

OCTOBER 2014
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OUTSTANDING OCTOBER

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the absolute best
month to be in the
Eternal City

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> ROMA EUROPA FESTIVAL > FINE DINING WITH AN UNBEATABLE VIEW

> HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON: THE EYE OF THE CENTURY



WHERE NOW | EVENTS

OUTSTANDING October

Take advantage of one of the most glorious times of year to be in Rome.

Tiffany Parks explains how.

If you're reading this, then you've made the wise decision to visit Rome at just about the best possible time: the month of October. In other parts of the northern hemisphere, October may be a time when the chill begins to creep in and rain gets in the way of the very best intentions for a day out. In Rome, on the other hand, any given October day is likely to provide dazzling sunshine, pleasant breezes, and a temperature hovering right around perfect. And

that's just the beginning. October sees the arrival of delicious fruits and vegetables in the city's markets and on its restaurant's tables, as well as the wine harvest, or *vendemmia*. In addition, after the long, lazy summer season (which stretches well into September), October is when Rome finally gets its cogs turning again, with new exhibitions opening, interesting events taking place, and hot performances livening up the night.

What's the best way to appreciate October's gorgeous weather?

Without the scorching summer sun, the torment of spring allergies, or the dreary winter rain, October is the ideal time to enjoy a long walk. Take an easy trek up the Aventine Hill to marvel at the glorious view from the **Orange Garden** (Via di Santa Sabina), and be sure to peek through the keyhole at the **Villa of the Knights of Malta** (Piazza dei Cavalieri di Malta) just down the street. Or walk up the Janiculum Hill, where you'll find treasures like the exquisite **Tempietto of Bramante** (Piazza di San Pietro in Montorio, 2), the tiniest church in Rome, and the magnificent **Acqua Paola Fountain** (Via Garibaldi) with its sweeping views of the city. Continue just a little further to **Villa Pamphilj** (Via di San Pancrazio), a sprawling park full of the umbrella pines the city is famous for.

Which fruits and vegetables are in season, and what are the best places to sample them?

When the days get shorter, a whole new bushel of delicious produce hits Rome's markets. Italians are passionate about eating locally grown fruits and vegetables in season, and menus often change accordingly. A classic Roman October veggie is *broccolo romanesco*, an odd-looking cross between cauliflower and broccoli. Try it added to a plate of *spaghetti cacio e pepe* at **Il Pozzo delle Cornacchie** (Via del Pozzo delle Cornacchie, 25). Another exceedingly healthy vegetable you'll find on many a menu is *cicoria* (chicory). In Rome, they prepare this leafy green sautéed in olive oil with garlic and spicy *peperoncino*, and it makes a great side dish for



Breaded sea scallops stuffed with mozzarella, celery, and black truffles. Try this delectable dish at **Imàgo** (p33).

meat or fish *secondi*. Pumpkin (or *zucca* to the locals) comes in all shapes and sizes in the *bel paese*. Perhaps the tastiest way to sample it is with a plate of pumpkin ravioli in a simple butter-and-sage sauce at **Terra di Siena** (p43). And don't forget *tartufi*! Italian black or white truffles are a delicacy of high Italian cuisine. Hit up **Imàgo** (p33), **Ad Hoc** (p49), **Clemente alla Maddalena** (p42), or **Harry's Bar** (p33) to try this pungent and sought-after tuber. If you balk at the high price, opt for porcini mushrooms instead, another delectable treat you can find only in autumn. Order a plate of homemade fettuccine with porcini mushrooms at **Antica Trattoria Da Luigi** (p42). For some seasonable fruit, try a persimmon (known locally as a *caco*). This sweet orange fruit that resembles a tomato is available this month only! Grapes are also in season, so grab a bunch at Campo de' Fiori market to savor on the go, or enjoy a glass of local wine at a hip enoteca like **Cul de Sac** (Piazza di Pasquino, 73) or **Il Gocchetto** (Via dei Banchi Vecchi, 14). For a more in-depth experience, take a private guided wine tour with a knowledgeable sommelier, offered by **Antiqua Tours** (www.antiquatours.com).

Which new exhibits are not to be missed?

One of the best things about October is the new exhibition season it ushers in. Museums and galleries around the city present diverse and fascinating shows that make a nice break from the Roman ruins and Italian art that dominate Rome's big-ticket sights. The new show at the Scuderie del Quirinale, one of the city's most prestigious exhibition spaces, explores the career of **Hans Memling** (p55). A German-born Flemish artist of the early Renaissance, Memling was a painter ahead of his time, and his work had a strong influence on many Italian artists of the early 16th century. The highlight of the exhibit is the *Last Judgment* triptych (opposite page), a dazzling work with an equally fascinating history. Commissioned by a wealthy Florentine banker in 1467, the work never arrived at its destination, when pirates attacked the ship bringing it to Italy. The painting was eventually brought to Gdańsk where it was displayed in the cathedral there, but that wasn't the end of its adventures. Stolen and ransomed repeatedly, with stints at both the Louvre and the Hermitage, it finally made its way back to Gdańsk after World War II, and is now one of the highlights of that city's art museum. See this important work, and dozens more on loan from major museums and private collections across Europe and North America, at Italy's first monographic exhibition on Memling.

