



WELCOME TO THE BEEHIVE

Welcome to The Beehive!

We created “The Beehive Recommends” hoping our advice and recommendations will make your visit to Rome that much more enjoyable. Restaurants, gelaterias, coffee bars and wine bars are divided by location of specific popular sites. We’ve included addresses, but ask at reception if you need help with directions on how to get to any place listed below.

You will also find “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s),” practical information and much more. “Holistic Rome” is new to our guide as Rome now has many offerings in this area.

The Beehive has grown and changed a lot since its initial humble beginnings and we owe our success to the many wonderful guests who have come through our doors. We have had the good fortune of having many of you as return guests, and truly enjoy and appreciate the rapport and relationships we have cultivated over the years with so many of you and hope to with those of you we have yet to meet!

As parents of three young daughters, unfortunately, our time at The Beehive is not as liberal as it used to be, and we don’t get to meet and speak with as many of you as we would like. However, please know that your comfort, enjoyment and opinion does matter to us as it always has. If you have any suggestions, comments or just want to drop a line to say hello if we are not around, please e-mail Linda or Steve at linda@the-beehive.com or Steve at steve@the-beehive.com

This guide is by no means comprehensive, so please let our staff or us know if you have any other questions or if there are any errors or changes we may not be aware of.

We truly hope you enjoy your stay in Rome and at The Beehive or The Beehive apartments!

Linda & Steve

FOOD - BY AREA

Most Italian restaurants are open for lunch between 12:30 pm and 3:00pm (15:00) and open for dinner at 8:00pm (20:00) until late, and reservations are strongly encouraged for dinner especially for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Outdoor seating is indicated if available, but applies only to warm weather months. Tipping is not expected, but is a nice gesture if you have had good service. If a cover is added, tipping is not required. Otherwise, you would round up. For example, if your bill is €28, you may want to leave €30. The restaurants listed below are in no particular order of price and we have not listed any ultra expensive restaurants here. However, the only truly budget food in Rome is pizza by the slice.

Beehive Tip: Before ordering, ask if there's anything "fuori menu" (off the menu). Sometimes restaurants won't tell you if they have any specials that day unless you ask. For example, you could be missing out on Mamma's lasagna made on Sundays at many family-run places or fresh gnocchi traditionally served on Thursdays.

For strictly vegetarian in Rome - please see the "Holistic Rome" section. Do note that most restaurants already have many vegetarian friendly options available.

GUIDE TO FOOD SECTION:

Pizza al taglio (Pizza by the slice) -you point to your choice, indicate how much (or how little) you want and then the clerk cuts it and weighs it - you pay by the weight. Most of these places have very limited seating.

Pizza made in wood burning ovens (pizza forno a legna) in a sit-down restaurant environment. Roman-style pizza has a very thin, crispy crust, whereas Neapolitan-style pizza has a thicker, doughy crust. Please note that pizza served in restaurants is generally only available in the evening.

Gelato: Even though they all look great, not all gelato is created equally. The best is the kind made in-house (produzione artigianale/produzione proprio). Signs to look for are gelato kept in aluminum tubs rather than plastic ones and more muted rather than bright garish colors (the brighter the more artificial ingredients). All of the gelaterie listed below are true "produzione artigianale". Please note that some gelaterias close during the winter months. Cash only.

Beehive tip: Accept the panna (whipped cream) for an extra bit of indulgence. Also, if you find yourself near the Tiber River, grab an alternative to gelato: the grattachecca – shaved ice. These stands along the river are only open during the summer months. If you are gluten

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intolerant, be aware that gluten is used as a thickening agent in gelato. Gelateria dei Gracchi and Fatamorgana (see in "Gelato" section) are two gelaterie that we know do not use gluten in their gelato.

Typical Roman coffee shops called bars are where you can down a quick coffee on the go in the morning (breakfast is a non-event here) or kick back with a Campari & ice in the afternoon, while getting an earful of Roman dialect spoken by the locals. Some of these places also act as "fast food" where you can pick up an inexpensive sandwich on the go or get a quick plate of pasta (frozen from a package and not fresh). For a true Roman experience, just step into any of the hundreds of little local coffee bars in the city. If you need to use the restroom, these are also convenient places to go, but hygiene standards in many of them are not at a high level. You may want to bring tissues with you while you are out and about since many believe toilet paper is a luxury.

Wine bar (enoteca) - the Italians authentic and classier alternative to the "Irish" pubs in the city, and fortunately for residents and visitors, there are many to choose from. Wine bars are a great place to eat a light (read: small portion sizes) lunch or dinner and avoid the "antica" tourist oriented restaurants.

Basta Pasta! Ethnic food in Rome. Not much food diversity in Rome, but we've listed a few suggestions. Please keep in mind that prices in most ethnic food restaurants are higher than in Italian restaurants.

Beehive tip: Avoid all Chinese restaurants!! We have yet to find a good, reasonably priced one and believe me, we have tried.

Supermarket/local food market: We definitely recommend that you try at least a couple of our restaurant recommendations, but at the apartments there are self-catering kitchen facilities.

TERMINI

The Beehive Cafe - at The Beehive

Open for breakfast 7:30-10:30 every day, Sunday brunch 7:30-1:00pm, drinks and snacks every day. Outdoor seating available. Cash only. 0644704553

Sadly our cafe which had originally been open for lunch and dinner was closed for those times by the city because of bureaucratic reasons. However, while only serving breakfast and Sunday brunch we still follow our belief that our guests should not have to give up a lot of money for comfort, and in this case, for good food. We follow a vegetarian and mostly organic menu and try to be as creative as possible with the limited space and restrictions

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that we have. We decided to offer a breakfast that offers a healthier alternative to the local coffee bar. Please visit Gianluca or Francesca in the cafe downstairs.

Meid in Nepols - Via Varese, 54 (restaurant & pizzeria)

Open for lunch and dinner, closed Sundays. 06.44704131

New restaurant in the neighborhood with Neopolitan flavor. Nice atmosphere, modern design and welcoming, attentive service. Pizzas are excellent.

Mamma Angela, Via Palestro, 53 (restaurant)

Open for lunch and dinner, closed Sundays.

You won't find many Italians eating here as this street is chock-full of budget hotels and hostels. You will find typical Roman dishes, cordial service and hot filling food for your belly.

Trattoria del Omo, via Vicenza, 18 (restaurant)

Open for lunch and dinner, closed Sundays.

No frills, family run trattoria with typical Roman cuisine - pasta carbonara, amatriciana and ragu dishes.

Trimani - Via Cernaia, 27B (wine bar) and via Goito, 20 for retail store

Closed Sunday. Credit cards accepted.

Outstanding and extensive selection of local and regional wines. Probably the finest wine store in Rome. Their wine bar next door has fine food choices including canapés, swordfish with oranges and camembert stuffed with black truffles.

Africa - via Gaeta, 26 (ethnic)

Open for lunch & dinner. Credit cards accepted. 06. 4941077

Ethiopian and Eritrean cuisine in a quiet side street not too far from The Beehive and the train station. Don't make the same mistake a friend of ours has done and fill up on the flat bread called 'ngera. It may not seem like much when you are eating it, but has an expanding effect once it makes contact with your stomach. Meat in sauces as well as veggie dishes to choose from and it's the custom to eat with your hands.

Pizzeria del Secolo - Via Palestro, 62 (pizza al taglio)

Open every day for lunch & dinner. Cash only. 06.4457606

A decent pizza by the slice near The Beehive. Some counter space, but not really anywhere to eat. Ask for take away (portare via) if you want to just eat while you walk. Gets really crowded around lunchtime with all the office workers and students in the area.

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CONAD - Termini Train Station (supermarket)

Inside Termini, downstairs, is a large grocery store open all day, every day. Convenient, but very expensive and the quality isn't anywhere as good as the fresh fruit and vegetables from Mercato Esquilino.

COLOSSEUM

Le Naumachie - Via Celimontana, 7 (restaurant & pizzeria)

Open every day for lunch & dinner. Reservations necessary for dinner in the summer months. Credit cards accepted. 06.7002764.

Lively and full of local color even in the heavily touristed Colosseum area, it unfortunately lost a lot of its charm after a renovation several years ago that made it quadruple the size it used to be. Owned and operated by brothers, Roberto and Alfredo, the menu selection is traditional Roman and their prices are very reasonable. Bucatini all' Amatriciana (a spicy Roman spaghetti dish) and their Fettuccine alla Naumachie are their specialties. They also have a cold vegetable antipasto of roasted veggies: peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, greens, etc. marinated in olive oil, and topped with toasted bread crumbs.

Hostaria Isidoro - Via San Giovanni in Laterano, 59/61/63 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner except Saturday lunch. Credit cards accepted. 06.7008266

Fernanda, the vivacious young hostess, adds to the congenial and welcoming atmosphere. Ask for the house special - the "assaggini" (2 person minimum) and you will be brought plate after plate of small pasta portions until you're ready to burst or say "Basta!" (Enough!). Bring a big appetite. A Beehive guests' favorite.

Taverna dei Quaranta - Via Claudia, 24 (restaurant)

Open every day for lunch & dinner. Outdoor seating available. Credit cards accepted. 06.7000550

Roman restaurant with several non-traditional menu items. Good appetisers, pastas and second courses. Service can be slow so come here if you don't mind taking your time to enjoy the local Roman ambiance.

Cafè Cafè - Via dei S. S. Quattro, 44 (restaurant)

Closed Wednesday except summer months when open all day. Outdoor seating available. Credit cards accepted. 06.7008743

Great, cozy atmosphere with lots of drinks to choose from - both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Fruit shakes (frullati) made with soy milk, honey and assorted fruit are also a yummy alternative. Lunch time salads and other light alternatives. Extensive tea list and

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jazzy music. They also serve a Sunday brunch with yogurt, granola, cereal, toast, pastries and other assorted breakfast goodies.

Luzzi Trattoria & Pizzeria - Via Celimontana, 1 (pizzeria)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Wednesday. Credit cards accepted. 06.7096332

Inexpensive and good Roman pizza in this neighborhood trattoria very popular with both tourists and the locals. Friendly & energetic staff and lively atmosphere. Very child friendly as most places are in Rome.

Cavour 313 – Via Cavour, 313 (wine bar)

Open daily. Closed 3 weeks in August. Credit cards accepted. 06.6785496

Dark wood, moody lighting and shelves covered with literally hundreds of bottles of wine. It does get crowded so reserve ahead for dinner.

Mother India - via dei Serpenti, 148 (ethnic)

Open for lunch & dinner daily. Credit cards accepted. 06 4740777

This Indian restaurant in one of Rome's oldest neighborhoods near the Colosseum and Roman Forum makes some of the best samosas! Great to come as a small group and share a few dishes all around.

Antica Gelateria de Matteis - Via Celimontana, 34 (gelateria)

Open daily. Closed Nov-Feb. Tel. 3391561722

Various selection of heat-quenching granitas. In the summer try the lemon flavor. Lots of excellent gelato flavors including the zabaione which is made with marsala wine and has a smooth, sweet custard flavor.

BASILICA SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE (ACACIA)

Trattoria Monti - Via San Vito, 13a (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Sunday dinner and all day Monday. Credit cards accepted. 06.4466573

One of Steve and Linda's favorite restaurants. Specializing in cuisine from the Le Marche region in Italy. Everything is simply delicious. Excellent wine selection. Family-owned and operated and the service is very friendly and professional. They are always busy so reservations are absolutely necessary for both lunch and dinner.

Pizzeria Rustica Europa - Via Meruluna, 28A (pizza al taglio)

Closed Sunday. Cash only. 06.4464025

Great local pizza by the slice place. Everything from the usual margherita (tomato sauce

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& mozzarella) to olives, peppers or shrimp to nutella. Don't mistake it with the other Pizza Rustica across the street which we have dubbed Pizza Grease.

