

ISSN 2514-0779

LIVING ITALY

PAST AND PRESENT

Issue 5 Winter-Spring 2018



The Spanish Steps in Bloom

Photo © GGH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	3
ARRIVEDERCI ROMA	4
By Our Itinerant Reporter	4
VILLA TORLONIA, ONE OF ROME'S	6
HISTORICAL HOMES AND PARKS	6
By Georgina Gordon-Ham	6
ANCIENT ROME BROUGHT ALIVE	8
ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, ROME	9
By Rubina Montebello	9
RUGBY ROUND UP 2018	11
By Our Sports Correspondent	11
BOOK REVIEWS	13
WALKING IN TUSCANY	13
WALKING AND TREKKING IN	13
GRAN PARADISO	13
VIEWS OF ROME	14
By Georgina Jinks	14
EXHIBITIONS IN ITALY	15
EXHIBITIONS ON ITALY ABROAD	16
FESTIVALS AND OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS IN ITALY ..	16
INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS	18
THE KEATS SHELLEY MEMORIAL HOUSE.....	20

Editor

Georgina Jinks

gg@livingitalypastandpresent.co.uk

Graphics and Art Director

John Jinks

jj@livingitalypastandpresent.co.uk

Contributing Writers for this issue:

Georgina Gordon-Ham

Georgina Jinks

John Jinks

Rubina Montebello

Our Itinerant Reporter

Our Sports Correspondent

Photographers GGH & JJ

Sales and Circulation Officer

info@romevisitors.eu

Web:

www.livingitalypastandpresent.co.uk

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

.....

Our Winter-Spring issue 2018 is on Rome as a historic and spiritual city open to ecumenism. It also highlights winter and spring sports events, in particular at international level. Two of these events are held in the Foro Italico sports complex: International Rugby of the Six Nations at the Stadio

Olimpico and the Italian international Open Tennis Tournament. The E-Formula car race is held in EUR, the modern area of Rome, while international show jumping is held in Piazza di Siena, inside Villa Borghese Park in the heart of the city.

We hope the reader enjoys the journey through living Italy past and present, taking time to pause, perceive, absorb and take pleasure in what we see around us. It is a way of living and a philosophy of life in a country where human dimension still prevails.

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



The e-magazine web site includes various menus:

The View Page gives the e-magazine with a flip chart, whereby the pages can be turned over;

The Archive Page PDFs offers the possibility to download the magazine.

A Sports Events menu and an Exhibitions and Events menu allow quick access to specific events.

A Blog Page for comments from our readers. This will help us improve and broaden our spectrum.

And several other options.

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

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

www.italia.it
www.enit.it

ARRIVEDERCI ROMA

By Our Itinerant Reporter



Has everything already been said about Rome? Perhaps the opposite is more likely to be true. Having thrown a coin into the Trevi Fountain, the city waves Arrivederci (goodbye until we meet again) drawing you back like a magnet again and again to discover more. Roma is feminine and romantic (Roma >> amoR or Love).

The article REFLECTIONS ON ROME WHERE PRESENT AND PAST INTERSECT took the reader on a journey through the centuries in our second issue. These reflections continue. This time the author is going to take you to see sights of the city from a different angle and chose some unusual themes, such as some of Rome's fountains, which will be unfolded to the reader as he or she goes along.

Walking around the city in Spring, one of the best times of the year to go about under blues skies and bearably warm weather, makes one think of the birth of Rome. According to historical records Rome was founded on 21st April 753 BC. The story of how it was founded is entwined in myths and legends. You are no doubt familiar with the Italian myth of Romulus and Remus, the twin brothers who were suckled by a she-wolf, and that Romulus named the settlement after himself. It is amazing to see how this grew into ancient Rome with all its pomp and glory, and then into the living city we see today

with all the bustle of modern traffic.

Every year, Rome celebrates Spring with bright colours, hence the first scene is Piazza di Spagna and the Spanish Steps carpeted in a multi-colour spray of azaleas. The steps host nearly 600 pots of these beautiful plants in bloom bringing the white stone to life.



At the foot of the steps stands the Fontana della Barcaccia (Fountain of the Boat). Pope Urban VIII commissioned Pietro Bernini in 1623 to build the fountain as part of a project to erect a fountain in every major square in the city. It was completed between 1627 and 1629. The fountain is made in the shape of a half-sunken boat with water overflowing its sides into a small basin. The source of the water comes from the Acqua Vergine aqueduct. According to legend, water carried a

small boat into Piazza di Spagna when the River Tiber flooded in 1598 leaving it in the centre of the square. This incident inspired Bernini's creation. The fountain is decorated with Pope Urban VIII Bernini family coat of arms.



Fontana del Tritone (the Triton Fountain) by the Baroque sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini, son of Pietro, stands in Piazza Barberini a few minutes walk away. This fountain was also commissioned by Pope Urban VIII. This time the source of water comes from the Acqua Felice aqueduct. It was completed between 1642 and 1643, and was Bernini's last major commission from his patron, who died in 1644.

