

Castel Gandolfo *(4km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)*



The town has been elected one of The Most Beautiful Villages of Italy (Club bringing together small Italian towns with a strong artistic and historical interest). The city is known above all for the presence of the summer Papal residence and is one of the most popular holiday resort in Lazio region. The area is included in the Castelli Romani Regional Park premises.

Last Sunday of each month: Antiques exhibition market.

January: Marcia Della Pace (peace march) - commemorative ceremony associated with the Day of Remembrance. At the end of the march wine and sweet bread are distributed.

April/May: Una Finestra Sul Mondo (a window on the world) - in the seventeenth-century square, designed by Bernini and Maderno, on which the papal Palace overlooks, plants and flowers coming from dozens of foreign Countries.

June: Palio Dei Draghi (dragons competition) - dragon boat regatta (eastern boat with a dragon head at the prow) between the towns of the Castelli Romani. The competition's regulation requires as the sole requisite that the paddlers are absolute amateurs. Fair with stands of handicrafts, tasting of typical products, balloon rides, cabaret shows, music and fireworks.

July: Sagra Delle Pesche (peaches festival) - between the main street and Libertà Square you can enjoy pastries, jams and fruit salads of this fruit become symbol of the town. The highlight of this historic celebration is planned on Sunday morning, during the celebration of St. Mass, when the young castle people in period costume, preceded by the Mayor according to tradition, go in procession to the Papal Palace with baskets filled with fruits, to confirm the devotion of the City to the Holy Father.

Albano Laziale *(6km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)*



Like the homonymous Lake, it is located on the area where Albalonga flourished; so it is considered the initiator centre of Latins progeny and "mother of Rome and of all ancient roman towns." Albano is one of the most important cities of the Castelli Romani and the liveliest commercial centre. Historic, monumental and artistic treasures merge together with the cultural vitality.

First Sunday of each month: Local craft market.

Second Sunday of each month: Antiques and art craft market with exhibition along the historic centre streets.

June: Rievocazione Storica (historical commemoration) – ancient Roman world atmosphere between Porta Pretoria, Amphitheatre and Roman Market. In the Mercatus the popular heart of the city is recreated with the stalls, the homemade laboratories, the merchandises and the feed served in the taverns at the time. In the sumptuous imperial banquets instead, you can be a privileged guest at the court of the Emperor Septimius Severus tasting the spicy flavours of the ancient roman cuisine. You can live the surreal atmospheres of bitter gladiators fightings accompanied by the exhortations that, once, decreed the life, the death and the victory of the heroes of the arena.

September: Notte Bianca (white night) - late night opening shops and downtown entertainment with shows and concerts.

October/November: Festival Musicale Franz Liszt (Franz Liszt festival) – at Savelli Palace international classic music weeks take place and are devoted to this composer who lived for a time in Albano.

Ariccia

(7km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



One of the most famous town of the Castelli Romani for the tourist significance of the monumental Chigiano complex, for the historical and architectural importance of the Bernini works and for the typical “fraschette” (taverns), where you can eat the traditional porchetta (roasted pig), gastronomic symbol of the town.

Third Sunday of each month: Craft and antiques market with exhibition of ancient objects.

January: Corsa Delle Pile (jars race) – palio where donkey jockeys compete to get the hung jars (earthenware pots), that they will have to break to win the homage contained. All the districts of the town participate, with the intention of keeping alive the popular traditions. Games, typical dances, lottery and fireworks.

May: Festa Delle Azalee (azaleas festival) - in the splendid setting of Chigi Palace and its park, recently restored, azaleas in full bloom. Exhibitions and shows.

September: Sagra Della Porchetta (roasted pig festival) – from 1950 is successfully conducted this festival becoming famous. In addition to the gastronomical commemoration, street feasts take place with musical performances, sport competitions, fireworks, stands and exhibitions.

Marino

(7km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



Full of innumerable attestations of the antiquity thanks to numerous pre-roman discoveries, it is also the home of the homonymous white wine with the guarantee of origin. His name is linked to the

famous Sagra dell'Uva (grapes festival), traditional feast that boasts about being the oldest event of this sort in Italy.