Shawerma Station - Via Merulana, 271 (ethnic)

Open for lunch & dinner. Cash only. 06.4881216

If you're tired of Italian food, here's an inexpensive and tasty alternative. Shawerma, hummus, falafel, couscous, and other middle eastern goodies are served cafeteria style or to go in this generic looking cafeteria style place.

Himalaya's Kashmir - Via Principe Amedeo, 325-327 (ethnic)

Open for lunch & dinner. Credit cards accepted.

Not in the most picturesque neighborhood, but the upside is that it's one of the better Indian restaurants in the city. Excellent and varied selection from northern Indian and southern Pakistan. You can either order a la carte or the set menu. Very affordable.

Panella - Via Merulana, 54 (bakery & bar)

Open daily except for Thurs & Sun afternoons. Credit cards accepted. Price-wise high by other bakery/bar standards.

Combination bakery, coffee bar and food market. Great place for light breakfast, light lunch or midday snack. Try their fagottini integrale (whole wheat pastries with raspberry, strawberry or blueberry filling). Gourmet bakery that has a bit of everything - pizza by the slice, crepes, pastries, lots of fresh bread and chocolates. Also a bar where you can order coffee as well as different kinds of alcoholic and non-alcoholic punch or a frullatto (a fruit smoothie). After years of shoulder to shoulder cappuccino sipping, they finally have better indoor seating and loads of outdoor seating. Panella makes us very happy!

Mercato Esquilino - Via Principe Amedeo & Via Ricasoli (food market)

Closed afternoons and all day Sunday. Recently moved after its many decades outdoor location at Piazza Vittorio it is now the largest covered market in Rome. Excellent for inexpensive, but great quality produce. Many stalls also have non-Italian food stuffs - spices, basmati rice, cous cous, Indian, Mexican, American and Chinese. But watch your bag/wallet! If you go early, you can avoid the crush.

SMA - Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore, 3 (supermarket)

Another large, but more reasonably priced supermarket.

Bugatti Pasta All'Uovo - Via dello Statuto, 37c (pasta shop)

This is just one of many shops that sell fresh handmade pasta (pasta all' uovo) - including already prepared ravioli, cannelloni, etc. All you have to do is put in boiling water for 5-10 minutes and voila! Much tastier than the packaged dry pasta and surprisingly cheap.

FONTANA DI TREVI (TREVI FOUNTAIN)

L'Archetto – Via dell' Archetto, 26 (restaurant)

Open for every day for lunch & dinner. Credit cards accepted, except on Sunday (!) 06.6789064

Restaurant where you can choose from over 100 different types of pasta. Nothing extraordinary, but prices are good. Avoid the watered-down house wine.

Nanà – Via della Panetteria, 37 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Monday. Credit cards accepted. 06.69190750
Southern Italian restaurant with specialty items from the Calabria, Sicilia and Puglia regions. Try their appetizer sampler which includes a southern wine and a plate of bruschette and antipasti.

Il Chianti – Via del Lavatore, 81/82 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Sunday. Credit cards accepted. 06.6787550
Mother and two daughters all work together to make an excellent place enjoyed by locals and tourists alike for their large bread baskets with homemade foccacia and fresh-made pasta.

Sacro & Profano – Via dei Maroniti, 29 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Mondays. Credit cards accepted. 06.6791836
Restaurant specializing in southern Italian food especially the region of Calabria including salami and cheese from that area. Try the antipasto plate, "Golosita Calabresi".

Il Gelato di San Crispino - Via della Panetteria, 42 (gelateria)

Open daily, sometimes closed Tuesday in winter months.
What many consider to be the best ice cream in Rome and this is indeed some excellent gelato. No cones served here since according to the owners it "interferes with the purity of the product". It does have its down sides though: pricey, always crowded and meager scoops. But for you gelato connoisseurs, a definite must do.

PIAZZA DI SPAGNA (SPANISH STEPS)

Fiaschetteria Beltramme da Cesaretto, Via della Croce, 39 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Sunday. Outdoor seating available. Cash only.
Walls lined with interesting art and at least one communal table, this little trattoria is both cozy and cool. Small, traditional menu, but the best dishes are the pastas brimming with fresh, seasonal produce and the simple bresaola, rughetta and parmigiano plate. Recommended dishes are the tonnarelli cacio & pepe and maltagliati al sugo. Fast and friendly service and a nice buzz in general. Three minutes by foot from the Spanish Steps.

Gina – Via di San Sebastionello, 7/a (restaurant)

Open every day for lunch & dinner. Credit cards accepted. 06.6780251
Groovy little café/bar with lots of colorful, modern art. A great place to take a book or newspaper and wile away a few hours. They have an extensive menu – from breakfast treats to pastas and a range of fresh salads – to satisfy every craving. They also make picnic "baskets" for those who want to take away some yummy treats and escape to nearby Villa Borghese. A good wine list is on hand.

Osteria Margutta – Via Margutta, 82 (restaurant)

Open for lunch and dinner, reservations required on Fri & Sat. Outdoor seating available, must be requested when reserving. Closed Sunday. Credit cards accepted. 06.3231025
Beautiful, funky little restaurant located on this famous art gallery row and home of artists and other creative types (Italian film director Federico Fellini lived on this street.) A bit pricey, but excellent food and wine. A nice romantic splurge for couples. Call in advance for reservations especially if you want outdoor seating.

Antico Caffè Greco - Via Condotti, 86 (bar)

Open daily. 06.6791700
This bar established in the 1700's makes it one of the oldest coffee shops in the world. Very lush interior, red velvet seats and dark wood with historic photos of famous people. Pricey.

CAMPO DEI FIORI

Ristorante der Pallaro – Largo del Pallaro, 15 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Monday. Reservations recommended. Cash only, set menu. 06.68801488.
Very similar to the restaurant Da Ada & Alfredo near Castel Sant Angelo, in that you eat what they bring you - no menu. Owned and run by the energetic Paola and Giovanni, you get a lot of homey food to eat in an equally warm and hospitable environment.

Trattoria Moderna – Vicolo dei Chiodaroli, 16 (restaurant)

Outdoor seating available. Credit cards accepted. 06.68803423.
Beautiful modern interior. Simple, but well-chosen menu. Delicious vegetarian lasagna.

Ditirambo – Piazza della Cancelleria, 74 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Tue & Wed lunch. Outdoor seating available. Credit cards accepted. Reservations highly recommended. 06.6871626
Great vegetarian selection (but not a strictly veggie restaurant) with interesting, creative and diverse menu.

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Grappolo d'Oro Zampanò – Piazza della Cancelleria, 80/84 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Tuesday lunch. Credit cards accepted. 06.6897080

Both a pizzeria and full-service restaurant. Much of the ingredients such as cheeses, wine, etc. come from specialty producers in the region of origin. We enjoy the pizzas, gnocchi and salads. Service is prompt, efficient and friendly.

The Perfect Bun - Largo Torre Argentina, 62 (ethnic)

Open for lunch & dinner. Credit cards accepted. 06.4203051

When you've just got the urge for a hamburger, fries and other assorted American bellybusters.

L'Angolo Divino – Via dei Balestrari, 12 (wine bar)

Closed Sunday lunch and Monday lunch. Credit cards accepted. 066864413

Simple and quiet, this is a nice place to get away from the crowds around Camp dei Fiori and enjoy an afternoon/evening snack of excellent cheese & salumi with a glass of wine.

Bar Giulia – Via Giulia, 84 (bar)

Closed Sunday.

Innocuous bar located on the very beautiful Via Giulia. Friendly owners and excellent cappuccinos and caffè lattes made by these coffee masters.

JEWISH GHETTO

BarTaruga - Piazza Mattei, 9 (wine bar)

Closed Monday.

In the same piazza as one of our favorite fountains (Fontana delle Tartarughe - the Turtle/Tortoise Fountain). A little pricey, but cushy eclectic couches and chairs make this a great place to sit and chat in the evening over a glass of Prosecco (Venetian champagne). Grumpy bar guy may let you tickle the ivories on the piano if you're beyond the chopsticks stage.

Pane, Vino e San Daniele - Piazza Mattei, 16 (wine bar)

Closed Sunday dinner. Closed 2 weeks in August. Credit cards accepted. 06.6877147

Pub/wine bar with salads and pastas and known for its San Daniele prosciutto. In the same piazza as Bar Taruga at the Turtle Fountain.

PANTHEON

L'Eau Vive – Via Monterone, 85 (restaurant)

Closed Sunday. Open for lunch and dinner. Reservations required. Credit cards accepted. 06.68802101 or 06.68801095

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It's not Italian food, but thought it should be mentioned here because it is such an interesting experience. Restaurant run in a convent by an order of French nuns. The nuns do all the cooking, serving and singing! You will be sung to throughout the meal. On the pricey side, but all proceeds go to charity. An interesting way to spend an evening (and build up karma!) while eating an enjoyable meal.

Riccioli Café – Via delle Coppelle, 13 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Sunday. Outdoor seating available. Credit cards accepted. 06.68210313

Famous young Roman chef, Riccioli, makes this restaurant a must for those who want seafood and sushi. Staff are professional and friendly.

Maccheroni – Piazza delle Coppelle, 44 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Credit cards accepted. 06.68307895

Boisterous, convivial trattoria north of the Pantheon makes for a fun evening out. Attracts a young clientele, but the menu sticks to traditional Roman basics such as pasta al pomodoro or rigatoni alla gricia (pasta with bacon, sheep's milk cheese and black pepper). Reservations recommended for dinner.

Cremeria Monteforte - Via della Rotonda, 22 (gelateria)

Closed Monday. 06.6867720

Not a huge selection, but quite a good, family-run gelateria that is a step away from the maddening crowd of the Pantheon.

Fiocco di Neve – Via del Pantheon, 51 (gelateria)

Open every day. 06.6786025

Another hole in the wall gelateria with an interesting selection and generous scoops. Very well-made gelato. Flavors such as orange chocolate and their mint chocolate chip are very good. Their specialty is Zabaione which is a custard and marsala wine flavor.

Buccianti - Via Giustiniani, 18A and Piazza Cavour, 18A (gelateria)

Open daily. 06.6896670 (Giustiniani), 06.97252462 (Cavour)

Famous for their cinnamon gelato. They make crepes in the winter. Gluten free flavors are part of their selection.

Il Caffè Sant'Eustachio - Piazza Sant'Eustachio, 82 and Tazza d'Oro, via degli Orfani, 84 (bar)

Open daily. 06.68802048

Il Caffè Sant/Eustachio was established in the 1940's, and outside of our own kitchen (and we do make a mean cappuccino), it was our favorite coffee in the city. However, in recent years we have been heading over to Tazza d'Oro for more consistently good cappuccini and caffè lattes. At either location, all of our friends who visit inevitably go back for another cup!

Pascucci - Via di Torre Argentina, 20 (bar)

About 5-10 minutes walk away from the Pantheon, closer to the ruins at Largo Torre Argentina, this bar would be nothing special if it weren't for the refreshing fruit smoothies and milkshakes they make on top of the usual bar fare. Stop here on a hot day for a refreshing fruity concoction.

Salotto 42 – Piazza di Pietra, 42 (wine bar)

Closed Monday. Reservations recommended at night. 06.6785804.

One of the more simple, beautiful and understated piazzas in Rome, home of Hadrian's Temple and now this stylish cafe. Owned by an Italian & Swedish couple, they serve breakfast, lunch and dinner – primarily vegetarian. Homemade Swedish desserts and smoothies. In the evening, it becomes a relaxing place to meet for drinks – great music play lists and interesting selection of art/photography books.

