

Dining with a view

-Tiffany Parks

"The light strikes Rome in ways that I have never seen." -Stendhal

Mirabelle

The month of May is quite possibly the most beautiful time of the year in the Eternal City. The days are long, the weather is warm, and the way the sun lights up the buildings in late afternoon is the stuff that poets write of. It's the perfect time to take advantage of the Capital's many terrace restaurants. Sipping a refreshing glass of wine and supping on exquisite cuisine, with all of Rome at your feet, you will feel that *la dolce vita* is back to stay.

La Pergola





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Do-it-yourself

Want to bring the lushness of a Roman terrace back home with you? This month the Auditorium at Parco della Musica is hosting a special event dedicated to the urban garden. The Auditorium's lovely **Hanging Park** will present ideas and trends in Italian terrace and garden design, with the latest styles in furniture, pots and tools, as well as tips on how to create your own Roman-style terrace garden. **Giardininterrazza. €8. Open 20-22 May from 11am to 8pm.**

Auditorium PDM. Viale Pietro de Coubertin, 15.

A view on a budget

Want to dine with a view of the city and not blow your entire trip fund? Rome has numerous options for panoramic picnic spots and first and foremost is the **Orange Garden** on the Aventine Hill. With blossoming trees, welcoming benches, a convenient water fountain and a view of St. Peter's in the distance, it doesn't get much better than this. The **Janiculum Hill** offers grassy knolls galore for patriotic picnickers. In the shadow of the statue of Italian hero Giuseppe Garibaldi, and along curving lanes lined with busts of the biggest names of the Risorgimento, find yourself a cozy spot to spread a blanket, cork open a bottle of Frascati wine and watch the afternoon sun turn the Eternal City golden.



For a gourmet meal, book a table at the incomparable **Terrazza dell'Eden**, with a panorama that is just as paradisiacal as its name suggests. Versatile head chef Fabio Ciervo combines the best of Italian, French, Spanish and Asian cuisine to create an innovative and tempting menu. You'll feel like a celebrity dining on the **Imago** terrace of the world-famous **Hassler Hotel**. This luxurious restaurant with its stunning view of the Trinità dei Monti Church and Piazza di Spagna from above was the first in Rome to offer rooftop dining. The jewel of the **Hilton Hotel** is without a doubt its award-winning restaurant, **La Pergola**, situated atop Monte Mario. Views through the massive windows will make your head spin but even more exceptional is the menu, created by one of the world's most famous chefs, Heinz Beck. Across town at **Hotel Bernini**, the magnificent **Olimpo** offers a completely different perspective of the towering cupolas of the city with an equally surprising menu of modern twists on traditional favorites.



Aroma, with a chic, modern interior and mouth-watering dishes, gives its diners an unmatched view of the Colosseum. At the **Hotel Crowne Plaza Minerva** you will feel like you are dining on top of the Pantheon, as it is just a few meters away. The view is picture-perfect, with the domes of St. Peter, Sant'Ivo and Sant'Andrea della Valle lining up to create a perspective

that has been featured on many a postcard. Last but not least, the stunning terrace of **Mirabelle** at the **Hotel Splendide Royal** just off Via Veneto provides sweeping views of the entire city and a tempting menu by new head chef Daniele Sera. In the glorious month of May, don't miss the chance to savor exquisite cuisine with a view of Rome at her most enchanting.