Fontana di Trevi, the largest Baroque fountain in the city, was going to be another fountain commissioned by Pope Urban VIII, who asked Gian Lorenzo Bernini to prepare some sketches, but the project was abandoned when the pope died. Although Bernini's project was never built, the Trevi fountain has some Bernini touches. The idea was resumed much later, in 1730 under Pope Clement XII, who commissioned architect Nicola Salvi to design the fountain and start work on it in 1732. The project was completed by Pietro Bracci after Salvi's death.



Not to be forgotten is Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi (Fountain of the Four Rivers) in Piazza Navona, another work by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. It was designed in 1651 for Pope Innocent X, whose family palace, Palazzo Pamphili, looked onto Piazza Navona.

The base of the fountain is a basin from the centre of which travertine rocks rise to support four river gods and above them, an obelisk surmounted with the Pamphili family emblem of a dove with an olive twig. They represent four major rivers of the four continents: the Nile representing Africa, the Danube representing Europe, the Ganges representing Asia, and the Río de la Plata representing the Americas.

The statue holding his hand up in horror is supposed to be Bernini himself, who was shocked by the ugly appearance of the Church of Sant'Agnese in Piazza Navona, work by his rival architect Borromini. Ironically as this may seem, the church construction was finished quite a while after Bernini's fountain and the statues could not be replaced by new ones, as they were so long in place.



The above fountains are linked in some way or another to part of a project. However, a fountain, which deserves mention, is Fontana delle Tartarughe (the Turtle Fountain), which is of an earlier date although it appears more modern. This fountain stands in Piazza Mattei. It was built between 1580 and 1588 by architect Giacomo della Porta and sculptor Taddeo Landini. The bronze turtles around the upper basin, attributed either to Gian Lorenzo Bernini or to Andrea Sacchi, were added later between 1658 and 1659 when the fountain

was restored. Fontana delle Tartarughe is one of the few fountains in Rome built not for a Pope, but for Muzio Mattei, a private patron.

It is a fascinating fountain full of movement by the four young ephebes, eight dolphins, four turtles and flowing water. The fountain has more delicate features compared to the larger and more imposing fountains of Rome. What is so remarkable about it, is the youthful and modern look making it ageless.

Look out for more of Rome's fountains. Less known fountains will be the topic of an article in one of the next issues.

VILLA TORLONIA, ONE OF ROME'S HISTORICAL HOMES AND PARKS

By Georgina Gordon-Ham

A stroll along Rome's Via Nomentana from Porta Pia downwards led me to Villa Torlonia, which I had passed by several times always meaning to stop there and visit. It is just one of those things; one tends to say I shall go there another day when I have more time thinking that the opportunity will come by soon. Hence, I have learnt never to say *mañana*. Procrastination just lets time go by when days become months and months become years. It turned out to be an interesting and pleasant surprise not only for its park, but also for its different buildings.

Villa Torlonia formerly belonging to the Torlonia family is the fourth largest public park in the city after Villa Doria Pamphili, Villa Ada and Villa Borghese. It is located along the Via Nomentana outside the ancient Aurelian walls.

Influential families had villas surrounded by vast stretches of parkland, hence the name of a park, especially in Rome, is often preceded by the word *villa*. Their upkeep became more and more expensive forcing families to sell them and let the Municipality take over the property opening them up to the public as parks and museums with recreational and restaurant facilities.

Between 1802 and 1806, the architect Giuseppe Valadier was commissioned by banker Giovanni Raimondo Torlonia to expand the main building of the villa with a vineyard purchased in 1797 from the Colonna family by adding forebuildings, porticoes and spacious terraces. His son, Alessandro, commissioned other works to further expand and embellish the property.

The villa was rented to Mussolini as his state residence between 1925 and 1943. The basement was fitted with a shelter and a bunker. In June 1944 the property was occupied by the Allied High Command, which remained there until 1947, but was gradually abandoned and left to decay for years. In 1977 Villa Torlonia was taken over by the Municipality of Rome, which commissioned it to be restored. Many of the buildings were in a run-down state. Following restoration in 2006, the main villa was transformed into a museum. Pieces on display include sculpture from the Torlonia family collection, vintage furniture and some reliefs by Antonio Canova. The landscaped grounds are in the English 'picturesque' style garden layout. The two obelisks were erected in 1842 in memory of Alessandro Torlonia's parents.





The villa, the main building known as Casino Nobile, now turned into a museum, is connected by an underground tunnel to the Casino dei Principi, where temporary exhibitions are held. The latter also holds the Archive of the Roman School, which includes about 10,000 items such as catalogues, books, magazines, specialist publications, correspondence, diaries and other documentation. One of the most fascinating buildings is the Casina delle Civette (The House of the Owls) with its Liberty architecture and stained glass windows and rooms leading from one into another. Villa Torlonia also has a theatre recently opened to the public for events, and a conservatory (Serra Moresca) still being restored. The final stop should be the orangerie, known as La Limonaia (the Lemon House), to rest and have a snack after visiting the museum and other buildings either inside or outside where there is an outdoor area with chairs and tables in warm weather. Villa Torlonia is one of those places in Rome where you feel it could be somewhere in the country away from the madding crowd and bustling city traffic.



