace and tranquillity. Hence, it is no surprise that the town of Loreto was chosen to have a shrine for pilgrimage. The Basilica hosts the

House of the Virgin Mary. Legend says it was carried there miraculously by angels all the way from Nazareth. Loreto has a most imposing fountain outside the church in the large square. Le Marche's history, culture and art go back centuries.

The region's famous poet Giacomo Leopardi lived a short distance away in the small hilltop town of Recanati, which was also the birthplace of the famous tenor Beniamino Gigli.

Ascoli Piceno with its medieval architecture and Palazzo Malaspina stands out for its treasures and uniqueness. The town of Urbino was one of the most brilliant courts of the Renaissance with its ducal palace.

For those weary of sightseeing, Le Marche offers some really delightful swimming resorts hardly known to tourists. The most beautiful part of the coast is the lovely Riviera of Monte Conero, a few kilometres south of Ancona, with its unspoilt landscape. Here the cliffs sheer dramatically into the Adriatic sea. There are some lovely coastal fishing villages, such as Numana and Sirolo.

The locals are proud of their traditional food and wines. Fish from the Adriatic is in abundance and excellent. One of the most famous local dishes is *brodetto di pesce*, fish soup, cooked with fragrant herbs and saffron from the meadows of the Sibillini mountains. *Ciauscolo*, smoky pork sausage, is another speciality. It is flavoured with fennel, garlic and *vino cotto*, a local non-alcoholic 'cooked wine' made from grape must with a unique sweet-and-sour flavour. It is served as spread on toast as an appetiser.



Monte Conero

Apart from Verdicchio, a light white wine faintly tinged with green, Le Marche now have quite a variety of wines, such as Lacrima di Morro d'Alba Superiore Querciantica, Casirano rosso Conero, and many others.



Monti Sibillini

There are many Sagre, harvest festivals, especially in summer, which promote the local produce. One of the best ways to visit the region is by car allowing the visitor to appreciate the beauty of the landscape and savour its delicacies. The locals will appreciate visitors who are not put off by the terrifying earthquakes which destroyed so many villages and works of art, and that their land has not been forgotten. They need all the help they can get to rebuild what they lost both for themselves and future generations.



Beniamino Gigli



"Sempre caro mi fu quest'eremo colle"
from L'Infinito by Giacomo Leopardi

WHERE TO GET A TASTE OF GENUINE ROMAN CUISINE

By Georgina Gordon-Ham



Fontana delle Anfore, Piazza Testaccio

While Trastevere has become more and more popular as a typical local and arty area, Testaccio has only just recently drawn attention and is beginning to be discovered by outsiders.

This district of Rome goes back to ancient Roman times. It used to be the City's trading area by the river Tiber. It derives its name from Monte Testaccio, also known as *Monte dei cocci*, where the remains of thousands of broken clay vessels ('amphorae'), used mostly for olive oil, were stacked during the Roman Empire. Hence, the Fontana delle Anfore, as the symbol of the neighbourhood, quite appropriately stands in the middle of Piazza Testaccio, which used to be famous for the city's market and slaughterhouse located just a few blocks away. Testaccio offers real Roman cuisine, and is famous for its *quinto quarto* (offal) and *coda* (ox tail).

It has been the heart of Rome's working class for years. The area is more like a village.

The main square suddenly animates in the late afternoon with children riding their bikes and playing football and elderly people congregating to chat and keep up to date on the latest gossip.

The best way to get to know Testaccio is to stroll about and find out what is hidden behind the ordinary looking façade. What helped us discover Testaccio was Eating Italy Food Tours. We were in a group of about six to eight people plus the guide. We all met by the Amphorae fountain in Piazza Testaccio, where we began our three hour stroll stopping at various places along the way to experience the real flavours of Testaccio away from the tourist crowds and have a glimpse of local daily life. The food tour offered *assaggi* (tasters), wine, spirits and beer, apart from a way to learn, eat and meet the locals.



Our next stop was TRAPIZZINO at 88 Via Giovanni Branca, where they serve their ‘piece de resistance’, the *trapizzino*, a thick, triangular pizza bread filled with a selection of *cucina povera*, and a regional craft beer, including “Duchessa”, known as Birra del Borgo. The last stop was just what the doctor ordered: ice cream, coffee and a digestive at GIOLITTI, 35 Via Amerigo Vespucci.

Our first visit was to L’OASI DELLA BIRRA, at 40 Piazza Testaccio, to start the evening with an aperitivo, which was *Aperol Spritz*. This is the latest trendy drink. The next stop was at MASTRO DONATO at 21-23 Via Luca della Robbia, who specialises in Roman Street Food, which, in this case were *fiori di zucchini* served in brown paper paired with Prosecco. Visit number three was to TAVERNA VOLPETTI at 8, Via Alessandro Volta, to taste cured meats (*lardo di Colonnata*, *culatello di Zibello* and *salami*) and different types of local chesses, such as *pecorino romano con miele*. This was followed by a longer session at RISTORANTE ANGELINA at 24a Via Galvina, on Monte Testaccio, to taste Rome’s famous *quinto quarto* (offal), *coda alla vaccinara* (oxtail) and *trippa alla romana* (tripe) with especially selected red wines. RISTORANTE ANGELINA is quite an unusual atmosphere, where you find yourself sitting in a kitchen, a garden or a lounge or even a combination of all three all elegantly displayed.



