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ROME CITY GUIDE

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[THE VIEW FROM HERE]

My Rome



Danielle Di Gianvito

[travel professional]

Danielle Di Gianvito is a versatile travel professional with more than 20 years of experience in the industry, working for airlines, travel agencies, tour operators, and tourism offices, with a particular emphasis on marketing, PR, and communications. She is the founder and managing director, along with Roberta D'Amato, of ITA Italian Travel Awards, a prestigious honor that has become considered the Oscars of the Italian tourism industry.



Which three adjectives best describe Rome?

Unique, captivating, unforgettable.

What makes Rome different from other capital cities?

The light that transforms the city differently each day, making it a sort of ever-changing kaleidoscope. It is a city that gives and surprises.

What is one of your favorite places in the city?

I adore Villa Ada [pictured top right]. It is perhaps the most untamed and "wildest" park of Rome (which is, by the way, the greenest city in all of Europe). This park is vividly described in Niccolò Ammaniti's novel *Che la festa cominci*.

What are the most photogenic places in the city? Do you see Rome through the lens of films like *The Great Beauty* or do you have your own "secret city" that is equally attractive?

The Great Beauty is a gorgeous tribute to the

city, a great artistic and aesthetic feat that captivates the viewer instantly.

In your opinion, what are some of the most unmissable aspects of the city that no tourist should neglect?

The Rome of the Caesars, meaning ancient sites like the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Imperial Fora, and the Circus Maximus, all of which exalt the timeless grandeur of ancient Rome. This is where the original spirit of the city resides. Another truly unmissable place is the Tiber River, which has unquestionably shaped Rome's destiny. And to jump forward a few centuries, I'd recommend a visit to the neighborhood of Tor Marancia to see their spectacular murals [pictured bottom right] that represent a contemporary side of the Capital; this street art allows us to see Rome through a modern and unconventional lens.

Which restaurants would you suggest to our readers?

I would recommend restaurants in the Jewish Quarter, like Giggetto al Portico [Via

del Portico d'Ottavia, 21] [pictured bottom left] or La Taverna del Ghetto [Via del Portico d'Ottavia, 8] in order to properly sample the authentic flavor of Rome and its rich culinary tradition.

Where do you like to go shopping in the historic center?

The area around Piazza di Spagna and Via del Babuino is scattered with luxurious boutiques that represent the best of "Made in Italy" fashion and design.

What is your idea of a perfect evening's entertainment?

For me, it's all about dining outdoors. I like to find a table in one of the splendid little piazzas of the historic center, when the weather permits of course. Luckily, Rome's temperatures are pretty mild all year round.

Lastly, Rome is most beautiful when...

When everyone goes on vacation in August and the city is empty and practically all yours. Another exquisite time is at dawn's first light, when the city is slowly waking.