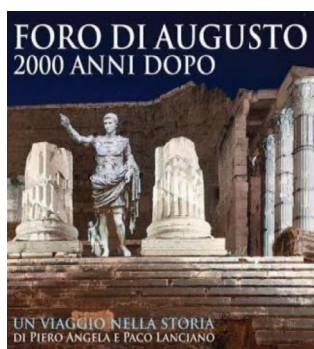
View of Gardens from inside.



Casina delle Civette.



ANCIENT ROME BROUGHT ALIVE



Walking along Via dei Fori Imperiali, the road in the centre of the city of Rome running across the Forum of Augustus and the Forum of Caesar and linking the Colosseum to Piazza Venezia, is an awesome experience in the daytime. Then to go back there in the evening and suddenly find the ruins come to life and see what it was like in the days of ancient Rome is magical.

Journeys through Ancient Rome, two stories and two routes, a project conceived by Piero Angela and Paco Lanciano in 2014 is a great way to spend a hot summer's evening outside. The show begins at nightfall. Creatively using the remains of the Forum of Caesar and the Forum of Augustus, the latest technology with spotlights and projections brings to life stones, which speak for themselves through videos and faithful reconstruction of the area with special effects and emerging architectural marvels. The visits evoke life in ancient Rome under two leading figures.

Our visit began with a visit to the Forum of Augustus. Here visitors sit in rows in front of unfolding scenes accompanied by a narrator, who explains the significance of the buildings and events in that period. Headsets are provided and the listener can tune into different languages. The show lasts about an hour.

Depending on the time of the year and when nightfall begins, it is possible to attend both performances one after the other as the Forum of Caesar is close by. This option offers a good combination once one is there, although, chronologically speaking, one would have expected to go to Julius Caesar's Forum before going to the Augustus

Forum. Also, it seems more practical to sit for the last session after a walk rather than the other way round. However, the great technical performance and educational experience are amazing.

Access to the Forum of Caesar begins on a walkway through the Forum of Trajan leading to an underground tunnel of the Imperial Fora. This time visitors carry their headphones with them as they are taken on a walk with a guide to help follow the route. As before, projections use existing walls and columns as a backdrop to recreate monuments, government buildings and statues, which stood there many centuries ago. These are always accompanied by light and sound effects, whilst a narrator explains the story.

Spectators are lead into the excitement of daily life in Ancient Rome, when officials, plebeians, soldiers, consuls and senators strolled under the arches of the Forum. Ancient tabernae reappear among these colonnades, used as offices and shops of the Forum.

DATES AND TIMES OF PERFORMANCES

FROM 21 APRIL TO 11 NOVEMBER 2018

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 October to 11 November
Timings: 19.00 – 20.00 – 21.00

Duration about: 40 minutes

Official website: www.viaggioneifori.it

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, ROME

By Rubina Montebello



The history of the English Chaplaincy in Rome goes back to 1816, when the first formal Anglican service was celebrated. It had been impossible in the centuries since the Reformation to hold such worship in Italy except in protected enclaves (there was a chapel in Leghorn) and no legation from the King to the Papal Court had been allowed.

In October 1816, the Rev. Corbet Hue, an Anglican priest from Jesus College, Oxford, arrived in Rome to publicly officiate from the Book of Common Prayer for the first time in the Eternal City. He rented rooms at 43 Via dei Greci, not far from where the future All Saints Church was to rise over the ruins of a convent at 153 Via del Babuino. They were located close to the area called the 'English Ghetto' around the Spanish Steps.

It was in these rooms that the priest celebrated morning service. The crowd soon grew too large for the space, and a larger meeting place was created near the Column of Trajan.

It was thought appropriate to ask for papal permission to conduct public worship in English, and cardinal Consalvi, the Pope's Secretary of State, was approached. The request was duly granted. Perhaps the Holy See may have considered that the indulgence would be a tribute to the service rendered in favour of the Papal States by Great Britain at the Congress of Vienna the previous year.

Pope Pius VII is reported to have said:

"Il Papa sa nulla, e concede nulla"
("The Pope knows nothing, and grants nothing"). In other words, "What the eye doesn't see . . ."

Around 1822, the Rev. Richard Burgess, who was to become Rome's first permanent British Chaplain, contributed to establishing Anglican worship in Rome and premises were openly obtained to the end. These premises were in Palazzo Corea near the Mausoleum of Augustus. A committee was formed and among the members was Dr. James Clark, the physician who had treated poet John Keats, who had rented rooms and lived for a while in the now Keats-Shelley Memorial House at 26 Piazza di Spagna.