PIAZZA NAVONA / CASTEL ST. ANGELO

Da Alfredo & Ada - Via dei Banchi Nuovi, 14 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Saturday, Sunday & holidays. Reservations recommended, especially for dinner. Cash only, set menu. 06.6878842

One of the more unusual places in Rome for lunch or dinner. Run by Ada with the help of a few other elderly women, it's like eating at Grandma's! No menu, you just eat whatever they bring you which is usually a small pasta dish and then a main meat & vegetable course. White wine of their own production from their vineyard in the hills outside of Rome (Castelli Romani). Afterwards, one of them (usually Ada) comes round with a bag of cookies for dessert and pinches your cheek. Definitely an experience to write home about.

Da Tonino – Via del Governo Vecchio, 18/19 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Sunday. Cash only. Tel. 3335870779

No frills restaurant - just good, basic, home-style Roman cooking. If you want a plate of pasta and some local atmosphere – this is a good place to get it without breaking the bank.

Pasquino – Piazza Pasquino, 1 (restaurant)

Open every day for lunch & dinner. Credit cards accepted. 06.6893043

Piazza Pasquino is the location of one of several "talking" statues left in Rome. They were called talking statues because at night when the city slept, anonymous political and social commentary in the form of graffiti and placards were painted or hung on the statue – comments which were unpopular with the papal rulers of the time. The tradition still continues.

Pasquino the restaurant is a typical Roman restaurant with homemade pastas and desserts.

They also serve Roman-style pizza. House specialty is tonnarelli con le ostriche (pasta with oysters not ostrich!).

Ristorante Giovanni – Via del Banco di Santo Spirito, 58 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Monday. Credit cards accepted 06.68808298

A fairly generic restaurant with some fascinating wall paintings. Menu is simple and basic. Pasta is tasty and fresh – bombolotti a modo mio comes in a very rich bacon and cream sauce.

Lo Zozzone – Via del Teatro Pace, 32 (pizza al taglio)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Sunday. Cash only. 06.68808575

Build your own pizza/sandwich using their wonderful pizza bianca (white pizza) as a base then fill it in with their numerous toppings and spreads including cold meats, tuna, fresh vegetables, vegetables in oil, cheese, etc. They also have sweet fillings on offer such as chocolate & ricotta. Very popular at lunch time.

Pizzeria da Baffetto - Via del Governo Vecchio, 114 (pizzeria)

Open every day evenings only. Cash only. 06.6861617

Very popular tourist pizzeria, but a must do for a lot of visitors. You will probably have to wait outside for a while before a table opens up. Noisy, but fun. Large portion sizes, Roman style. Great location.

Pizzeria La Montecarlo - Vicolo Savelli, 11A-12-13 (pizzeria)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Monday. Cash only. 06.6861877

Great, cheap Roman style pizza and pastas. One of the few places to go for a sit-down pizza in the afternoon.

Thien Kim - Via Giulia, 201 (ethnic)

Open for dinner. Closed Sunday. Closed 2 weeks in August. Credit cards accepted. 06.68307832

Vietnamese restaurant at the end of one of the most beautiful streets in Rome (when it's not congested with traffic).

Bar Tre Scalini - Piazza Navona, 30-35 (bar/gelateria)

Open daily. 06.6879148

Famous for its homemade tartufo (a type of chocolate) ice cream. Decadent and expensive (if you sit outside), but treat yourself anyway and get a table with a view of Rome's most famous piazza.

Caffè della Pace – Via della Pace, 3-7 (bar)

Closed Monday. 06.6861216

Great people watching in the mornings if you can sit outside. See if you can pick out who might be the latest Italian soap opera sensation or model. Beautiful dark wood interior, marble tabletops and antique cash register. Pasta and buffet items served throughout the day.

Etabli – vicolo delle Vacche, 9 (wine bar)

Open lunch and dinner. Sundays for brunch only from 12:30-3:30. Credit cards accepted. 06.97616694

Run by 2 brothers, gorgeous restaurant and wine bar with a southern French vibe. Great wine selection and relaxed, chic atmosphere.

Cul de Sac – Piazza Pasquino, 73 (wine bar)

Open every day except major holidays. Credit cards accepted. Outside seating available. 06.68801094

Very popular wine bar/restaurant and with good reason. Lots of great, inexpensive wines and good selection of appetizers, salads and desserts.

Mimi & Cocò – Via del Governo Vecchio, 72 (wine bar)

Open daily. Credit cards accepted. Outside seating available. 06.68210845

Salads, crepes, soups, rice and pasta dishes are just a few of the things to choose from and they specialize in coffee and tea as much as they do wine. Andrea, the owner, is genuinely friendly towards tourists (a rarity in the jaded Piazza Navona area) and welcomes opportunities to speak English. Very easy going atmosphere – no need to rush here.

TRASTEVERE

information for Trastevere section provided by our friend and long time Trastevere resident, Tiffany Parks

Da Gildo – Via della Scala, 31 (restaurant)

Closed Thursday. 06.5800733

A traditional and family-run osteria, here you can sample some of the classic staples of Roman cuisine, such as, bucatini all'amatriciana, carbonara, carciofi alla guidia or gnocchi alla romana at exceptional prices. A cozy atmosphere with funky artwork and a friendly, welcoming staff make it all the more alluring.

Taverna Trilussa – Via Politeama, 23 (restaurant)

Open daily. 06.5818918

Named for the inimitable 20th-century Roman poet of the same name, this is the ideal spot for an elegant and decadent meal. Whether you sit indoors or out, the setting is romantic and unforgettable. Don't miss the award-winning Ravioli Mimosa, which, like all their pastas,

is served up in the pan it's cooked in. The menu boasts several pages of gourmet cheeses, with an entire page dedicated to different types of mozzarella! Reservations recommended, especially if you want to sit outside.

Spirito di Vino – Via dei Genovesi, 31 (restaurant)

Closed Sunday. 06.5896689

Here you will find dishes that take an innovative twist on traditional Roman cuisine in an unforgettable setting. Although the interior seems modern, the restaurant is in fact housed in a 10th-century Roman synagogue (if you look closely you can see Hebrew letters etched onto the columns of the upper windows from outside). The lower level is even older: the wait staff will proudly lead you downstairs to take a peek at the ancient wine cellar that predates the Colosseum! In the 1800s, an ancient Roman sculpture, the Apoxomenos, was found here and is now housed in the Vatican Museums.

Isole di Sicilia – Via Garibaldi, 68/69 (restaurant)

Closed Monday. 06.58334212

As you walk into this charming restaurant, you'll feel as if you've landed in a Sicilian fishing village. Their array of sumptuous seafood specialties will make your mouth water, and be sure to start your meal by choosing from the vast antipasto spread, complete with Sicilian favorites such as caponata and eggplant rolls.

Pizzeria Dar Poeta - Vicolo del Bologna, 45 (pizzeria)

Open daily. 06.5880516

If you're looking for a perfect medium between Roman (thin crust) and Neapolitan (thick crust) style pizza, this is the place for you. Bufala and super-bufala are favorites for cheese-lovers, but with over 20 different pizzas, there is something delicious for everyone. Come early—especially if you prefer to sit outside—as reservations are not taken, and it can take up to an hour to get a table after 8pm on busy nights.

Pizzeria San Calisto - Piazza San Calisto 9a (pizzeria)

Closed Sunday 06.5818256.

With thin-crust pizzas so big they don't fit on a plate and freshly fried supplì (mozzarella and tomato rice balls) that will make your knees weak, this boisterous pizzeria certainly won't send you home hungry. If you don't see what you want on the menu, ask and the friendly staff will do their best to accommodate you.

In Vino Veritas – Via Garibaldi, 2a (wine bar)

Open daily. 06.58332012

At this cozy and well-priced wine bar, you will find a few rigorously selected labels and comfy couches where you can happily hole up for hours with a plate of salty snacks. Chessboards, board games and a mini-pool table make it the perfect place for an evening among friends.

FOOD - BY AREA

Nylon – Via Politeama, 9 (wine bar)

Closed Tuesday. 06.58340692

This hip bar is housed in a converted warehouse and offers a spectacular aperitivo: from about 7 to 9pm every night, for the price of a drink you can help yourself to a buffet of grilled vegetables, cured meats, salads, pasta dishes and more. Slip into the long leather booth, or sit on the street in an overstuffed armchair and watch Rome go by.

Bir & Fud – Via Benedetta, 23 (wine bar)

Open daily. 06.5894016

Choose from more types of beer than you knew existed at this lively bar-restaurant. Bir & Fud has taken the model of an Italian enoteca, and converted into a place to sample the very best gourmet beer that Italy has to offer. Pizza and savory snacks are also on the menu.

Fior di Luna – Via Lungaretta, 96 (gelateria)

Closed Monday. 06.64561314

Using only natural ingredients, the flavors on offer at this unassuming little gelateria all correspond with the fresh fruits in season. Melon and peach are particularly delectable summer favorites, and their pistachio and unusual chocolate sorbet are not to be missed! They do not offer cones, so as to avoid contaminating their ice cream with artificial ingredients.

i Dolci di Checca er Carattiere – Via Benedetta, 10 (gelateria)

Open daily. 06.5800985

The perfect spot for a late night sugar hit, this café and pasticceria offers an enticing array of sweets, such as fruit tarts, miniature pastries, Italian-style doughnuts, cornetti, cakes, pies and—of course—gelato. Open every night until 1 am.

VATICAN / PRATI

Eating at the Vatican

We have always been hard-pressed to find many decent places near the Vatican. A street near St. Peter's called Borgo Pio is a pedestrian area that has many restaurants. If you find anything you particularly like, please let us know. You might also look at some restaurants listed in the Trastevere and Piazza Navona section as these neighborhood are close to the Vatican.

Beehive tip: There is a decent and reasonably priced café located in the Vatican Museums.

Da Cesare – Via Crescenzo, 13 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Sunday dinner and 2 weeks in August. Credit cards accepted. 06.6861227

An old standby in the Vatican area and a slave to tradition. Classic fish and meat dishes,

FOOD - BY AREA

homemade pasta and thick Florentine steaks. Also an impressive array of meatless dishes and an extensive wine list.

Perdincibacco - Via delle Fornaci, 89 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Wednesday. Accepts Visa only. 06.632527

Traditional Italian food - seafood, meat dishes and pizza in a modern interior.

Al Passetto di Borgo - Borgo Pia, 60/62 (restaurant)

Open for lunch & dinner. Closed Tuesday. Credit cards accepted. 06.6861227

Another old stand-by - known for its Carbonara.

Mondo Arancini - Via Marcantonio Colonna, 38/40 (pizza al taglio)

Open for lunch & dinner. Cash only. 06.97619213

The best pizza by the slice we have found in Rome and a good selection of arancini – large Italian rice balls made with yellow Arborio rice and assorted stuffings – they're a meal on their own.

La Cucaracha - Via Mocenigo, 10A (ethnic)

Open for dinner. 06.39746373

Recommended by Beehive staffer. Mexican owned and authentic tasting Mexican food.

Buccianti - Piazza Cavour, 18A (gelateria)

Open daily. 06.6896670 (Giustiniani), 06.97252462 (Cavour)

Famous for their cinnamon gelato. They make crepes in the winter. Gluten free flavors are part of their selection.

Old Bridge Gelateria – Via Bastioni di Michelangelo, 5 (gelateria)

Open daily. 06.45599961

They don't skimp on the portion sizes in this very popular gelateria. In the summer months expect to line-up, but it will be well worth it.

Gelarmony – Via Marcantonio Colonna, 34 (gelateria)

Open daily. 06.3202395

Sicilian gelateria with many different flavors including a spicy, peppery chocolate flavor and a yummy cinnamon flavor. Also a wide variety of soy gelato flavors. If you're feeling particularly glutinous try the gelato stuffed cannelloni.