Trapizzino

It was a most enjoyable evening. The company was good and the guide was excellent. It helps to go about the first time with somebody who knows the area and the right places. It was a super stroll and highly recommendable.

See: www.eatingitalyfoodtours.com



Angelina

MINTURNO

By John Jinks



*“A foreign grave holds
Our pride and joy
He gave
His bright young life for us”*

Whenever we go to Sperlonga, we always visit the Minturno War Cemetery in remembrance of my uncle Laurence Haddon, my mother’s youngest brother, who died in the area in World War II as a grenadier at the young age of 24. He could have avoided the atrocities of those battles in southern Italy after having already served in the battle of Dunkirk, but youth is blind and cannot conceive death. He believed it was his duty to fight for a noble cause. To see these sites and pay my respects to my uncle, whom I had never known, and to those who gave their lives seems the right thing to do. It is a kind of pilgrimage.

What strikes one while walking along the silent aisles of gravestones is to see how many young lives in their late teens and early twenties were sacrificed for future generations. They are all maintained impeccably well: each gravestone is kept clean and well marked with fresh flowers and plants in the small flower-beds, lawns are mowed, trees and bushes are pruned. The Commonwealth War

Graves Commission is responsible for recording and maintaining the graves and places of commemoration. The Cemetery Register holds a remembrance book and some touching words left by visitors.



Young Laurence (“Bill”) Haddon

The fallen are remembered for their bravery. Progress through southern Italy was rapid despite strong resistance, but by the end of October, the Allies were facing the Gustav Line, the German winter defensive position, which stretched from the river Garigliano in the west to the Sangro in the east. It was not until 17th January 1944 that the Garigliano was crossed after several unsuccessful attempts to breach the western end of the line. Minturno was taken two days later. The burials are mainly

of those heavy casualties which incurred in crossing the Garigliano in January and in the ferocious battles around Monte Cassino.

Minturno War Cemetery, designed by Louis de Soissons, contains 2,049 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War:

United Kingdom	2,001
Canada	33
Australia	4
South Africa	2
Pioneer Corps of Southern Africa	9

The Minturno Commonwealth Cemetery is about 78 kilometres north of Naples, close to the coast. It lies south of the town on the Super Strada SS7 and is located at Marina di Minturno (Garignano).

Prominent ruins of ancient Minturnae lie adjacent to the cemetery, and include an Amphitheatre. These outdoor museums, called archaeological parks, are sometimes used for summer concerts and plays. Also right next door stands Il Postiglione (The Coachman), a refurbished hotel and restaurant overlooking the archaeological site. It is an ideal place to stop especially for those who wish to visit the cemetery and surrounding areas.



THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE



SAVING A LEGEND: CINECITTÀ

By Georgina Gordon-Ham



Cinecittà, the hub of Italian cinema, was founded in 1937 to revive the Italian film industry. Apart from an interlude during World War II when the studios were turned into a concentration camp and then into a refugee camp, Cinecittà resumed its film production activities and facilities in the early fifties reaching a climax in the sixties. Its studios attracted the world's greatest directors and most famous film stars to the Eternal City. It was the filming location for productions such as *Ben Hur*, *Cleopatra*, *Roman Holiday*, and several other films and famous actors. They were the studios most closely associated with Federico Fellini, who once said: "All encounters, relationships, friendships, experiences and travels for me begin and end at the studios of Cinecittà".



Far West Cowboys © Cinecittà World

Cinecittà, once known as the "factory of dreams" for its famous film studios, has been going through difficult times. Surging costs

are driving away foreign movie companies that are attracted towards more competitive facilities in Eastern Europe. There were a series of strikes by staff, who were threatened with redundancy. After a period of near bankruptcy, the Italian Government privatised Cinecittà in 1997, selling an 80% stake. In August 2007, a fire destroyed about 3000 m² of Cinecittà and surroundings, and a few years later another fire damaged Teatro 5, the vast studio where Fellini filmed *La Dolce Vita*. There have been various attempts to save the famous studios from these roller coaster rides, such as Cinecittà opening its doors to the public in 2011 allowing visitors to see various film sets ranging from ancient Rome to New York and Paris, walk through the permanent exhibition offering an educational and interactive environment about the fascinating world of film-making.

Both film and TV productions continued at the studios, including some foreign films, such as Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, Martin Scorsese's *The Gangs of New York* and Woody Allen's film *To Rome with Love*. More recently, Paolo Sorrentino's 2016 series *The Young Pope* was almost entirely shot at Cinecittà, including reconstruction of the interiors of the Sistine Chapel and Saint Peter's Basilica.

The latest attempt to improve the financial situation is Cinecittà World, Italy's first amusement park devoted to the art of the film industry, inaugurated in July 2014. Both Cinecittà Studios on Via Tuscolana and Cinecittà World of Castel Romano, just outside the capital, provide new perspectives on the history of Rome and the world of cinema. It offers entertainment to all ages. Attractions and rides are inspired by some of the thousands of movies filmed in Rome's famous studios. Dante Ferretti, a production designer and three-time Academy Award winner, designed the park. Ferretti, who had worked with film directors Federico Fellini and Martin Scorsese, said: "I wanted to pay homage to the great films that were made there."

It is no wonder that Rome will be holding its 12th International Film Festival from 25th October to 5th November 2017. The studios have become an important heritage.