The lease expired in 1823. The parish committee had to change premises, so then moved again to a new location in Via Rasella, which was under the garden walls of the Quirinale Palace, where Pope Leo XII lived. However, the rooms in Via Rasella turned out to be too small for the congregation. This meant searching again for much larger premises.

By the autumn of 1824, the rooms in Via Rasella were hopelessly inadequate, and the committee began to search for much larger premises. It was to be hoped that the move would end the restless years. Indeed, it did, giving Rome an identifiable, free-standing "English Chapel" which would serve Anglicans in greater spaciousness and reasonable dignity for over sixty years.

Despite the initial nomadic period of the Anglican community, a location was finally found on Via del Babuino and the laying of

the foundation stone in Easter 1882 marks the important date in the history of All Saints Church. The wording on the foundation stone set in the East wall reads:

IN NOMINE PATRIS
ET FILII ET SPIRITUS SANCTI
A.D.
1882
HIVS ECCLESIAE FUNDAMENTA
POSITA SUNT

All Saints' Church is easily spotted for its white spire, which can be seen from many points of Rome. It is said that Pope John XXIII told a former chaplain how he enjoyed picking it out with his binoculars from the windows of the Vatican Residence. Times have changed, and that there now exists a wider spirit of ecumenism. On 27th February 2017 Pope Francis was the first pontiff to visit the Anglican Church in Rome.

Pope Francis' speech was a great success. He concluded in a more open and welcoming manner, where the combination of Christian teaching and real world pragmatism struck a chord: "Let us encourage one another to become ever more faithful disciples of Jesus, always more liberated from our respective prejudices from the past and ever more desirous to pray for and with others".

"A good sign of this desire is the "twinning" taking place today between your parish of All Saints and All Saints Catholic parish. May the saints of every Christian confession, fully united in the Jerusalem above, open for us here below the way to all the possible paths of a fraternal and shared Christian journey. Where we are united in the name of Jesus, he is there (cf. Mt 18:20), and turning his merciful gaze towards us, he calls us to devote ourselves fully in the cause of unity and love.

May the face of God shine upon you, your families and this entire community!"



All Saints Church, Via del Babuino, Rome

RUGBY ROUND UP 2018

By Our Sports Correspondent



Pundits equated the final match in Rome's Olympic Stadium (along Gladiator's Way see photo below) to a 'Brave Heart' encounter with Italian Passion.

Scotland was fielding its most illustrious squad for years and expectations for Italy were not high.

Little prepared the spectator for the cliff-hanging end and the utter dominance (at least score-wise) of Italy during the first 78 minutes on home ground.

Before the match, Rome's Scottish band took a leaf out of Scottish bravado and played in the Italian warriors.



Rugby, Passione Italiana

ITALIAN RUGBY PAST

Italy's rugby history goes back a hundred years. However, the process was rather slow with various unpredictable bounces of the oval ball over the years. Although the first rugby game played in Italy between the French team of the Paris Racing Club and the Swiss team 'Servette' was held in 1910 in Turin, it was not until the following year that Italy had its own first amateur team 'US Milanese', which played against the French team of 'Voiron' in Milan. Unfortunately, the 1914-1918 war put a halt on Rugby taking off. Interest in the game revived in 1927 when a promotion committee "un comitato di propaganda" was set up by Piero Mariani, who was appointed the first president of the Italian rugby association, the Federazione Italiana Rugby, on 28th September 1928. Clubs started to be set up and by 1929, which marked the official date for the birth of Italian rugby, Italy had six active clubs which played their first national championship with the 'Ambrosiana Milano' team as the first winners. An official national team was soon formed allowing Italy to play in Barcelona in 1929, when the team lost against Spain. Rugby soon became more and more popular, spreading further across the country to Brescia, Genoa, Bologna, Padua, Treviso, Rovigo, Rome and Naples, to name but a few.

Encounters with the Allied Forces (South African, Australian, New Zealand and the British troops) at the end of the Second World War gave Italian rugby to a new dimension although Italy still remained attached to the French model.

Italian rugby emerged in the 1990s, leading to a historical turning point in March 1997 in Grenoble, France, winning 40 against 32. These events soon uplifted the team and New Zealand coach Brad Johnstone was hired in 1999 to train the Italian national team for entry into the Six Nations in 2000. Italy marked a historical feat beating Scotland 34 against 20 in its Six Nations inauguration match held at the Flaminio Stadium on 5th February 2000. Player Diego Dominguez became a national hero overnight scoring 29 points. They obtained their second Six Nations win in 2003 against Wales. Their third win came against Scotland in 2004.

Success was short-lived, followed by a downturn until 2005 when Italy beat Argentina in Cordoba. In 2007 'gli Azzurri' beat Scotland in Murrayfield and two weeks later the Italian team beat Wales in Rome. In May 2008 Giancarlo Dondi, the president of Federazione Italiana Rugby, was appointed member of the Executive Committee of the International Rugby Board.

