

JUNE 2013
THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO GO®

Rome

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URBAN OASIS

Dive into one of Rome's many
luscious green spaces

plus

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- SHOPPING FOR THE SEASIDE
- DAY TRIP: LAKE BRACCIANO



where now

➔ Rome

The month's top entertainment, art and attractions

» FOCUS

by Tiffany Parks

EMERALD CITY

It would astound no one to learn that Rome is bursting with artistic and archeological treasures, but it might be surprising to know that the Eternal City has more urban green space per capita than any other European capital. With its manicured gardens, archeological parks, and sprawling villas, the city offers dozens of oases for when it's time to take a break from the crowds and the traffic.

The Lungs of the City

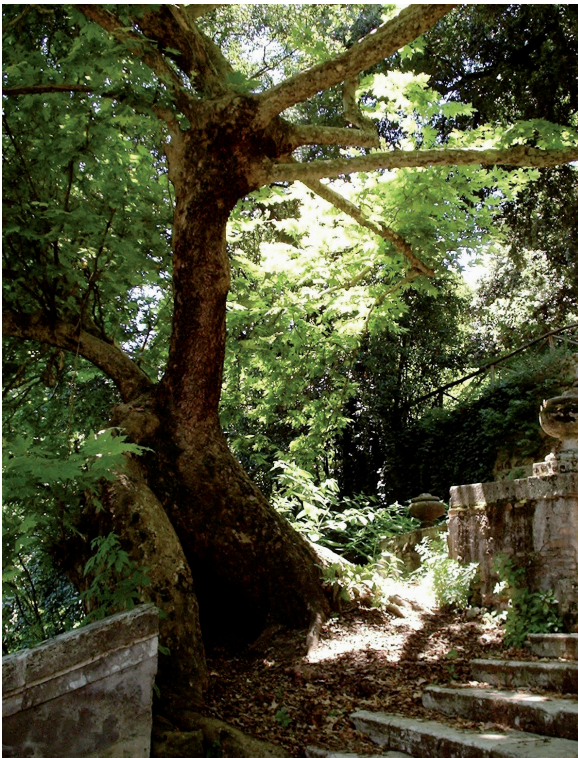
The easiest way to dive into Rome's lush greenery is to visit one of the city's many "lungs," the marvelous villas. When the nucleus of Rome was much smaller, these were the nobility's country homes and grounds, and most are now public parks. The most celebrated—and easily accessible—is **Villa Borghese** on the Pincian Hill. A walk through its intricate gardens is the perfect activity before or after visiting one of the many museums located within. **Villa Pamphilj** on the Janiculum Hill is Rome's largest landscaped park at over 450 acres, and a favorite with runners and picnickers alike. **Villa Ada** is the city's wildest green space, and the perfect spot to find tranquility and isolation. For a combination of nature and archeology, **Villa Celimontana** near the Colosseum is littered with archeological ruins, including sarcophagi, sculptures, and even an obelisk. **Villa Sciarra** in Monteverde may be small, but it's overflowing with vine-covered grottoes, luxuriant fountains, and secluded corners. And don't miss the manicured grounds of **Villa Torlonia**, designed by neo-classical architect Giuseppe Valadier and home to the Art Nouveau Casina delle Civette, with its fantastical stained-glass windows.



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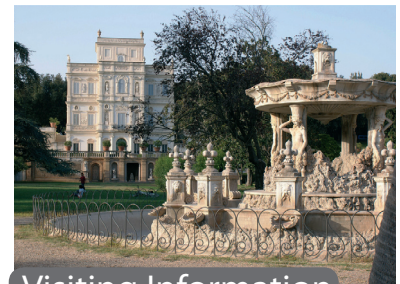
Secret Gardens

If botany is your passion, stop in to the **Orto Botanico** in Trastevere. Once the pleasure garden of the infamous Queen Christina of Sweden, it's the ideal place to while away the afternoon while studying both local and exotic flora. Or try the **Roseto Comunale**, perched atop the Circus Maximus on the slopes of the Aventine Hill, a place for city-bound Romans to tend their own rose-bushes in an impossibly picturesque setting. The **Bosco Parrasio**, an almost unknown wood, was the meeting place of the Arcadian Academy, a group of 17th-century poets and intellectuals who championed a return to the ideals of classical Greek art.



Nature Amid the Ruins

If you're craving wildlife but don't want to lose any precious sightseeing time, there are several parks that offer the best of both worlds. Rent a bike and head to the **Parco degli Acquadotti** where you can admire the rows of aqueducts along the ancient Appian Way. Study the magnificent mausoleums at the **Parco degli Scipioni** and wander down its verdant footpaths. Or visit the famous Nymphaeum of Egeria in the immense valley that is the **Caffarella Park**; bring your dog along too, as they are free to roam unleashed in many areas.



Visiting Information

All villas and parks are free of charge and generally open daily from sunrise to sunset. For information and addresses see www.levilledirioma.com and www.parcoappiaantica.it

Orto Botanico – Largo Cristina di Svezia, 24. Open Mon–Sat, 9:30am–6:30pm. €8.

Roseto Comunale – Via del Valle Murcia, 6. Open daily until 16 June only, 8am–7pm. Free.

Bosco Parrasio – Salita del Bosco Parrasio (Via Garibaldi). Visits by appointment only. info@accademiadellarcadia.it