

STOLL ROME APARTMENT - IMPORTANT NOTES

Via Del Governo Vecchio, 73; 00186 Roma, Italia

(39)(06) 687 4824

Updated June 19, 2011

We are delighted to have friends stay in our home in Rome, which we love very much. There are a few things we think it is important for anyone to know:

- **Two weeks before arriving in Rome, please call Carlo Bertoni, our Rome representative [(39) 333 923 1029 or 06 689 6273; carlocesarebertoni@tin.it] to schedule arrangements to receive keys for the apartment.**
- * We have prepared a memo regarding our apartments, and some other items one might find useful. It tells how appliances work in each apartment, important phone numbers, etc. as well as other useful information as to restaurants, stores, and living in Rome.
- * **ALARM CODE:** There is an alarm keypad located next to the door in the study area with the green chairs. On entering the apartment you will hear a "Mission Impossible" tune which will end the moment you de-activate the alarm. To de-activate the alarm, please immediately press 2000 on the touch pad. Upon leaving the apartment, please activate the alarm. With all doors closed, press 2000 on the touch pad and immediately exit the apartment.
- * Virtually all of the buildings in the historic center of Rome, including ours, are *hundreds* of years old. Over the years there have obviously been many additions, some obvious, and others not so visible. The plumbing, electrical and heating systems, while of relative recent vintage and normally trouble-free, may not always work as efficiently or perfectly as we would like: in the event of any difficulty, please call and/or consult the list of "**Telephone Numbers for Assistance**," below.
- **Please do not flush tampons, or anything other than toilet paper down the toilets.**
- * Electricity and water are expensive in Italy. **Therefore, please do not unnecessarily leave electricity on, or water running if not needed.**
- * Rome has *the lowest* violent crime rate of all major European cities (all of which are much lower than any U.S. city). Unfortunately, apartments (although not ours) have been burgled: **please lock the front door, and close hallway windows when going out.**
- * Our experiences with Italians have been that they are quite honest, try to be as helpful as possible, but may not seem as efficient as one might expect in the U.S. Driving in Rome is very circuitous because of the ancient street layout, but we have *never* been "ripped off" by regular¹ taxis.
- * Our neighbors below and above us are very friendly, but private, and speak some English. Our representative in Rome for the apartment (Carlo Bertoni) is available to assist in case of emergencies and lives nearby. However, you should have no problems.

¹White ones, with "taxi" signage. You will be ripped off by gypsy taxis [no signage and no meters] who ply train/airport stations, that charge several times what a regular taxi charges.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE:

IMPORTANT NOTES REGARDING TELEPHONE:

(1.) The area code for Italy is 39. The local area code for Rome is 6; Milan is 2. **In making any calls within Italy (including local), you must first dial "0," then the local area code, then the local phone number:** thus, in making a call within Rome, it is necessary to call "06" before dialing the local phone number. **An exception to this are cell phones:** do not dial either a "0" or "06" as they have no local area code: **please note, however, that most cell phones cannot be called from our apartments because there is a long distance "block" on the phones which unfortunately also blocks making calls to cell phones.**

(2.) Not all phone numbers in Italy have the same number of digits, so don't be confused if one local number has five, and another seven digits.

(3.) Our telephone has a "block" on it so that one cannot make direct long distance calls (outside of Rome) from it, unless you go through your long distance phone service. Most US long distance providers [MCI, ATT] have local Rome phone access numbers and there is thus no problem making a call through such provider using your US access PIN. However, both ATT and MCI charge exorbitant rates {e.g., \$3/minute} for going through their access lines: we recommend either getting a cheap "call back" number before you leave the US, or having people in the US call you rather than you calling them.

Cell phones may be rented by the day or longer from Pick-Up-A-Phone in Rome: (06) 3721562.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES, REPAIRS, CALL (in order):

1. Our representative in Rome is Carlo Bertoni [tel: **333 9231029 or 06 689 6273**; carloesarebertoni@tin.it].
2. Call us in Oregon [all (503) area code: weekday office-227 1600; res-635 5782]. Please note there is a **9 hour time difference between Rome and Oregon**.

FOR EMERGENCY ONLY, IF YOU CANNOT REACH CARLO OR US:

3. My assistant in Portland: Trina Kim [(area code 503) off: 227 1600; res: 675-7447];
4. Our housekeeper and maintenance person is Vergel Sandoval [tel-328 778 8406;
5. A friend in Rome, Dominico Minchilli [tel 347 897 7077 or 06 683 2206
6. Another friend in Rome, Don Carroll [348 442 4064 or 06 57028 2657].

FOR CLEANING APARTMENT: Vergel Sandoval 328 778 8406 [cleans apt every Saturday]

OTHER EMERGENCY NUMBERS (MAY SPEAK ITALIAN ONLY):

FIRST AID or AMBULANCE: 118

POLICE: 112

FIRE: 115

US EMBASSY: 06/46741

PHYSICIAN: Call the US Embassy for current English-speaking doctors they recommend.

PHARMACIES ("FARMACIA"):

Open M-F 9-1, 4-8; Sat 9-1;

- at Piazza della Pace
- on Corso del Rinascimento (other side of Piazza Navona)
- in Piazza Farnese [tel-06 6880 6684]
- Piazza Barbarini 49: 4825456 (international medicines, but further away)

Open 24 hours: Piazza de Cinquecento [tel-4880019]; Via Arenula 73 [ring buzzer at night]

PHYSICAL THERAPIST:

- Susanne Petersen (a GREAT therapist): 06 482 7221 or 338 451222

MASSAGE THERAPIST: : Jodi Wensel [(39) 333 953 5540] is an American who has lived here many years, one of the best masseuses we have ever had, very reasonable [E 70 for 1.5 hours], and is located nearby at Pizza Farnese 101, Room 1/b.

DENTIST:

Drs Loridonna Carnavale and her husband Dr. Dennis Winter have a dental clinic on the ground floor of our building, and excellent reputations. Some years ago we also used Dr. M. Ciaccia (pronounced "chacha;" American, degree U of Mich): tel – 06 484 408; Via di Porta Pinciana, 4, near Via Veneto) who was excellent.

TAXI/AIRPORT SHUTTLES:

: Our new favorites are **Andrea** Marino [tel – 339 3796 713; andrea.marino@inwind.it or 3393796713@tim.it; 43 euros; speaks good English] or **Maurizio** [tel – 338976 6236 or 339 263 4559; Maurizio@driverforyou.info; 40 euros; speaks some English]. Please tell them you are staying our apartment. Of course, it is also easy to get a regular taxi at the taxi stand 2 blocks away on the end of our street, past Piazza Pasquino in Piazza Pantaleo at the Corso Vittorio Emanuele [fixed price of 40 euros to airport].

UPS OVERNIGHT COURIER SERVICE: [*Important Note: do not declare any value on objects as it will delay delivery, and result in your having to pay tariff of 19%.]*

Deliveries in Rome: 06 7934 0940

Pickup (to send to US or elsewhere): 1678 220 54

LAWYER (all speak English):

- Don Carroll or Andrea Russo: (06) 5702 82657
- Luigi Biamonte: (06) 3212 608/9

ENGLISH SPEAKING YELLOW PAGES, ITALIAN PHONE BOOKS:

- English Yellow Pages are with the other phone books: in hallway bookcase or in the armoire in the living room. New editions of English Yellow Pages: tel - (06) 4740861



HOW THE STOLL APARTMENT OPERATES: KEYS, APPLIANCES, ETC

GREEN INSTRUCTION MANUAL: In the drawer in the entry hall table of the apartment is a green loose-leaf notebook with an additional copy of this document, as well as various appliance instruction manuals, etc. There are extra keys for the apartment in that location. **Please leave the Green Manual and ALL sets of keys in that location when you finally leave the apartment.**

KEYS: In an abundant of caution, while we are gone we have a fairly extensive security system for the apartment. [We hasten to add that we have never had ANY burglars or thieves while in Rome, but we want to be extra safe.]

You should make arrangements 10 DAYS BEFORE ARRIVAL for obtaining a set of keys to the ENTRANCE of the apartment: confirm your schedule and key pickup with Carlo Bertoni [011 (39) (33) 39231029]. Carlo usually meets people at a designated time [usually following a call from the airport], gives them keys and shows them how the apartment operates. Unfortunately, this requires several keys: (1) key to the front door of the palazzo (the building); (2) key to a gate halfway up the first stairway; (3) a "long key" for the entrance from the hallway of the palazzo into the "Stoll" (name on door) apartment (to the left, on the second floor after the ground floor - the equivalent of an American "third floor") - this key will get you into our courtyard on the second floor; (4) a small key for the "green door" between the courtyard and into our apartment; (5) A key to the gate in the "gallery" in our apartment after you pass through the green door. After your first entry into the apartment, while you are using the apartment daily, it is not necessary to keep the gate locked.

In addition, there are other sets of keys to other doors in the apartment: (1) keys to the back door and gate (which has two keys) to the terrace hang next to the back door in the back bedroom; (2) keys to the salon balcony gate door and padlock are in the top drawer of the dining room buffet; (3) keys to the padlock and balcony gate in the library hang next to that gate; (4) keys to the padlock and balcony gate from the breakfast room are in the breakfast table drawer. **Please make certain that these are returned to this location for the next person, when you vacate the apartment.** There is also a brown-tagged key for mailbox downstairs .

The following people have "entrance" keys to the apartment in case of an emergency: Carlo Bertoni (our Representative); Don Carroll; and Virgil (apt and terrace maintenance). [See "Phone List" for numbers.]

BUZZER TO ALLOW GUESTS TO ENTER FRONT DOOR AND GATE OF BUILDING:

On a wall of the front entry hallway is phone-looking receiver, which will ring if you have guest who will ring it to get entry into the building [**and** to get through the glass gate on the first floor stair landing - they may need to push the buzzer at each building door/gate]: when there is a ring, lift the receiver and you will be able to hear/speak with the person who pushed the buzzer, and then, to release the lock in the front door or glass gate, you need to push the little button **on the side** of the wall bracket. Please note that you may hear the door buzzer ring early in the morning

[usually around 7-8 a.m.]: you can ignore this as it is the garbage man [unless you are getting a cab to the airport] who rings everyone's buzzer to get to the garbage cans.

PERMANENTLY LOCKED DOOR IN ENTRY HALL: On the left, at the end of the entry hallway in our apartment, you will note a locked wooden doorway. Please do not try to open this doorway. It is now permanently locked, and on the other side of it is insulation and a wall: formerly, it was a door way into the adjoining apartment, and the Belle Arte Commission (historic preservation commission) will not permit the removal of this door.

