

FEBRUARY 2013
THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO GO®

Rome

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CHINA TOWN

Celebrate Chinese New Year
with food, art and events

plus

• CONTEMPORARY DANCE HITS THE CITY
• FAIR-TRADE CHOCOLATE
• DAZZLING JEWELS • DAYTRIP: TERNI



where **now**

→ Rome

The month's top
entertainment,
art and attractions

» FOCUS

East meets West

by Tiffany Parks

Chinese Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival or Chun Jie, kicks off on 10 February. Celebrate the birth of a promising new year—the Year of the Snake—with a colorful parade, dance and acrobatic performances, fantastical costumes, succulent street food and much more. Most events take place in and around Piazza Vittorio, the beating heart of the lively Esquiline Hill, Rome’s most ethnically rich neighborhood. Immigrants from around the world, and particularly Asia, have made their home here for decades, and the piazza boasts the most vibrant and versatile market in the city (recently moved indoors at Via Principe Amedeo, 184), with imported ingredients, fragrant spices, and exotic fruits and vegetables you can’t find anywhere else in the city. Get into the spirit of this boisterous festival and sample an alternative and thoroughly Eastern side of Rome.

TOP 5 CHINESE RESTAURANTS

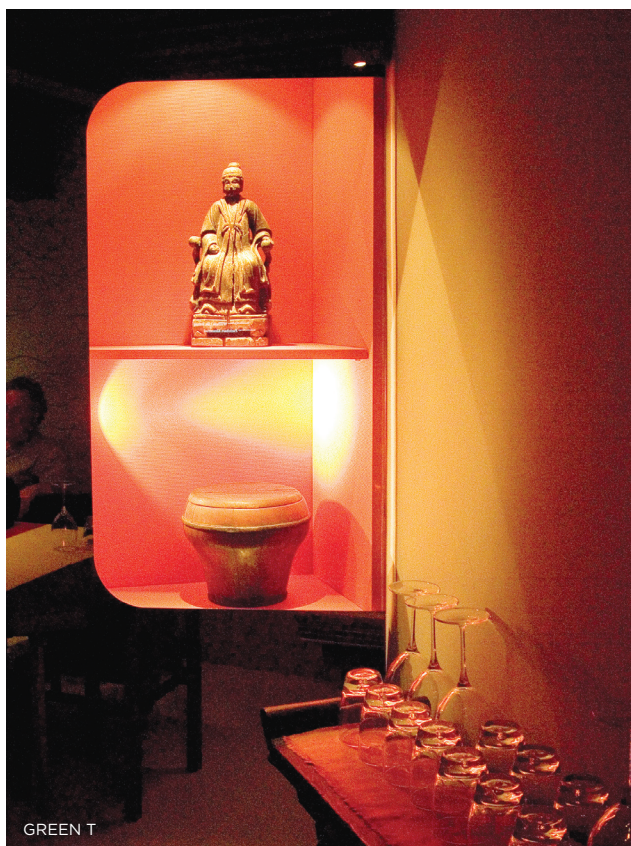
Like most international cities, Rome is teeming with Chinese restaurants, but that doesn’t mean they’re all good. Quite the contrary. Thankfully, there are a few delicious exceptions to this rule, so if you are craving (quality) spring rolls or *dim sum*, make sure to hit one of these spots.

Green T: Rome’s only haute cuisine Chinese restaurant is a tranquil oasis where you can enjoy exquisite Cantonese and Mandarin fare and impeccable service. A sommelier is on hand to help you select the perfect bottle to pair with your meal, and the intimate tearoom provides a Tea Mistress to guide you in your discovery of China’s finest brews. [Via del Piè di Marmo, 28. Tel 066798628.](#)

Hua Qiao: With an 80% Chinese clientele, according to the owner, this may just be the most authentic Chinese restaurant in the city. The trick here is to skip the menu and ask instead for what the “locals” are having. [Via Giolitti, 189. Tel 064468356.](#)



Mr. Chow: Don’t let the kitschy name fool you. This spacious and simply decorated restaurant serves some of the tastiest Chinese food around. Try classics like fried stuffed wontons, shrimp crackers in sweet and sour sauce, shark fin soup, crunchy fried noodles with vegetables, and, of course, Peking duck. [Via Barberini, 94. Tel 06486818.](#)



Court Delicati: Unless you knew where to look, you would never find this place, hidden behind an unmarked door. The only thing that might give it away is the line of people waiting outside for the excellent Chinese-Malay cuisine in a cozy, simple setting. [Viale Aventino, 41. Tel 065746108.](#)

Hang Zhou: This popular spot is located in the heart of Chinatown on the Esquiline Hill. Particularly delicious are the steamed shrimp dumplings, Chinese cabbage in sweet and sour sauce, and ginger-spiced calamari. Homemade fortune cookies arrive with the bill. [Via Principe Eugenio, 82. Tel 064872732.](#)



Made in China

Bring a little slice of the Orient home with you from one of these galleries that import fine antique furnishings and art from China and Tibet. Choose from rugs, paintings, design objects, pottery, home accessories, religious statuettes, and ancient archeological artifacts.

