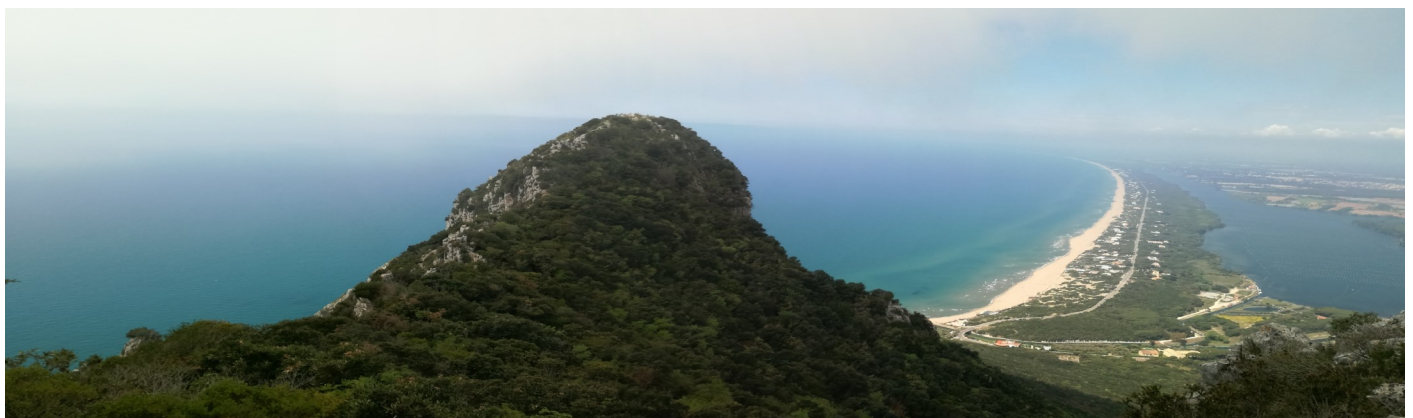


Lazio (Latium) is a Region of traditions, culture and flavours. A land that knows how to delight the visitor at any time of the year, thanks to its kaleidoscope of landscape and stunning scenery, ranging from the sea to the mountains, united by a common denominator: beauty. The beauty you will find, beside the Eternal City, in Tuscia, Sabina, Aniene and Tiber Valley and along the Roman Hills, without forgetting the Prenestine and Lepini mountains, the Ciociaria and the Riviera of Ulysses and Aeneas coasts with the Pontine islands. The main City is, obviously Rome, the Eternal City, with its 28 hundred years, so reach of history and culture, but, before the rise of Rome as a military and cultural power, the Region was already called Latium by its inhabitants. Starting from the north west there are three distinct mountain ranges, the Volsini, the Cimini and the Sabatini, whose volcanic origin can be evinced by the presence of large lakes, like Bolsena, Vico and Bracciano lake, and, the Alban Hills, with the lakes of Albano and Nemi, sharing the same volcanic origins. A treasure chest concealing a profusion of art and culture, genuine local products, delicious foods and wine and countless marvels.





Rome the Eternal City, erected upon seven hills on April 21st 753 BC (the date is symbolic) according to the myth by Romulus (story of Romulus and Remus, twins who were suckled by a she-wolf as infants in the 8th century BC.) After the legendary foundation by Romulus,[23] Rome was ruled for a period of 244 years by a monarchical system, initially with sovereigns of Latin and Sabine origin, later by Etruscan kings. The tradition handed down seven kings: Romulus, Numa Pompilius, Tullus Hostilius, Ancus Marcius, Tarquinius Priscus, Servius Tullius and Tarquinius Superbus. In 509 BC, the Romans expelled the last king from their city and established an oligarchic republic. Rome then began a period characterized by internal struggles between patricians (aristocrats) and plebeians (small landowners), and by constant warfare against the populations of central Italy: Etruscans, Latins, Volsci, Aequi, Marsi. After becoming master of Latium,