Our Favorite Gelato: Gelateria dei Gracchi - Via dei Gracchi, 272 (Vatican) and viale Regina Margherita, 192 (Porta Pia)

Open daily. 06.3216668 (Gracchi), 06.85353508 (Regina Margherita)

The owner used to build mandolins and now spends his days making some of the best

FOOD - BY AREA

gelato in Rome. They use only local ingredients and no artificial flavors or preservatives such as some of the best pistachio gelato made with Sicilian pistachios. Slow Food award winning gelato and you can taste why - light, creamy and delicious. This gelato is gluten free and they even offer gluten free cones by request.

Most Interesting Gelato in Rome: Fatamorgana - Via Lago di Lesina, 9 (Piazza Crati), Via Ostiense, 36E (Piramide) and Via G. Bettolo, 7 (Prati)

Open daily. 06.86391589

A 20 minute or so bus ride from Termini train station (NB: this is for the Piazza Crati location only - take the 86 bus for 12 stops and exit at stop Nemorense/Crati.) into the untouristed Trieste/Salario neighborhood. Similar in style to the before-mentioned San Crispino gelateria, but Maria Agnese who owns and runs the shop is 10 times nicer. You won't find attitude here, just genuine friendliness and someone who really cares about her product. She'll let you taste any flavor and you'll need her help deciphering the exotic titles: "Cioccolato Kentucky" an amazing chocolate gelato with a tobacco infusion. "Dukkah" - cumin, sesame and coriander flavor. There are several flavors that focus on spices and herbs. Fruit flavors include Mango & Lime, Apple & Cinnamon, and one made with pear, port and sambuca. Flavors are always changing. There are also the old favorites, chocolate, cream and pistachio. To top it off, all of their gelato is gluten free and made with all natural organic ingredients. A definite must do if you have the time and the inclination. Next door is Nemorense Park where you can take your gelato and wile away an hour enjoying a true taste of "la dolce vita".

Del Frate - Via degli Scipioni, 118 (wine bar)

Open Saturday lunch and all day Sunday. Closed August. Credit cards accepted. 06.3236437

Three dozen wines available by the glass as well as a range of marinated meat and fish dishes, salads, cheeses, smoked meats and fresh vegetables. Homemade chocolate fondue is their dessert specialty.

Il Simposio di Costantini - Piazza Cavour, 16 (wine bar)

Open daily. 06.3203575

Classy wine bar with extensive wine list and an assortment of 80 cheeses as well as salads, antipasti, terrines and pate's, vegetable dishes and several other inventive first and second courses.

PHONES/INTERNET/LAUNDRY

Phones - The Beehive & Beehive apartments all have courtesy phones for local calls and phone card calls. For communal phones, we kindly request that you keep calls on these phones limited and to keep your voice volume at a reasonable level as a courtesy to other guests

Phone centers are an inexpensive way to make international calls. There are many located throughout the city. However, if you want to call from the comfort of The Beehive or The Beehive apartments, international phone cards are for sale at The Beehive reception for a small fee or you can buy them at face value at newsstands and tobacco shops. Local calls or calls within Italy can be made for free through our phones.

If you need to make a call while out and about, it will be necessary to buy a Telecom Italia phone card (carta telefonica Telecom), which you can purchase from newsstands or tobacco shops. You'll need a card to use any of the public phones as many no longer take coins.

Internet - The Beehive and The Beehive Apartments offer free Internet access to our guests. The Beehive and Beehive apartments have free wi-fi network for those of you traveling with laptops.

Laundromats - There are several in The Beehive neighborhood, but the closest is at Via Milazzo, 20/b a few minutes walk away. For the apartments, there's one at Via Principe Amedeo, 116.

SHOPPING

Below are some of the main shopping streets in the city. However, don't limit yourself to these streets. Excellent shopping can be found throughout Rome. Wander down narrow cobblestone side streets (around the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Campo Dei Fiori) for small independent clothing & shoe boutiques as well as unique artisan handicrafts and jewelry. Some good streets in this regard are Via dell Boschetto, Via Banchi Nuovi, Via Campo Marzio, Via di Ripetta and Via dell Governo Vecchio. If you have anything specific in mind, ask Linda and she'll tell you where to get it (or find out for you).

Beehive Tip: Check out all the "saldo/saldi" (sale) signs in the two months when shop owners can officially put a large amount of items on sale: January and July

MAIN SHOPPING STREETS

Via del Corso - trendy, crowded, but sales clerks generally speak English and bargains can be found.

Via Cola di Rienzo (Vatican) - our favorite for conventional high street shopping - near the Vatican, not so crowded and a lot of the same stores as Via del Corso without the attitude.

Via Nazionale (Piazza della Repubblica) - a noisy, smoggy street, and less pedestrian friendly but lots of stores to choose from.

Via Condotti (Piazza di Spagna) - if you can afford anything on this street, we wonder why you're staying at The Beehive! Great place to window shop and dream.

DEPARTMENT STORES

La Rinascente - Via del Corso, 190 - mid to higher end department store when you miss shopping Macy's style.

Upim - Via del Tritone, 172 (Trevi Fountain) - low to mid-range department store where you can buy moderately priced clothing, toiletries, etc.

Oviesse - Piazza Vittorio Emanuele - low to mid-range store for inexpensive clothing. Especially handy if the airline has lost your luggage.

MAS - Piazza Vittorio Emanuele - only if you are desperate or need a completely obscure item - they seem to have everything, but not of the best quality - it's almost like an archaeological site. Super cheap, crowded and always a mess, but an interesting place to wander around in and see some of the odd things they have for sale. In holistic circles, Rome has come a long way since we first moved here in 1999. You can now find yoga classes, strictly vegetarian restaurants, and shops that sell all kinds of organic products. If you run into any other shops or restaurants that aren't mentioned here - please let us know.

HOLISTIC ROME

In regards to holistic living, Rome has come a long way since we first moved here in 1999. You can now find yoga classes, strictly vegetarian restaurants, and shops that sell all kinds of organic products. If you run into any other shops or restaurants that aren't mentioned here - please let us know.

ORGANIC MARKETS (packaged food, fresh vegetables & fruit, cleaning supplies, personal care products, etc.)

Canestro (3 locations)

via S. Francesco a Ripa, 106 (Trastevere)
viale Gorizia, 51 (Trieste)
via Luca della Robbia, 12 (Testaccio)

il Salice

via Reggio Emilia, 61/a (Trieste)

Biomens

viale delle Milizie, 7a (Prati/Vatican)

Al Sole d'Oro

Lungotevere Mellini, 44 (Prati/Vatican)

Solo Natura

via Petrarca, 1 (Piazza Dante/Piazza Vittorio - close to the Beehive apartments)

L'Albero del Pane

via Santa Maria del Pianto, 19/20 (Jewish Ghetto)

Citta dell' Altra Economia (this is a large fair trade complex that has an organic grocery store, fair trade retail shop, bar and restaurant)

Largo Dino Frisullo inside the former city slaughterhouses, also where the new MACRO is located (Testaccio)

Mercatino Biologico

Vicolo della Moretta & via Giulia (centro storico). Outdoor Sunday market, Fall to Spring.

ORGANIC BODY CARE PRODUCTS

L'Officina Naturale - centro storico

best erboristeria in Rome with excellent selection of all natural body care products including Neals Yard Remedies and a wonderful Tuscan line called Officinali di Montauto/OM)
via della Reginella, 3 (Jewish Ghetto)
via dei Coronari, 190 (Piazza Navona)

ORGANIC FARM with farm shop, Saturday and Sunday lunches, animals and nature walk

Agricoltura Nuova Cooperativa

via Valle di Perna, 315 (just south of EUR)

ORGANIC CLOTHING & SHOES

Eco Wear (standard cotton, hemp clothing)

via del Vantaggio, 26 (Piazza del Popolo)

Dimensione Natura (clothes & shoes)

via dei Falegnami, 66/a (Jewish Ghetto)

The Natural Look (Birkenstocks in many styles, colors, designs)

via del Vantaggio, 21 E/F (Piazza del Popolo)

Angelo di Nepi (clothes & shoes)

via dei Giubbonari (Campo dei Fiori)
via del Babuino, 147 (Piazza del Popolo)
via Frattina, 2 (Spanish Steps)

Croce Franco (shoes)

Piazza Madonna dei Monti, 9

VEGETARIAN AND/OR ORGANIC RESTAURANTS

The Beehive (vegetarian & organic) - breakfast, Sunday brunch and snacks

via Marghera, 8 (Termini)
06 44704553

Bistrot Biologico (organic)

La Casa del Parco
via del Casaleto, 400 (southwest of town near Villa Doria Pamphilj park)
06 45476909

Arancia Blu (vegetarian)

via Prenestina, 396 (Pigneto)
06 4454105

Naturist Club (vegetarian)

via delle Vite, 14 (Spanish Steps)
06 6792509

Margutta Vegetariana (vegetarian)

via Margutta, 117 (Spanish Steps)
06 32650577

Tidiro (macrobiotic)

via del Mattonato, 42 (Trastevere)
06 5810626

Pugliamonti (vegetarian specialties from Puglia region)

via Urbana, 104
064742772

YOGA

Anusara & Iyengar style yoga:

Centro Parmananda, Lungotevere Flaminio, 48 (Anusara inspired yoga)
Contact Paula Moss (American, she is the owner of the studio)

Generic hatha style yoga:

Accademia Yoga, via XX Settembre, 58 (Porta Pia)
www.accademiayoga.it

Ashtanga Vinyasa yoga:

Scuola Ashtanga Yoga, via Annia 54 (Celio)
www.astanga.it

Power yoga, ashtanga and anusara yoga:

Ego Yoga, via Cola di Rienzo, 162 (Prati)
www.ego-yoga.it

Various yoga styles:

L'Albero e La Mano at via Pelliccia, 3 (Trastevere)
www.lalberoelamano.it

Iyengar yoga:

Studio Iyengar
via Tagliamento, 45 (Trieste)
www.studioiyengaryoga.com

Bikram yoga

Bikram Yoga Roma
via Aurelia, 190
www.bikramyogaroma.it

Various yoga styles

Arya Yoga
via Umberto Giordano, 99/c14 (Infernetto)
www.aryayoga.it

Kundalini yoga:

Centro Naad (Monti/Esquilino)
via Giovanni Lanza, 125
www.naad.it

Budokanin

via Properzio, 4 (Prati/Vatican)
www.budokanin.com

MASSAGE

Jenifer Vinson at The Beehive by appointment (Swedish style)

via Marghera, 8 (Termini)
€45 for 50 minutes

Baan Thai (Thai massage)

Borgo Angelico, 22 (Prati/Vatican)
www.baanthai.it

Acanto Day Spa

Piazza Rondanini, 30 (Pantheon)
www.acantospa.it

Acqua Madre (Hammam/turkish style spa)

via di S. Ambrogio, 17 (Jewish Ghetto)
www.acquamadre.it

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

MUSEUMS AND CHURCHES

Rome has around 400 churches in the city center alone and more than a dozen museums. We know your time is limited so we've jotted down a few museums and churches that we think are definite must-sees. You can get to the rest the next time you're in Rome because you must believe that there will indeed be a next time! Please note that many smaller churches have closing times around lunch and reopen in mid/late afternoon.

Galleria Borghese – Piazzale del Museo Borghese (Villa Borghese Park)

Closed Monday. Reservations required. This museum has limited viewing and entrance times. Phone: 06.328101 and press 2 for reservations in English or ask at the front desk and we'll do it for you. €8.50 plus €5 for audio guide which we highly recommend or €6 for guided tour.