Hutong - Via Angelo Brunetti, 60.
Tel 063233145.

Dakini - Via dei Coronari, 102/103.
Tel 0664760618.

Galleriaotto - Via Cimarra, 12.
Tel 3929591472.

La Maison Coloniale - Via Cola di Rienzo, 34/36. Tel 063242964.

Yaky - Via Santa Maria del Pianto, 55.
Tel 0668807724.



Rome for your sign

2013 heralds the Year of the Snake! The next 12 months promise steady progress and the achievement of goals for those with discipline and attention to detail. To start the year off right, check out our alternative Chinese zodiac-based city guide, and see the sights most suited to your sign's unique characteristics.

> Rat

The Rat is witty, spirited, and imaginative. Clever, materialistic and often wealthy, they love to surround themselves with art and beauty. Rat signs should indulge in these visual pleasures by spending a few hours gazing at the gorgeous art of the [Borghese Gallery](#).

> Ox

The ox is the strongest sign: persistent, straightforward, industrious, and patient, with a strong will and staying power. When they travel, ox signs want to see and do everything, so don't miss important sights like the [Capitoline Museums](#) or [St. Paul's outside the Walls](#), often missed by less arduous travelers.

> Tiger

Tigers are brave, powerful, valiant and charismatic, but can also be cruel, forceful and terrifying. Sounds a lot like a gladiator. Tiger signs should spend a day at the [Colosseum](#), getting in touch with their dangerous side. Don't miss the nearby [Ludus Magnus](#), the barracks where the gladiators lived and trained.

> Rabbit

Rabbits are gentle, sensitive, compassionate, amiable, and light-hearted, yet they crave speed and distance. They cannot bear monotony and often feel the need to escape reality. After a few days in Rome they will be itching to take off again, so rabbits would do well to hop an [Italo "Leptotino"](#) train (the fastest in Europe) to see more of the country.

> Dragon

Dragons represent authority, dignity, honor, success, and luck. They have great ambition, ingenious personalities and tend to be perfectionists. When they meet with difficulties, they are rarely discouraged. Dragon signs can appreciate these qualities in Michelangelo's epic masterpiece on the ceiling of the [Sistine Chapel](#).

> Snake

Intense and passionate, snakes possess an air of mystery. They are intuitive, shrewd and philosophical, and often possess great wisdom and a gift for divination. A member of this sign would enjoy delving into the past by exploring the mystical underground [mithraeums](#) like the one under [San Clemente church](#).

> Horse

Energetic, warm-hearted, cheerful and popular, horse signs love entertainment, large crowds and being surrounded by friends. If this is your sign, grab your most fun-loving friends and head to [Testaccio](#) for a night of dancing at the hottest clubs in town.

> Sheep

Gentle, polite, and kind-hearted, sheep are particularly sensitive to art and beauty and often have deep faith in religion and a fondness for quiet living. A visit to the tiny and tranquil church of [San Carlino alle Quattro Fontane](#), with its sublime dome and quiet cloister, would be especially appreciated by members of this sign.

> Monkey

Monkeys are clever, innovative, creative, and intelligent, often to the point of erratic genius. They excel at problem solving and have strong desire for knowledge. Monkey signs would enjoy [Genius and Inventions](#) at Palazzo della Cancelleria, an exhibit displaying dozens of Da Vinci's inventions, reproduced with period materials.

> Rooster

Roosters are the most punctual and precise of all the signs. They are also energetic, capable and self-sufficient. They love to be up with the sun, so if you are a rooster, lace up your sneakers and head to [Villa Pamphili](#) on the Janiculum Hill for an early morning jog.

> Dog

This sign is straightforward, faithful, courageous, and warm-hearted. Dogs are the most generous and giving of all the signs, so they will probably make shopping for friends back home a priority. Find the highest concentration of shops on [Via del Corso](#), or venture down [Via Condotti](#) if your wallet runs deeper.

> Pig

Members of the pig sign are honest, gallant, tolerant, optimistic, trusting, and make excellent friends. They have a tendency to be lazy and adore rest and relaxation. Pig signs should indulge in a visit to the luxurious spa at the [Radisson Blu hotel](#) with a close friend.

***To find out your sign, visit www.chinesezodiac.com**