MOZZARELLA LAND

By Rubina Montebello



Mozzarella, cheese traditionally made from Italian buffalo milk, received a Traditional Specialities Guaranteed Certification from the European Union in 1998 as long as it is produced according to a traditional recipe. The best mozzarella is produced south of Rome between the Pontine plain, the former marshland reclaimed in the 1930s, and the plain of Campania between Mondragone, Castelvolturno and Aversa.



Lago Lungo

This mild white cheese is mostly produced in select locations in the regions of Campania and Lazio, and in some parts of Apulia and Molise. Most people remember it on pizzas and as part of the ingredients of *Caprese* salad (meaning Capri salad) consisting of sliced fresh mozzarella, tomatoes and basil

leaf, seasoned with salt and olive oil. Although it should be made from water buffalo milk, it is also made from cattle cow's milk, the former being more expensive and more of a delicatessen. That is why restaurants often ask "which type of mozzarella?" Buffalo milk mozzarella is destined to be a rare treat for a number of reasons. First of all, there are not that many milk-yielding buffalos around. Breeding them requires both time and patience, including a perfect combination of climate and wide-open spaces. As a result, buffalo milk is in short supply and costs more than twice as much as cow's milk. Buffalo mozzarella is very rich in fats which is not good news for weight watchers. That is another reason why most of the mozzarella on the market comes from a blend, a milk mixture of which only 35% to 40% is from buffalo, which still retains traditional taste and texture.



View of Sperlonga

Buffaloes originally came from Asia; they may have been introduced into Italy in Roman times, but were already found in Lazio in the 12th and 13th centuries. Charles Dickens recalled the buffalo in the account of his travels through Lazio.

What really made them invaluable was their ability to survive the humidity and heat of summer. The presence of buffaloes in southern Lazio and northern Campania made them among the chief actors of the regions' social and economic development.

They kept waterways and drainage channels clear of weed. Until the turn of the 19th century, a town crier would periodically make his rounds in the seaside town of Terracina

warning the citizens which canals would be temporarily closed because “buffalos are going to be thrown in.” The animals were led down into the water in small groups and herded the length of the waterways. Their hooves would uproot the weeds growing in the canal beds as they went along.



Lago Lungo Beach

Buffaloes are still very much part of the scenery in the Pontine plain although the herds are considerably smaller than they once were. Their modern day role is almost exclusively to provide meat and milk. A farm dedicated to buffalo husbandry was locally known as *bufolareccia*. Some places around Sabaudia in the Pontine area are named after the buffalo including Bufalara, Porto del Bufalo and Bufolareccia.

There are some lovely seaside resorts in buffalo land, such as Sabaudia, San Felice Circeo, Terracina and Sperlonga. I would recommend Sperlonga, a coastal town in the province of Latina and Lago Lungo, a neighbouring area a kilometre away, with its lovely long wide beach about half way between Rome and Naples. The old town of Sperlonga standing on a rock above the sea, still retains recollections of the Saracens with its tower and narrow streets offering an incredible view. The Pontine islands can be seen in the distance, the largest one being the island of Ponza. Legend says that these islands and mainland shores were once visited by Homer’s hero Ulysses, and Virgil’s hero Aeneas. It has a museum built in the grounds of the former Villa of Tiberius showing groups of sculpture found in the grotto. Sperlonga is known to be the summer residence of “la Roma bene”, wealthy Romans, who try to get away from the more well known tourist areas.

TENNIS IN ITALY

By Georgina Jinks



Tennis is one of the sports that were introduced to Italy by British residents in the late 19th-century who lived along Liguria’s Riviera di Ponente, known as “the coast of the setting sun” extending westwards from Genoa to the French border.

The Bordighera Lawn Tennis Club was founded in 1878 by the British and is considered Italy’s first tennis club. Most tennis courts were in the grounds of private villas and tennis was considered a sport of the elite. Count Enrico di Cigala, whose mother was English, founded a tennis club in Turin in 1880. The first Italian clubs did not really have permanent premises; they could be moved from one location to another.

Rome had its first tennis club in 1890 and only had one court. This was followed by a tennis club in Genoa in 1893, one in Viareggio in 1896, followed by one being set up in Florence in 1898, in Arezzo in 1899 and in Palermo, Sicily, also in 1899. In 1902 they had the first female tournament in Florence. The first attempt to set up a national tennis association was in Rome on 16th April 1894, whose founder members were the tennis clubs of Rome, Turin, Genoa and Milan. The Chairman was Count Gino de Martino, who was a great tennis player and champion. Complications arose for the management of this association, as often its members were tennis players as well as tournament organisers making it difficult to combine both roles.



An unusual sight in Alassio of a red letterbox still standing just outside the entrance of the club

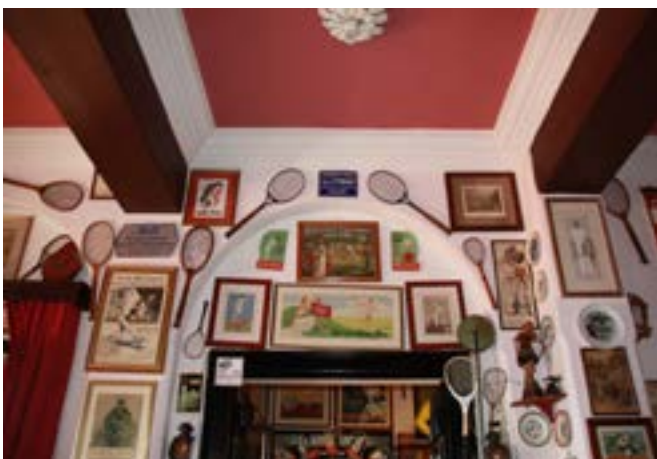
In 1922 Italy took part for the first time in the Davis Cup and in the Olympic Games in Paris in 1924. The sport grew in popularity.