First Sunday of each month: Antiques and curiosity market.

July: Estate Marinese (summer in Marino) - a series of shows, theatrical and dancing nights initiatives welcome hundreds of visitors every year.

October: Sagra Dell'Uva E Palio Dei Rioni (grapes festival and quarters competition) - distribution of wine and grapes in the city streets and great evening with shows, fireworks and parades in traditional costumes. The festivities peak is reached at sunset when, from the Moors Fountain and other fountains, wine instead of water flows for an hour.

December/January: Natale Marinese (Christmas in Marino) - exhibition of the most beautiful Christmas cribs, distribution of sweets and Christmas concerts make magic the whole Christmas period.

Genzano di Roma ***(9km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)***



It is a lovely town situated on the external slope of the Nemi Lake crater. Located within the Castelli Romani Regional Park, it forms a radial along the sides of a hill and has a rich historic heritage. For these picturesque features and for its pleasant climate, Genzano is constantly trips destination from the nearby Capital.

Third Sunday of each month: Mercatus chinthianum – antiques and crafts market.

June: L'Infiorata (flowers festival) - in commemoration of Corpus Domini, famous event with mounting of the main street, which is covered with petals and flowers powder creating real artistic works. The subjects are chosen by an appropriate Committee and have religious or civil topic, are reproductions of famous art works or geometric patterns. The floreal carpet is finally unmade by dozens of children running like mad (the so-called "spallamento", decay).

July/August: Festival Internazionale Di Danza (international dance festival) - theatre, dance, cabaret and cinema shows.

October/November: Castelli Animati (Castelli animated cartoons) - known international cartoon cinema festival nominated by the European Union to represent Italy in the circuit of the eight European festivals of excellence for the designation of the film.

Grottaferrata ***(9km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)***



It is currently one of the most elegant and visited holiday and residential resorts of the Castelli Romani. Considered one of the most "in" areas of Rome province and rich in archaeological sites, in terms of prestige it is comparable to the best Capitoline environments and for this reason it hosts several well-known faces from the entertainment and Italian football world.

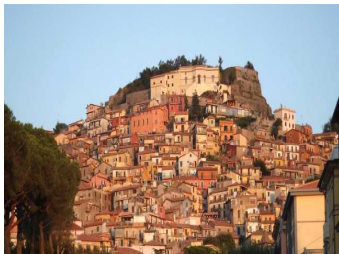
Third Sunday of each month: Antique and crafts market.

March: Fiera Nazionale Dell'Artigianato (national crafts fair) - of medieval origin, it is one of the oldest fairs in Italy and is accompanied by cultural, sporting and artistic events.

June: Sport Equality - on the playground, children play together with Sport Equality instructors and then enjoy a good cocoa milk aperitif, before visiting all together the Abbey and discovering the cultural heritage of the Roman hills.

July: Notti Al Castello (nights at the castle) - in the beautiful setting of the San Nilo Abbey, a program full of events including dances, shows and cinemas.

Rocca di Papa ***(13km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)***



Located on the edge of the Lazio volcano and in a splendid panoramic position, it is the only Castello Romano that has perfectly preserved the medieval structure. The town was the residence of important politic and entertainment personages, thanks to its proximity to Rome and to the high altitude, which makes Rocca di Papa a mountain resort to all intents.

First Sunday of each month: Antiques market.

February: La Polenta Degli Innamorati (lovers' hominy grits) - at the various restaurants of the town, at the stands and at the frascette (typical taverns) of the old town are distributed hundreds of steaming pieces of polenta served in the famous "scifelle" (wooden dishes) that will be free to keeping as a souvenir.

April: I Fiori Del Parco (park flowers) - photographic census of the natural monuments the flower arrangements at Villa Barattolo park. Presentation of the main medicinal plants of Castelli Romani.