PLUMBING WARNING; MAIN WATER SHUT-OFF: We normally have no problems with the plumbing, but the systems in our building are of unknown vintage, and **care must be used with the plumbing system: please do not flush anything down a toilet other than toilet paper. Also, please make sure that unnecessary water does not accumulate on any floors as leaks may occur to the apartment below which has valuable frescoes on its ceilings.** If there is an emergency please **immediately** call our representative, Carlo Bertoni [011 (39) (33) 39231029], or others on the "Emergency" Phone list (page 2). The owner of the apartment below is Giovanni Spinelli [(06) office - 487 1363; res - 06/689 3534], who speaks English.

In the unlikely event the entire water supply to the apartment needs to be turned off, the turn-off valve is outside the breakfast room, in the corner of the balcony, and has a red handle.

HOT WATER HEATERS: There is an individual hot water heater for the kitchen and the first bathroom, which is turned on at the light switch inside the first bathroom doorway: "I" is "on" and "O" is "off." The hot water heater for the other (back) bathroom is on the light switch in the other bathroom, next to the sink. The washing machine has its own built-in water heater which heats its water when the machine is activated. Italians frequently turn the hot water heaters off during the day, and always if they are going away for a day or more. Electricity in Europe is **extremely** expensive, and there is an extra charge for it during daylight hours. **The hot water heaters utilize more power than all the other appliances combined, so please turn off if you are not using one or more of them for more than a day.**

ELECTRICAL POWER: The main circuit breaker for the entire apartment is located next to the back door. There is a separate circuit breaker for the kitchen's refrigerator, freezer, and oven to turn them off/on separately if you want the rest of the power in the house to remain on: it is located in the back of the cupboard above the built-in refrigerator. All should normally be on at all times. In the very unlikely event it becomes necessary for an electrician to disconnect the electricity to the dishwasher, while leaving all the other power on, it will be necessary to disconnect the wiring to it through the switch above the dishwasher and to its right.

There is an **emergency flashlight** inside the right side of the armoire: **please replace it if it becomes necessary to use.**

Italy, like most of the world, is on a 220 volt system so U.S. appliances either must have built-in transformers, or you should have one with you. (We have a hair dryer in the

apartment so don't get a transformer for yours - don't bring it.) The plugs are different from U.S., and there are actually two formats (both are in the apartment): we have adapters in one of the drawers inside the living room armoire, but please leave them so others can use them.

All the light switches are fairly easy to figure out, except that you might miss a light that illuminates the living room ceiling, located on top of the armoire: its switch is on a cord on the left side of the armoire.

HEAT FOR THE APARTMENT: The apartment has gas-fired hot water heat, which is usually needed only from November through March. The hot water radiators work very well but takes a little time to get going. It is also somewhat complicated to adjust, in that the settings are in different places.

(A) The thermostat is in the entry area - if it is set too low, the heat will not come on: I would suggest having it at 20 or 22 (which is Celsius).

(B) If (A) does not work then check to make sure that the furnace power switch is "on:" this is the first light-switch looking button, **with a light in it**, just to the right as you enter the front gate inside the apartment entry; if the light is not on in the switch, then turn it on.

(C) If (A) or (B) above do not work, then the furnace must be checked to see if it needs any adjustments. To do this, you must first flip off the power to the furnace [see (B) above]. The furnace itself is located underneath the stairs on our terrace outside. On top of the furnace is a little switch, make sure that the side closest to you (facing the doorway to the furnace) is depressed: it should always be left in that position.

(D) On the wall to the right of the furnace is a little 24-hour timer: push the switch in lower left of dial to "O" (off) from "A"(automatic).

(E) Adjust times you want heat on, by adjusting on 24 hour time clock by pulling out the little yellow tabs on the dial [each tab represents 15 minutes]. I would suggest having it on one hour before you want heat, and then having it off several hours during the day, and at night after you usually go to sleep.

(F) Make sure the arrow on the 24 hour clock is pointed to correct current approximate time [could be wrong if there was any power outage, or change to/from daylight time].

(G) Then push switch back to "A" from "O" to reactivate automatic timer.

(H) Turn on power switch (lighted light switch) inside front entry gate area, on right.

Space heaters and auxiliary heat in the air conditioners: There are two portable space heaters in the apartment for emergencies. However, please do not use them unless it is quite necessary as they are extremely expensive to operate. Also, each of the air conditioner units has a heater unit in it, which can be operated with the remote control for that unit [see description below for air conditioning]. **Call Carlo Bertoni if the furnace is not working properly.**

AIR CONDITIONING/COOLING: The apartment is air conditioned, but it is usually not necessary to use except sometimes in July and August: the exterior walls of the building are two feet thick, there is cross-ventilation, and Rome usually has a mid-afternoon breeze, even in August. Each bedroom also has an overhead fan. There are separate air conditioning units for each of the bedrooms, and for the salon: each of which is operated by means of a remote-control device in that room. In the Green Manual ["Home Guide"] is a description as to how the remote control unit operates, as follows:

Instructions for Emmeti Air Conditioner [See Italian instruction in Green Guide for illustrations]:

3. Air Conditioner function:
 - 3.1. . Fan Ξ
 - . Cold air τ
 - . Heating \ominus
 - . Dehumidifier: droplet image
 - . Automatic \square
 - 3.2. To start Air conditioner: Press on remote control "START/STOP." The infrared signal is automatic. You will hear the acoustic signal and a green light will appear on the Air Conditioner. Note: If the air conditioning operation does not start immediately, wait 3 minutes.
 - 3.3. Fan only:
 1. Press "MODE" button and select FAN.
 2. Press "SPEED" button to select velocity of fan:

LOW
MEDIUM HIGH AUTOMATIC
 - 3.4. Cold air:
 1. Press "MODE" and select cold air button.
 2. Select desired temperature by using these buttons ($\notin \in$)
 3. Select speed as before.
 - 3.5. Heating (using air conditioner unit):
Press MODE heating button (\ominus). Regulate temperature and speed as before.
 - 3.8. CLOCK
 1. Press clock button and the display will blink.
 2. Select correct time by using the HOUR & MINUTE button.
 3. Press clock button again and the time will be memorized.
 - 3.9. TIMER PROGRAMMING
 1. To start, push TIMER button & this symbol will blink: \square .
 2. Select the time desired.
 3. By pushing SET button the time will be memorized.
(To change timer, follow same procedure only press timer button twice.)
Press SET to memorize new time.
To turn off timer, press CANCEL.

If there is any problem, please check to see that the batteries in the remote control are fresh, before calling Carlo.

WASHING MACHINE:

DO NOT RUN THE WASHING MACHINE AT THE SAME TIME YOU RUN THE DISHWASHER, AS THIS MAY RESULT IN THE CIRCUIT BREAKER SHUTTING DOWN THE POWER TO THE APARTMENT. To operate:

[1] Open drawer and add washing powder in the compartment marked (II) e.g., DASH.

[2] We recommend adding solutions to the other compartments as follows:

(1) for pre-wash (o) fabric softener *Perlano* or *Coclino* (cl) whiteners - *Omino Bianco*

The instructions for the new washing machine should be in the back bathroom, on top of the counter, and/or in the inside of the cabinet in which the washing machine is located, or in the Green House Guide..

CLOTHES DRYER: The clothes dryer is above the washing machine. (1) Open the door (there is latch you push on the right front), be sure to pull out the triangular shaped plastic box in the inside lower left: this is a basin into which water is thrown during the spin cycle; make sure it is empty so it can take the water from your wash - there is no drain from this dryer. (2) Inside the dryer door is a lint filter which should be cleaned after each use. (3) Turn the dryer dial clockwise to the green drying time: 40 minutes is usually about right [blue markings are for spin only; no drying]. Next to the washing machine is a clothes hanging rack, which can also be set up on the terrace, which are the standard Roman (and usually most effective) way of drying clothes. Also, there are clothes lines on the balconies, but do not use those balconies (see "Balconies").

DISHWASHER: To operate: Turn on machine *acesso*(on), *spento*(off). Add detergent according to program chosen. All prewash programs require a little detergent in the WRD compartment. Choose washing program. Select *asciugatura eco* (economical wash) or *partenza ritardata* (delay wash) if required.

To delay wash:

press *partenza ritardata*. Hold until desired number of hours is displayed in window (max. 9hours). To cancel, window must read 0. To cancel after door has been closed, press *cancella* for 2 seconds.

To cancel cycle in progress:-

press *cancella*, hold for 2 seconds. The number of the program selected will appear in window.

To cancel acoustics:-

press simultaneously *asciugatura eco* and *partenza ritardata*.

Note: At least once each week please add sale [salt] or brillantante to the dishwasher: Roman water is full of calcium, and spots glassware easily unless salt is added regularly. Use **“Sale per lavastoviglie”** (regenerating salt), not table salt, by taking out the bottom rack of the dishwasher, unscrewing the cap marked with an “S” and filling the container. We usually use "Finish" brand for the detergent ("polvere" - powder), the regenerating salt, and the brilliant additive, and we keep them under the sink.

Dishwasher Programs:

1. soaking
2. intensive 70°C
 - pre-wash detergent dosage 10g
 - wash detergent dosage 25g
3. normal wash with prewash 65EC
 - prewash 10g

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 4. light wash with prewash 50°C | - wash 25g |
| | - prewash 5g |
| 5. economy wash with prewash 55°C | - wash 25g |
| | - prewash 5g |
| 6. light wash only 50°C | - wash 25g |
| 7. economy wash only 55°C | - wash 25g |
| 8. delicate wash only 45°C | - wash 20g |
| 9. brief wash only 55°C | - wash 25g |

DO NOT RUN THE WASHING MACHINE AT THE SAME TIME YOU RUN THE DISHWASHER, AS THIS MAY RESULT IN THE CIRCUIT BREAKER SHUTTING DOWN THE POWER TO THE APARTMENT.

OVEN:

- 3 - off:
- 4 - oven light
- 5 - top and bottom elements on, normal
- 6 - fan
- 7 - broiler only (top element only)

Note: Make sure all knobs are turned to *spento*(off) when not in use.

MARBLE COUNTERS -CAUTION: **Please do not cut any lemons, or get any citric fruit juices on any of the counters as they will become stained.**

GAS STOVE TOP: To start a gas burner, turn the burner on and push down, the burner should go on automatically. There is one exception: with the right rear burner, turn it on, and then use a match (the automatic lighter does not work). If the gas does not seem to go on, then check the "faucet handle" against the wall to the right of the stove (this is the valve bringing gas to the stove top), and make sure that the gas line is "on" to the stove top. There should be no problems.

BALCONIES: As the floor to the balcony outside the living room has a crack in it, although we have been told by an engineer that it is perfectly safe, we advise you not to use the balcony, especially not to have more than one person on it.