Rome led several wars whose result was the conquest of the Italian peninsula, from the central area up to Magna Graecia. The third and second century BC saw the establishment of Roman hegemony over the Mediterranean and the East, through the three Punic Wars (264–146 BC) fought against the city of Carthage and the three Macedonian Wars (212–168 BC) against Macedonia. Then were established the first Roman provinces: Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica, Hispania, Macedonia, Achaëa and Africa. From the beginning of the 2nd century BC, power was contested between two groups of aristocrats: the optimates, representing the conservative part of the Senate, and the populares, which relied on the help of the plebs (urban lower class) to gain power. In the same period, the bankruptcy of the small farmers and the establishment of large slave estates provoked large-scale migration to the city. The continuous warfare made necessary a professional army, which was more loyal to its generals than to the republic. Because of this, in the second half of the second century and during the first century BC there were conflicts both abroad and internally: after the failed attempt of social reform of the populares Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus,[31] and the war against Jugurtha, there was a first civil war between Gaius Marius and Sulla. To this followed a major slave revolt under Spartacus,[32][32] and then the establishment of the first Triumvirate with Caesar, Pompey and Crassus. The conquest of Gaul made Caesar immensely powerful and popular, which led to a second civil war against the Senate and Pompey. After his victory, Caesar established himself as dictator for life. His assassination led to a second Triumvirate among Octavian (Caesar's grandnephew and heir), Mark Antony and Lepidus, and to another civil war between Octavian and Antony. The former in 27 BC became princeps civitatis and got the title of Augustus, founding the principate, a diarchy between the princeps and the senate. Rome was established as a de facto empire, which reached its greatest expansion in the second century under the Emperor Trajan. Rome was confirmed as caput Mundi, i.e. the capital of the world, an expression which had already been given in the Republican period. During its first two centuries, the empire saw as rulers, emperors of the Julio-Claudian, Flavian (who also built eponymous amphitheater, known as the Colosseum) and Antonine dynasties. This time was also characterized by the spread of the Christian religion, preached by Jesus Christ in Judea in the first half of the first century (under Tiberius) and popularized by his apostles through the empire and beyond. The Antonine age is considered the apogee of the Empire, whose territory ranged from the Atlantic Ocean to the Euphrates and from Britain to Egypt.



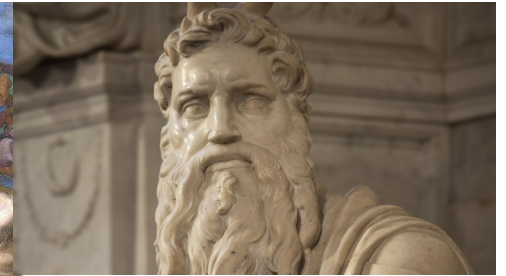
After the fall of the Roman Empire there was a long period of darkness, the middle age, thousand years in which between wars and pestilences start to take form the Europe concept. Some new Nations come alive (French, Spain England among the others) art and culture restart with **Giotto**, **Dante Alighieri** **St Francis** and **Caterina da Siena** and soon a new age sprung out:

the Renaissance Age

The Renaissance in Rome occupied a period from the mid-15th to the mid-16th centuries, a period which spawned such masters as **Michelangelo** and **Raphael**, who left an indelible mark on Western figurative art. The city had been a magnet for artists wishing to study its classical ruins since the early 1400s. A revived interest in the Classics brought about the first archaeological study of Roman remains by the architect **Brunelleschi** and sculptor Donatello. This inspired a corresponding classicism in painting and sculpture, which manifested itself in the paintings of **Masaccio** and **Uccello**. **Pisanello** and his assistants also frequently took inspiration from ancient remains, but their approach was essentially cataloguing, acquiring a repertoire of models to be exploited later. In the year 1420, Pope Martin V moved the papal seat back to Rome, following its long “Babylonian Captivity”, and after the Great Schism, when several “popes” simultaneously claimed the office. He at once set to work, establishing order and restoring the dilapidated churches, palaces, bridges, and other public structures. For this reconstruction he engaged some famous masters of the Tuscan school, and thus laid the foundation for the Roman Renaissance