In our opinion, the most beautiful gallery in Rome. The Bernini statuary is an absolute must-see. Considered one of the best collections of classical art in the world - at one time coveted by Napoleon. In fine weather, don't miss the older Italian men playing bocci ball in the pitch located out front near the park entrance.

Galleria Doria Pamphilj – Piazza del Collegio Romano, 2

Closed Thursday. €9.50 includes audio guide

An amazing private art collection in one of the more beautiful villas in Rome. Paintings and sculpture by Caravaggio, Tiziano (Titian), Bernini, Velasquez, and more. The family still lives in the palazzo.

Capitoline Museums – Piazza del Campidoglio (near Piazza Venezia)

Closed Monday. €6.50 for basic ticket

Oldest public collection in the world – a must see for all the amazing ancient statuary. Recently remodeled, there is also a café with wonderful views.

Montemartini Museum/Museo Centrale Montemartini – Via Ostiense, 106 (Ostiense/Garbatella)

Closed Monday. €4.50 for basic ticket

Definitely off the beaten path, but an amazing juxtaposition of the classical and industrial - Rome's first electric and now defunct power plant is the background to classical statuary. A unique museum space.

MACRO (Contemporary Art Museum of Rome) – Via Reggio Emilia, 54 (Piazza Fiume)

Closed Monday. €4.50

Rome's contemporary art museum - not to be confused with the Modern Art Museum near

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

Villa Borghese. Undergoing renovations for a huge expansion that should make it one of the more important contemporary art museums in Europe. If you go further up the street and around the neighborhood you'll find other smaller, independent contemporary art galleries. Also nearby is one of our favorite gelaterias in the city (see "Gelato"). About a 20-25 minute walk from The Beehive.

Villa Giulia National Etruscan Museum – Piazzale di Villa Giulia, 9 (Villa Borghese Park)

Closed Monday. By reservation. Call 06.824620. €4

Splendid collection of artifacts from one of the most important pre-Roman civilizations – the Etruscans.

Basilica San Clemente - Piazza San Clemente (Colosseum)

Unique in that you can see three layers of history under one roof. A medieval church built in the 12th century, it was built on top of a 6th century church which in turn had been built over a 2nd century Mythic temple. Mythicism was an ancient and mysterious cult religion followed by Roman soldiers and gladiators. For a small entrance fee, you can see both the remains of the temple and the 6th century church. As Steve puts it, "if it's subterranean, it's cool."

Santa Maria in Trastevere - Piazza Santa Maria (Trastevere)

Gold, gold and more gold! Magnificent Byzantine style decorated church located in an eclectic area of Rome. The only downside is how the city shamefully does not do anything to clean up the entrance which is usually filled with detritus from homeless people and a very strong smell of urine.

Santa Maria del Popolo - Piazza del Popolo

In this dark little church you'll find skull & crossbones motifs everywhere and two fantastic Caravaggio paintings tucked away in a corner.

Santa Maria sopra Minerva - Piazza della Minerva (Pantheon)

In front of this church is Linda's favorite statue in Rome - a whimsical elephant with an obelisk on its back designed by Bernini (the obelisk is Egyptian dating from the 6th century BC). Inside you'll find rare (for Rome) Gothic style building.

Santa Maria degli Angeli - Piazza della Repubblica (Termini)

Church that was incorporated into the ancient Baths of Diocletian by Michelangelo it also has a timeline (see the astrological figures in the floor) that was used up until the 1800's to set the clocks of Rome.

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

Santa Maria in Cosmedin - Piazza Bocca della Verita (Circus Maximus)

A dusty, dark, humble, but lovely little church with beautiful mosaics in the floor. The Bocca della Verita (Mouth of Truth) is in the entrance way.

Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore – Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore (Termini) - One of the basilicas of Rome in all its Baroque style glory. If you like mosaics, this is a definite must-see.

San Giovanni in Laterano - Piazza di San Giovanni in Laterano (San Giovanni)
Rome's official cathedral (St. Peter's is the Vatican's). As huge and imposing as St. Peter's without the dome. For an extra bit of euro, check out the beautiful, twisted, mosaic columns in the cloisters.

San Pietro / St. Peters – Piazza San Pietro (Vatican)

THE Roman Catholic church. A definite must-see. The climb to the cupola (dome) is a truly surreal and interesting experience. Beehive tip: use the elevator – even with the help of the elevator it's quite a climb. Not for the (literally) faint-hearted or claustrophobic.

SITES WORTH SEEING

The Colosseum - THE Roman monument. Made from travertine marble, the same stone as the Trevi Fountain. Magnificent even with all the stains of pollution. See if you notice the one small section that was cleaned in time for the Giubileo 2000 and you'll get a glimpse of its former splendor. As of this edit, the Tods shoe company has contributed to a multi-million euro restoration which is projected to be completed in 2014. Keeping our fingers crossed.

Roman Forum - Rome's former public area - food courts and brothels eventually made way for business centers, law courts and temples galore. Good idea to pick up a tour in the Forum (there are always people plugging "free" tours although this may be changing as Rome officials are cracking down on freelance guides) or pick up audio guides at the Forum information garden located at the corner of Via Fori Imperiali & Via Cavour.

Imperial Forum - Includes Trajan's Forum, Forum of Augustus and Forum of Caesar. Excavations here have expanded and certain parts have been closed until further notice. Most impressive is Trajan's Column which spirals up to 98 ft. (30 m) and has detailed scenes carved into it.

Monument to Vittorio Emanuele at Piazza Venezia (the Vittoriano) - Built in the late 1800's and completed in 1911 in time for Italy's 50th anniversary of unification. The

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

tomb of the unknown soldier and the eternal flame of Rome hold important spots here also and are guarded year round. Most Italians dislike this monument because the builders laid waste a part of the Roman Forum to build it and the Brescian marble is a type that brightens in the sun rather than mellows and yellows like the Travertine marble used throughout Rome. You can now climb the stairs to the top for a great view of Rome's historic center.

Palatine Hill - Area once the residence of emperors and aristocrats. Lots of green, cool breezes and a fish pond - this hill is a nice change of pace from the often too dusty, too crowded and hot Roman Forum. Contains the ruins of the Palace of Septimius Severus as well as the recently restored home of the Vestal Virgins. Great views of it can also be seen from the Circus Maximus.

Baths of Caracalla - Largest and best preserved ruins of one of the three large public bathhouses of ancient Rome. Not on The Beehive map as it is a bit south near the Circus Maximus. Avoid the entrance fee and just admire their grandeur from the outside. In the summer, classical music productions are staged here.

Circus Maximus - Depending on the time of year, now just a dusty or green open field so you really must use your imagination to visualize the splendor that it was, but recommended for the spectacular views of the buildings on the Palatine Hill.

Fontana delle Tartarughe - Piazza Mattei

The lovely and subtle turtle fountain has been recently restored and is a pleasure to behold. Historical note: the fountain was built in 1581, but the turtles were put in 77 years afterwards. The incorporation is seamless and so clever. The fountain is in Rome's historical Jewish quarter which also has Rome's only synagogue. Please note that Italian Jews known as Italkim are Europe's oldest non-diasporic Jewish community and many of the families living in this neighborhood have been living there for generations.

Casino Nobile at Villa Torlonia - By reservation only 06.82059127

Recently restored, this building became home to Benito Mussolini and his family in 1925 where he paid a token rent of 1 Lire a year. Considered one of the most beautiful 18th century buildings in Rome.

Villa Celimontana & Villa Borghese - If you want to escape Rome's scooters and chaos and check into some greenery and solitude, have a picnic or simply soak up some sun in peace, try one of these convenient and beautiful public city parks. The Villa Celimontana is located on the south side of the Colosseum. Walk up Via Claudia and then just past the church Santa Maria in Domnica is the entrance to the park on the right. The Villa Borghese is north of the Spanish Steps. Both have children's areas and plenty of green.

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

View from the Gianicolo Hill - Trastevere

If you are looking for a spectacular and panoramic view of Rome and a great photo op, visit the top of the Gianicolo (Janiculum) hill in Trastevere. Best time to visit is right before sunset when the setting sun bathes the city in a hazy golden glow.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Tomb of the Capucin Monks - at Santa Maria della Concezione, Via Veneto 27 (Piazza Barberini)

Closed Thursday and few hours in the early afternoon. Admission fee is a small donation. Short metro ride away from The Beehive on the red line (Line A) just off the Barberini metro stop. A crypt with the bones of over 4,000 monks artistically displayed in various scenes. If you're looking for bones, this is the place.

Dario Argento Horror Museum/Profondo Rosso - Via dei Gracchi, 260 (Prati/Vatican area) Closed Sunday and during lunch hours. €3 for museum entrance, shop entrance is free.

For a bit of horror camp in Rome, visit the museum & shop of Italian horror film director Dario Argento. The museum is in the basement.

National Pasta Museum – Piazza Scanderbeg, 117 (near Trevi Fountain)

All you ever wanted to know about pasta and then some. From the pre-Roman era to present time.

There are many other unusual museums throughout the city: from a wax museum to a museum on nativity scenes. On the more traditional side there is a naval museum, a folklore museum, a museum on Roman civilization, etc. For more information on these museums and more, ask at reception.

DAY TRIPS

What are some good day trips from Rome?

In the summer we recommend taking a day to get out of the heat of Rome and going to the beach. The closest beaches are in Ostia, but because of how polluted these particular waters are we cannot in good conscious recommend them. If you don't mind taking a toxic dip, ask at reception and we'll tell you how to get there.

Unfortunately, the Italian coastline is heavily commercialized and full of private beach clubs (stabilimento). You pay for a lounge chair and/or an umbrella and they offer other services such as toilets, restaurants and snack bars.

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

If you just want simple, clean beaches, the closest destinations would be Sabaudia and San Felipe Circeo - both about 1.5 hours south of Rome by car and 2-2.5 hours by public transport. No trains, you'll have to take the blue Cotral pullman buses, which can be picked up from the Laurentina metro stop off the Line B (blue line) metro. Private beach clubs exist here too, but there are also many long stretches of free sand.

If you want to get a little further away, take a train from Termini train station to a beach town called Sperlonga (you'll have to take a train in the direction of Naples, get off at Fondi-Sperlonga after a little over an hour and then take a blue Cotral bus to Sperlonga). This town was built on a cliff top with whitewashed buildings and narrow winding streets. Down below the town is some of the cleanest sand and water near Rome. Many of the beaches are private so you may have to pay to use an umbrella & chair, but there are some stretches that are free & open to the general public.

If you don't get a chance to go to Pompeii near Naples (which is also an excellent day trip if you leave early in the morning and we highly recommend it), you can also check out the ruins at Ostia Antica, which is about a 30 minute train ride away. Take the Blue Line (Line B) metro to Piramide and then take the local Lido di Ostia train. The one metro ticket pays for both trains. Context Travel (see "Tours" section in FAQ) offers an excellent tour of this archaeological site.

The towns of Florence and Orvieto also make excellent day trips from Rome. Florence is only about 1.5 hours away on the Eurostar train. There is too much to say about this Renaissance city than can be covered here. However, because of the great influx of tourists and difficult to find accommodations especially in the summer months, some people do decide to make it a day trip.

Linda & Steve recently moved to Orvieto, a medieval town located on a high hill overlooking the Umbrian countryside. Orvieto is famous for its Duomo (cathedral) and also for its excellent white wine. Taking the train is easy enough from Termini station, which will get you to Orvieto in 1 hour. A funicular directly across from the Orvieto train station brings you up into the town. Outside of the funicular station there is a bus, which can take you up into the main square. Enjoy the views, strolling the streets and an excellent meal at any of their very fine restaurants (Duca di Orvieto at via della Pace, 5, il Grappo e il Vino located a few doors away and Trattoria del Orso, via della Misericordia, 18/20 to name just a few. As Linda puts it, "If it's a medieval hill town, it's cool." If you give us advance notice, and we are not in Rome at The Beehive, we would be happy to meet up with you for a glass of wine or a coffee.

