

DECEMBER 2019  
WHEREROME.COM

# Where

ROME CITY GUIDE

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RESTAURANTS

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## DECK THE HALLS!

Make your holidays sparkle  
in Rome this season



SIGHTSEEING | MUSEUMS | ENTERTAINMENT | SHOPPING | DINING | MAPS

Ask the Concierge



Aziz Aboulmahasin is the concierge of Hotel Vilon, a small boutique hotel in Rome's historic Campo Marzio neighborhood. It's located in Via dell'Arancio, a quiet and charming street a short jaunt from Piazza di Spagna. Nearly all of its 18 rooms boast a marvelous view onto Palazzo Borghese's private gardens, of which the hotel was originally a part. Aziz shares with *WHERE* readers his expert tips on seeing Rome at its best.

**1 What are your favorite of the city's hidden corners?**

Of all of the magnificent hidden corners of Rome, my favorite has got to be the view through the keyhole of Villa del Priorato di Malta on the Aventine Hill. If you peek through you get a perfect glimpse of St. Peter's dome in miniature. It's delightful and unexpected.

**2 In your opinion, what is the most romantic place in the city?**

The Fountain of Acqua Paola (better known as the Fontanone), perched atop the Janiculum Hill, is hands-down one of the most enchanting spots in all of Rome. Get there at sunset when the sky and city turn pink and gold—it's the best time of the day to soak in the spectacular panoramic view. You'll feel like the ruler of Rome!

**3 When your friends come to visit, where do you take them?**

I always make sure to take them for a walk through Trastevere's delightful alleyways and little piazzas. In my opinion, no other neighborhood of Rome offers the same authentic atmosphere that this district does. Trastevere is the place to savor the city's true spirit.

**4 What is the most memorable request you've had during your time as a concierge?**

I was asked to help organize a surprise wedding proposal, aiding in every detail of the

event, from the location of the big question to the champagne (aged at the bottom of the ocean). She said yes!

**5 Is there an event on this month that you'd recommend to visitors?**

*Canova: Eternal Beauty* at Palazzo Braschi. With over 170 works on display, the exhibit explores Canova's connection to Rome, which served as an inexhaustible source of inspiration for the great neoclassical sculptor.

**6 Are there any "insider tips" you'd like to share with our readers?**

My suggestion is to savor Rome's true essence early in the morning when the rest of the city is still asleep. This is the only way to truly experience Rome's beauty, when it's so quiet that it is almost surreal. Plus the Trevi Fountain at that hour will be all yours!

**7 Are there any restaurants you'd recommend?**

Taverna Trilussa [Via del Politeama, 23] is a go-to spot for locals and tourists who want to indulge in classic and authentic *cucina romana*. I highly recommend their *tonnarelli cacio e pepe*, served directly in the pan.

**8 Lastly, Rome is most beautiful when...**

The sun goes down and the sky turns pink and kisses the ancient roofs of the imposing palazzos of the city: a truly unforgettable spectacle.



TRANSPORTATION

**My Vespa**

See Rome like the Romans do, from perched atop your very own Vespa. This company offers both short- and long-term Vespa rentals, so you can have your own set of wheels no matter how long you intend to stay. They also offer a range of tours, so you can visit the city's sites by Vespa (you can choose to drive your own or be a passenger), Segway, bicycle, and more. Open daily, 9am–7pm. Via Cavour, 80. Tel 064815669. All credit cards accepted. myvespa.it

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Principal bus terminals: Termini Station, Pza Venezia, Largo Argentina. Metro lines A and B operate daily, 5:30am–11:30pm, Sat until 1:30am. Single ticket: €1.50; valid 100 minutes on one or more buses and/or one metro ride. Validate ticket on bus or upon entering metro. 1-day pass: €7; 3-day pass: €18; 7-day pass: €24. Tickets available at ticket machines, bars, tobacconists, and newsstands. Tel 800431784.

**TAXIS**

Can be picked up at taxi stands or hailed. Don't trust people who approach you at stations, airports, or tourist sites offering taxis. Authorized taxis can be called at: 064994, 063570, 066645, 065551, 0688177. €48 flat fare between Fiumicino and center; €30 between Ciampino and center.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS**

**To Fiumicino and Ciampino Airport (by train and coach)**

Non-stop Leonardo Express departs Termini Station and arrives inside Fiumicino Airport. 31 mins. €14 one-way. Trains also run to and from Trastevere, Ostiense, Tuscolana, and Tiburtina stations, €8 one-way. trenitalia.it

**CAR RENTALS**

**Avis** (Fiumicino)—Tel 0665011531/06419941

**Europcar**—Tel 800014410/064882854

**Hertz**—Tel 199112211/064740389

**Maggiore** (Fiumicino)—0665010678/064880049

**CHAUFFEUR SERVICES**

**Limu Event**

Hire an all-white 8.6 meter limousine and enjoy Happy Hour on board your private eight-person vehicle, with music under your control when you bring an iPod. Daily Ferrari and Lamborghini rental also available. Tel 3668079203. limuevent.it

YOUR OFFICE ABROAD

**Currency Exchange**

Take a passport or other ID. Commission rates vary from zero to €5 per transaction. Banks and post offices also have exchange bureaux.

**>American Express**

Piazza di Spagna, 38. Tel 0667642413. **Map E2**

**>Bettini**

Via Veneto, 4a. Tel 064871458. **Map E/F2**

**Banks**

Most banks have 24-hour ATM (Bancomat) machines. Opening hours vary, but most operate Mon–Fri, 8:30am–1:30 pm and 2:45–4:30pm. Closed on public holidays. **Map E5**