TV OPERATION THROUGH SKY DIGITAL DISK:

Both of our apartments now provide SKY digital disk TV, with "Calcio" [soccer] premium channels as well, on a large 28" TV. Although this provides many TV channels in Italian, it also provides dozens of English-speaking channels, including CNN, BBC, Bloomberg channels, many Fox, Discovery, History, National Geographic, etc. channels. There are a few English-speaking movie and sport channels. The "Calcio" premium channels should provide coverage for most European soccer games by the top professional soccer clubs, generally on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons, September through May.

To operate the TV, use the two remote controllers:

[1] Gray Phillips TV Remote Controller: Push the red button on upper right: the red light on the front of the TV will diminish in brightness, and in about 30 seconds a picture will come on [it may not be too sharp but that is because the SKY scrambler is not yet on].

Next push button on bottom left of Phillip TV remote that has a sort of “[+]” mark on it, click this a couple of times until “Ext 2” is shown. If you get “Ext 1” you should get “RAI Uno” [Italian government TV which frequently has excellent Italian sports coverage, and news –albeit in Italian], and you can switch to other Italian channels by using the “P” switch [“+” and “-“].

Then turn on SKY remote.

[2] Dark Blue SKY Remote Controller: Push the uppermost right button with sort of a “O+” symbol on it. If a picture does not immediately show, then push “TV” or “SKY” buttons on the top left or center.

To adjust channels use the SKY Remote controller by either typing in the channel you want to watch [e.g., push “206”], or pushing “+” or “-“ on the blue button in the center right of the controller [by using the “+” or ”-“ you can cycle through various channels.

If you want to see a menu of shows, push the “menu” button on the top left of the SKY remote controller.

To adjust volume you can push “+” of “-“ on either of the remotes on the volume indicators [blue, center left button on the SKY remote controller].

[3] Practical Suggestion: Once you have a channel operating through the SKY system, I recommend simply leaving the SKY remote on, and turning the TV off and then on when you want it, by using only the red button on upper right of Phillips remote controller: you instantly go to SKY and not have to turn on the SKY remote separately.

[4] Problems? If nothing happens when you push the buttons on one of the remote controllers, it is likely that the batteries need to be replaced in that controller: open the case on the back of the controller and replace with similar alkaline batteries. We try to maintain extra batteries in each of the apartments.

There are also instruction booklets for both the Phillips TV and SKY in either the TV cabinet or in the green owners booklet.

[5] Some SKY Channels:

- 100 series: generally Italian government [RAI] and other local TV channels.
- 200 series: sport channels. Please note that we do not have sport channel coverage of most US sports. Channel 206 is the primary calcio [soccer] channel but there are other channels with soccer coverage as well.
- 300 series: premium channels to which we generally do not subscribe
- 400 series: National Geographic [402], History [406], Discovery and similar
- 500 series: news [CNN, BBC, Bloomberg, Fox, SKY, etc]
- 600 series: cartoons and kids’ shows
- 700 series: music, including MTV, jazz, classical, rock, etc.

PHONE/FAX/COPIER/ANSWERING MACHINE/COMPUTER: For an English instruction sheet, you can simply push the “HELP” button, and the sheet will be printed [assuming someone has maintained the paper roll in the machine], but it says the following:

1. Phone:

- Dialing: Pick up handset; dial the wanted number [dialing "06" for calls within Rome].
- Using the speaker phone: Press LOUDSPEAKER key; dial the wanted number
- Call transfer: Press (*) and (0) during the call ; put down the handset; pick up the handset of the other phone.

2. Fax: To Send a fax: Dial the wanted number; insert document; press START-key

3. Copier: Insert document; optionally press FINE/PHOTO key; select the wanted resolution; press START/COPY key.

4. Answering machine:

-- Record outgoing message: Press RECORD-key for 2 seconds; confirmation tone sounds; press RECORD-key again; record tone sounds; speak your greeting message; press STOP-key; press RECORD-key; record tone sounds; speak your closing message; press STOP-key.

-- Check outgoing message: Press RECORD-key; greeting and closing message will be played.

-- Playing Message: Press PLAY/PAUSE-key; messages will be played.

-- To clear single message while listening to it: Press PLAY/PAUSE-key; press CLEAR-key twice while listening to the message

-- Clear all messages: Press PLAY/PAUSE-key; messages will be played; press CLEAR-key twice after all messages have been played.

5. Internet Connection:

-- In each apartment is a "Smart" DSL connection, that has a connecting cord: Simply plug the cord into your laptop, push the button on the back of the connection pod (and the lights on it will illuminate), and click onto your laptop's internet connection. If you have any problem, you might pull out the end, reinsert the plastic card on the top of the connection pod, and restart your laptop. **Wireless Internet:** The password is the long string of numbers and letters following the acronym "WEP" found on the underside of the DSL modem in the study (12345678901234567890ROME).

MAIL & COURIER SERVICES: Regular air mail service in Italy is sometimes unreliable. We have a mailbox on the ground floor (key is in the entry table drawer). We advise using email [see "Email"] or UPS, DHL, or Federal Express.

We have found **UPS** to be the fastest, most economical "overnight" service to the US. Because of the time differences, a package sent in the morning on one day will arrive in a US destination the next day via UPS. For UPS pickup, call (06)1678 220 54; for delivery, call 7934 0940 or fax 7934 0943: ask to speak with an English-speaking person. UPS will come to the front of our palazzo, but you must be available to meet them at an appointed time. UPS also has several drop-off places in Rome. DHL has five drop-off places in Rome; its number is (06) 167 345345.

LIGHT BULBS, ELECTRIC ADAPTERS, 3-WAY PLUGS, PHONE PLUGS, TOOLS, NAILS, ETC: Located inside the living room armoire.

TV: Our TV is in the armoire in the living room. We have a satellite dish installed so CNN in English is available as well as Italian and other stations. Instructions for the satellite dish are in the armoire. Sometimes there are problems with the dish: please call Carlo Bertoni in such event.

VCR: VCR player/recorder is in armoire in living room. Please note that European VCR's run at a different speed than American, and thus American VCR tapes will not work on European machines, and vice versa. An instruction guide for the VCR is in the green "Home Guide."

English-language, as well as original language VCR tapes in other languages, may be rented overnight at Navona Video, Corso del Rinascimento 13-15 (other side of Piazza Navona): you can rent either by joining their "club" [for a minor charge] or for a slight nightly surcharge and leaving a document ("documento").

STEREO: The stereo (radio, cassette, cd combination) is located in the living room armoire. There is an excellent classical music station at FM 100.2. There are a few jazz and classical cassette tapes in the drawer underneath the stereo.

BATHROOM, KITCHEN, DESK, And OTHER SUPPLIES: You are welcome to use our supplies, but we would ask that you replace what you use as we expect those items to be on hand when other guests come to the apartment. **If you are not able, before leaving, to replace an item, please tell Carlo so that we can make arrangements for the replenishment.**

GARBAGE: There are now recycling containers inside the front door of the building. Regular trash (non-recyclable) must be put in plastic garbage bags and put in the garbage cans just inside the building's entrance. Garbage is picked up daily.

WATER: Rome tap water is perfectly safe to drink, although it contains a high degree of calcium. Many Romans prefer to drink bottled water (either "frizzante"/ "gassata" - bubbly water, or "naturale" -without bubbles), which you can purchase at most grocery stores.

APARTMENT CLEANING: Each Saturday (other than holidays) our cleaning agent ("Virgil") cleans the apartment. A cleaning charge (normally \$160/per cleaning) will be due two weeks prior to your arrival, along with the refundable damage deposit (\$500). As another person may be coming into the apartment on the Saturday afternoon you leave, and since Virgil needs a few hours to clean the apartment, please leave before 9 a.m. on the Saturday of your day of departure. Virgil also maintains the terrace.

Virgil is quite trustworthy, and speaks pretty good English. He has keys to the apartment. If necessary, you may reach Virgil on his cell phone at 0339 5699 097.

GARDEN WATERING SYSTEM:

We would appreciate it very much if you would see if the plants on the terrace are receiving adequate water: if they are not, please immediately call Carlo Bertoni [011 (39) (33)

39231029] Sometimes the electronic watering system falters, or the water nozzles become clogged with calcium.

In the Green House Guide there is an instruction sheet on how the watering system functions.

LIVING IN ROME, OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

VISAS: Italy has a theoretical (only) requirement that foreigners staying over 90 days are supposed to have a "Permessa di Sojourn" (visa), however 99% of the foreigners there over 90 days do not have them, and they are extremely difficult to obtain. We know many people who have lived there 30 or more years without one, and we are unaware of anyone ever having a problem! No one will ever ask for one, unless you decide to buy land or an automobile locally in your name (most foreigners buy property in the name of corporation).

If you nevertheless want to try to get one for nostalgia, and want to get exposed to the Italian bureaucracy (you are masochistic), you must apply to your closest Italian consulate (e.g., San Francisco) before leaving the U.S.

MOVING COMPANY: After investigation, we found that the Italian Moving Network, Inc. was the cheapest and we used them going both ways, to and from Rome. They are excellent, and will give you reliable quotes (which is unusual in the moving business). They will provide service to and from your home (in the US as well as in Rome), from the airport, or wherever, and clear customs for you as you wish. Tel- 06/6618 1888 or 6618 2575 or 6618 2009; fax - 6618 2111; email: stefania@italianmovingnetwork.com.

CLOTHING: Professional laundry and dry cleaning is extremely expensive in Italy. We urge you to consider dark colored clothing that is easily washable (we have a washer and dryer in the apartment, as well as iron/ironing board). Men may enjoy wearing golf/tennis shirts and sweaters or sport jackets. Ties are largely unnecessary. Men and women wearing shorts in the city denote tourists.

Because most streets are cobblestone, and you are likely to do a lot of walking, we suggest getting some good and comfortable rubber-soled walking shoes. People with large shoe sizes have a difficult time getting their sizes in Rome.

MONEY, ATM, CREDIT CARDS, TRAVELER CHECKS: Our experience, over several years, is to obtain \$200 worth of local currency (now Euros) in the U.S. before we leave: the exchange rate will be slightly worse than in Rome, but you will have European currency in the very unlikely event your plane is delayed somewhere and you arrive at a time when airport exchange services are not open, or the airport ATM machine is not working for you. Also, if you are not familiar with the Rome airport, why waste time trying to find local currency?

There are numerous ATM machines throughout Italy, Europe and at least the Middle East, and of course they are open 24 hours/day. The only problems we encountered were that: (a) a particular machine (or even a couple of them) malfunctioned on particular days [we received notes from the machine that our card was "not valid for international transactions" or "we've been instructed to return the card and to tell you to contact your local bank" or "your card is out of credit today"] for no good reason; (b) we were limited to being able to withdraw the Euro equivalent to US\$1500/day per ATM card; and (c) a few times we forgot about the time difference between Rome and the U.S. west coast, and tried to obtain more cash than our limit within the same day-*US west coast time*.