***For more suggestions on day trips, check out "And Beyond" section below.*

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

I've seen all the sights. Can you suggest something else to do?

How about doing as the Romans do and indulging in some of the Italian "la dolce far niente" – the sweetness of doing nothing. Slow down. Hang out at a café and people-watch and catch up on conversation. In the evening (especially in the summer), go to any one of the roof-top terrace bars located at the higher end hotels and drink in the golden light and see the birds-eye view of Rome. You pay a bit more for the drink, but just think of all the money you're saving by staying at The Beehive! Some good choices are: Hotel St. George on Via Giulia. Hotel Raphael near Piazza Navona, Hotel Minerva near the Pantheon, Hotel Eden near Via Veneto, Hassler Hotel at the top of the Spanish Steps or Radisson SAS Hotel near Piazza Vittorio (and The Beehive Shared Apartments).

If you're feeling particularly daring, rent a scooter and experience Rome as the locals. Try to rent on a Sunday when the traffic is lighter and you might actually be able to enjoy yourself rather than feeling like you've just made a death wish. There is a scooter rental point on the corner of Via Varese and Via Milazzo near The Beehive.

***For more suggestions, check out "The Roman's Rome" section below or check out "Day Trips from Rome".*

THE ROMAN'S ROME - NEIGHBORHOODS

The sad fact is that many of you are here on limited time and/or here for the first time so it's essential to see all the sites, galleries and monuments that you have heard and read so much about.

However, for those of you who have been here before or with a little extra time and a bit of curiosity – try going beyond the well-blazed tourist trails. Head into the lesser known neighborhoods in Rome and beyond into the actual Roman countryside. We've listed below several neighborhoods that we think are worth exploring if you want to see how people in this city actually live in the day to day.

Testaccio – the former blue-collar neighborhood of Rome, once the location of the city slaughterhouses, located south of the Circus Maximus near the Tiber River. Now becoming an area of funky boutiques, health food stores, but always filled with great local restaurants, bakeries and a large, covered market. Visit the excellent Volpetti food shop on Via Marmorata, 47 (Closed Sunday) for the best selection in the city of cheeses, salami and other portable goodies - they will allow you to sample almost any item. They have a website and deliver

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

worldwide so they can let you know how to take home those yummy edibles and pack them accordingly. An unusual site in this neighborhood is Monte Testaccio – a "mountain" that was built from the remains of the clay pots, which used to deliver goods to the ancient Roman ports. Several restaurants and nightclubs are built into the hill, which is now covered in foliage and you can view the ruins from inside some of these locales. Another unusual attraction is the historic Protestant Cemetery – behind Rome's very own pyramid - an unlikely way to spend the afternoon, but in the summer months it offers an incredible respite because of the huge shade trees. You can sit on a cool marble bench, visit with the local cats from the cat sanctuary and pay your respects to Keats. At the partially renovated former city slaughterhouses, check out the new branch of the MACRO art museum as well as the newly opened complex Citta dell Altra Economia dedicated solely to fair trade products including a retail shop, bar, grocery store and restaurant. Some restaurants to try in the area: Tutti Frutti, via Luca della Robbia, 3A, (closed Sunday, open for dinner only, 06.5757902), Da Felice, via Mastro Giorgio, 29 (Closed Sunday dinner), Nè Arte Nè Parte, via Luca della Robbia, 15. (Closed Monday, 06.5750279)

San Lorenzo – the main university area of Rome, home of La Sapienza University, located north-east of Termini train station. Laid back and liberal student atmosphere during the day with (in our opinion) loads of restaurants and a lively nightlife. With reservations in advance, try ram Tram at via dei Reti, 44 (closed Mondays, 06.490416) for traditional with a twist Roman food in a lively atmosphere or just walk around and find any place that is packed and looks interesting. You probably won't go wrong. **A must visit for you chocolate lovers - SAID (Antica Fabbrica del Cioccolato, closed Sunday) - Rome's oldest chocolate confectioners.** At the front is their retail shop and in back is their restaurant and bar where you can either have lunch & dinner or just sit back with a hot chocolate in the afternoon. Be sure to visit during chocolate themed holidays such as around Valentine's, Easter and Christmas for some gorgeously packaged confections.

Monti – a neighborhood squeezed into a tight area just north of the Roman Forum and west off of the main drag Via Cavour. Lots of cobblestone and narrow streets – watch out for the scooters! Many unusual boutiques with handmade clothing & jewelry, an excellent artisan chocolate shop, a tea shop with an interesting array of loose leaf teas and some interesting café/art galleries, restaurants and pizzerias. Try the excellent Taverna Romana on via Madonna dei Monti, 79 (Closed Sunday, 06.4745325) Save room for their delicious tiramisu or La Taverna dei Fori Imperiali, via Madonna dei Monti, 9 (06.679.86.43) Or have a lighter lunch or an evening aperitivo seeing the light change and excellent people watching at La Bottega del Caffè at Piazza Madonna dei Monti, 5.

OUR FAVORITE THINGS

Trieste/Salario- We're very biased about this neighborhood as we lived here for 6 years. It's definitely the kind of neighborhood that after a few days, you'll feel at home.

For those of you who want a taste of Roman life, head to the covered fruit and vegetable market at Piazza Alessandria for inexpensive, fresh produce. On Via Alessandria there's an artisan pasta maker, a butcher, and on Reggio Emilia, a little organic food shop that also sells body care products. There's a great wine shop/enoteca, at Piazza Regina Margherita and in the same piazza - Da Emilio a great local family owned trattoria. Other great restaurant options are La Maremma on Via Alessandria (also a good pizzeria), Tribeca - an excellent NY style restaurant (but only open for breakfast and lunch) and the very well known Gelateria dei Gracchi on viale Regina Margherita - hands down some of the best gelato in Rome. There's Fior Fiore, a pizza by the slice place with a second location at Piazza di Spagna.

This is one of the greener neighborhoods of Rome starting with the Villa Torlonia, a gorgeous park with a restaurant/pizzeria, La Limonaia for relaxed dining al fresco. The Villa Torlonia is a great place for a stroll, a jog or a picnic. You can watch elderly Italian men playing bocce ball outside the local community center. In the park is the recently restored and gorgeous 18th century Casino Nobile (Mussolini's home in Rome when he was in power) while on the other side of the spectrum is Technotown which offers workshops in new media for 8-17 year olds. Other public parks within walking distance is the dog lovers Villa Paganini, the uncultivated, wild-ish Villa Ada and the polished Villa Borghese.

Architecture? You can walk to Piazza Mincio and see some of the coolest buildings in Rome designed by Gino Coppedé and beautiful and timeless mosaics at the church of Sant' Agata fuori le mura (Saint Agnes outside the walls). The restored and adorable Casina delle Civette in the Villa Torlonia houses a stain glass museum. Art? The newly expanded MACRO (Museum of Contemporary Art) located on Via Reggio Emilio hosts various revolving exhibits while nearby have sprouted up countless small contemporary local art galleries.

Is it easily accessible? To reach this neighborhood, you could walk from The Beehive in about 20 minutes (we used to walk daily to and from), or you can catch a bus at Termini station, the #38 from Platform O and get there in about 10 minutes.

This neighborhood has something to offer everyone and is well worth exploring in its own right.

AND BEYOND...

Just 30 minutes to 1.5 hours north of the city are several areas close to Rome that have their own interesting histories and hidden treasures in beautiful natural settings – gently green rolling hills, medieval castles, ancient ruins and necropolises. A car is required to reach these places. If there is ever enough interest, perhaps one day we'll make a Beehive countryside location for Beehive guests.

The Tuscia/Etruria – Main towns include Sutri, Vetralla, Tuscania, Viterbo, and Tarquinia. This area is known as the birthplace of the Etruscans – a pre-Roman civilization. From culinary and archaeological explorations to thermal baths, the Tuscia has a lot to offer.

Sabina – Main towns include Rieti, Fara Sabina and Casperia, but there are villas, medieval castles, and abbeys scattered throughout the Sabine countryside. Home of the exceptional DOP recognized olive oil which is difficult to find outside of this area. Horseback riding, yoga retreats, and culinary explorations are just a few of the many things you can do in this area.

Is Rome a child friendly city? What can we do to keep our children entertained?

Most Italians will dote on your children especially infants or toddlers. Children are welcome anywhere including all restaurants and if you are coming from the U.S. or England, you'll be pleasantly surprised (and relieved) by the lack of rude stares and comments. Try not to pack in too much in a day and for every adult activity, make sure there is an equal children's activity. For example, after you take in the Galleria Borghese, make sure to hit the Explora Children's Museum (not in league with other children's museums we've seen, but entertaining for the younger children nonetheless). Rome also has quite a few public parks. The Villa Borghese Park has pony rides, bicycle rentals, a small rowing lake, playgrounds, and a children's movie theater as well as the Casina di Raffaello, an educational children's center with very nice wooden play structures outside. We have three young children, so if you want more specific suggestions or information, please ask Linda.

Do you have any recommendations for children's clothing or toy shops?

In my opinion, the best toy shop in Rome is Citta del Sole which has several locations including one near the Pantheon.

For children's clothing, Linda actually prefers the French brands such as Petit Bateau and Due Pareil au Meme as well as Spanish department store Zara. Italian children's clothing are either extremely pricey (see the lush Pinco Pallino on via del Babuino, 115 near the Spanish Steps or Bonpoint at Piazza di San Lorenzo in Lucina, 25 near via del Corso), or with too many decals, patterns and wording on them.

THE BASICS

How do I use the public pay phone?

Buy a Telecom Italia phone card (scheda/carta telefonica), break off the perforated corner and insert into phone. When dialing a toll free number, you may or may not need a phone card to activate the phone. International phone cards give you more minutes if use the Telecom Italia phone card and dial the local access number. This card is different then the ones we have for sale at The Beehive, which is an international phone card. However, to use the international phone card at a public pay phone you would still require a Telecom phone card to activate the phone.

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes. Lots of minerals including high calcium content, but you won't get sick from it. Brown street spigots located throughout the city are great sources for filling up water bottles. This natural spring water comes straight from the hills surrounding Rome.

How and where do I mail a postcard?

Visit a tobacconist shop (tabaccheria/tabacchi) and buy stamps (francobolli) or stop by the post office at Termini or other post office stations throughout the city.

The name of the Italian postal service is Poste Italiane and is recognized by a yellow sign with the initials PT in blue. Italian mail service is terrible, so please do not send anything particularly valuable through the post. Costs are as follows:

letter or postcard under 20g to US: 0.85

letter or postcard under 20g within Europe: 0.65

letter or postcard under 20g to Australia: €1

A tobacconist shop can be identified by the large "T" sign hanging above their doors. Costs are the same as the post office. Red post boxes are located outside of most tobacconist shops. The slot on the right is for destinations other than Rome. There is a post box (not a tobacconist) on Via Dei Mille just around the corner to the right of The Beehive. Generally, if we have a simple letter to mail, we prefer going to the tobacconist since there is no waiting like there is at the post office.

TRANSPORTATION

Where can I catch the bus? How do I get from Point A to Point B?

Best bet is to go to Termini train station a major stopping off point for many city bus lines. The cost for a bus ticket is €1 and can be bought at tobacconists (tabaccheria) or newsstands (edicola). Don't forget to validate the ticket once you board the bus. Bus service is based on the honor system, and ticket inspections are random. Rather than worry about a possible €50 fine, it's just best to buy the ticket. Keep a few on you at a time.

