

New Year's Eve in Rome

ROME, THE CASTELLI ROMANI WINE REGION (GROTTAFERRATA, CASTEL GANDOLFO, ROCCA DI PAPA) AND ORVIETO'S JAZZ FESTIVAL



DECEMBER 28TH, 2016 - JANUARY 3RD, 2017



KEYROW TOURS

60 Georgia Road - Trumansburg, NY - 14886 Tel: 315.491.3711 www.keyrowtours.com

Day#1: Departure for Italy

Wednesday: December 28th, 2016

Trip Introduction:

“Roma nel una vita, non basta!” means, “Rome in one lifetime, it’s not enough!” This trip is designed for those who have already ventured to Rome, highlighting aspects of the Eternal City’s off the beaten path treasures.

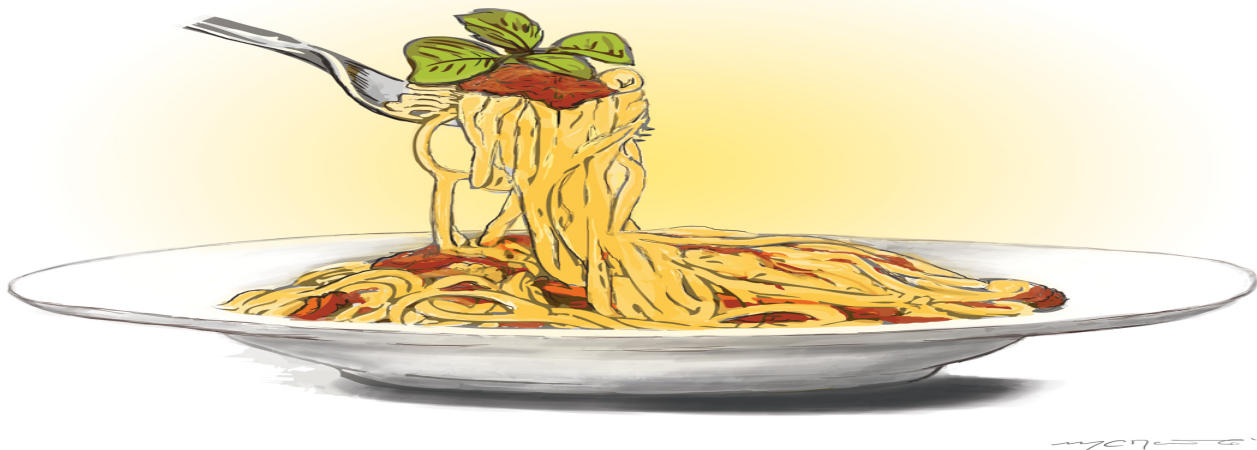
What a fabulous place to bring in the New Year!

For Keyrow Tours’ alumni, sights not featured on previous trips are marked **NEW!**

In conjunction with AAA Travel, Keyrow Tours is pleased to make all flight arrangements from anywhere in the United States. As a group we will depart from either Philadelphia or JFK, and fly direct into Rome’s Leonardo Da Vinci Airport, Italy. Typically the international flight is eight and one-half hours long, and arrival time on the following day is early to mid-morning.

Transportation to and from your primary airport of departure is each person’s responsibility.

Important: Please plan on sleeping on the plane as much as possible. This will help avoid jet lag, and enable us to “hit Rome running” on our first day...



“Each age has deemed the new-born year the fittest time for festal cheer.” – Walter Scott

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Day #2: “A Roman Holiday”

Thursday: December 29th, 2016

Morning arrival at Leonardo Da Vinci Airport, Rome Italy

After clearing passport control and collecting our luggage, private minivans will take us to our hotel... located in the historic center of Rome. The ride is approximately half an hour. Hotel check-in time is usually around noon. We will drop off our bags, have a cappuccino, and enjoy a brief orientation to the neighborhood. After check-in we will have time to shower and unpack.

The Centro Storico (Historic Center)

A.) *NEW!* Piazza Navona’s Christmas Market

One of Rome’s most magnificent piazzas, or squares. See Bernini’s famous Fountain of Four Rivers. Once the site of an ancient charioteer stadium, today it is a romantic location filled with artisans, gelato ice cream shops, restaurants, and a variety of performers. **From late November to the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th**, Piazza Navona showcases the biggest and **best Christmas Market in Rome!** Shopping stalls circle the entire piazza, selling holiday candy, decorations, toys, great food and appearances by Saint Nicolas.

B.) Campo Dei Fiori

Rome’s daily farmer’s market features fresh vegetables and fruits, cheese, meats and fish. It is one of the best shows on earth when it comes to edibles originating from both land and sea.