However, tennis remained a sport for the elite for quite a while and the Côte d'Azur and the Riviera di Ponente were favourite tennis resorts. One of the few clubs, which remains more or less intact, and still retains its very British roots is the Hanbury Tennis Club in Alassio, founded by Daniel Hanbury in 1923. Most people remember the Hanbury family for Sir Thomas Hanbury's villa and gardens at La Motorola between Ventimiglia and Menton. Sir Thomas acquired more and more



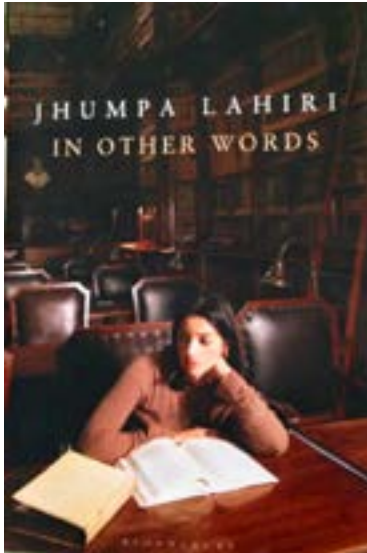
land along the Riviera, which was then split up between his sons Cecil and Daniel.

The historic Alassio Club House holds tennis memorabilia from the past with old photos, posters and tennis rackets hanging on the walls, including some old pieces of furniture. Another special feature are the English red letter boxes and phone boxes dotted around its grounds. Visitors will be fascinated to see this living tennis museum in such a Mediterranean environment. The town of Alassio has several memorabilia of its past British residents with its English library, tennis club, pharmacy and Villa della Pergola bringing past and present together in an unusual combination.



Daniel Hanbury

BOOK REVIEW



IN OTHER WORDS

By Jhumpa Lahiri – Bloomsbury Publishing - £16.99

Jhumpa Lahiri, a Pulitzer prize winner, shares her experience about learning Italian in Italian. The book was first published in 2015 in Italy as *In altre parole* by Guanda, Milano, and was first published in English in 2016.

The book is an interesting experience of discovery and effort as the author does her utmost to express herself through a new language. The author was fascinated by the Italian language to the extent that she literally took a full immersion by moving with her husband and children to live in Rome giving up the English language, both spoken and written, during her stay there. As a writer, she played with words. The ultimate challenge and result was to express herself creatively and write about her experience in Italian.

The book, translated by Ann Goldstein, is in a dual-language format. I would recommend the book to those who are learning Italian and to translators. It offers food for thought.

JOURNEYS THROUGH ANCIENT ROME

2 STORIES AND 2 ROUTES

A project by Piero Angela and Paco Lanciano

The lights turn on at the Forum of Augustus and at the Forum of Caesar 2000 Years Later.

Creatively using the remains of the Forum and the latest technology with special effects, viewers are accompanied by the voice of Piero Angela and the wonderful archive footage and reconstructions showing the places as they appeared at the time of Caesar and his successor focusing in particular on the imposing figure of Augustus, whose 12 metres high statue dominates the area next to the temple.

FROM 13 APRIL TO 12 NOVEMBER 2017

from 13 April to 30 April:

Timings: 20.20 – 21.20 – 22.20

from 1 May to 31 August

Timings: 21.00 – 22.00 – 23.00

from 1 September to 30 September

Timings: 20.00 – 21.00 – 22.00

from 1 November to 12 November

Timings: 19.00 – 20.00 – 21.00

Duration about: 40 minutes

Official website: www.viaggioneifori.it



EXHIBITIONS IN ITALY AND ABROAD

www.gallerieuffizimostre.it

ROME

L'ARA COM'ERA

Until 30 October 2017
Museo dell'Ara Pacis

The ARA PACIS as it was. Augustus, in his spiritual testimony, the Res Gestae, tells us of the Senate's decision to construct an altar to Peace.

The ceremonial dedication of the Altar of Peace took place on 30th January 9 B.C. It was built on the Field of Mars, which had recently been urbanized, and on which traditionally the manoeuvres of the infantry and the cavalry took place, and, in more recent times, the gymnastic exercises of the Roman youth.

www.arapacis.it

FLORENCE



PLAUTILLA NELLI, art and devotion in the convent

Until 4 June

Galleria delle Statue e delle Pitture degli Uffizi

Sister Plautilla Nelli (1524–1588) was a self-taught nun-artist and the first-known female Renaissance painter from Florence. She was a nun of the Dominican convent of St. Catherine of Siena in Piazza San Marco, Florence, and was greatly influenced by the teachings of Savonarola.

BRESCIA

FROM HAYEZ TO BOLDINI: THE FACES AND SPIRIT OF ITALIAN PAINTINGS IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Until 11 June

Palazzo Martinengo – BRESCIA

The exhibition displays about 100 works of art of the 19th century from Canova to Hayez, from Fattori to Segantini, from Inganni to De Nittis, from Appiani to Boldini.

www.mostra800.it

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS ON ITALIAN ART ABROAD

LONDON

MICHELANGELO AND SEBASTIANO

15 March - 25 June 2017

National Gallery, London

An extraordinary relationship and friendship between two great Italian masters, Michelangelo and Sebastiano del Piombo, producing outstanding works of art which neither could have created without the other. Some of these works are on display at this special exhibition, which includes paintings, drawings, sculpture and letters documenting correspondence between these two artists.