From the early Renaissance of Northern Europe, we descend into the underbelly of Papal Rome at Villa Medici's new show, **The Baroque Underworld: Vice and Destitution in Rome** (p55). The exhibit reveals the dark side of baroque Rome: its slums, taverns, brothels, and other seedy haunts. 17th-century Rome

OCTOBER IS FOR ART LOVERS

- ALL MONTH: M. C. Escher at the Chiostro del Bramante. (See p54)
- ALL MONTH: Henri Cartier-Bresson at the Ara Pacis Museum. (See p54)
- ALL MONTH: Scratching the Surface: Photographs by Dennis Hopper at the Gagosian Gallery. (See p54)
- ALL MONTH: The Keys of Rome: The City of Augustus at Trajan's Market. (See p54)
- ALL MONTH: My Planet from Space: Fragility and Beauty at the PalaExpo. (See p55)
- ALL MONTH: Meteorites: When Space Communicates at the PalaExpo. (See p55)
- FROM 2 OCTOBER: Tiepolo: The Colors of Design at the Capitoline Museums. (See p55)
- FROM 7 OCTOBER: The Baroque Underworld at Villa Medici. (See p55)
- FROM 11 OCTOBER: Hans Memling at the Scuderie del Quirinale. (See p55)
- FROM 18 OCTOBER: Mummies: Secrets of the Tombs at Palazzo Cipolla. (p55)

was characterized by depravity, destitution, and excess, yet ironically it was the scene of astounding artistic output. This new exhibit, the first of its kind, displays over 50 paintings that subverted the established order by exposing the ugly realities of life in the corrupt papal city. The works on display were all created in Rome during the first half of the 17th century, by artists from around Europe, including Claude Lorrain, Valentin de Boulogne, Jan Miel, Sébastien Bourdon, Leonaert Bramer, Bartolomeo Manfredi, Josepe de Ribera, and Pieter van Laer.

A brand-new exhibition at the PalaExpo, **Meteorites: When Space Communicates** (p55), displays La Sapienza University's vast meteorite collection, one of the most important in the world. The exhibition opens with a recre-

Did you know?

October used to be the 8th month of the year, hence its name.

photographs testify to the fragility of a planet threatened by climate change; images of melting glaciers, rising oceans, rivers that no longer reach the sea, rain forests ravaged by deforestation, the drying up of cultivated land, and the uncontrolled development of mega-cities illustrate the perilous future our planet faces. See the information box on the previous page for a full list of the latest exhibits to hit the city.

What are the hottest events on this month?

From the RomaEuropa dance and performance festival (p57) to the MACRO's International Photography Festival (p54), from PDM's Tango Festival (p57) to multi-museum Contemporary

» A Wealth of Art

One of the most anticipated events of October gives Rome's residents and visitors alike the chance to take a peek at some seriously off-limits art. Once upon a time, the powerful families of Italy had more than enough cash to finance their appetites for art, and magnificent palaces to display it in. Times, of course, have changed, and the palaces not converted into museums or cultural institutions, are now mostly in the hands of those who can afford their upkeep: namely, the banks. As tragic as it is to know that some of Italy's greatest artworks are hidden away, once a year, at least, these treasures see the light of day. During the annual event **Invito a Palazzo**, financial institutions across the country open their doors to allow the public to feast their eyes on the glories within. See the exquisite baroque chapel of Palazzo del Monte di Pietà with its intricate gold-leaf cupola and polychrome marble. Visit the recently excavated Roman domus that lies under the Monastery of Santa Susanna, or marvel at the frescos and oil paintings that decorate Palazzo Altieri, by the likes of Carlo Maratta, Guido Reni, Domenichino, and Veronese. Climb the exquisite spiral staircase, itself a work of art, by architect Alessandro Specchi at Palazzo de Carolis, and peek into the courtyard of Palazzo Rondanini (below), one of the loveliest in the city. Visit www.palazzi.abi.it for more information and a list of participating banks. **4 October. 10am–7pm. Free.**



ation of the event that started it all—when the universe began to transform itself 13.8 billion years ago—to answer the vital question: How was the solar system formed? Another section of the exhibit is a veritable cabinet of curiosities where visitors learn how to recognize a meteorite and what they should do in the rare case that they should encounter one. A third area is devoted to the myths, tales, the great enigmas of the world of meteorites, from the extinction of the dinosaurs to unexplainable occurrences.

Also on at the PalaExpo, **My Planet from Space: Fragility and Beauty** gives visitors the chance to see Earth from the International Space Station, through the eyes of Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano. The exhibition leads visitors—by way of satellite images and video installations—to the most beautiful and remote parts of Earth. The stunning

Day (p8), exciting events are popping up all over the city. Perhaps the most anticipated is a performance by avant-garde acrobatic theater company, **Cirque du Soleil** (above) at the Palalottomatica arena. From 22 to 26 October, this world-famous group will be thrilling audiences with one of their most successful shows of all time. *Quidam* tells the story of Zoë, a bored and neglected little girl who is transported to a magical world where anything is possible. Get ready for a night of pure entertainment and amazement as the death-defying acrobats perform stunts you have to see to believe (p57).

Opera-lovers can rejoice this month, with a new production of one of the best-loved tragedies of all time, Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Even non-opera buffs can appreciate the glorious and instantly recognizable *La Donna è Mobile* (p58). See pages 6–8 for more info on the biggest events.