

“CASTELLI ROMANI AREA”

The “Castelli Romani” (Roman Castles) area is located 20 Km south-est outside Rome. This area is formed by a group of Hills famous for their beautiful countryside, with its forest, lakes and sumptuous villas. In the past the important Roman families, often related to the church, used to build their summer residence to spend their vacation in a more healthy and cooler place than Rome. The Pope has still now its Summer Residence in a Palace on the Albano lake in Castelgandolfo. The area is famous for its artistic, historical and archaeological heritage as well as its traditions, cuisine and last but not least its excellent wines. Over the centuries the Castelli Romani villages have developed in a wide variety of ways. Some have remained small and quite villages, while others have grown to become densely populated towns.



“Castelgandolfo”

One of the most important is “Castelgandolfo” in a strategic position overlooking Albano Lake, owes its fame mainly to the fact that it includes the Papal summer residence, housed in the Palace that Pope Urban VII had built by the great architect Carlo Maderno. The entrance to this Palace is on the town’s main square, opposite the Bernini fountain. In this nice town there are many picturesque restaurants with the view of the lake were is possible to taste the genuine roman cuisine.




PARK HOTEL
VILLA GRAZIOLI
★★★★



“Albano lake”



“Frascati”

Another town is “Grottaferrata” famous for its Abbey of S. Nilo founded on the year thousand by the Basilian monks Nilo and Bartolomeo. The monastic centre, that belonged to the Byzantine-Greek-Catholic rite, is formed by the S. Maria church with a Romanic façade and Byzantine mosaics on the inside and the chapel dedicated to S.Nilo decorated with frescoes by Domenichino. Interesting are the ancient library with famous manuscripts and the Catacombes “Ad Decimum” part of the compound.

One other town is “Frascati” with it’s wonderful “Villa Aldbrandini” built in the 16th century to a design of giacomo della Porta and still housed by the Prince Aldobrandini. Then we have the 16th century “Villa Torlonia”, destroyed during the second world war, and now a public park with its “Water Theatre” a spectacular fountain designed by Carlo Maderno. Then we have Piazza S. Pietro with it’s baroque Cathedral designed by Girolamo Fontana and the 17th century church of Jesus built by Pietro da Cortona. Frascati is full of shops and restaurants and the typical “Fraschetterie” very simple porterhouses where you could taste the famous Frascati wines.



“S. Nilo Abbey”




PARK HOTEL
VILLA GRAZIOLI
★★★★



“Ariccia”

Other towns are: Ariccia famous for the typical pork meat called “Porchetta”, Rocca di Papa on a volcanic cliff, Marino an attractive hillside village, famous throughout the world for its “Sagra dell’Uva” a grape festival celebrated on the first Sunday in October each year, Genzano famous for its “Infiorata” a flower bedecked that’s take place every year for the Feast of Corpus Christi in June.

Not far from Frascati and Grottaferrata there are the ancient roman ruins of a small city called “Tusculum”, which, according to legend, was founded by Telegione the son of Ulysses and Circe. You can see remains of the walls of the acropolis and the amphitheatre.



“Roman Theatre on Tuscolo hill”





“Wine Yard”

The Castelli Romani area is famous for the production of wines, usually white and dry, of excellent quality due to the volcanic nature of the soil. “Frascati”, the first to be given the DOC classification, is the wine acclaimed by Romans and used by the Popes from immemorial time.

The gastronomy is also important, originally the Cuisine of the Castelli Romani was humbled and simple but over time ingenuity and imagination have resulted in some of the most appetising dishes thanks to the genuineness of the fruits of the land. One of the most tasty are: Polenta with pork spare ribs, Pasta with hare sauce, Oven baked lasagne, Gnocchi, Roast spring lamb, Chicken cooked in thousands of ways, Dried cod stew. Famous desserts are the Doughnuts in wine and the traditional Frascati puppets with three breasts.

OUTLETS

There are 2 outlets, for a very convenient shopping, not far From Park Hotel Villa Grazioli:

Val Montone Fashion District: www.fashiondistrict.it/it/valmontone
The distance is Km 30 – The cost for a taxi one way is € 50 + Taxes

Castel Romano Outlet: www.outlet-village.it/castelromano
The distance is Km 35 – The cost for a taxi one way is € 70 + Taxes