favourItaly.com®



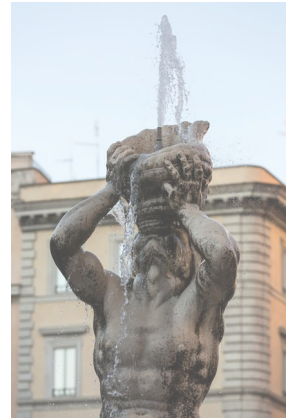
favourItaly.com®





Another important period following the Renaissance Age was the Baroque Period

The Baroque is a highly ornate and often extravagant style of architecture, music, dance, painting, sculpture and other arts that flourished in Europe from the early 17th until the mid-18th century. It followed Renaissance art and Mannerism and preceded the Rococo (in the past often referred to as "late Baroque") and Neoclassical styles. It was encouraged by the Catholic Church as a means to counter the simplicity and austerity of Protestant architecture, art and music, though Lutheran Baroque art developed in parts of Europe as well. Many famous Italian artists left some of their masterpieces in Rome, among them the painter Caravaggio, the sculptor Bernini and the architect Borromini





Villa Torlonia in Frascati, Roman countryside. Build in the XVI Century.

Roman country side: **Castelli Romani**

There is a connection between the town's name and Aricia, the wife of Hippolytus (Virbius), the Roman forest god who lived in the sacred forests near Aricia. According to a vague reference by Caius Julius Solinus, Ariccia was founded by Archilocus Siculus ("Archilocus of the Siculi" or Sicels) in very ancient times. Ruins found in the city confirm the existence of a settlement in the 8th-9th centuries BC. From the end of the 6th century BC until 338 BC, the city was the central member of the Latin League. In modern times, Ariccia has become famous for its porchetta, pork that is slowly roasted with herbs and wild fennel, and it has been known since historical times for its wine.



Castel Gandolfo has several places of archaeological interest including the Emissario del Lago Albano and the remains of the Villa of Domitian. The area is included within the boundaries of the Parco Regionale dei Castelli Romani (Regional Park of Castelli Romani). There are also many points of artistic interest, such as the Collegiate Church of St. Thomas of Villanova, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. The Palace, summer residence of the Pope, belong to the Holy See and is under its jurisdiction.

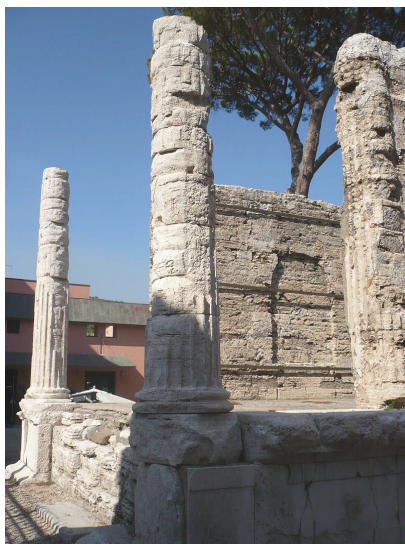


The Flower Festival in Genzano is an event that takes place in the Genzano section of Rome, characterized by the carpet of flowers set up in the path of the religious procession on the Feast of *Corpus Christi*.



In the country side of Rome there are other remarkable place such are **Tivoli** and **Ancient Ostia**

Tivoli houses Adrian's Villa, the residence of Emperor Adriano, the Sibylla Temple and Villa D'Este with its hundred fountains. In Ancient Ostia there is the dead town of Ostia Under the Romans, Ostia Antica reached a peak of some 75,000 inhabitants in the 2nd and 3rd century AD



The Viterbos' Area

Viterbo is an ancient city the capital of its province. It conquered and absorbed the neighboring town of Ferento in its early history. It is approximately 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Rome on the Via Cassia, and it is surrounded by the Monti Cimini and Monti Volsini. The historic center of the city is surrounded by medieval walls, still intact, built during the 11th and 12th centuries. Entrance to the walled center of the city is through ancient gates. In a period in which the popes had difficulties asserting their authority over Rome, Viterbo became their favourite residence, that's way is still called the City of the Popes.