The Italian Rugby Federation has recruited high profile international coaches (Brad Johnstone, John Kirwan another New Zealand coach, Pierre Berbizier from France and Nick Mallett from South Africa) making the team more competitive at international level. Italian rugby's popularity is on the increase and now boasts having about 1,024 clubs and over 80,000 registered players. Italian team members often play in club competitions in England and France allowing them to make further progress. Although female rugby is comparatively new on the scene with its history going back to the late 20th century, the game is already becoming a challenging sport among young women in Italy. In 2007 Italy's 'Azzurre' joined the Women's Six Nations Championship.

Not to be forgotten in the 150 years Giuseppe Garibaldi celebrations is the Giuseppe Garibaldi rugby trophy, a rugby union trophy, which is an Italo-French equivalent to the Calcutta Cup, awarded to the winner of the match

between Italy and France within the annual Six Nations Championship, first awarded in February 2007 as part of the celebrations of the bicentenary of Garibaldi's birth.

As more and more Italian fans come to watch rugby union games and fill the stadiums with a good home crowd both for male and female rugby, Italian rugby is marching on: "Forza gli Azzurri!". (Up the Blues!)



Gladiators' Way, Stadio Olimpico

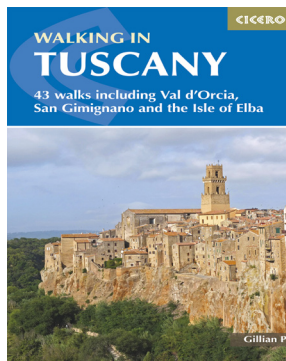


BOOK REVIEWS

WALKING IN TUSCANY

By Gillian Price

Cicerone Publisher - 2018 - £16.95



Although the guidebook is for walkers in Tuscany including Val d'Orcia, San Gimignano and the Island of Elba, it has some very useful information for all kinds of travellers. Walking is one of the best ways to visit both a city and countryside and appreciate a place at one's own pace.

The book begins by exploring Tuscany with its array of plants and flowers, wildlife, getting there, local transport, information, when is the best time to go, what to take, accommodation, food and wine, maps, emergencies and how to use the guide. The starting point is Florence and surroundings, followed by the foothills and high Apennines visiting Pinocchio's town of Collodi and neighbouring Pescia. Walks continue along the Alpi Apuane, Pratomagno and the Casentinesi Forests down to the Chianti area, west of Siena visiting places such as San Gimignano and Volterra, the Crete and Val d'Orcia to the Tyrrhenian coast and the island of Elba, then back to the mainland to Tuscany's cowboy land, the Maremma.

Gillian Price is an experienced trekker, not only in Italy but also abroad throughout Asia and the Himalayas. She now lives in Venice and has written a number of Cicerone guidebooks on trekking in different parts of Italy.

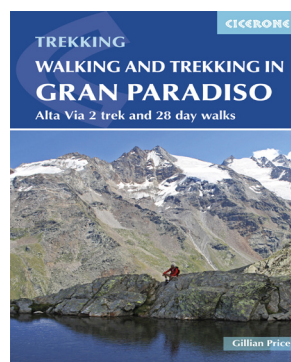
What better way to appreciate Tuscany, as the author herself describes in the introduc-

tion: "Everywhere you look are landscapes like paintings, pristine hill villages and hamlets crafted from stone that seem unchanged since ancient times. Gently rolling hills are clothed with fields of golden wheat dashed scarlet by poppies. Winding lanes lined with pencil-straight cypress trees lead to inviting villas with views to picture-perfect hill towns of medieval and Renaissance splendour..... Visiting Tuscany on foot is akin to making a voyage through time".

WALKING AND TREKKING IN GRAN PARADISO

By Gillian Price

Cicerone Publisher - 2018 - £16.95



Another guidebook published this year by this prolific writer is about walks in northern Italy. This time she focuses on the beautiful landscape of the Valley of Aosta and surrounding areas of the Gran Paradiso, Italy's first national park declared by King Vittorio Emanuele III, grandson of the 'Hunter King' in 1922 to protect the flora and fauna, as well as the beauty of its gorgeous scenery.

Once again, Gillian Price gives detailed information about the area, when to go there, where to stay, and much more. The Valley of Aosta is breathtaking especially in summer. Walks off the beaten track along country and mountain pathways appreciating incredible landscapes and encounters with ibex and chamois in healthy fresh air are out of this world. It is real paradise for the sporty, as well as for the less equipped and experienced mountain lovers.

The writer recommends various places to see and a large choice of day walks, routes, maps

and accommodation shelters for enthusiasts like herself, who enjoy hiking and wish to persevere along their discovery of nature.