C.) Pranzo! (Lunch included)

Homemade gnocchi is made every Thursday in Rome!!!!

D.) *NEW!* Strolling in Trastevere

This colorful neighborhood is located across (*tras*) the Tiber (*Tevere*) river in the southwest area of Rome. A century ago this was a rather poor area, but today it is the “Greenwich Village” of the capital with great cafes, art galleries and restaurants. **Let’s stop along the way for a cappuccino, hot chocolate or glass of vino.** Hey, we’re in Italy!

E.) *NEW!* The Church of Santa Maria in Trastevere

Located in Trastevere’s main Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere, this is one of Rome’s oldest churches. Built on a site where early Christians worshipped illegally, it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the 4th century. Granite columns with mismatched capitals from more ancient structures decorate the nave. There are incredible 12th century gold mosaics that give testimony to the importance of Mary, who is seated at an equal level with her Son.

F.) *NEW!* The Church of Santa Cecilia

In the 2nd and 3rd centuries, many foreigners from outside of Italy lived in this area, including Christians from Greece and Judea. Mismatched columns were recycled from pagan temples. Dedicated to the patron saint of musicians and singers, this church holds a masterpiece image of St. Cecilia carved by Maderno. The artist was present when Cecilia’s 3rd century tomb was discovered and opened in the catacombs. For an instant, Maderno saw her body perfectly preserved before it turned to dust. He created this touching statue from his memory of the scene.

Back to hotel, day’s recap and cena! (dinner)

“Veni, vidi, vici. (I came, I saw, I conquered.) – Gaius Julius Caesar

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Day #3: The Backside of the Eternal City

Friday: December 30, 2016

Continental Breakfast

A.) *NEW!* The Catacombs of Saint Pricilla

Rome has many catacombs, but this one is really off the beaten path where few tourists venture. These underground chambers were used for Christian burials from the late 2nd to 4th century. Some of the walls and ceilings display frescos illustrating Biblical scenes. Particularly notable is the "Greek Chapel" (*Capella Greca*), a square chamber with an arch which contains 3rd century frescoes generally interpreted to be Old and New Testament scenes, including the *Fractio Panis* ("Breaking of the Bread"). These catacombs also contain the oldest known Marian paintings, from the early third century.

B.) *NEW!* The Borghese Gallery

The *Galleria Borghese* is an art gallery that houses a substantial part of the Borghese family collection of paintings, sculpture and antiquities, established by Cardinal Scipione Borghese, the nephew of Pope Paul V (reign 1605–1621). Scipione Borghese was an early patron of Bernini and an avid collector of works by Caravaggio. Many consider this "off the beaten path" museum to house the very best artwork that Rome offers.

C.) *NEW!* The Via Veneto and Pranzo

Via Veneto is synonymous with "lifestyles of the rich and famous" and one of the most famous, elegant and expensive streets of Rome. Federico Fellini's classic 1960 film *La Dolce Vita* was mostly centered on the Via Veneto area. Some of Rome's renowned five star hotels and cafés (including *Harry's Bar*) are located here. Harry's Bar was a favorite of Frank Sinatra, where he would play piano, sing and be seen with the most famous socialites in the 1950's and 60's. Shall we stop and offer a toast to old Blue Eyes?

D.) *NEW!* The Cappuccin Crypt

Located below the church of Santa Maria della Immacolata Concezione on the Via Veneto, the bones of over 4000 monks decorate this chapel in a monastic message: "We were what you are... you will become what we are now."

E.) Free time for Shopping and Exploring

F.) Optional after hours tour of the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel

Starting time: 7:00 PM. Duration: 2.5 hours. Cost: Approx. \$100. Book with Paolo in advance.

Back to hotel

Day's recap

Cena! (dinner on your own)

"Another fresh New Year is here... another year to live! To banish worry, doubt, and fear, to love and laugh and give!" – William Arthur Ward

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Day #4: The Castelli Romani and Capodanno! (New Year's Eve)

Saturday: December 31, 2016

Continental Breakfast

A.) *New!* The Castelli Romani

In the Alban Hills lies a string of hill towns and vineyards called the Castelli Romani. The "Roman Castles" are like Tuscany in miniature, a baker's dozen of medieval hill towns nestled among vineyards and lakes just 13 miles south of Rome.

B.) *New!* The Monastery of Grottaferrata

The history of Grottaferrata identifies largely with that of the Basilian Monastery of Santa Maria, founded here in 1004 by Saint Nilus the Younger. The founding legend narrates that, at the spot where the abbey now stands, the Virgin Mary appeared and bade him to found a church in her honor. The library of the Abbey, which contains some 50,000 volumes, including hand written copies of the bible dating to the 8th century.