Civita di Bagnoregio

Bagnoregio is perched on a small tufa outcropping and is accessible only across a pedestrian bridge built in 1965. This splendid example of medieval town, founded 2500 years ago by the Etruscans, is now at risk because of the erosive action of two streams that are compromising its survival.

Tarquinia

One of the oldest towns, inhabited as early as the 13th century B.C. Founded by the Etruscans, Tarquinia has a complex and very interesting necropolis which is the largest in Italy and a UNESCO WHS. Particularly noteworthy is the Monterozzi necropolis which encompass a large number of burial mounds with rooms dug out of the rock. The proximity to the sea makes Tarquinia particularly suitable for relaxing holidays. One of the most beautiful beaches is Le Saline close to the namesake Natural Reserve



The Frosinones' Area

The Province of Frosinone (Italian: Provincia di Frosinone) is a province in the Latium (Lazio) region of Italy, with 91 Counties (Comuni). Its capital is the City of Frosinone. The Province was established by Royal Decree on 6 December 1926 with territories belonging to Lazio and to Campania. The Campania areas were the left valley of the Liri-Garigliano river, the district of Sora, the Comino Valley, the district of Cassino, the Gulf of Formia and Gaeta, the Pontine islands. In historical times the area was settled by Indo-European colonists. This arrival is referred to in numerous legends, such as those of Aeneas arrived from Troy in Gaeta's arbor (according to Publio Virgilio Marone and his Book). In the 7th century BC the area of what is now the province entered the orbit of Rome, which made it the so-called Latium adiectum ("Adjoined Lazio") . After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the northern part of the province belonged to the Papal States. In the Middle Ages, the abbey of Monte Cassino was always a major landowner and a politically renowned element of the area. The southeastern part was a frontier area which was long claimed by the other major powers of the time . After the unification of Italy, in 1927 the Fascist government made Frosinone the capital of a province which unified different that which belonged to the Papal and Neapolitan states.



Aquino

The Town was considered the most important between Rome and Capua, became a Roman colony in 39 B.C. and today is visible its illustrious past, with the Roman walls and the Ancient Theatre of Aquinum, the old Roman baths, the Capitoline and Porta Romana later called Lorenzo Gate. The Romanesque Church of Santa maria della Libera, a National monument built on the ruins of the Temple of Ercole Liberatore., contains in its garden one of the oldest arches in



Italy, the Marcantonio Arch (1st Century A.D.). Not avoid to mention **St. Thomas Aquinas' House** with its large tower. Aquinas was born into the noble family of the D'Aquino counts and, as well as being a man of church, was also a great satirical poet.

Amaseno

This charming 9th Century town in the center of a fertile valley with a clear river that bears its name, is surrounded by the forests of the Ausoni and Lepini mountains, green pastures and white rock faces. Famous for having over 30 freshwater springs and for its buffalo farms, it is the Town of Collegiate Santa Maria Assunta, a Cistercian Church dating back to 1177, a National monument with countless art treasures, including the 12th Century stone pulpit by G. Pisano and a precious relic: **Il Sangue di San Lorenzo**, the blood of the martyr which liquefies on the Saint's feast day.



Fiuggi

An old Medieval village well known for its low mineral content waters. They are effective for detoxifying treatments and indicated in the **treatments** of kidney ailments and gout. Pope **Bonifacio VIII** and in 1549 **Michelangelo** were use to go to treat their **kidneys**.



Veroli

It is still possible to admire part of the impressive polygonal walls of the ancient city of Ernici, reused by the Romans and in Middle Ages with addition of towers and gates. Not to be missed in the surrounding area the Casamari Cistercian Abbey, one of the most important in Italy, built on the Roman ruins of which the aqueduct can still be seen was consecrated in 1217 and has a museum and a pharmacy dating back to 1760, as well as famous liquors and medicines.