September: Contea Della Birra (beer county) – feast inspired by Oktoberfest of Munich, during which local craft markets and stands for the sale of the beer are held.

October: Sagra Delle Castagne (chestnuts festival) – country concerts, tasting of typical products and porcini mushrooms, and “caldarroste” stands, typical chestnuts roasted in huge pans full of holes put to the fire. In occasion of this feast, since 1998, is organized one of the most important chess joust of Italy.

Lanuvio ***(14km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)***



With its Medieval District and with its position slightly deviated from the great lines of communication, it keeps alive urban structure and traditions. The territory of Lanuvio partly falls within the Castelli Romani Regional Park and still conserves many ruins of the Roman Age, either in the built-up area and in the immediate vicinity.

First Sunday of each month: Antique and crafts market.

May: Festa Delle Rose (roses festival) - in a town rich in archaeological sites of great interest, the scent of the roses in the narrow streets of the charming medieval district. Procession, performances, popular games, lottery at the square and fireworks.

June: Festa Della Musica (music festival) - event bringing many street musicians involved to present their repertoire in all possible rhythms: rock, blues, jazz, world music, pop, punk, country, grunge, ska, etno. The festival is held in the evocative atmosphere of Lanuvio ancient village, animated by numerous "In Music Squares" and also schedules night guided tours to archaeological sites of the Giunone Sospita Temple and Loreto Bridge.

Nemi

(16km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



Nemi has been adorned by the Bandiera Arancione from the Italian Touring Club for the excellent quality of the visitor's greeting and holiday (seal of eco-tourism quality awarded to small towns of the inland parts of Italy characterized by an excellent offer). The town is completely included in the Castelli Romani Regional Park premises.

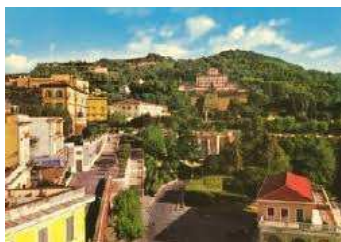
Third Sunday of each month: Fiera de 'ndrogani - art objects and souvenirs, antiques.

Fourth Sunday of each month: Antiques market.

June: Sagra Delle Fragole E Festa Del Gladiolo (strawberries and gladiolus festival) - the old town, deep in the park, lives in the scents of the flowers, the strawberries and the other wood products. It's a secular festival during which the "fragolare", the village girls dressed in the ancient costume of the strawberries pickers, parade with baskets of strawberries grown on the shores of Nemi Lake, and become the symbol of the town. Even the gladiolus come from the lake cultivations.

Frascati

(19km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



Located on the Albani Hills in a dominant position compared to Rome, it is famous for the Tuscolane Villas: built by the papal nobility since the XVI century, they were a status symbol of the

Roman aristocracy and were intended for representation activities and for the summer residence of the papal court.

First Sunday of each month: Antiques market.

February: Carnevale, Re Pupone e Pulcinelli (carnival, king Pupone and Pulcinelli) - centuries-old traditional festival with ornamental floats in square and along the streets. It was born thanks to the noble roman families who began to build their genteel residences in the inside and in the outskirts of Frascati since 1650.

May: Giochi d'Acqua e di Verde (water and green games) - the only event that allows the extraordinary opening of the Tuscolane Villas – beautiful historic houses - to visiting the mannerist and baroque art jewels. Guided tours, concerts by musicians of international renown, theatrical performances.

June/July/August: Festival Delle Ville Tuscolane (Tuscolane Villas festival) - events, shows, plays and concerts mostly at Torlonia Villa.

Velletri

(20km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



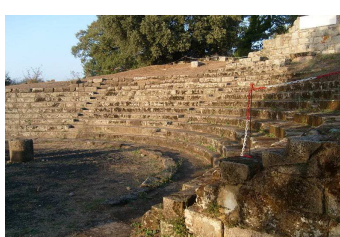
The cultural life, dynamic since the XVII century with the rise of numerous Academies, is now reinvigorated by the presence of theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and archives. Thanks to the areas of special natural value (Monte Artemisio and Vivaro), it is part of the protected area of the Castelli Romani Regional Park.