The solutions to these problems were: (a) try another ATM machine if one card was refused the first or second times and you know there should be no reason for the refusal; (b) if we were

going to make a big purchase, exceeding our daily ATM limits, we simply "stock-piled" cash for a couple days; and (c) most banks start a "new" day for purposes of ATM limits at 12:01 a.m. (sometimes not until 1:01 a.m.) their local time

One can obtain cash using credit cards, as well as ATM cards, but credit cards generally have lower daily limits for cash withdrawals than ATM cards, and also charge a 4% or 5% service charge not charged generally by ATM cards.

VISA is generally more widely accepted than American Express. Some restaurants, small shops and especially grocers do not accept credit cards.

INTERNET CONNECTION: We have a DSL connection in the apartment. In addition, there are internet cafes within a few blocks. As the internet cafes seem to come and go, we recommend asking a Tourist Information Kiosk for a location.

HAVING A CAR IN ROME: Having a car in Rome is a real nuisance, and unnecessary: parking is very difficult; traffic is fierce; one-way streets lead the unwary in directions thoroughly unexpected; damage to the car (while parked) is common; insurance is extremely expensive; and one can walk, and taxis are reasonable. **IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE OR PARK IN THE HISTORIC CENTER OF ROME UNLESS YOU ARE A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH A VALID PARKING PERMIT FOR YOUR SPECIFIC CAR.** For trips to nearby rural areas 3-day weekend rental cars are reasonable: rental rates vary widely so call around. For longer trips, Italian trains are faster and on time. We leased a car, and then turned it in after three months for all these reasons.

RENTAL CARS: Hertz, Eurocar, and Sixt all have easily accessible outlets under the Borghese gardens, accessible through the Metro station just to the left of the Spanish Steps. Avis has a rental station just off the Via Veneto [tel: (06) 4282 4728]. **We strongly recommend checking out different car rental agencies' rates, as they can *daily* vary widely (sometimes 200%) depending upon an individual agency's then-current supply of cars.**

TRANSPORT FROM/TO AIRPORT: On your **first time from the airport or train station**, you will probably want to take a **taxi**: however, **be careful to take a regular (white with "taxi" signage), located at the "taxi" stand outside the terminal, rather than ride with someone greeting you inside the terminal [who will charge double].** A regular taxi will charge about 50 Euros from the airport, including supplements that are due to the fare originating at the airport and due to baggage supplements. The ride takes about 40 minutes.

You can also take the **train** directly out of/into the airport to/from the main train station ("Termini"): trains to/from the airport run every 20 minutes, take about 30 minutes. The taxi fare to our apartment is about 10 Euros from Termini.

Usually we use an **AIRPORT LIMO** when going *to* the airport, but not for pickups at the airport as the time for pickups is too uncertain due to flight/baggage delays: Our recommended airport limos are: **Andrea** Marino [tel – 339 3796 713; andrea.marino@inwind.it or 3393796713@tim.it; 43 euros; speaks good English] or **Maurizio** [tel – 338976 6236 or 339 263 4559; Maurizio@driverforyou.info; 40 euros; speaks some English]. Please tell them you are staying in our apartment.

TAXIS: Taxis are numerous in Rome, especially along the Corso Vittorio Emanuele, a block from the apartment and there is a taxi stand in the Piazza Pantaleo at the end of our street going toward Campo dei Fiori. If you telephone (5551) in advance for a cab, the fare commences once the taxi gets a message to pick you up so you pay for the distance/time it takes the taxi to get to you: otherwise, the fare begins when you hail the cab.

By law, a taxi cannot take more than four customers at once. Unless some unusual service is provided, no tipping is expected. Fares are normally rounded out. In addition to airport and baggage supplements, there are extra charge supplements after 10 p.m. and before 7 a.m., and for Sunday service.

BUSES: There are plenty of buses in Rome, and on the Corso Vittorio Emanuele. Bus #64 will take you either to St. Peter's or to the Monument to Vittorio Emanuele and the Termini: however, **be warned that #64 is heavily frequented by pickpockets; we advise not taking it.** Bus maps are with other maps in the apartment: There are two lines in Rome (shown clearly on most Rome city maps), but neither runs close to our apartment or many other areas.

GUIDE: We want to urge anyone coming to Rome to call the best guide in Rome, Nancy DeConcillis [(39) 06 854-9309] as far in advance as possible [she is quite popular]. She is an American art historian, hired by the American Embassy when the President visits, and very reasonably priced. We recommend using Nancy for half-day tours to the Forum, the Vatican Museum, or have her design a tour for your special interests.

CURRENT EVENTS INFORMATION: Just outside the north end of Piazza Navona, and elsewhere in central Rome, is a **visitor information kiosk**, with English speakers, with all the latest information on concerts, soccer games, etc. Many of the concerts are free or inexpensive, and in small venues [churches, salons, etc] or outdoors: they are true Roman experiences, as are the soccer games in the Olympic Stadium. The Information Kiosks also have brochures and flyers on current events and concerts. We also encourage visitors to purchase at most newsstands, **Wanted In Rome**, a bi-weekly magazine of current events and news for the English-speaking community, as well as notices of the latest museum shows, etc.

MASSAGE THERAPY: Jodi Wensel [(39) 333 953 5540] is an American who has lived here many years, one of the best masseuses we have ever had, very reasonable [E 70 for 1.5 hours], and is located nearby at Pizza Farnese 101, Room 1/b.

HISTORY -- OUR BUILDING:

It is believed that our building was first begun in about 1382, and was constructed by a wealthy merchant. Over the centuries parts of the building have been deleted, and other parts added. You might notice that the studio or den off of our back bedroom actually is a single room constructed over another building! It is believed that the artist Rafaello had his main studio on the ground floor of the building in the 16th century, and that the columns on the ground floor courtyard were there from that era.

Originally, as with most residential buildings in Rome, the ground floor of our building was comprised of shops, stables, and non-living spaces. The second floor, the "piano nobile" ["noble floor"] was where the head of the family resided with his immediate family. The third floor -the

one our apartments are on - was the residence for either the family of the grown children of the head of the family, or the family of the former head of the household if he had retired or was no longer active. Over the centuries, as families grew, and property became more expensive, buildings were subdivided so that each floor became owned by separate families. Our predecessors in title to our floor had lived in this building for several *hundred* years, and the widow who owned the floor, her father, and her children had all been born in the building.

The Romans are extremely proud of their heritage, and anything ancient is preserved! There are Etruscan pieces stuck in the walls of the courtyard that were rubble from the site before the building was constructed. During a recent renovation of the building during the Jubilee [in 2000], when some work was being done on some beautiful mosaic floors [that apparently dated back only 100 years or so], the “herringbone” design roman brick was uncovered in the main entrance area, and the Belle Arte Commission [historic preservation bureau] required that the building owners uncover the very rough brick flooring as it is many hundreds of years old. Unfortunately, the Belle Arte has not decided what we can do with, or how to preserve, the original ground level flooring and thus it remains in its rough condition [the Belle Arte obviously has many thousands of buildings, etc to think about].

Although the apartments are air conditioned, it is not permitted to have air conditioning units visible from the front of a building, and for that reason, there are no air conditioning units in the main salon, and a portable one in the second bedroom, although they seem to work well.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

As you will notice, there are many families still living in our building and in our neighborhood. Although many are quite wealthy, and although prices for real estate in Rome have dramatically increased in recent years, there are also many middle class people living in the area who have inherited their apartments. Italians have very little debt, and most apartments are owned with little or no mortgage.

As a result of all of the people living in the area, there are several groceries, markets, hardware stores, etc. to service them. This is particularly necessary as few people own automobiles so they must carry their groceries, etc.

Immediately outside our building is the Piazza Pasquino, with many good and not expensive restaurants. It also has the **Lapidary Muse** on the side of the piazza opposite our apartments' building: it is statue without arms, dating back to the third century. For centuries - and to this day - Romans have posted written missives on the sides and base of the Muse, mostly ridiculing politicians and public events. It is believed that this was Menelaus supporting the body of Patroclus on the battlefield of Troy, and there are notes of Michelangelo admiring the work, before the arms were broken off. Cardinal Oliviero Caraf set up the statue on a pedestal outside his house [now housing part of the **Museo di Romana** -which should be visited as an example of a beautiful Renaissance palace as well as for whatever excellent exhibit is being shown there]. Soon thereafter, scholars and students were using it as a stage prop for literary competitions. The statue became known as Pasquino, named after an acerbic tailor living nearby. During festivals, he was dressed and painted as a figure from mythology [e.g., Hercules, Mars, etc] and poets recited their works in front of him, leaving copies on him as a record. Later, anonymous writers and pundits wrote scurrilous commentaries about events and politicians of the day. Sometimes the writer was uncovered: one was hung, another fled Rome upon being uncovered and before he could be captured. During Napoleon's occupation of Rome in the early 19th century notes were

found questioning whether all Frenchmen or just Bonaparte were thieves. Today, you will still find notes pasted on him, ridiculing Berlusconi, Bush or whatever self-important politician deserves a little humility.

ENOTECAS/WINE BARS:

Immediately on **either side of our front door** the enoteca and café have excellent selections of wine by the glass, as well as light meals. Our favorite is **Piccolo**, to the left as you exit our building. **Cul de Sac**, in Piazza Pasquina also serves a huge selection of wine by the glass, as well as eclectic Mediterranean food.

Casa Bleve at via del Teatro Valle 48/49, near the Pantheon [closed Sunday, Monday] is very nice, upscale, with incredible wines, serving excellent “trendy” meals.

Special treat if you are here a while is the **International Wine Academy of Rome**, entrance under the Spanish Steps. Membership is \$20/year, but you get access to its restaurant and superb wine bar with a rooftop deck with incredible view of the city – especially good at dusk.

If you are into wine education, visit **Vino Roma**, www.vinoroma.com. Located on the 5th floor of a 19th century palazzo in Prati, alongside the Tiber, it is the perfect setting to take part in an inexpensive (approximately E50/pp at this writing) educational wine tasting which breaks down Italian wines, regions, and labels in a relaxed atmosphere. Tastings can be booked directly on the website or by calling the office cell phone to make a reservation (+39 328 487 4497). They also serve a wine and cheese lunch starting at noon.

ICE CREAM/GELATO: Ice cream/gelato is a different product from anything available in the US, and must be tried (you'll never stop eating it after that). The numerous "flavors" (e.g., Pistachio, Tiramisu, etc) are incredible! While there are many gelaterias in Rome, our favorites are: **Gelateria del Teatro al Coronari** [in an alleyway off the center of via Coronari, where you can see gelato made on the premises with all fresh ingredients; **Frigidarium**, two blocks on the right from our building; **Blue Ice** [numerous location, closest two on street entering Campo di Fiori], and the famous **La Palma** [over 50 exotic flavors [v.d. Madelena @v.d. Coppelle [north of the Pantheon].

