

WHERE Febbraio 2019

ESSENTIALS

Ask the Concierge



Marco Graziani is the front office manager of Hotel Mascagni, a boutique hotel in the heart of Rome, belonging to Space Hotels Group. The intimate and welcoming hotel prides itself on making its guests feel right at home, from the artistic design touches that bring warmth and personality to the structure, to the courteous service of the staff. Graziani shares with WHERE his expert tips on seeing Rome at its best.

1 What makes Rome different from other capital cities?

Its millennia-old history, its splendid churches, its enchanting alleyways...it's essentially an open-air museum that has the power to surprise you every day. Rome is not an ordinary place that can be taken for granted; rather it's an exceptional city that, thanks to its historical heritage, is a true one-of-a-kind place in the world.

2 What are your favorite of the city's hidden corners? The view of St. Peter's dome and the entire panorama of the city from the Orange Garden. Just next door, at the Villa of the Priory of the Knights of Malta, you can peek through a keyhole for a view that is just as rewarding and even more fun.

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

I make sure to take them to Trastevere, the neighborhood across the Tiber. Exploring its characteristic bars and cafés is something that must be done strictly on foot. One of Trastevere's greatest draws is the pleasure of casual

4 What is one of the most unusual things that has happened to you during your time as concierge of the hotel? A guest once asked me for a room with a view of the canal; I assume he thought he was still in Venice! Many guests ask me about the opening and closing times of the Trevi Fountain, which is of course an outdoor site that can be visited at any time of day or night.

(3) Is there an event on this month that you'd recommend to visitors?

I'd suggest the important exhibit on Jackson Pollock and the New York School at the Vittoriano Complex.

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

A site as interesting as it is little known is the Domus of Flena the ancient residence of the mother of Emperor Constantine, located within the complex the church of Santa Croce

1 Is there a restaurant you could suggest with an excellent price/quality ratio?

I have at least three in my back pocket: Fuocolento IVia Flavia, 63/651 for an authentic dinner based on traditional Roman flavors; Assunta Roma [Via Crescenzio, 2] for a feast of fresh fish of exceptional quality; and Baccano [Via delle Muratte, 23] for a delicious meal with an international flair.

8 Lastly, Rome is most beautiful when... At sunset, when Rome's magical light illuminates all the rooftops and domes of the city.

TRANSPORTATION

Bici & Baci

Explore the Eternal City on two wheels by renting a bicycle or motor scooter. Fully appreciate the beauty of Rome, visit the archaeological sites and hotspots, and discover unknown gems that are off the usual tourist trails with complete autonomy and freedom of movement. Bicycle and Vespa tours are also offered. Info: 064828443. Via Cavour, 302. **Map** E4. Via del Viminale, 5. Map G3. Vicolo del Bottino, 8. Map E2. bicibaci.co

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: €6; 3-day pass: €16.50; 7-day pass: €24. Tickets available at ticket machines, bars, tobacconists, and newsstands. Tel 800431784.

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

Diamond Chauffeur

Whether you need a comfortable ride to the airport, a convenient way to visit the city, a chauffeur for your wedding day, or transportation for a large party, this top-notch service has you covered. Quality and professionalism are guaranteed. S- and E-class Mercedes, minivans, and minibuses available. English spoken. Via Giorgio Scalia, 10b. Tel 3440513753. Map A2 diamondchauffeurservice.it

Driver in Rome

This luxury car rental company offers transfer to and from Rome's airports and Civitavecchia port, using high-quality limousines, town cars, and minibuses with experienced and professional drivers. Tailored services with large coaches available. Also organizes day trips and guided tours to Naples, the Amalfi Coast, Venice, Florence, and Assisi. Tel 0661522395/Cell 3384180978. info@driverinrome.com

Limu Event

Hire an all-white 8.6 meter limousine and enjoy Happy Hour on board your private eight-person vehicle, with