C.) *New!* Cantina di St. Benedetta

This is the oldest winery in the Castelli Romani. Between Frascati and Monte Porzio, this winery also produces fabulous olive oil. The winery is located in a converted convent founded by Saint Benedetta...an ancestor of the current family-owners. Enjoy great wines from the Castelli Romani!

D.) Pranzo! (Light lunch on your own)

E.) *New!* The villages of Castel Gandolfo and Rocca di Papa

This striking town in the Region of Lazio overlooks Lake Albano and is located about 15 miles south-east of Rome in the Alban Hills. It is best known as the summer residence of the Pope. As a small Italian village with a population of 8834, this town is consistently voted one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. The resort community includes almost the whole coastline of Lake Albano and is surrounded by many summer residences and villas built in the 17th century. Hike around on your own, soak in the atmosphere, and enjoy this beautiful resort town of the Castelli Romani.

**Back to Hotel
Day's Recap**

***New Year's Eve Banquet,
Concert at the Circus Maximus and Fireworks!!!***

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year's resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. – G.K. Chesterton

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Day #5: New Year's Day

Sunday: January 1st, 2017

Continental Breakfast

A.) ***New!* Optional late Morning Mass with Pope Francis for the Feast of Mary the Mother of God**

Mass time is dependent upon the Holy Father's schedule. Generally it is held at 10:00 AM.

B.) **Pranzo! (Lunch included!)**

C.) ***New!* The Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls**

Built by the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century, this is the final resting place of the Apostle Saint Paul.

D.) ***New!* The Porta Portese Market**

To see another side of Rome, we'll head to this mammoth outdoor flea market. With thousands of stalls and vendors hawking everything from rare books, fell-off-a-lorry bikes, clothing and "liberated" religious candlesticks and chalices... this is an exciting side of Rome that few tourists ever get to see!

Enjoy free time for the rest of the afternoon to enjoy the splendor of Rome or Follow Paolo to:

E.) **The Spanish Steps (Shopping district)**

F.) **The Trevi Fountain**

G.) **The Pantheon**

Back to Hotel

Day's Recap

Cena! (Dinner on your own)



"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." – Edith Lovejoy Pierce

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Day #6: Magical Orvieto and the Umbrian Jazz Festival

Monday: January 2, 2017

Continental Breakfast

The Umbrian Jazz Festival runs from the end of December to the beginning of January. This is a marvelous and musical way to usher in the New Year with some of Jazz's most qualified and celebrated performers. Schedule and calendar of events is pending and tickets may be required for some venues.

A.) *New!* Departure for Orvieto

The Train ride from Rome to Orvieto is approximately 1 hour. **Orvieto** is a city in the southwestern region of Umbria, situated on the summit of a high mountain. The site of the city is among the most dramatic in Europe, rising above the almost-vertical face of a cliff with impressive defensive walls built of local volcanic stone. Originally populated by the Etruscans, Orvieto is a charming village that is rich in history and tradition.

B.) *New!* The Duomo of Orvieto

On November 15, 1290, Pope Nicholas IV laid the cornerstone for the present Cathedral and dedicated it to the Assumption of the Virgin, a feast for which the city had a long history of special devotion. The façade is particularly striking and includes some remarkable sculptures. Inside the cathedral, the Chapel of San Brizio is frescoed by Fra Angelico and Luca Signorelli's masterpiece, his *Last Judgment* (1449–51).

Pranzo (Traditional Umbrian Lunch included)

C.) *New!* The Pozzo di San Patrizio

“Saint Patrick’s Well” was created between 1527 and 1537, at the behest of Pope Clement VII who had taken refuge in Orvieto during the sack of Rome in 1527. The cylindrical well is 174.4 ft deep, with 248 steps and 70 windows providing illumination. An inscription on the well states: *QUOD NATURA MUNIMENTO INVIDERAT INDUSTRIA ADIECIT* (what nature stinted for provision, application has supplied).

Return to Rome

Day's recap

L'Ultima Cena! (The “Last Supper” Closing Banquet)

“It's not only the physical beauty of the place...It's the smell of it, the aura of great history in the stones of every street and every building. To be in Rome is to be in touch with everything in life that really matters.”
~ William Murray in “City of the Soul”

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Day #7: “Arrivederci Roma!”

Tuesday: January 3, 2017

- A.) Morning Departure for Rome’s Airport ... TBA**
- B.) Departure for the United States... TBA**
- C.) Arrival in USA... TBA**



“May all of your troubles last as long as your New Year’s resolutions.” – Joey Adams

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