COFFEE BARS

There are of course numerous, excellent neighborhood coffee bars, such as the **Bar Pasquino** in Piazza Pasquino. Famous, and of particular note, for watching people, with both excellent coffee and light food, are: **Bar Farnese**, on the entrance to the most beautiful Piazza Farnese [facing Michelangelo's Palazzo Farnese – now the French embassy]; **Tre Scalini** [in the center of Piazza Navona]; **Canova** and **Rosati** [both in Piazza del Popolo], and the oldest, **Café Grece** on Via Condotti.

RESTAURANTS:

It is very hard to find a bad restaurant in Rome.

Here are our favorites currently, **all very reasonably priced:**

Our current favorite is **Il Drappo**, Viccolo del Malpasso 9 [tel 06 687 7365], located near the bridge, Ponte Mazzini, off of Largo L. Perosi off of Via Pelegrino. Excellent *Sardengnian* food, reasonably priced, elegant intimate décor, perfect service, great wine list [try Sardengnian white]: what more can one ask? We recently had: insalata mista with a delicious

creamy/garlic house dressing, a beautiful and succulent roast pig with crusty exterior and moist interior, delicious fresh cod with tomatoes pinenuts and yellow raisins, finished with an incredible homemade warm applecake topped with vanilla gelato!

Other very good seafood restaurants nearby our apartment:

- **Capricci Siciliani** [Sicilian; via di Panico 83; tel – 06 454 33823];
- **Taverna Guilia**, [elegant, Ligurian; closed Sundays; at end of via Guilia at viccol dell’Oro 23; tel – 06 6869 768];
- **Mirragio**, just across the Tiber [between the bridges Ponte Mazzini and Ponte Sisto] at via della Lungara 16a [tel 06 6875 319]

An elegant restaurant on a beautiful quiet pizza, at Via dei Coronari 180 is **Sangallo al Coronari** [06 6813 4055 or 06 686 5549. Across from it is one of the very best gelaterias in Rome, **Gelateria del Teatro al Coronari** where you can get desert.

The best **restaurants in our Piazza Pasquino** are **Terra di Siena** [traditional Tuscan] and **CicciBomba** [traditional Roman], and **Insalata Ricca** (excellent and unusual salads, as well as other things).

Other nearby neighborhood restaurants we have enjoyed are **Ristorante Monteverchio** [Piazza Monteverchio 22a –between Piazza della Pace and via Coronari; tel-06 6861 319; very small]; **Antica Taverna** [turn right at 4th street as you leave right from our front door; and of course **MonteCarlo** [1st left turn as leave right from our building – still **the best pizza in all Rome!**]. **Café Della Pace** in the Piazza Della Pace, are *two of the most famous true-Italian hangouts in Rome*, frequented by Italian movie and other celebrities. There is also an excellent **Spanish** restaurant serving tapas on V.Tor Millina, around the corner from Piazza della Pace.

A few restaurants **between the Pantheon and Piazza Argentina** that we like are: **Ristorante Archimede S. Eustachio**, Piazza dei Caprettari 63 [tel 06 6861 616] [one of our old favorites, typical Roman, great fritto misto vegetables, pepper steak, elegant outside as well as inside]; **La Pigna** [Piazza della Pigna 54; 06 6787 993; simple family run but very good]; **Casa Blevé**, via del Teatro Valle 48/49 [tel-06 686 5970; great for trendy Roman lunch in a wine shop].

Al Pompieri [upstairs at via S. Maria dei Calderari 38, **near the Jewish Ghetto**; tel – 06 686 8377; excellent old style Roman].

Pierluigi [Piazza de Ricci 144; tel- 06 6861 302 or 06 6868 717] *used to be* one of our favorite restaurants, and still is the favorite of the US Ambassador to Rome, Hilary Clinton, and others, but when it went into its recent elegant remodeling and expansion, it greatly increased its prices and lost its former intimacy. At the other end of Via Montserrat, very near Piazza Farnese, is **Ristorante Monserrato**, which we *prefer* to Pierluigi, similar menu [primarily seafood], simple but nice setting, reasonably priced.

For a **great lunch with a view**, we recommend the **Ciampini restaurant on via Monte dei Trinita, opposite the Villa Medici** near the Borghese Gardens. Elegant, reasonable, with

outdoor terrace overlooking Rome. There are several Ciampini restaurants in Rome, including Tre Scalini in Pizza Navona, as this is one of the oldest families in the business.

In Piazza Navona: There is no restaurant to recommend, sadly. Great tartufu gelato is at **Tre Scalini** there, however.

Campo di Fiori: Sadly, we have nothing to recommend right there anymore; the service has either deteriorated, the food is not as good as other nearby restaurants, or both. In that general area, however, is **Thien Kim** [high class, excellent Vietnamese food at end of Via Guila, next to Ponte Sisto footbridge.

Between Navona and Spagna: Both on via del' Orso: **Orso 80** [at #33 - fabulous cold antipasti lunch – brought to table, very reasonable] and **Lagana** [at #44 – very small, with great Roman food; tel 06/6830 1161]; and nearby on Vicolo dell Campana 18 is the oldest restaurant in Rome, **La Campana** [probably my very favorite, very traditional – usually only Italians eating there].

Piazza d' Spagna area: [a] **Nino's**, Via Borgognona 11, [closed Sunday] near Piazza di Spagna has an unbelievable garlic and bean soup that we insist on having on *every* trip to Rome, **Zuppa Francovich**. Also, the **carciofi alla Romano**, is the best oiled artichokes in Rome, and the Tuscan t-bone steaks there are excellent. [b] **Restaurant 34**, via Mario di Fiori 34, very consistent excellent and wide-range of food. [c] **La Rampa**, underneath the Spanish Steps, next to American Express, at lunch has an incredible antipasti buffet [maybe thirty delicious Italian cold dishes].

The “in place,” off Via Corso, at Piazza Augusto Imperatore 9, **Gusto** has an enoteca/wine bar, pizzeria, ristorante, and an *excellent food equipment store* [www.gusto.it] with some unusual cookbooks. For dinner get reservations [06 322 6273] Very trendy, but reasonable.

Near Piazza del Poppolo: **OPLA** on via Angelo Brunetti is excellent, reasonable, as is **Ristorante Ripetta** on Via Ripetta. On Piazza del Poppolo is the justly famous, old [somewhat expensive] **Dal Bolognese** [06 3611 426].

Trastevere [across the Tiber River]: this has been a “hot” place for several decades, especially among young people, and it is fun, but most of the restaurants are not that good. The famous **Sabatini** on Piazza S. Maria in Trastevere is one of the nicer, and more expensive. Our favorites in that area are **Antica Pesa** on Via Garibaldi [quiet interior courtyard and **Mirragio** [see above re “seafood”].

Favorite near Via Veneto: On the lower part of the Via Veneto, an excellent place for lunch, very quiet, tasteful, is the **Restaurant Ninja** in **Hotel Majestic**.

CATERER:

One of the leading caterers in Rome is an American who has lived here many years, **Bill Guion** [06/687 5567]: great food, very reasonable, has made numerous meals here.

TIPPING: Service charges are included in virtually all restaurant and bar bills, although a little more, maybe an additional 5-10% might be added. Same thing for taxis, haircuts, etc.

Hotel maids, porters and garage attendants should receive some tip if they do something special for you.

MARKETS, GROCERIES: The largest and most famous public market in Rome, with fresh fish (except Monday), produce, fruit, flowers, meat, spices, etc. is four blocks from our apartment in **Campo dei Fiori** (open Monday through Saturday 8 - 1). There is also an excellent fresh produce and fruit market two blocks closer, in the opposite direction in the **Piazza delle Pace** (same days and hours).

We enjoy the small grocery, **Ruggeri**, in the Piazza della Pace [also in the far end of Campo dei Fiori]; try the fresh pesto sauce, and extensive cheese selection. We buy our wine and water from the wine merchant a block away on via del Governo Vecchio, who is a lock before you get to the **CarreFours Supermercato** [supermarket, with everything – the second largest, after Walmart, retailer in the world].

BAKERY: The best bread in Rome is a small hole-in-the-wall place (no sign) at the southwest end of **Campo di Fiori** [excellent "piazza bianco," olive bread -"oliva," etc: there is usually a mass of a line pouring out the front door]. Also, very good bread and excellent pastries may be obtained at the larger **Il Fornaio**, located on the way to Campo di Fiori on via Baullari.

When buying bread you can always order only half or less of a loaf ("mezzo"); the baker will cut off the amount you want. "Pane Rustica" usually comes in very large round loaves.

FRESH FLOWERS: There are several stands in the west end of **Campo di Fiori** [open Monday through Saturday 8-1].

CLOTHES SHOPPING: Of course, the principal "high fashion" shopping streets are the Via Condotti [Gucci, Hermes, Valentino, Ferragamo, Fendi, Versace, Armani, etc] and the Via Frattina, just below the Piazza di Spagna, but there are several streets surrounding that area that have many beautiful clothes for men and women. During the last ten years, our street - Via Del Governo Vecchio - has become an "in" street for new designers, more reasonably priced than Gucci, etc..

January and July are "sale months" when most clothes stores have great sales. Gucci and other designers frequently have clothes at 40% off, with long lines of tourists [especially Japanese] trying to get in.

JEWELRY: There are, of course, many beautiful jewelry stores in Rome. Buccellatti, Cartier and the internationally famous [and expensive] stores are on or near Via Condotti. Our personal favorite, however, for traditional Roman design in 21k gold, often using Etruscan coins, is a little [very reasonable] jeweler next door to the Hotel Portoghese on **via della Orso 45**.

SILVER: For high quality antique as well as newer sterling and silver plate objects of all types, *reasonably* priced we recommend **Amati Romeo** at Piazza Borghese 2/A [tel – 06 6832 760].

DRY CLEANING: Dry cleaning and laundry is extremely expensive in Rome. The closest one (3 blocks) is on via Vetrina near the Piazza delle Pace, run by two very nice Italian ladies.

ANTIQUES: The most concentrated area for antiques is Via dei Coranari (on the north end of Piazza Navona: best quality, but extremely expensive). There are also some more moderate antique shops between our via del Governo Vecchio and the river.

Prices in Rome are expensive, however, with the exception of the antiques you may be able to get on Sundays (8 to 1) at the public market near Porta Portense: the antique sellers are clustered together there at Piazza I. Nievo on Viale Trastevere.

Better prices, and excellent quality may be found in the antique fairs held year-round on Sundays (except in August) in nearby towns. For the yearly schedule on these antique fairs, obtain a copy of Cose Antiche magazine at a newsstand. There are also particularly good shops in Viterbo (2 hours north of Rome; which also has a monthly antique fair), which should be visited in any event.