Anzio and Nettuno

Neptune (Nettuno) which was called Antium by the Latin, is a pretty Latium town with a Medieval heart and round towers dating back to 14th Century on a sheer drop over the sea. The Borghese Villa is a lush



park overlooking the sea and separates Neptune from Anzio which has gone down in history for the landing of the American troops during WW2 but it is also the birthplace of Nero (Dec 15th 37 A.D.) The impressive **Sangallo Fort**, built between 1501 and 1503, is striking and interesting to visit, it houses the famous *Museum of the Allied Landing* with an exhibition of uniforms

weapons, medals, documents and battles plans and finds from the seabed after the battle of Jan 22nd 1944. Also remarkable to visit the *British Le Falsche War Cemetery*. Not to be missed few km south



from Neptune **Torre Astura** a fascinating maritime fortress connected to the mainland by an arched bridge.



The Ulysses and Aeneas Coast and Pontine Islands

Along the south coast of Latium we find **Latina** the Latium youngest provincial capital founded by Benito Mussolini on 30 June 1932 as Littoria, named for the fascio littorio. The city was inaugurated on 18 December of the same year. Littoria was populated with settlers coming mainly from Friuli and Veneto, who formed the so-called Venetian-Pontine community (today surviving only in some peripheral boroughs). The edifices and the monuments, mainly in rationalist style, were designed by famous architects and artists such as Marcello Piacentini, Angiolo Mazzoni and Duilio Cambellotti. In 1934 it became a provincial capital and, after World War II, renamed Latina in 1946. With the arrival of other people mostly from Lazio itself, the original Venetian-like dialect was increasingly substituted by a form of Romanesco dialect.

Gaeta

A former maritime republic and a popular holidays resort as early as ancient Roman days. According to the legend was the last stop of Aeneas before arriving in the area of Rome. The oldest part of the Town winds around the majestic Angevin-Aragonese Castle and there are many important religious building including the St. Erasmo Cathedral. Not far from there there is the Santuario della SS. Trinita' a protected area including the Grotta del Turco cave and the split in the rock, known as the Montagna Spaccata.



Formia

This seaside resort of ancient traditions is protected by the surrounding green hills and Mount Altino. Considered one of the oldest City in the south Pontine area, it has many Roman ruins including the tomb of Cicero. The town is an architectural gem with its medieval Castellone district, the little Roman Port of Gianola, the Roman fountain beside the Via Appia, the remains of an aqueduct and of a Roman theatre, The suggestive 1st century B.C. Cisternone Romano is an imposing longitudinal structure with rows of pillars dividing it into four vaulted naves. There are important traces of Roman hydraulic engineering, second in size only to that of Istanbul.



Ventotene

Is a must for those who want to enjoy the beauty of the beaches but also for history lovers thanks to the remains of a Roman port dating back to the 1st century B.C. and Villa Giulia. The island rests on the debris from the eruptions of underwater volcanoes and its ancient urban landscape is similar to what was 200 years ago.



Ponza

Is a popular tourist destination, it boasts an incredible variety of underwater fauna and flora, The urban centre dates back to the 18th century, while traces of ancient Roman settlement are scattered all over the island. The landscape is mostly hilly and is dotted with beaches, some accessible only from the sea, including the beautiful **Chiaia di Luna, Frontone, Lucia Rosa and Felci beach** . Very picturesque the main street **Corso Pisacane** with many restaurant and shops.



Food and Wine Treasures

The Latium region has many typical production and remarkable receipts among which we like to underline the EVO production in the Sabina and Viterbo area, the wine production in the Castelli Romani and Viterbo area, the Buffalo mozzarella in the Pontine area, the variety of Mediterranean fish along all the coast from Civitavecchia to the Gaeta gulf. The olives of Itri better known with the name gaeta. Some particular production of cheese and many variety of bread. The Viterbo area is also renowned for the production of hazelnut and chestnut. It also appreciated the truffles variety of all the east area and Nemis' strawberries.