CANALETTO AND THE ART OF VENICE

19 May – 12 November

The Queen's Gallery
Buckingham Palace

The Royal Collection contains paintings, drawings and prints by Venice's most famous view-painter, Canaletto (1697-1768). These works were bought by George III in

1762 from Canaletto's agent Joseph Smith, British Consul in Venice.

The exhibition displays a selection of eighteenth-century Venetian art, with Canaletto's greatest works shown alongside paintings and works on paper by other artists, such as Sebastiano and Marco Ricci, Francesco Zuccarelli, Rosalba Carriera, Pietro Longhi and Giovanni Battista Piazzetta. The paintings at the exhibition include the Grand Canal and St Mark's Square, the city's festivals, theatre and masked carnival.

PARIS

VALENTIN DE BOULOGNE, RÉINVENTER CARAVAGE

22 February to 22 May

Hall Napoléon
Louvre Museum

Special exhibition on a French painter, who was considered one of the best French artists after Caravaggio. He also spent several years in Rome, where he was commissioned by Pope Urban VIII.

Sérénissime ! Venise en fête de Tiepolo à Guardi

25 February to 25 June

Cognacq-Jay Museum

A curious paradox when Venice of the 18th-century experiences a golden age of culture.

FOOD AND WINE EVENTS IN ITALY

SPRING

Spring is when nature starts celebrating with fairs, food and wine festivals.

FRITTO MISTO



22 April – 1 May
Ascoli Piceno, Le Marche

This event celebrates everything that is “fried” and typically regional, such as: Marche's “*olive ascolane*” (giant green olives filled with meat and deep fried), Sicily's “*arancini*” (rice balls filled with meat or peas), Neapolitan “*cannoli*” (sweet conical cakes filled with ricotta), “*frittura di pesce*” (lightly fried mixed fish) and much more.

www.frittomistoallitaliana.it

SAGRA DEL PESCE

14 May
Camogli (Genoa), Liguria

In the natural, picturesque, and exclusive setting of the small square of the port, the largest frying pan in the world will fry fish for guests and tourists, during the most typical Ligurian feast: the Sagra del Pesce. This traditional festival, started in 1952, is linked to the centuries-old festival of San Fortunato, patron of fishermen. The religious celebration takes place on the evening of its eve with bonfires. The people of Camogli, from the two districts of Porto and Pinetto, build proper, large scale sculptures, using waste material; they challenge one another in terms of creativity and beauty, on the two sides of the beach.

www.camogliturismo.it

SLOW FISH

11-14 May
Genoa

An international show completely dedicated to the fish world and its problems is organised by Slow Food and the Regione Liguria. It deals with matters concerning sustainable fish production and responsible consumption with regard to the sea and the aquatic ecosystems through conferences, meetings, workshops and tastings.

www.slowfish.slowfood.it

NIVARATA

2-4 June
Acireale, Sicily

Three day Sicilian granita festival dedicated to Sicilian ice cream as well as to the promotion of Sicilian top agricultural products and the food sector. Nivarata is a great line-up of events: conferences, food shows, workshops, handicraft, panel discussions, exhibitions, art displays and special guests. Acireale hosts master gelato makers and food professionals coming from all over Italy and abroad, including the UK.

www.nivarata.it

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



4 June
Nemi, Rome

Nemi is a medieval town in the Castelli Romani, 20 Km south of Rome perched on a hill overlooking the small volcanic lake of Nemi. It is famous for its wild strawberries, which are small, sweet and have a distinct flavour. Nemi has been hosting the Sagra della Fragola (strawberry festival) since 1922, when women dressed in the typical country costumes selling and offering visitors strawberries served in many ways, with fresh cream or ice-cream, in pancakes, in milk-shakes and liqueurs. You can also buy pieces of jewelry in the form of a strawberry pendant made by hand by local goldsmiths.

www.visitnemi.it/ita/sagra-delle-fragole

PRIMAVERA DEL PROSECCO

Until 11 June

Prosecco's Spring in Treviso and surrounding areas, Valdobbiadene, Conegliano, and Cartizze.

This annual event takes place in the heart of the Prosecco wine area leading visitors on a journey of discovery on all aspects of the wine production process.

Special events such as shows, exhibitions and visits to historic villas in the area are also organised.

www.primaveradelprosecco.it

EVENTS IN ITALY

VENICE CARNIVAL

11– 28 February 2017

During Italy's most famous masked "open city" party, every corner of Venice becomes a multi-coloured series of shows, parades, masks and much more.

St Mark's Square, the real centre of the party, is transformed into a continuous array of colours, masks, music and shows hosting Carnival's traditional events such as "Flight of the Angel", "Festa delle Marie" and "La Colombina". Palaces throughout the city host grand masked balls for those who want to immerse themselves in the Serenissima's festive history.

See website:

www.carnevale.venezia.it

THE EXPLOSION OF THE CART

Easter Sunday – 16 April 2017
Florence

Tradition says that during the first Crusade of 1096 the Florentine knight Pazzo de 'Pazzi was the first man, who planted the banner of the Cross on battlements in Jerusalem and as a gift he received some fragments of the Holy Sepulchre. On his return to Florence the stones were used to start the Sacred Fire of Holy Saturday, and were paraded in a richly decorated chariot through the city in memory of this event.