For further information on Cicerone guide-books, look at website:

www.cicerone.co.uk

Reviewed by Georgina Gordon-Ham

VIEWS OF ROME

By Georgina Jinks

Rome of the 19th century was the artists' Mecca. Of all the arts, painting, drawing and engraving were the most popular and were really flourishing. According to a periodical for art lovers *Notizie riguardanti le scienze e le arti* (News concerning Science and the Arts), in 1835 Rome was host to a myriad of artists both Italian and foreign: 128 painters, 43 landscape painters, 22 general painters and 68 engravers in various specialisations. One of the meeting places was Caffè Greco in Via Condotti near Piazza di Spagna. The coffee-house also served as a post office, and a kind of informal information desk. Caffè Greco is still a popular café full of fascinating memorabilia.

Among these, three important artists are to be remembered for their views of Rome: William Turner (visited Rome several times in the first part of the 19th century), Luigi Rossini (1790-1857) and the water colour painter Ettore Roesler-Franz (1845-1907).

Rossini's views of Rome range from 1817 to 1850 and are mainly concerned with important and modern monuments in the city. However, he is mostly famous for his works of archaeological inspiration. He stands out not only as an artist, but also as a scholar. His works are objective, and, thus, gain documentary value. An example are the engravings of *The Seven Hills of Ancient and Modern Rome*. At the turn of the 19th century,

archaeology was revalued, and the excavated ruins brought to light had created quite a sensation.

Rossini had a personal technique. He was realistic and tried to go even further than reality for focusing light on certain details. He could even be considered the forerunner of the first photographers for his sense of perspective and light and shade effects. A large part of his collection is to be found in the Gabinetto Comunale delle Stampe.

Ettore Roesler-Franz's water colour views of Rome evoke nostalgia for a vanished city of a century ago. His interest lay in focusing on all aspects of Rome: its walls, its streets, its buildings, its life and its atmosphere. These can also be considered realistic photographs of sites and scenes, which have now disappeared turning them into documentaries of the past.

In his painting of Piazza Barberini, the only part practically intact is Bernini's fountain, constructed in 1843 and inspired by a small triton in the Vatican Gardens. In addition to the change in scenery, worse still is the roaring traffic rushing up and down the streets. Franz's simple, detailed style gave character to his works, which also have documentary value. A large collection of his water colours is to be found at the museum in Palazzo Braschi.



By courtesy of the Tate Gallery: Castle of St Angelo, engraved in 1832, watercolour on paper, Tate: bequeathed by Beresford Rimington Heaton 1940.

EXHIBITIONS IN ITALY

FLORENCE

MONET EXPERIENCE AND THE IMPRESSIONISTS

Until 1 May 2018

Chiesa Santo Stefano al Ponte
www.monetexperience.it

STEVE MC CURRY

13 June – 6 September 2018

Villa Bardini
www.bardinipeyron.it

GENOA

PABLO PICASSO: MASTERPIECES FROM THE PICASSO MUSEUM IN PARIS

Until 6 May 2018

Palazzo Ducale
www.palazzoducale.genova.it/pablo-picasso

MILAN

FRIDA KAHLO

Until 3 June 2018

MUDEC Milano
www.mudec.it/ita/frida-kahlo-mostra-mudec-milano

ALBRECHT DÜRER and the Renaissance from Germany to Italy

Until 24 June 2018

Palazzo Reale
www.palazzorealemilano.it

MASTERPIECES FROM THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART

8 March – 2 September 2018

Palazzo Reale
www.palazzorealemilano.it

BOLDINI. PORTRAIT OF A LADY

16 March - 17 June 2018

GAM Galleria d'Arte Moderna

www.gam-milano.com

NAPLES

TREASURES UNDER THE ASHES

Until 31 May 2018

Antiquarium in Pompeii
www.pompeiisites.org

ROME

KLIMT EXPERIENCE

Until 10 June

Complesso Monumentale di San Giovanni Addolorata
www.klimtexperience.com

THE PINK FLOYD EXHIBITION: THEIR MORTAL REMAINS

Until 1 July 2018

MACRO Museum
www.museomacro.org/en/mostra-evento/pink-floyd-exhibition-their-mortal-remains

TRAJAN BUILDING THE EMPIRE, CREATING EUROPE

Until 16 Sep 2018

Marcati di Traiano
www.mercatiditraiano.it

TURNER

22 March – 26 August 2018

Museum Chiostro del Bramante
www.chiostrodelbramante.it/incorso-it

VENICE

CANOVA, HAYEZ, CICOGNARA

Until 2 April 2018

Gallerie dell'Accademia
www.gallerieaccademia.org

BIENNALE D'ARTE

29 May - 26 November 2018

At various locations in the city.

www.labiennale.org

VICENZA

VAN GOGH EXHIBITION, between wheat and sky
Until 8 April 2018

At Basilica Palladiana
www.lineadombra.it

EXHIBITIONS ON ITALY ABROAD

MANTEGNA AND BELLINI
1 October 2018 – 27 January 2019

Two of the greatest artists of the Italian Renaissance. The exhibition compares their works.

At The National Gallery, London
www.nationalgallery.org.uk

LORENZO LOTTO PORTRAITS

5 November 2018 – 10 February 2019

Known predominantly for his portraits and religious paintings; his works are characterised by expressive sensitivity and immediacy.