If you're trying to get back to The Beehive by bus after 10:30pm/22:30 at night, locate bus signs with an owl on the top. These are the night buses. However, their running times are infrequent so depending where you're at it may be easier to take a taxi or walk. Take any bus with a final destination of Termini and from there it's a 5 minute walk to The Beehive.

One of the few city websites that actually works - the public transit site is extremely useful. Go to <http://www.atac.roma.it> and at Percorso input in the "Da" (From) section, Cinquecento. This is from the hub at Termini train station, which is close to The Beehive. Under "A" put in the address of your destination leaving out Piazza or Via, just the main name. It then tells you what buses or metros and the names of the stops to get to where you are going.

Where is the nearest Metro stop from The Beehive? From the shared apartments?

Both metro lines (Line A/Red & Line B/Blue) stop at Termini train station. Metro lines start running at 5:30am and stop at 11:30pm (23:30). Please note that Line A/Red is currently undergoing construction work and now closes at 9:00pm/21:00 until further notice.

For the Acacia apartment it's the same information as The Beehive. For Clover and Millefiori, the closest metro stop is Line A/Red at Piazza Vittorio.

I'm traveling by car. Where is the nearest place to park?

I'm afraid we do not have parking available at The Beehive. Street parking is very limited, but if you find it is €1 an hour from.

PARKING

ES Park - Via Giolitti, 267. Tel 0644704053. Parking is 1.50 per hour up to 11 hours. From 11 hours, the daily rate kicks in and it's 14 euros daily (no matter the size of vehicle).

Gruppo Tucci - Via Castro Pretorio, 48. Tel 06491922. Parking starts at 15 euros per day.

Parking Ludovisi - Via Ludovisi, 60. Tel 064740632. 18 euros per day.

You can also check out the website www.parcheggi.it for additional information on parking garages throughout the city.

How long does it take to get to Venice, Florence, etc.? How much does it cost?

We recommend taking the fast train, Eurostar, when at all possible. Times below reflect Eurostar times. Eurostar trains are best booked in advance. Taking a slower train (IC or Regional train) can sometimes double or even triple your travel time.

Venice:	3 hours 50 minutes
Milan:	3.5 hours
Florence:	1.5 hours
Pisa:	3 hours (switching trains in Florence)
Siena:	3 hours (switching trains in Chiusi)
Naples:	1 hour 10 minutes
Pompeii:	2.5 (switching trains in Naples)

Italy's national rail service is called Ferrovie dello Stato – FS for short. Fast trains, the Eurostar (ES), AltaVelocita (AV) or Frecciarossa (ES/AV) is by reservation only. To make the reservation you need to go into Termini station to the Eurostar office at the end of the long line of ticket counters and pay the supplement or book on-line. If you are traveling the same day, you can just go directly to the ticket counters.

Cost of tickets varies and changes so your best bet is to check at Termini train station for the most current ticket prices or check out the FS website at www.ferroviedellostato.it

How do I get to the airport?

Taking the train is the cheapest way if you are traveling alone or with little luggage. Buy your ticket at Termini train station at the newspaper stands for €14. It takes about 30 minutes to get to the airport by train. These trains start at 5:52am and leave every thirty minutes :22 and :52 minutes after the hour. Don't forget to validate your ticket before boarding in the yellow time boxes located on the platforms. They do check tickets and you will be fined if it hasn't been validated. Eurail passes are valid on these trains. The trains for the airport depart from platform 25/26, but please check this as it does change. The walk to the platform is a good 10 minute walk away from the main gallery so plan accordingly. In addition, please note that for departures to the US or Israel, you will need to take a shuttle (Shuttle Express) once you arrive to the airport from the train to Terminal 5.

Otherwise, by taxi is usually the best bet if you are leaving very early in the morning. We use a taxi service that charges Beehive guests €45 flat rate for 1-4 and €55 flat rate for 5-6 people (an additional €5 between 10:30/22:30 and 5:00am). Split between you and others in your

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

party, this can be an economical and much more comfortable way of getting to the airport rather than dealing with the train. Book the day before departure at Beehive reception or give us a call the day before if you are staying in one of the apartments.

THE DARK SIDE OF ROME

Should I worry about crime?

For being a major metropolitan city, Rome has a low crime rate. Crimes that are directed towards tourists are “petty” theft (pickpockets) or “working a con” type of crimes and we have never heard them turn violent. Pickpockets simply want to get your money/belongings with the least amount of resistance, but stay aware! Unfortunately, we have had many, many guests who have been robbed. We strongly encourage our guests to leave us their passports, airline/train tickets and other small valuables for safekeeping. There is no need to walk around the city with your passport.

Watch out for gypsies - long-haired, long-skirted women often pregnant or carrying a baby and surrounded by young children who usually do most of the dirty work. They are the most visible, but not the only thieves. Be especially careful near major tourist attractions (including churches), at bus & metro stops and on public transportation when you are in a crowd and easily distracted. Keep your bag in sight and on your body at all times.

Be aware when crossing the street! The statistic is that 7 pedestrians a day are hit while crossing streets in Rome. The problem is exacerbated by crosswalks and corners being used as parking spaces making it difficult for cars to see you. Please don't assume that if you are on the crosswalk cars will stop for you. Be vigilant and be fast!

Scams to Avoid!

Scam #1: Someone approaches and motions to you to extend your finger or who says they have a “gift” (regalo) for you. They will make a “friendship” bracelet or offer some sort of cheap trinket and then you will be expected to pay for it. Best not to extend your finger or shake hands with anyone. They will and can get nasty if you refuse to pay.

Scam #2: You're walking down the street and a man in a car with a map on the front seat pulls up next to you and says he is lost. He will say he works for Valentino, Armani, Gucci or any known designer. He will ask if you can help him with gas money and will trade you one of the sample leather or suede jackets he has in his backseat for the small price of 20 or 50. The “leather” or “suede” jacket turns out to be an extremely cheap, smelly, PVC jacket not worth 2. It's an elaborate scheme, but the guy is persistent. Just walk away.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Scam #3: Guys beware! A man walks up to you “looking lost” who says he is an Italian-American from New York. He says he is looking for a particular pub and cannot find the street on the map he is carrying and could you help him. Once you have found the street for him he asks if he can buy you a beer at that bar. Apparently when you arrive there is a big bouncer guy at the door and upon entering you notice it's a pub/strip club type place. Girls are issued to your table to sit with you, then the waiter brings a bottle of champagne and asks if you would like to buy the girls drinks. When you get the bill, you've been charged an exorbitant amount of money. Beware of girls in g-strings “baring” gifts.

Good rule of thumb regarding con artists: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Please note that street sellers in Rome are becoming increasingly assertive and aggressive, but not dangerous. Shake your head “no” and keep walking. Don't attempt to get into a discourse with them about why you do not want their products. Most of these people do not speak neither English nor Italian fluently although they may know a few words to try to get you interested.

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

My bag/wallet was stolen. What should I do?

File a police report (*denuncia*) at the nearest police station (questura). Unfortunately, there won't be much they can do, but you'll need this document in order to obtain an emergency passport and/or to show to your credit card company if there are any unauthorized charges in the interim. Listed below are some emergency credit card block numbers:

Visa: 800 821001
Mastercard: 800 870866
American Express: 067290034
Diners: 800 864064

In addition, please let our reception know as we have been told that the police are beginning a program through the hotel association and we need to start providing them with information whenever this happens to one of our guests.

I don't feel well. Where should I go?

Pending availability, we have limited first aid supplies at The Beehive for headache, stomach upset, sore throat, cuts, etc. Please note that The Beehive does not take responsibility for any adverse reactions you might have to medications. If you think this might be a concern, it would probably be in your best interest to visit a doctor or pharmacist instead.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

You might try checking at a pharmacy/chemist (farmacia) first – look for the blinking green or red neon crosses. There are several located near The Beehive and some do have staff who speak medical English. Most Italians visit the farmacia first before heading to the doctor because they can offer limited medical advice.

If it's something more serious, go to the emergency room (pronto soccorso) at Ospedale Policlinico located a short taxi ride from The Beehive. Although you'll have to wait depending on the severity of your illness, it's free no matter what your nationality.

I took a taxi and I think I was overcharged!

Only ever take official city taxis that are white (although there are yellow ones) that have the official red seal on the side that says "SPQR Comune di Roma". Taxis start the meter at €2.80, Mon-Sat, 7am-10pm and at €5.80 from 10pm to 7am. Sundays and holidays from 7am-10pm the meter starts at €4.00. NB: If you call a taxi rather than picking it up from a taxi stand, the meter starts from when the call was made and not from when it actually arrived and picked you up.

Warning: Make sure the meter is set to "Tariffa 1" and not "Tariffa 2" - some taxi drivers are notorious for putting it on "2" or switching it to "2" sometime during the ride. I'm sure there are plenty of honest taxi drivers, but unfortunately, we have had this happen one too many times and feel compelled to warn our guests.

Please note these additional costs and discounts: first bag is free

- each extra bag larger than 35x25x50 cm is €1 extra
- there is a supplement of €2 for journeys starting at Termini station
- there is a supplement of €1 each for the 5th person and up
- 10% discount if you are going to a Roman hospital
- 10% discount for a woman traveling alone between 9pm and 1am

In every taxi there should be a price list in several languages. Please note that taxi drivers at the train station are notorious for overcharging, but keep an eye out in any taxi you get into.

TOURS, SIGHTSEEING AND NIGHT LIFE

What are some good tours of the city?

At reception or in advance by e-mail, we can book tours with Through Eternity which offer walking tours of the Vatican, the Colosseum and Roman Forum and Rome twilight tours. A deposit must be made at our reception and the balance due in cash at the start of your tour. We can also recommend other walking tour companies if Through Eternity is full.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We highly recommend our friends at Context Travel who offer many excellent and diverse walking tours and are staffed with guides who have earned Ph.D. & Masters degrees in art history, archaeology and architecture. Their tour prices, however, do reflect the high quality of the tours they give. Visit their website directly at www.contexttravel.com to schedule a tour.

In high season (March-October), it is recommended to book walking tours well enough in advance as groups for both companies are kept small and space is limited.

For a bus tour, try the ATAC city bus 110. This city owned bus is a huge, red, open, double-decker, air-conditioned bus that passes by about 80 of the more famous spots in the city. You can hop off and hop on at certain destinations. Tickets can be purchased in front of the train station on platform E in the main bus terminal. It's not a detailed tour as they won't give you any interesting information, but if you're tired and not up yet to walking around for 2-3 hours on a walking tour this might be the way to go (although walking is THE best way to really see the city). There is now a similar bus that goes to all of the major churches and basilicas.

How do I get to the catacombs? To the Tivoli Gardens?

For the catacombs:

Option 1: from Termini, take the 714 to Piazza S. Giovanni in Laterano, then switch to bus 218 and get off at the stop "Fosse Aredeatine"; the entrance is directly across from bus stop.

Option 2: take the metro B to Piramide, then from in front of the station take bus 118 and get off at the stop "Catacombe S. Callisto"

If you are short on time, we would not necessarily make a trip to the catacombs a priority as many people are disappointed by them: far away, no bones and obligatory tours that can be annoying. If you must go, check out the Catacombs of San Callisto (closed on Wednesdays).

To get to Tivoli:

Option 1: train from Termini station - about 1 hr. 15 mins. - €3

Option 2: Cotral bus (these are large blue buses) from Ponte Mammolo (metro line B) - between 40-70 mins depending on traffic - €2

Where are the nightclubs, bars? What is there to do at night?

By major metropolitan standards, Rome can seem a bit on the provincial side. But if you have to boogie the night away or your vacation is a bust, the hot spot for nightclubs is an area of Rome known as Testaccio. Nightclubs are very expensive in Rome as there are admission or "membership" fees to get in plus high drink prices will set you back quite a bit of euro.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Campo dei Fiori has many pubs and bars that cater exclusively to tourists, and that is definitely more of a meat market vibe. The neighborhoods of San Lorenzo and Trastevere also offer a lively more authentic nightlife. Check out the weekly publication “Roma C’è” which has an English language section for information about clubs, pubs and other entertainment in Rome.