On Easter Sunday a large wagon is pulled by white oxen in a procession in the streets of the centre of Florence and taken to the front of the cathedral.

LA SEMANA SANTA IN ALGHERO (SARDINIA)

Easter Week – 11-16 April 2017
Alghero

Alghero celebrates Holy Week according to

the rites of an ancient Spanish tradition dating back to 1501. The celebrations will open on Tuesday with the "*Dimas Sant*" with the procession of Sorrowful Mysteries, on Thursday "*Dijous Sant*" the Via Crucis is held, on Friday "*Divendres Sant*" there is the rite of "*des-clavament*", the taking down of the body of Christ from the cross and the deposition. The "*Dissabte Sant*", Saturday is the holy day of the vigil until Easter Sunday, when the Risen Christ will meet the Virgin among doves and fireworks.

SACRED REPRESENTATION OF GOOD FRIDAY

4 April 2017
Valmontone - Rome

The procession on Good Friday, has taken a typically theatrical role with performances drawing inspiration from medieval times. The "Sacred Representation" of Valmontone refers to this style and is over a century old. The actors recite texts based on the Holy Scriptures. The story starts from the New Testament, continues with the reconstruction of the Nativity and follows the events of Christ's life. The *Via Crucis* (the Way of the Cross) and deposition from the Cross conclude with the procession.

THE HOLY WEEK IN SULMONA (ABRUZZO)

Easter Week 11-16 April 2017
Sulmona - L'Aquila

Sulmona celebrates Good Friday with a procession that starts in the evening at the Baroque Church of Annunziata and returns late at night at the Church of the Trinity. On Easter Sunday, the procession of the *Confrati* (friars) takes place, starting from the medieval Church of Santa Maria della Tomba. This is to represent in different acts the meeting of the Virgin Mary with the risen Christ. A flight of dove closes the ceremony and then the Easter feast begins. From the flight of doves people can predict how good the harvest season will be for the city.

THE RITES OF PASSION IN BARILE (BASILICATA)

Good Friday - 14 April 2017

Barile - Potenza

In Barile, the *Via Crucis* is interpreted with great intensity by actors. Along the route of the Way of the Cross there are several stages built to represent the various episodes of the Passion of Christ.

Alongside the authentic reconstructions of the Gospel stories, there suddenly also appear fantasy figures related to our ancestral fears. The "Negro" representing a stranger, the "Gypsy" character, a dark symbol of wealth that hides evil and danger are very important figures of popular collective atonement.

rites and procession of the Sicilian Easter Tradition

Easter Sunday - 16 April 2017

Modica - Ragusa - "*MARONNE vasa vasa*"

Easter morning in Modica, a spectacular procession, takes place with two parades that walk along the streets of Ragusa with statues of Christ and the Virgin Mary.

Easter Sunday 16 April 2017 - Adrano-Catania - "The Devils" -

On Easter Sunday in Adrano a representation called "The Devil" takes place every year. This is a folklore event where Good and Evil are represented; the Devils are led by Lucifer on one side and Paradise on the other. This representation is focused on the triumph of Good and of Light in the world.

Easter Sunday 16 April 2017 - Prizzi-Palermo - "*The abballu de li diavuli*"

"*The Abballu de daivuli*" is a representation of horrendous masks of zinc dressed with red robes, the devils, which run through the village on Easter Sunday trying to trap as many souls as possible until the afternoon, when after the meeting of the Virgin Mary with the Risen Christ the devils will be harnessed and carried by angels to the Virgin Mary.

Good Friday – 16 April 2017 - "The Procession of the Mysteries"

Trapani

The Procession of the Mysteries is held in Trapani from 2pm of Good Friday and continues for almost twenty-four hours until the Saturday. It is the longest religious event in Italy and one of the oldest.

This event consists in transporting 20 groups of statues (Sacred Mysteries) representing the various stages of the *Via Crucis* through the city. The statues were made between the 17th and 18th century.

21st April BIRTHDAY OF ROME

Four days of events to celebrate the eternal city's 2770th birthday from 20th to 23rd. These include: concerts, readings, exhibitions and historical commemorations.

FESTA DELLA LIBERAZIONE

25th April, Liberation Day also known as l'Anniversario della Liberazione d'Italia, is a national holiday in Italy commemorating the end of the civil war and the end of Nazi occupation in the country during World War II.

SPORTS EVENTS INTERNATIONAL RUGBY OF THE 6 NATIONS

Rome: Stadio Olimpico*

5th February*: Italy - Wales

11th February*: Italy – Ireland

26th February: England – Italy held at Twickenham Stadium, UK

11th March*: Italy – France

For further information see Federazione Italiana Rugby (F.I.R.) website: www.federugby.it

ROME MARATHON

2 April 2017

The route runs over 42 kilometres starting from Via dei Fori Imperiali ending back at the Fori Imperiali. This event unites spirit and passion with alternative routes for non-professionals.

Check the website for the route: www.maratonadiroma.it

BIKE FESTIVAL GARDA TRENINO

Riva del Garda, Trentino
28 April – 1 May 2017

The Bike Festival Garda Trentino is now a spring tradition.

The programme includes exhibitions, shows, competitions, performances and stunts, industry and other activities.

See website: www.gardatrentino.it

ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT BNL D'ITALIA 2017

10 – 21 May
Rome, Foro Italico

For further information see website: www.ticketing.internazionalibnlditalia.com

PIAZZA DI SIENA INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING

24 – 28 May
Rome

The 85th edition of the annual Piazza di Siena horse show-jumping competition takes place in Rome's Villa Borghese.