ORIENTAL RUGS: **Antonio Festagallo**, Via Zanardelli 8 [tel: 687 9415], from whom we purchased all our Persian rugs, has an excellent selection and very fair prices. He also speaks good English. See **Zinouzi**, Piazza Nicosia 13 also for rugs and beautiful silk and embroidered pillows.

FABRICS: The most incredible fabrics (many silks, many hand printed) are at **Lisio** [via Sistina 120, near the Piazza di Spagna). Also, **Valli** [Piazza del Orologio] has beautiful fabrics and pillows.

ROMAN-DESIGN PLASTER WALL SCONCES AND MOLDINGS: Luigi Tedoli [via di Panico 16A – just before going across Tiber to Castel S. Angelo; tel 06 6868 993, www.tedoli.com] and some nearby shops have some incredible reproductions.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS: There are two excellent Italian language schools within 4 blocks of the apartment, at which we took courses:

Scuola Leonardo Da Vinci, Piazza dell'Orologio 7 (tel: 6798 896; fax - 6795 185): intensive (4 hours/day) group (limit of 12) and private lessons;

Italia Idea, Piazza Cancelleria, 85 [tel: 6830 7620; fax 689 2997; email: italiaidea@mail.nexus.it]: more relaxed, more focused on Americans, not necessary to take daily classes.

FLEA MARKET:

Probably the largest flea market in Europe is on every Sunday [8 am to 2 pm] at Porto Portese, across the Tiber, between Piazza Ipp. Nievo and Porto Portuense: many blocks, selling everything from junk, clothes, paintings, furniture, car parts, etc. Very crowded, little English.

ENGLISH BOOK STORES:

Anglo American Bookstore, Via della Vite 102 (near Piazza di Spagna);

Almost At The Corner Bookstore, Via Del Moro 48 in Trastevere [our favorite];

Economy Bookstore and Video Center, Via Torino 136 (near Piazza della Repubblica).

Please be aware that there is not a good selection of technical (e.g., computer) books in English in Rome.

AMERICAN ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOLS: We think the **American Overseas School of Rome** (AOSR) (3326 4841) is an exceptional American-curriculum school. St. Stephens is reputed to be an excellent high school as well. The other English-speaking schools in Rome either have a British curriculum (which may be more difficult to re-adjust with upon returning to the US) or are Catholic.

AMERICAN COLLEGES: A complete list of these may be obtained from the US Embassy. Additionally, there are Rome campuses for several U.S. colleges and universities (e.g., U of Wa., Cornell, Temple, Loyola), and the American Academy (for artists and architects in residence) has excellent lectures and shows periodically. John Cabot University is a local college across the river from our apartment in Trastevere.

GOLF COURSES:

- see English Speaking Yellow Pages, or golf course directories in hallway bookcase.

PILATES INSTRUCTOR

An amazing **pilates** teacher, in Piazza Pasquino is **Patricia Medros**, an American [via di San Pantaleo 69A; tel 339 753 8609]..

HOTELS: On the ground floor of our building is the **Navona Garden Suites**, which is convenient if you have friends who want to be nearby, although its rooms have limited light [www.navonasuitesrome.com; tel -06 683 2613]. Other hotels a few blocks away we recommend are **Hotel Campo de' Fiori** [Via del Biscione, 6; tel- 06 6880 6865 or 06 687 4886 or 06 6830 9036; info@hotelcampodefiori.com] and **Hotel Portoghesi** [tel-06 6864231] in Piazza Portoghesi [which is quieter although further away, toward Spagna]. Friends have found the fancy **Raphael** nearby to be overpriced with very small rooms.

Very nice, although more expensive: **Hotel della Senato** [(06)678 4343] in the Piazza della Rotonda (elegant, overlooking the Pantheon) and the **Ingleterra** [(06)69981] bottom of Spanish Steps [our very favorite, but expensive],

Hotel in Florence: A side trip to Florence is so easy, with the Eurostar train from Rome taking only 1 ½ hours. We recently found a truly excellent, very reasonably priced, well-located hotel there, the **Santa Maria Novella Hotel**.

THINGS TO DO, SEE IN AND AROUND ROME, ELSEWHERE

GUIDE BOOKS: One guide book for Italian hotels that we think is particularly good is Fodor's Hotels And Country Inns of Character and Charm In Italy (with the exception of its recommendation in Naples - the Miramare Hotel, which is a dump; stay in the Vesuvio or Excelsior there). You are welcome to use the numerous additional guide books on Rome, Italy, and Europe generally in our bookcase: however, please leave them when you leave. Turn Right At The Fountain, and Gloria Mason's Companion Guide to Rome (both also in the bookcase) feature some great walking tours.

CHILDREN'S GUIDE BOOKS: Fodor's "Around Rome With Kids" written by our friend, Dana Prescott [Carroll].

MAPS: We also have numerous maps of Rome (including bus maps) and of Italy, located in the bottom drawer to the bookcase.

GUIDES: We strongly recommend the use of a guide, particularly to see [and get in without having to wait an hour] the Vatican Museum/Sistine Chapel. If you want to use one of the guides listed below, **call them several days in advance as they are quite popular.** Also, if you want or need to cancel an appointment, we would appreciate your paying the guide something as their prices are quite reasonable and we want to be able to get them for future friends staying in the apartments.

Nancy DeConcillis [06/854 9309] is a well-known American guide in Rome who gives a series of weekly half-day, in-depth small group tours most of the year. Because of her popularity it is advisable to book in advance, and may be necessary to sign up for a series of tours.

A friend and colleague of Nancy DeConcillis is **Elianora Bartolotti** [06/704 52871] who is also excellent, and has been used by guests of ours on several occasions. Her charges are quite reasonable; it is appropriate to leave a tip of 10-15%.

Another well-known guide, **Peggy Cajati** (also an American; 3326 8811 - call in the morning) also is the official restoration expert for the American Embassy, who gives tours of Rome as well as of the American Embassy.

TRAVEL AGENT: We recommend American Express for day trips to Hadrian's Villa and Villa d'Este, but our favorite English-speaking travel agent is **Caravelle Travel** [owner Paola Veneri] [tel: 06/321 5535] if you want to make any travel reservations while you are in Rome.

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERTS: There are numerous classical music concerts in Rome every night, most within walking distance of the apartment. Frequent small (30-50 people) concerts are held in various salons, recalling what it must have been like in centuries past: some of these are in the **Galeria Doria Pamphilj** (which one can also visit the sumptuous private apartments of the Cardinal Pamphilj), a few blocks away, or in June at Villa Medici in the Borghese Gardens: neither of those settings should be missed! There are also numerous excellent concerts and recitals held regularly in churches [posters are usually inside the doors of the churches]. Information regarding all these events may usually be obtained from Wanted In Rome or from the **Rome Tourist Information Kiosks** (see above).

WINE TASTING: **Vino Roma** (www.vinoroma.com) puts on educational wine tastings for tourists, breaking down Italian wines, regions and labels in a relaxed, but formal atmosphere. Each tasting is a couple of hours long, and guests leave with the knowledge they need to order and drink wines they'll like during their stay (and back home, of course). It's not about them telling you what's good, but about defining what you like or don't so that you can better choose a wine or describe a style to a sommelier or wine shop. They focus on tasting techniques, and each tasting is tailored to the skill level of the participants, which is usually 2-10 people.

SOCCER:

Regardless of whether you are a soccer fan, you should go to a professional soccer ("calcio") match in Rome at the Stadio Olimpico, held every Sunday afternoon (at 2:30 or 4 p.m., usually) from September through May. The spectacle and fans are amazing: everyone we took to them, loved it! You can purchase tickets in advance at the "Roma" store in Piazza Colonna [on Via Corso] or at the gate shortly before the game: purchase at a ticket window, not from a scalper outside, and buy "reservato Centro Tevere" (reserved, center, river side) seats (half the price of the other side). [50% off for children - who have no assigned seats, but can sit nearby in the aisle or in an uninhabited seat].

On alternating Sundays, the teams of Rome or Lazio (the region of Italy in which Roma is situated) play. A couple times a year Lazio plays Roma and the competition is fierce: unlike anything you have ever seen, anywhere - do not get into an argument.

The crowds to-and-from the Stadio Olimpico are quite large: we recommend taking trolley #225 from the Flaminio Station, just north of the Piazza del Popolo, which will take you to the other end of the line (Piazza Mancini) in about 7 minutes, and then it is a short walk to the Stadio Olimpico across the bridge. Return from the stop at Piazza Mancini. There is only one trolley on that line, and cars run every 2-3 minutes.

SITES IN ROME: We were quite impressed with a friend's site and blog: www.INSIDERSItaly.com and www.INSIDERSItaly.wordpress.com. Both sites are extremely interesting and helpful.

Rather than harp on some of the more obvious (Vatican, Colosseum, Monument to Vittorio Emanuele, Piazza di Spagna and Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon), I would like to mention a few not to miss (you can read the details in the guide books):

* **Villa Borghese Gardens, View from Pincio:** a short distance above and west of Piazza del Popolo and the Piazza di Spagna is the beautiful and extensive Villa Borghese Gardens. They are delightful for leisurely walks, or jogging. There is a small lake there, also, where you can rent rowboats in the summer, as well as cafes. Check to see if there is an **International Horse Show** in the "Piazza di Siena" in the Gardens: if so, it should not be missed [you can drink champagne, have lunch or dinner, and watch beautiful horses jump]. Just above the Piazza del Popolo, in the Gardens is the **Pincio**, from which there is one of the very best Rome views.

* **Borghese Museo:** Also in the Gardens, is the **Galleria Borghese**, the finest museum in Rome, with incredible sculptures by Bernini and Canova (the marble looks life-like), fine paintings by Titian, Caravaggio, Raphael, etc. The Galleria was closed for 14 years, reopened in June 1997, and there is tremendous demand so tickets must be purchased a few days in advance, and for two-hour time slots (e.g., 9am - be sure to be there at 9, as everyone will be cleared out at 11 am). [Tues-Sat: 9-17; Sun: 9-13; Closed Mondays; tel 84241607; fax 84241671]

* **Vatican Museums:** Not only the Sistine Chapel, but hundreds of other rooms of paintings, maps, Egyptian and Etruscan, etc. art. Please note that the entrance is not near the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica (even though there is an exit from the Museum there), but several blocks away - we suggest taking a cab. Arrive either early, or after 11, as the crowds can be fierce. [Mon-Sat 8:45-13:00; closed Sun except last Sun of month, which is free.]