At The National Gallery, London
www.nationalgallery.org.uk

THE ESTORICK COLLECTION OF MODERN ITALIAN ART opened in London in 1998.

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art
39A Canonbury Square, London N1 2AN
www.estorickcollection.com

FESTIVALS AND OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS IN ITALY

RAVELLO, AMALFI COAST

RAVELLO CONCERTS:
26 March – 2 December 2018

Spanning from Spring to Autumn, far from the tourist crowds, Ravello becomes the favourite destination for those who love the silence of its Villas and its medieval churches.

Villa Rufolo is famous for having inspired Wagner for the setting of his Parsifal. In the gardens and rooms of Villa Rufolo, Ravello

www.ravelloarts.org

VIGNOLA

CILIEGI IN FIORE – BLOOMING CHERRY TREES FESTIVAL IN VIGNOLA
31 March -8 April 2018

Vignola - located in the province of Modena - is the start of the so-called “Food and Wine Trail” and a Renaissance town on the Po plain, which has been celebrating the production of outstanding cherrytrees for 40 years. During the Festival the entire town is “blossoming- with-cherry-trees” and events, concerts, exhibitions, special restaurant menus, tasting sessions and related activities. The “blossoming chariots” parade is a real celebration of blossoming cherry trees.

www.emiliaromagnaturismo.com

LADISPOLI LA SAGRA DEL CARCIOFO

13 – 15 April 2018

The seaside town of Ladispoli north of Rome holds its annual three-day artichoke festival.

www.prolocoladispoli.it

ROME

ROME’S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS, 21 APRIL 2018

Every year on 21 April Rome celebrates its legendary “birthday” with three days of typically Roman events and initiatives, including gladiator games, parades etc.

For the full programme of events please consult:
www.turismoroma.it

FESTA DEL BACCANALE ARTICHOKE AND BROAD BEANS

FESTIVAL, FIRST WEEKEND IN MAY: 4-5-6 MAY 2018



at Campagnano di Roma, just north of Rome. The three day event includes several activities, such as an open market outside the main gate, a local jazz band, a donkey derby, evening tasters in the main square where visitors can go for an evening meal.



1968 DREAMERS: COME ERAVAMO, COME SAREMO (How we were and how we will be)

5 May - 2 September 2018

Photography exhibition

Museo di Roma in Trastevere
www.museodiromaintrastevere.it

GENOA

ROLLI DAYS

19-20 May & 13-14 October 2018

Two weekends of free admission to visit the Rolli Palaces: grand palaces and mansions selected by public lottery, which were used to host the nobles coming to Genoa for State

visits. The Rolli Palaces are UNESCO world heritage palaces.

www.visitgenoa.it

COMO

CONCORSO D'ELEGANZA VILLA D'ESTE - CELEBRATING THE MYSTIQUE OF HISTORIC CARS

25-27 May 2018

The Motto for 2018 is "Hollywood on the Lake".

The grounds of the Grand Hotel Villa d'Este, the world's most iconic Hotel on Lake Como, offer guests and visitors the opportunity to admire about 50 Historic Cars built between the 1920s and 1980s.

From 25 to 27 May 2018, the Grand Hotel Villa d'Este and Villa Erba will be the exclusive and unique settings of this traditional event, where guests are privileged to admire the finest historic vehicles and motorcycles of their eras.

Lake Como

www.concorsodeleganzavilladeste.com

GUBBIO

FESTA DEI CERI (RACE OF THE CANDLES)

15th May 2018

The Festa Dei Ceri is one of the oldest folklore events. The festival is a solemn act of devotion on the part of the Eugubini towards their Bishop Ubaldo Baldassini. The event began in 1160, the year of his death. Since then, every 15 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).

www.ceri.it

FERRARA

THE PALIO OF FERRARA

27 May 2018

The Palio of Ferrara, the most ancient event of its kind in the world dates back to 1279. This is a very important moment for the city: all the Contrade participate wearing gowns in different colours to gain the “palio”, but it is also an event to remember the Renaissance, a period during which Ferrara was really a capital.

www.paliodiferrara.it

CORTONA

GIOSTRA DELL'ARCHIDADO

3 June 2018

The Archidado Joust traces its origins back to the Middle Ages and was officially created in 1397 to celebrate the wedding of Francesco Casali, the Lord of Cortona, and Antonia Salimbeni, a noblewoman from Siena. The streets are decorated in medieval style, ladies, knights, flag flyers, crossbow shooters, soldiers, pages, civil and religious authorities, all dressed with fine costumes, liven up the city centre, which is rich in history.

www.giostraarchidado.com

PISA

LUMINARA AND RACE OF SAN RANIERI

16 – 17 June 2018

On the occasion of the Feast of San Ranieri, Patron Saint of Pisa, celebrated annually on 16-17 June, the enchantment of the illuminations of Saint Ranieri is renewed on the streets running along the river Arno (the so-called Lungarno). There are more than a hundred thousand wax candles which at every edition are meticulously set in smooth and white glasses and fixed then onto wooden white-painted frames, modelled in such a way as to highlight the outline of the palaces, bridges, churches and towers reflecting the river.