For full details of the event tel. 0636858420 or visit the informative Piazza di Siena website: www.piazzadisiena.it

POLO

Rome Polo Club
43 VIA dei Campi Sportivi
00197

For events and tournaments, see website: www.romapoloclub.it and Federazione Italiana Sport Equestri website: www.fise.it

GIRO D' ITALIA

5 – 28 May 2017

The most important bicycle race in Italy, the Giro d'Italia, dates back to May 1909.

This year the Giro d'Italia starts on 5 May 2017 in Alghero, Sardinia, and ends in Milan on 28 May.

See website: www.gazzetta.it

THE PALIO OF FERRARA

13 – 28 May 2017
Ferrara "

The Palio of Ferrara is the most ancient event of its kind in the world dating back to 1279. This is a very important moment for the city: all the *Contrade* (districts) participate wearing gowns in different colours to gain the "*palio*". It is a festivity to remember the Renaissance, a period during which Ferrara was really a capital. The important day of the Palio is run on Sunday 28 May.

Website: www.paliodiferrara.it

FESTA DEI CERI (RACE OF THE CANDLES)

15th May 2017
Gubbio

The Festa Dei Ceri is one of the oldest folklore displays. The festival is a solemn act of devotion on the part of the Eugubini towards their Bishop Ubaldo Baldassini which started in 1160. Since then, every 15th May, the eve of the day of mourning, the devotional offering to the patron Saint is a fixed appointment for the people of Gubbio who take part in a great mystical procession, carrying candles all around the town and up Mount Ingino (where since 11 September 1194 the body of Saint Ubaldo lies, in the church which bears his name).

For further information, see website: www.ceri.it

MILLE MIGLIA

18-21 May 2017

The 2017 edition plans a departure from Brescia, journeying through Padua to Rome and then back to Brescia via Parma. The most beautiful vintage cars in the world are chosen to take part.

See website: www.1000miglia.eu

NEW SERVICES

TRAIN SERVICE FROM THE VATICAN TO THE PAPAL VILLA IN CASTEL GANDOLFO

A new train service has been introduced by the Vatican and Trenitalia that departs from the Vatican Station inside the Mura Leonine and takes visitors to the Pope's summer residence, Palazzo Apostolico and the Papal Villas in Castelgandolfo.

See website for dates and timings:
www.trenitalia.com/tcom/Treni-Regionali/Lazio/Il-treno-delle-Ville-Pontificie

NEW OPENINGS

Rome



Homes of artists in the city

Visitors can discover the private residences, now transformed into museums, of many Italian and foreign artists who lived in Rome: writers Pirandello and Moravia, the painter De Chirico and many more. One can experience a unique insight in the lives of these artists who were often very private people. See:

www.turismoroma.it/itinerari-a-tema/le-case-museoroma

NEW HOTELS

HOTEL DEGLI ARTISTI

The new 4-star Hotel Degli Artisti, 18 Via degli Artisti – 00187 Rome, is located in a very quiet street in the heart of the city, a few steps away from the famous Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain and Villa Borghese.

The Hotel has 35 “family friendly” spacious rooms with views of either the inner courtyard or the beautiful garden of the church of San Isidoro. All rooms have been created to give the best standard of service and ensure a relaxing and comfortable stay.

Website: www.spacehotels.it/en/schedahotel/hotel-degli-artisti

HOTEL IL CASTELFALFI

The 5-star Hotel Il Castelfalfi, Tuscany. Toscana Resort Castelfalfi, a medieval hamlet which has been transformed into luxury living. The hotel offers 120 rooms all equipped with the latest amenities and is designed to reflect the incredible natural environment of the resort. Pets are allowed.

It has a panoramic restaurant, a spa, indoor and outdoor pools and a fitness centre.

Website: www.castelfalfi.com/en/il-castelfalfi-5-stars-hotel

REOPENING OF THE LE MERIDIEN

VISCONTI PALACE

The 4-star Meridien Visconti Palace in Rome, now a Starwood hotel, has recently reopened after major refurbishing. Situated in the Prati district of the city centrally located for the Vatican and the main shopping areas, the Visconti Palace offers 240 guest rooms.

The hotel also offers a fitness area, dining restaurant and panoramic bar on the terrace.

Website: www.lemeridienviscontirome.com

Alassio

Pearl of the Italian
Riviera Di Ponente

TWO SELF-CONTAINED SPACIOUS APARTMENTS TO RENT

Third floor flat with magnificent view and plenty of light in historical palazzo right by the sea in the centre of town known as the "Budello" area of Alassio, a few metres from the station close to the gardens. Three double bedrooms with the possibility to sleep seven, two bathrooms, a large lounge and a kitchen/ breakfast room.

First floor flat in the same palazzo. Two double bedrooms with the possibility to sleep six, two bathrooms, a large lounge, kitchen/breakfast room and laundry room.

Both flats have TV, dishwasher, washing machine and autonomous central heating. Public pay and display underground car park nearby.

About an hour from Genoa and an hour and a half from Nice, easily reached by car and train.

Not only known as the land of sun, sea, entertainment, sport and delicate chocolate "Baci", Alassio and surrounding areas are also renowned for the natural beauty of the landscape and some of the best Liguria golf courses.