March: Festa Delle Camellie (camellias festival) - exhibition and sale of camellias considered among the finest in the world, born and raised thanks to the careful attention of famous local nurserymen, to the volcanic acid soil and to the microclimate ideal for growing these flowers, became symbol of the town. Theatrical and musical performances, antiques, quality local handicrafts and tours to the most beautiful camellias gardens of the area.

September/October: Festa Dell'Uva E Dei Vini (grapes and wines festival) - traditional festival during which the grapes are trodden with the feet in the squares. Music shows, performances in historical costume, horse races and wine and food stands delight the visitors in the historic setting of the town with free tastings.

Monte Porzio Catone

(24km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



From many points of this delightful little town you can see unique views of the city of Rome, but the best part is located opposite the town, in the direction of Tuscolo, where a big cross erected in 1933 is arised on the likely site of a Temple and of the Fortress of the Tusculum Counts.

Last Sunday of each month: Antiques, crafts and curiosities market.

January: Mostra Internazionale Presepiale (Christmas crib international exhibition) - successfully organized for years, it winds along the streets and in the clubs of the city for a whole month.

April/May: Mostra Intercontinentale delle Orchidee (orchids intercontinental exhibition) - thousands of varieties of orchids from all the world are exhibited in the cellars of the old village and in the sale areas that each exhibitor prepares in the historic dinettes, ancient handicraft places, a time meant for the processing and the preservation of the wine produced by each family on their own.

Lariano

(26km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



It is located at the slopes of Mount Algidus on top of which it stood, at the time of the Roman Empire, one of the most valued defense outposts of Rome and, in the Middle Ages, a fortified castle that extended its control over a wide area. Lariano is famous for the quality of their bread, dark in color because made with wholewheat flour.

Every Saturday of the month: Art and antiques market.

September: Sagra Del Fungo Porcino (porcino mushroom festival) - known trade show with tasting of the typical mushrooms dishes and of the famous bread of Lariano.

Monte Compatri

(26km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



The feature that distinguishes it, is the presence of an intricate sequence of cellars obtained from excavations in tuff, extending just below the houses. In its territory stands the beautiful monastery of San Silvestro, located much higher than the town itself.

Third Sunday of each month: L'arte e l'antico - antique and curiosities market.

August: Rievocazione Storica E Sfida Dei Borghi (historical commemoration and districts match) – masquerade parades, medieval games and challenge in archery of the five districts of the town. The player of the loser district is dropped into a barrel full of water.

Colonna

(30km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



It is the smallest town of the Castelli Romani. In the years between 1953 and 1956, in position of contiguity with what was left of the courtyard of the baronial Palazzo of Colonna family, a water reservoir was built, familiarly called “il dindarolo” (the money box) by the inhabitants of Colonna, which makes characteristic the image of this town from any road you get there.

January: Mostra Dei Presepi (Christmas cribs exhibition) - set up in the characteristic caves during the Christmas season until Epiphany.

October: Sagra Dell'Uva Italia, delle pesche e dei kiwi (Italia grape, peaches and kiwi festival) – festival celebrated since 1960 to enhance a typical product of the area. The town is decorated with garlands of peaches, grapes and kiwis and you can taste the agricultural products of this location. Among opened wine cellars, exhibitions of old tools, treading competitions, parades of ornamental floats, you can spend weekends with joy and good wine.

Rocca Priora

(33km from Excel Hotel Roma Ciampino)



It is the highest town of the Castelli Romani. In the place where the built-up area of Rocca Priora stands, many historians have recognized the site of the ancient Latin centre of Corbium, that Coriolanus took up on his march on Rome.

May: Sagra Del Narciso (narcissus festival) - the quarters of the old town are decorated with narcissus. Enchanting meadows to admire at Pratonì del Vivaro area. Music and folk traditions.

October: Legno E Fantasia (wood and imagination) - trade show dedicated to imaginative works wisely made of wood.