For a truly Italian night out the great thing to do is to take a “passeggiata” meaning “a stroll”. Either grab a gelato and take a leisurely walk or sit in a piazza with a glass of wine or prosecco (Venetian champagne) and people-watch. The lights at night truly enhance the beauty and romance of this city.

In the summer starting around mid-June and ending mid-September, there are tons of outdoor summer festivals for the Estate Romana (Roman Summer) which takes place every year and includes an excellent jazz festival at Villa Celimontana, a park close to the Colosseum area. These festivals cost very little to enter and depending on the festival have booths with food, drinks, video games, dancing, etc. In the summer, ask at reception for festivals taking place throughout Rome.

LEISURE TIME

I would like to go for a swim, a run, take a yoga class - where can I go?

Swimming pools are hard to come by that are conveniently located to the center of Rome. There are several large hotels outside of the center that make their pools available, but cost quite a bit of money to use and if you can do without during your time in Rome, your money could be better used doing other things. However, in summer only, there is a swimming pool located across the street from the Palatine Hill entrance near the Colosseum. There’s an entrance fee and fees for a lounge chair and umbrella, but a nice place to cool off in the summer that is centrally located in a beautiful setting. Please ask at reception for directions.

Going for a run in Rome is not that pleasant with the uneven sidewalks, cobblestone streets and tendency of drivers of scooters and cars to not really be on the look out for runners (or pedestrians for that matter). The only fairly close places to go for a run near The Beehive is the Villa Torlonia and the Villa Borghese parks which are not incredibly convenient if you just want to step out the door.

We used to have a yoga studio at The Beehive, but we never found a teacher interested

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

in setting up regular yoga classes (a shame really). So after sitting empty for years, we decided to convert that space into a much needed office. However, we do know many places where you can take yoga classes. Please see the “Holistic Rome” section later in this guide.

How can I find out about events in Rome?

First ask at our reception and see if they know of any particular events going on. There is also a weekly publication called Roma C’e’ available at newstands which has an English language section in the back. You might also consider checking out a website run by expats located at www.inromenow.com

BEEHIVE QUESTIONS

Can I store my bags at The Beehive?

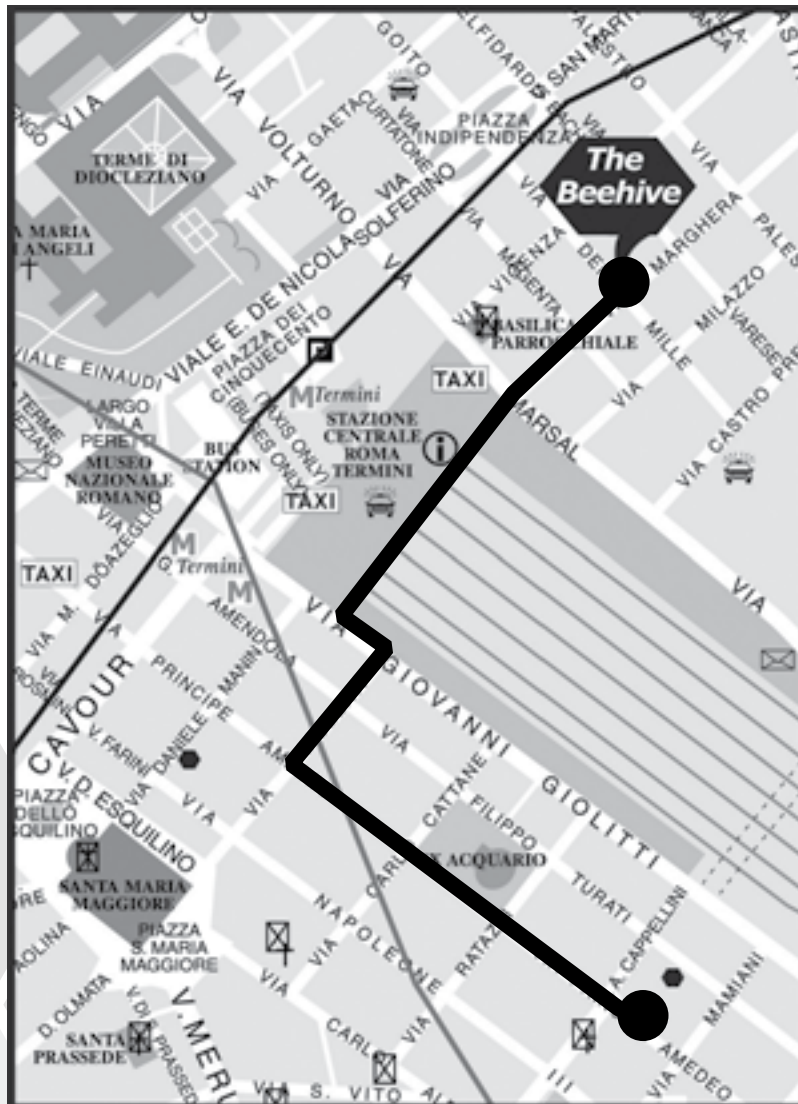
We have very severe space restrictions, but we do offer a limited secure left luggage space for same day departure only. However, once the space fills up we can only keep your luggage in our hallway, but we have never experienced any problems with this arrangement. You are always welcome to leave small electronics or laptops with us at reception as well as passports, tickets, credit cards, etc. Bags cannot be left in our reception/lobby area due to fire code regulations. We do not have long term luggage storage available.

You might also consider the left luggage storage available at the train station near Platform 24 one level down, and there is an elevator. Cost is €3.80 for the first 5 hours. Please note that they are only open from 5am to midnight. Please note that there are often long lines so give yourself extra time when dropping off/picking up your bags.

How did you two end up moving to Rome and opening The Beehive? How did you come up with the name “The Beehive”?

We’re more than happy to give you the abbreviated version, but for a more detailed account, ask Linda.

As for the name, we thought of many very, very awful and laughable names before coming up with “The Beehive” (you’ll have to pay us a lot of euro or pour us a lot of wine before we tell you what those other names were!) Linda thought of it while lying in bed one night dreaming about this big adventure we were about to embark on. We wanted a name that would evoke the impression of a place that was stylish and cute, but also cozy and comfortable, clean and sunny. We hope you agree that it works!



MILLEFIORI

Via Principe Amedeo, 168
5th floor

Check-out time: 11:00am

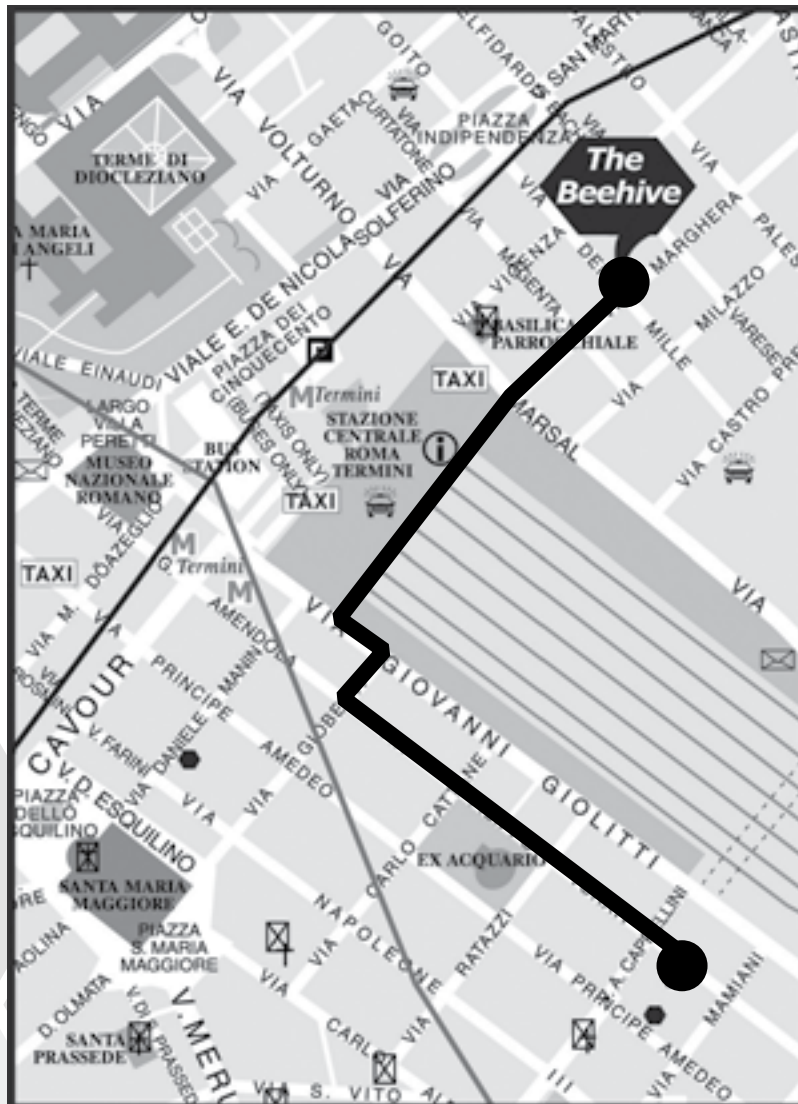
Please be mindful and considerate of other guests in regards to time spent in the bathroom and on the computer.

Entering the building and apartment

- Enter the building and turn right at the end of the corridor
- Use 2nd key to open gated entryway
- Based on size of your luggage – please only take one person and one large piece of luggage or 2 people and 2 small pieces of carry-on luggage at a time. If the elevator is overweight, there is a possibility that it will get stuck between floors
- Please shut both sets of doors to the elevator after exiting or the elevator will stay stuck on that floor. The doors are not automatic. Millefiori is on the 5th floor.
- Upon exiting the elevator, with the elevator to your back, turn left around the corner – the apartment door has a sign that says “Millefiori”

Exiting the building

- In the elevator, press “0” or “T” – to get to the ground floor
- Upon exiting the elevator, with the elevator to your back, please press the white toggle switch on the wall to the left. It looks like a doorbell to the apartment on that floor, but it is actually a switch to open the gate. A key is not necessary to open the gate from the inside.
- Please press the red button to the left of the front door located just past the mailboxes to open the front door.



CLOVER

Via Filippo Turati, 128
5th floor

Check-out time: 10:00am

Please be mindful and considerate of other guests in regards to time spent in the bathroom and on the computer.

Entering the building and the apartment

- Use the small silver key to open main apartment building door
- Based on size of your luggage – please only take one person and one large piece of luggage or 2 people and 2 small pieces of carry-on luggage at a time. If the elevator is overweight, there is a possibility that it will get stuck between floors
- The doors are automatic, but please do make sure they are closed properly or the elevator will not work. Upon exiting the elevator, make sure the outside doors of the elevator are closed or the elevator will remain stuck on that floor
- Exiting the elevator – Clover is on the left – there is a sign
- Use the large black & silver key to open the main door to Clover
- Use the colored key to open your room door

Exiting the building

- In the elevator, press "0" or "T" – to get to the ground floor
- Please press the button on the wall to the left of the front door to open the front door.



THANKS!

Linda & Steve would like to thank our manager Yuli, and our staff: Alina, Amy, Diane, Francesca, Leah, Luciano and Sergio for all their hard work and stellar efforts in making The Beehive what we hope it continues to be when we are not around.

And last, but certainly not least - we would like to thank YOU, our treasured Beehive guest, for continually giving us the motivation to keep doing what we are doing.

revised April 2011