For more information contact: Barbara Ripa di Meana

Tel: +39 02 45409578 (only evenings) • Mobile: +39 3389840476 • E-mail: pimagi.alassio@gmail.com

SHORT LETS SELF-CATERING FLAT

Ideal for a family, a business visit or attending the Wimbledon Tennis Championship

Location: Raynes Park, Wimbledon, London

Bright and cheerful flat in residential area: double bedroom with twin beds, lounge with sofa bed, separate kitchen and bathroom

Access to parking, shops and transport to city centre

Also last minute accommodation if there are vacancies. Tailor-made services can also be arranged.

For more information, contact the accommodation and Hospitality desk:

Eurobridge Communications:
Tel. +44 (0) 2089472116

E-mail:
eurobridge.comms@gmail.com



Holland Garden, West Wimbledon



**Agr. Goretti Produzioni Vini s.r.l. -
Str. del Pino 4 - Pila - 06132 Perugia, Italy**
E-mail goretti@vinigoretti.com
Tel: +39 075 607316 - Fax +39 075 6079187

SHORT LETS SELF-CATERING FLAT

Ideal for a family or a business visit

Location: Rome, Italy

Bright and cheerful flat in residential area near the Salaria entry to the city: double bedroom with twin beds, lounge with sofa bed, separate kitchen and bathroom.

Also last minute accommodation if there are vacancies. Tailor-made services can also be arranged.

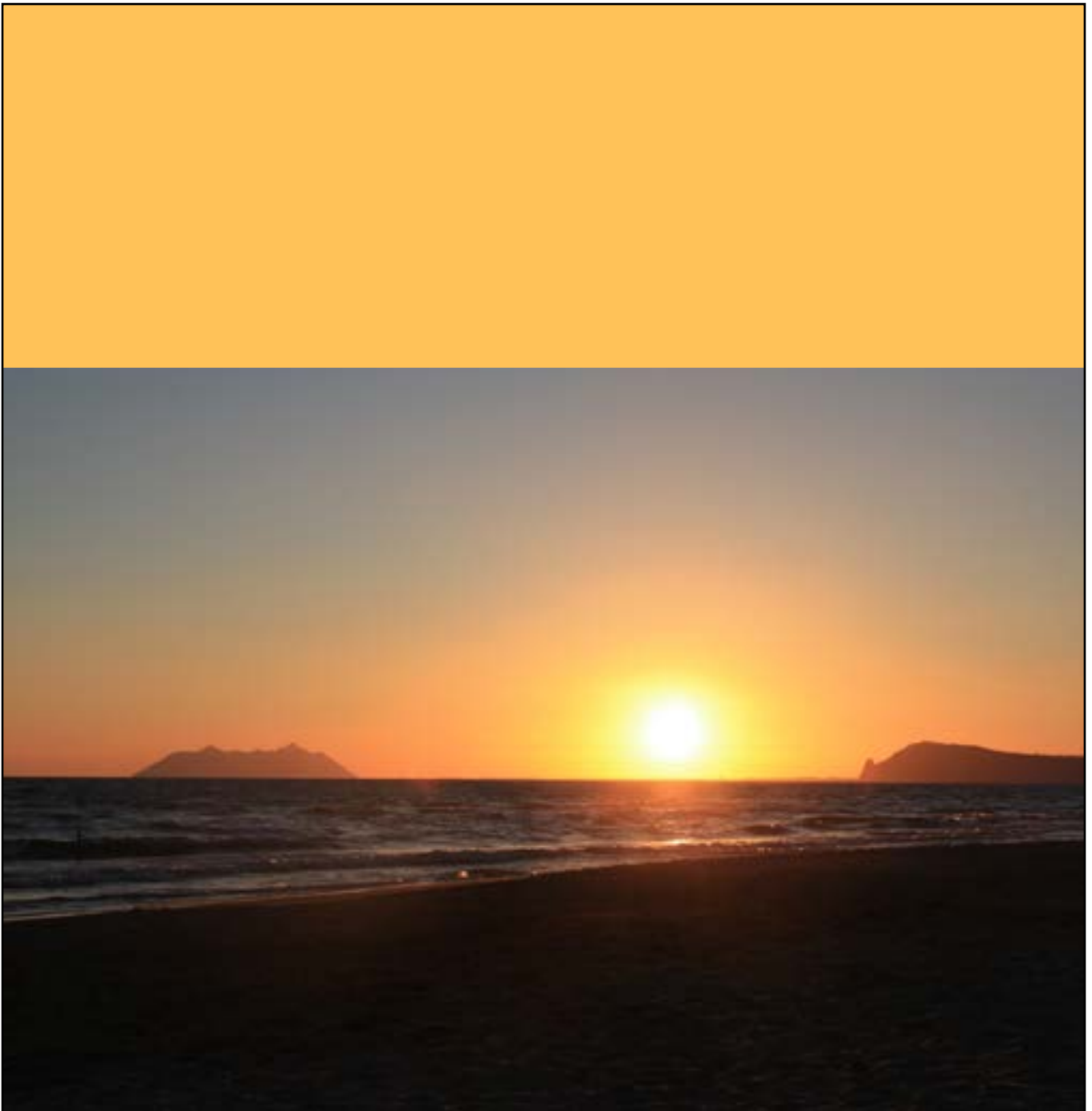
For more information, contact the Hospitality desk:

Mrs. Montebello: Tel. +39 06 92918487

E-mail: flats@romevisitors.eu



Victor Emanuel II Monument



Sunset view of Circeo Promontory from Lago Lungo