



# ROME AND CASTELLI ROMANI

## Discover Rome and Its Beautiful Hinterland

**A 10-Day Italian Escape: From Rome's historic Colosseum and Vatican Museums to the ancient wonders of Palestrina and Ostia Antica. Enjoy quaint towns like Castel Gandolfo and coastal gems like Gaeta, with a special visit to the magnificent Villa D'Este and Villa Adriana.**

### Day 1: Start of the tour

Arrival in Rome and transfer to **Frascati**. Accommodation in a 4 \* hotel in the city center and afternoon at leisure for individual visits. Dinner complemented by fine local wines at our hotel and overnight stay.



### Day 2: Walking tour of Castel Gandolfo

Breakfast at the hotel, meeting with the guide and transfer to Castel Gandolfo. With our guide we'll explore the historic **Papal Palace** in **Castel Gandolfo**, a residence of popes since the 17th century and admire its grand architecture learning about its rich history and hosting notable pontiffs over the centuries. We'll wander through lush **gardens**, offering a glimpse into the papal lifestyle and the beauty of the Italian countryside. Transfer to **Ariccia** for a traditional lunch before exploring leisurely the charming village of **Nemi** on your own. Transfer back to the hotel in Frascati, where a delightful dinner awaits.

### Day 3: Albano Laziale and boat tour

Breakfast at the hotel and meeting with our guide for a transfer to **Albano Laziale**. Here, we'll explore the ancient **Cisternoni** with insights into its Roman history as a water source for Legio II Parthica. We'll also admire the **Church of Santa Maria Della Rotonda's** architectural splendor, reflecting Albano Laziale's cultural heritage. Afterward, we'll have some time to enjoy a transfer to the tranquil shores of **Lake Albano** for a delightful lunch. Then, we'll embark on a leisurely **boat tour** across the shimmering waters, soaking in the serene surroundings. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.



### Day 4: Palestrina and Frascati

Breakfast at the hotel and meeting with the driver for a transfer to Palestrina. Our english-speaking guide will introduce to the historic **Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigena**, showcasing ancient Italian architecture dedicated to the goddess Fortuna. We'll also visit **Palazzo Colonna Barberini**, housing the esteemed **Prenestino Archaeological Museum**, home to the iconic **Nile Mosaic** from the Hellenistic era.

Transfer to **Frascati** for lunch and a walking tour. Frascati is known for its **Tuscolan villas** and historic landmarks. We'll wander through charming streets, admiring the Neo-Renaissance Baroque **Cathedral of Saint Peter** and the 18th-century **church of Gesù**, designed by Carlo Fontana. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.





## Day 5: Walking tour of Rome

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning, we'll stroll with our English-speaking guide through the historic center of **Rome**, visiting **Piazza di Spagna**, adorned with the majestic **Spanish steps** and the stately **Piazza Colonna**, where ancient and modern Rome converge. Then we'll see the **Trevi Fountain**, where the cascade of water beckons wishes and dreams and the **Pantheon**.

Lunch in a typical restaurant and then, our itinerary continues through **Saint Peter's Square** and the **Vatican Museums**, the heart of religious and artistic heritage. The crowning jewel of our exploration will be the awe-inspiring **Sistine Chapel**, where Michelangelo's frescoes adorn the ceiling.

Return to the hotel, dinner in a restaurant and overnight stay.

## Day 6: Colosseum and Imperial Forums

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning, we'll stroll with our English-speaking guide through the **Colosseum**, an enduring symbol of Roman engineering prowess and gladiator spectacles. Nearby the **Imperial Forums** stand as a testament to the political and cultural significance of ancient Rome and then we'll culminate our tour and **Capitoline Hill**. Lunch in a typical restaurant and afternoon free for individual visits. Return to Frascati, dinner in a typical restaurant and overnight stay.



## Day 7: Archaeological Park of Ostia Antica

Breakfast at the hotel, meeting with the driver and transfer to **Ostia Antica Archaeological Park** where our knowledgeable guide will show us the vast site, founded in the 4th century BC, served as a vital commercial port and strategic urban center for the **Roman Empire**. What makes this site so special is its remarkable preservation. Due to the city being abandoned and buried under sediment over the centuries, many of its structures and details have remained intact, offering visitors an authentic and detailed experience of life in ancient Rome.

Afterwards, transfer to **Grottaferrata** for a lunch break. Here you'll free time to explore the charming town at your own pace. Visit the **Abbey of San Nilo**, the medieval **Church of San Rocco** with its beautiful frescoes, and the stunning **Villa Grazioli** offering panoramic views.

Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.



## Day 8: Walking tour of Gaeta

Breakfast at the hotel and meeting with the driver for a transfer to **Gaeta**. Here, with our knowledgeable guide we'll explore the old town, delving into its rich history as the 'Pearl of the Tyrrhenian Sea'. We'll discover its ancient Roman roots and medieval commercial prominence. After a typical lunch, leisure time for individual visits. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.



## Day 9: Tivoli, Villa Adriana and Villa D'Este

Breakfast at the hotel before meeting with the driver for a departure to **Tivoli**. Our guide will lead us through the awe-inspiring **Villa Adriana**, Emperor Hadrian's majestic imperial retreat. Spanning 130 hectares, it boasts palaces, temples, and theaters reflecting the grandeur of the Roman Empire.

After, we'll indulge in a delicious lunch at a local restaurant. Next, we'll visit **Villa D'Este**, a stunning Renaissance marvel commissioned by Cardinal Ippolito d'Este. We'll explore the beauty of the **Vialone**, the **Grand Loggia**, and **Diana's Cave**. Return to the hotel, dinner at a local restaurant and overnight stay.

## Day 10: End of the tour

Breakfast at the hotel followed by transfer to the airport 3 hours before the flight.

## Tour for groups and F.I.T. Custom made itinerary

### Ask for a quote

#### Included:

- Assistance and transfer to/from the airport
- Accommodation at Hotel 4\* in Frascati, with full board
- Lunch with wine tasting in a vineyard in Frascati
- Guided tours of: Castel Gandolfo, Cisternoni di Albano Laziale, Temple of Fortuna Primigenia and Archaeological Museum of Palestrina, historic center of Frascati, historic center of Rome including Vatican Museums, Colosseum and Imperial Forums, Archaeological Area of Ostia Antica, Historic Center of Gaeta, Villa Adriana and Villa D'Este
- Entrance tickets: Papal Palace, Cisternoni di Albano, Archaeological Museum of Palestrina and Temple of Fortuna Primigenia, Vatican Museums, Colosseum and Imperial Forums, Archaeological Area of Ostia Antica, Villa Adriana, Villa D'Este
- Boat trip on Lake Albano
- Transfers as per the program
- Daily public transportation tickets for Rome

#### Not included:

- Tips and personal extras