* **Castel Sant'Angelo:** On the other side of the river, on the way to St. Peter's is the fortress where the popes would seek refuge from invaders. Very interesting: adults as well as kids enjoy this. Great views of all Rome from the top. Walking distance from our apartment. [Open daily until one hour before closing 9:-20:00, except closed 2d and 4th Tues of month.]

* **Galleria Doria Pamphilj:** Nearby our apartment (Piazza del Collegio Romano 2). One of the most sumptuous palazzos in Rome, built by a Cardinal, has several rooms of beautiful art, but the private apartments (much in their original splendor) really show how wealthy people lived in the Renaissance Rome. Occasionally, there are recitals and concerts there, which should not be missed. [Open 10-17:00; closed Thurs; private tours of apts in a.m. only.]

* **Musei Capitolini**, in Piazza del Campidoglio, on the hill behind the Monument Vittorio Emanuele, [open 9-19:00; Sun and holidays 9:-14:00; closed Mon] and the **Museo di Palazzo Venezia**, on Via del Plebiscito 118 (just off the Piazza Venezia - Mussolini addressed the crowds from a balcony there) [open Tues, Wed, Sat 9:-14:00; Thurs, Fri. - 9:-19:00; Sun and holidays 9:-13:00; closed Mon] have beautiful permanent collections of art, as well as current exhibitions usually featuring something of particular interest.

* **Liberation Museo** [a taxi ride away - Via Taso 145; tel 7003866; open Tues, Thurs, Fri 16:-19; Sat, Sun 9:30-12:30]: fascinating, little seen museum in former Gestapo Headquarters.

* **Chiesa S. Ignazio** (incredible trompe l'oeil ceiling in large basilica) Piazza S. Ignazio, near Pantheon.

* **Apartments of St. Ignazio:** Located through a simple door to the right of the entrance of the Chiesa Jesu, between the Piazza Argentina and the Piazza Venezia. Open before 11 a.m., and after 3:30. Quite beautiful, albeit simple, with some great trompe l'oeil.

* **Chiesa Minerva** (Piazza S Minerva, behind the Pantheon): beautiful Renaissance basilica.

* **Chiesa S. Luigi de Francesi** (between Piazza Navona and the Pantheon, Piazza di Luigi di Francesi): some beautiful Caravaggios in one of the chapels.

* **Chiesa S. Pietro In Viccolo** ("St Peter in Chains", near the Colosseum - hard to find; take a cab): home of Michelangelo's Moses.

* **Chiesa S. Maria**, Via del Quirinale: a beautiful small gem of a church designed by Bernini, seldom seen by tours, has beautiful trompe l'oeil ceilings as well. Closed from 12:30 to 4.

* **Palazzo Spada**: This is a "must-see" place, nearby, in the Piazza Spada to the left of the Piazza Farnese. The façade of the building and the interior courtyard are some of the most beautiful in Rome. There is an amazing perspective trompe l'oeil done by Boromini that looks to be several hundred feet in depth but is only 30'! Also, has a great art collection of paintings and sculpture.

* **Rome Stock Exchange** (notice that the street level is 20 feet above the base of the columns, similar to the ruins at the north end of the Piazza Navona - this is because Rome is built on rubble; 2000 years ago it was 20 feet lower!)

* **Basilica S. Clemente**: near S. Maria Maggiore, on other side of Coliseum. In the basement there are several levels of extensive ancient ruins. Quite fascinating, and worth the trip.

Outside Rome, within 2 hours:

The easiest way to see **the 10,000 fountains in the gardens at Villa d'Este** (the summer home of Cardinal Este) and **Hadrian's Villa**, both of which are on the outskirts of Rome, and both excellent, is via an American Express Tour on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday afternoon.

For **medieval hill, walled villages** north of Rome: **Sutri, Viterbo, Cortona** are all very worthwhile. All have great antique shops at moderate prices.

Florence is only 1 1/2 hours away by train, and you can stop off at **Orvieto** (one of the nicest medieval hill villages) on the way.

Islands: Capri (very touristy, but incredibly beautiful); **Ischia** - less American, larger than Capri (Hotel La Bagatelle. near the beautiful gardens at La Mortella; easily reached by boat from Naples); **Isle d. Giglio** and **Isle d'Elba (north)**.

Beaches: rent a car and drive south to Sabaudia (La Dune Hotel), or a little further to S. Felice Circeo (Hotel Punta Rossa -extremely romantic). Also, there are regular trains to Anzio, although it is a little crowded.

Lake swimming, boating (available to rent): **Lago Bracciano** (easy train or drive, north of Rome 1 hour).

Naples: If you like opera at all, you must go to the **Teatro di San** (tel: 7972331). Stay at the Hotel Vesuvio or Excelsior, right on the water, walking distance to the opera.

In **July** there is the **Umbria Jazz Festival** in **Perugia**.

On **July 17 and again August 17** there is also the famous **Pallio** horse races in **Siena**, which should not be missed if you have a chance to attend: great pageantry, beautiful medieval costumes, very Italian, in a classic Tuscan city.

Further away:

The **Amalfi Drive**, south of Naples, is truly incredibly beautiful. Our favorite is in **Sorrento**, easily reached (30 minutes) by hydrofoil from the docks of Naples, where we recommend the **Hotel L'Ambasciatori**, right on the water with beautiful grounds and a nice pool. In **Positano**, the places to stay are **Le Sereneuse**, and **San Pietro** (very expensive); an acquaintance, Steve Sanders (Rome # 06 884 8938), has an apartment there he rents out. Nearby, in **Ravello**, the **Palazzo Sasso** [tel (089) 818181; fax (089) 858900] is one of the world's best hotels.

On the island of **Capri**, we particularly like the **Hotel Scalinatella** (rooms 59, 60, and 61 especially) and the **Hotel Luna** (if you have an ocean-front room, especially suite 103).

There are overnight trains (with private sleeping compartments) to/from Venice, and on to fabulous skiing in Cortina and elsewhere in the Alps.

Points in Africa are easily reached from Rome, some of which we visited, including Kenya/Tanzania, Egypt, Tunisia. Call Caravelle Travel for more info [see below].

TOURIST INFO ON ELSEWHERE IN ITALY, OTHER COUNTRIES: In the bookcase are files which include information on various destinations in Africa, Europe and elsewhere in Italy. Please return copies to the file when you have completed your use of them, and feel free to add information as you find it.

THINGS TO DO, SEE IN AND AROUND ROME, ELSEWHERE

GUIDE BOOKS: One guide book for Italian hotels that we think is particularly good is Fodor's Hotels And Country Inns of Character and Charm In Italy (with the exception of its recommendation in Naples - the Miramare Hotel, which is a dump; stay in the Vesuvio or Excelsior there). You are welcome to use the numerous additional guide books on Rome, Italy, and Europe generally in our bookcase: however, please leave them when you leave. Turn Right At The Fountain, and Gloria Mason's Companion Guide to Rome (both also in the bookcase) feature some great walking tours.

There are also brochures on various other locales in Italy, Europe, and Africa, located in a "red brick" file folder on the bottom shelf of the bookcase.

CURRENT EVENTS: At the north end of Piazza Navona, and elsewhere in central Rome, is a visitor information kiosk, with English speakers, with all the latest information on concerts, soccer games, etc. Many of the concerts are free or inexpensive, and in small venues [churches, salons, etc] or outdoors.

CHILDREN'S GUIDE BOOKS: Fodor's "Around Rome With Kids" written by our friend, Dana Prescott [Carroll].

MAPS: We also have numerous maps of Rome (including bus maps) and of Italy, located in the bottom drawer to the bookcase.

GUIDES: We strongly recommend the use of a guide, particularly to see [and get in without having to wait an hour] the Vatican Museum/Sistine Chapel. **If you want to use one of the guides listed below, call them several days in advance as they are quite popular. Also, if you want or need to cancel an appointment, we would appreciate your paying the guide something as their prices are quite reasonable and we want to be able to get them for future friends staying in the apartments.**

Nancy DeConcillis [06/854 9309] is a well-known American guide in Rome who gives a series of weekly half-day, in-depth small group tours most of the year. Because of her popularity it is advisable to book in advance, and may be necessary to sign up for a series of tours. We recommend using Nancy for half-day tours to the Forum, the Vatican Museum, or have her design a tour for your special interests.

A friend and colleague of Nancy DeConcillis is **Elianora Bartolotti** [06/704 52871] who is also excellent, and has been used by guests of ours on several occasions. Her charges are quite reasonable; it is appropriate to leave a tip of 10-15%.

Another well-known guide, **Peggy Cajati** (also an American; 3326 8811 - call in the morning) also is the official restoration expert for the American Embassy, who gives tours of Rome as well as of the American Embassy.

If you want assistance planning a very special trip, with a group, *the only person to hire is Marisa Rasiti* [tel and fax: 06/638 2881; cell – 348 726 0165; email- mmrasiti@libero.it. She has excellent connections throughout Italy, makes arrangements regularly for former US

ambassadors to Rome, and is very reasonable. Her husband and she worked in the US Embassy for nearly 40 years, and very good friends of ours.

ROME TOURIST INFORMATION: There are **excellent Rome tourist information offices** in several locations in Rome. The most convenient from our apartment are located: (1) just outside the north end of the Piazza Navona, in the Piazza della Cinque Lune; and (2) in the Largo Goldoni, at the intersection of the Via del Corso and the Via Condotti, a few blocks from the Piazza di Spagna. They are free and operates daily from 10 a.m., and will provide good Rome maps, as well as excellent information as to the many concerts and other events going on in Rome daily.

TRAVEL AGENT: We recommend American Express for day trips to Hadrian's Villa and Villa d'Este, but our favorite English-speaking travel agent is **Caravelle Travel** [owner Paola Veneri] [tel: 06/321 5535] if you want to make any travel reservations while you are in Rome.

CURRENT EVENTS: The **Rome Tourist Offices** [see above] are really excellent resources for what is going on [concerts, sporting events, exhibitions, etc] and all have English-speaking assistants.

A **very good semi-weekly English magazine** (comes out on Wednesdays), describing daily events, with interesting expatriate articles, as well as advertisements, is Wanted In Rome, available at most newsstands. Weekly events are also listed in English in the back section of Romac'e. There is also an English magazine, Where, distributed free through several hotels, that provides some information, but is not as helpful as Wanted In Rome.

CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERTS: There are numerous classical music concerts in Rome every night, most within walking distance of the apartment. Frequent small (30-50 people) concerts are held in various salons, recalling what it must have been like in centuries past: some of these are in the **Galeria Doria Pamphilj** (which one can also visit the sumptuous private apartments of the Cardinal Pamphilj), a few blocks away, or in June at Villa Medici in the Borghese Gardens: neither of those settings should be missed! There are also numerous excellent concerts and recitals held regularly in churches [posters are usually inside the doors of the churches].