www.pisaunicaterra.it/en/villages-and-cities-of-art/pisa-en

GENZANO (Rome)

INFIORATA DI GENZANO

9-11 June 2018

Every year the town of Genzano in the Castelli Romani area south of Rome, holds its Infiorata, a tradition more than two centuries' old. One of the main streets of the town is decorated with flower petals representing scenes which are mainly religious. This year the theme is religious and cultural dialogue between faiths and people. In Genzano you can also taste delicious bread and charcuterie for which the town is famous.

www.comune.genzanodiroma.roma.it

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS IN ITALY AND ABROAD

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY OF THE 6 NATIONS

Rome: Stadio Olimpico*

4 February 2018*: Italy - England

11 March 2018: Wales - Italy held at Millennium Stadium, UK

17 March 2018*: Italy - Scotland

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

www.federugby.it

ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT BNL D'ITALIA 2018

7 – 20 May 2018

Rome, Foro Italico

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

WIMBLEDON INTERNATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

2 – 15 July 2018

Wimbledon, London

For further information see website:
www.wimbledon.com/en_GB/tickets/index.html

PIAZZA DI SIENA INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING

24 - 27 May 2018

Rome

The 86th 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

4 – 27 May 2018

The most important bicycle race in Italy, the Giro d'Italia, dates back to May 1909. This year the Giro d'Italia starts on 4 May 2018 in Jerusalem, and ends in Rome on 27 May.

For further information, see website: www.cyclingweekly.com/news/racing/giro-ditalia/giro-ditalia-route-192184

MILLE MIGLIA

16-19 May 2018

The 2018 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.

For further information, see website:
www.1000miglia.eu

CHIOSTRO DEL BRAMANTE
22 marzo | 26 agosto 2018
www.chiostrodelbramante.it

THE KEATS SHELLEY MEMORIAL HOUSE



As part of our views of Rome, it is interesting to find out more about what attracted artists and writers to Piazza di Spagna and the Spanish Steps. Just imagine how many people have walked up and down those 135 steps ever since they were built between 1723 and 1725. The whole of Piazza di Spagna and neighbouring areas are full of history and famous residents. The building at 26 Piazza di Spagna, the area once renowned as the 'English ghetto', was where the poet John Keats spent the last three years of his life in 1821 with his friend, the painter Joseph Severn, who was later appointed British Consul in Rome in 1861 and died there in 1879. Keats, suffering from tuberculosis, was advised by his doctors and friends to seek a milder climate and Rome was considered ideal. Keats died there at the age of 25. He was a romantic to the core.



James Clark, later physician to Queen Victoria, was living in Rome around that time and was asked to find lodgings for Joseph Severn and his friend Keats, who became one of his patients. Clark found rooms in a small pensione owned by Signora Anna Angeletti at 26 Piazza di Spagna. Sir James Clark also lived in Piazza di Spagna. Their meals were sent up to their lodgings from a popular trattoria opposite Caffé Greco in Via Condotti, the Osteria della Lepre, in Palazzo Lepri, now the shop of the jeweller Bulgari.

George Gordon Byron had also stayed at 26 Piazza di Spagna (1817).

Some of us have strolled along and recognise the streets where other famous British and American residents in the area stayed: the Sculptor John Gibson lived in Via della Fontanella Borghese (1817); Percy Bysshe Shelley was in Via del Corso and then at 65 Via Sistina (1819); the painter J.M.W. Turner lived in Piazza Mignanelli (1819); a plaque dedicated to Sir Walter Scott at 11 Via della Mercede rests against the wall of the palazzo where he lived. We are trying to concentrate on the early years of the 19th century. Otherwise, the list of names could get longer and longer right up to the turn of the century and into the next.

Edward Lear, the English artist, illustrator, author and poet lived at 39 Via del Babuino for about ten years (1837-1847), although he travelled around Italy and went back to the UK on various visits during this period.

Of the three, Keats, Shelley and Byron, Shelley left a stronger influence on Italian literature, especially upon Carducci and Pascoli. On the other hand, Byron, called by Carducci the 'death rattle of the old aristocracy' is remembered for political reasons. Like Garibaldi, he was always ready to take part in local movements struggling for freedom.

The house is full of memorabilia and has an interesting library with original manuscripts, a fascinating treasure to the scholar.

To keep up tradition, Babington's Tea Rooms, just on the opposite side of the Spanish Steps, opened later in the 1890s, offered and still offers a welcome spot to visitors with a traditional choice of teas and scones. Babington's Tea Rooms celebrate their 125th anniversary in 2018.

Photos below by courtesy of Babington's



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.



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

Phone +39 075 607316
Fax +39 075 6079187

Email goretti@vinigoretti.com

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



Fontana di Trevi



Rome Forum

Photo © GGH