Information regarding all these events may usually be obtained from Wanted In Rome or from the **Rome Tourist Office** (see above).

WINE TASTING: **Vino Roma** (www.vinoroma.com) puts on educational wine tastings for tourists, breaking down Italian wines, regions and labels in a relaxed, but formal atmosphere. Each tasting is a couple of hours long, and guests leave with the knowledge they need to order and drink wines they'll like during their stay (and back home, of course). It's not about them telling you what's good, but about defining what you like or don't so that you can better choose a wine or describe a style to a sommelier or wine shop. They focus on tasting techniques, and each tasting is tailored to the skill level of the participants, which is usually 2-10 people.

CLUBS: There is **jazz** most nights in the **Jazz Cafe** on the Via Zanardelli, just on the other side of the Piazza Navona. Also jazz is played (usually beginning at 10:30 p.m.) at **Alexanderplatz Jazz Club** [via Ostia 9; tel 397 42171].

Young, especially the 18-26 year crowd seem to enjoy a bar, **Trinity College** on the other side of the Pantheon (Piazza di Rotonda), or the **Drunken Ship** in Campo di Fiori.

SOCCER:

Regardless of whether you are a soccer fan, you should go to a professional soccer ("calcio") match in Rome at the Stadio Olimpico, held every Sunday afternoon (at 2:30 or 4 p.m., usually) from September through May. The spectacle and fans are amazing: everyone we took to them, loved it! You can purchase tickets in advance at the "Roma" store in Piazza Colonna [on Via Corso] or at the gate shortly before the game: purchase at a ticket window, not from a scalper outside, and buy "reservato Centro Tevere" (reserved, center, river side) seats (half the price of the other side). [50% off for children - who have no assigned seats, but can sit nearby in the aisle or in an uninhabited seat].

On alternating Sundays, the teams of Rome or Lazio (the region of Italy in which Roma is situated) play. A couple times a year Lazio plays Roma and the competition is fierce: unlike anything you have ever seen, anywhere - do not get into an argument.

The crowds to-and-from the Stadio Olimpico are quite large: we recommend taking trolley #225 from the Flaminio Station, just north of the Piazza del Popolo, which will take you to the other end of the line (Piazza Mancini) in about 7 minutes, and then it is a short walk to the Stadio Olimpico across the bridge. Return from the stop at Piazza Mancini. There is only one trolley on that line, and cars run every 2-3 minutes.

SITES IN ROME: We were quite impressed with a friend's website and blog. Feel free to visit to obtain help planning your trip: www.INSIDERSItaly.com and www.INSIDERSItaly.wordpress.com.

Rather than harp on some of the more obvious (Vatican, Colosseum, Monument to Vittorio Emanuele, Piazza di Spagna and Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon), I would like to mention a few not to miss (you can read the details in the guide books):

* **Villa Borghese Gardens, View from Pincio:** a short distance above and west of Piazza del Popolo and the Piazza di Spagna is the beautiful and extensive Villa Borghese Gardens. They are delightful for leisurely walks, or jogging. There is a small lake there, also, where you can rent rowboats in the summer, as well as cafes. Check to see if there is an **International Horse Show** in the "Piazza di Siena" in the Gardens: if so, it should not be missed [you can drink champagne, have lunch or dinner, and watch beautiful horses jump]. Just above the Piazza del Popolo, in the Gardens is the **Pincio**, from which there is one of the very best Rome views.

* **Borghese Museo:** Also in the Gardens, is the **Galleria Borghese**, the finest museum in Rome, with incredible sculptures by Bernini and Canova (the marble looks life-like), fine paintings by Titian, Caravaggio, Raphael, etc. The Galleria was closed for 14 years, reopened in June 1997, and there is tremendous demand so tickets must be purchased a few

days in advance, and for two-hour time slots (e.g., 9am - be sure to be there at 9, as everyone will be cleared out at 11 am). [Tues-Sat: 9-17; Sun: 9-13; Closed Mondays; tel 84241607; fax 84241671]

* **Vatican Museums:** Not only the Sistine Chapel, but hundreds of other rooms of paintings, maps, Egyptian and Etruscan, etc. art. Please note that the entrance is not near the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica (even though there is an exit from the Museum there), but several blocks away - we suggest taking a cab. Arrive either early, or after 11, as the crowds can be fierce. [Mon-Sat 8:45-13:00; closed Sun except last Sun of month which is free.

* **Castel Sant'Angelo:** On the other side of the river, on the way to St. Peter's is the fortress where the popes would seek refuge from invaders. Very interesting: adults as well as kids enjoy this. Great views of all Rome from the top. Walking distance from our apartment. [Open daily until one hour before closing 9:-20:00, except closed 2d and 4th Tues of month.]

* **Galleria Doria Pamphilj:** Nearby our apartment (Piazza del Collegio Romano 2). One of the most sumptuous palazzos in Rome, built by a Cardinal, has several rooms of beautiful art, but the private apartments (much in their original splendor) really show how wealthy people lived in the Renaissance Rome. Occasionally, there are recitals and concerts there, which should not be missed. [Open 10-17:00; closed Thurs; private tours of apts in a.m. only.]

* **Musei Capitolini**, in Piazza del Campidoglio, on the hill behind the Monument Vittorio Emanuele, [open 9-19:00; Sun and holidays 9:-14:00; closed Mon] and the **Museo di Palazzo Venezia**, on Via del Plebiscito 118 (just off the Piazza Venezia - Mussolini addressed the crowds from a balcony there) [open Tues, Wed, Sat 9:-14:00; Thurs, Fri. - 9:-19:00; Sun and holidays 9:-13:00; closed Mon] have beautiful permanent collections of art, as well as current exhibitions usually featuring something of particular interest.

* **Liberation Museo** [a taxi ride away - Via Taso 145; tel 7003866; open Tues, Thurs, Fri 16:-19; Sat, Sun 9:30-12:30]: fascinating, little seen museum in former Gestapo Headquarters.

* **Chiesa S. Ignazio** (incredible trompe l'oeil ceiling in large basilica) Piazza S. Ignazio, near Pantheon.

* **Apartments of St. Ignazio:** Located through a simple door to the right of the entrance of the Chiesa Jesu, between the Piazza Argentina and the Piazza Venezia. Open before 11 a.m., and after 3:30. Quite beautiful, albeit simple, with some great trompe l'oeil.

* **Chiesa Minerva** (Piazza S Minerva, behind the Pantheon): beautiful Renaissance basilica.

* **Chiesa S. Luigi de Francesi** (between Piazza Navona and the Pantheon, Piazza di Luigi di Francesi): some beautiful Caravaggios in one of the chapels.

* **Chiesa S. Pietro In Viccolo** ("St Peter in Chains", near the Colosseum - hard to find; take a cab): home of Michelangelo's Moses.

* **Chiesa S. Maria**, Via del Quirinale: a beautiful small gem of a church designed by Bernini, seldom seen by tours, has beautiful trompe l'oeil ceilings as well. Closed from 12:30 to 4.

* **Palazzo Spada**: This is a "must-see" place, nearby, in the Piazza Spada to the left of the Piazza Farnese. The façade of the building and the interior courtyard are some of the most beautiful in Rome. There is an amazing perspective trompe l'oeil done by Borromini that looks to be several hundred feet in depth but is only 30'! Also, has a great art collection of paintings and sculpture.

* **Rome Stock Exchange** (notice that the street level is 20 feet above the base of the columns, similar to the ruins at the north end of the Piazza Navona - this is because Rome is built on rubble; 2000 years ago it was 20 feet lower!)

* **Basilica S. Clemente**: near S. Maria Maggiore, on other side of Coliseum. In the basement there are several levels of extensive ancient ruins. Quite fascinating, and worth the trip.

Outside Rome, within 2 hours:

The easiest way to see **the 10,000 fountains in the gardens at Villa d'Este** (the summer home of Cardinal Este) and **Hadrian's Villa**, both of which are on the outskirts of Rome, and both excellent, is via an American Express Tour on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday afternoon.

For **medieval hill, walled villages** north of Rome: **Sutri, Viterbo, Cortona** are all very worthwhile. All have great antique shops at moderate prices.

Florence is of course only 2 hours away by train, and you can stop off at **Orvieto** (one of the nicest medieval hill villages) on the way. A side trip to Florence is so easy, with the Eurostar train from Rome taking only 1-1/2 hours. We recently found a truly excellent, very reasonably priced, well-located hotel there, the **Santa Maria Novella Hotel**.

Islands: Capri (very touristy, but incredibly beautiful); **Ischia** - less American, larger than Capri (Hotel La Bagatelle. near the beautiful gardens at La Mortella; easily reached by boat from Naples); **Isle d. Giglio** and **Isle d'Elba (north)**.

Beaches: rent a car and drive south to Sabaudia (La Dune Hotel), or a little further to S. Felice Circeo (Hotel Punta Rossa -extremely romantic). Also, there are regular trains to Anzio, although it is a little crowded.

Lake swimming, boating (available to rent): **Lago Bracciano** (easy train or drive, north of Rome 1 hour).

Naples: If you like opera at all, you must go to the **Teatro di San Carlo** (tel: 7972331). Stay at the Hotel Vesuvio or Excelsior, right on the water, walking distance to the opera.

In **July** there is the **Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia**.

On **July 17 and again August 17** there is also the famous **Pallio** horse races in **Siena**, which should not be missed if you have a chance to attend: great pageantry, beautiful medieval costumes, very Italian, in a classic Tuscan city.

Further away:

The **Amalfi Drive**, south of Naples, is truly incredibly beautiful. Our favorite is in **Sorrento**, easily reached (30 minutes) by hydrofoil from the docks of Naples, where we recommend the **Hotel L'Ambasciattori**, right on the water with beautiful grounds and a nice pool. In **Positano**, the places to stay are **Le Sereneuse**, and **San Pietro** (very expensive); an acquaintance, Steve Sanders (Rome # 06 884 8938), has an apartment there he rents out. Nearby, in **Ravello**, the **Palazzo Sasso** [tel (089) 818181; fax (089) 858900] is one of the world's best hotels.

On the island of **Capri**, we particularly like the **Hotel Scalinatella** (rooms 59, 60, and 61 especially) and the **Hotel Luna** (if you have an ocean-front room, especially suite 103).

There are overnight trains (with private sleeping compartments) to/from Venice, and on to fabulous skiing in Cortina and elsewhere in the Alps.

Points in Africa are easily reached from Rome, some of which we visited, including Kenya/Tanzania, Egypt, Tunisia. Call Caravelle Travel for more info [see below].

TOURIST INFO ON ELSEWHERE IN ITALY, OTHER COUNTRIES: In the bookcase are files which include information on various destinations in Africa, Europe and elsewhere in Italy. Please return copies to the file when you have completed your use of them, and feel free to add information as you find it.