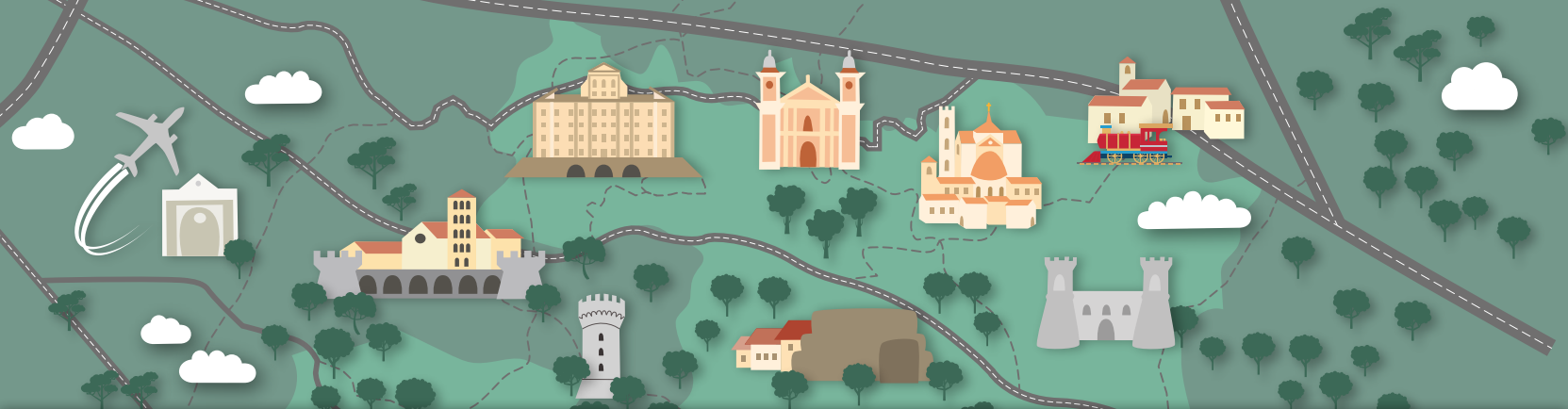




Welcome to

Castelli Romani

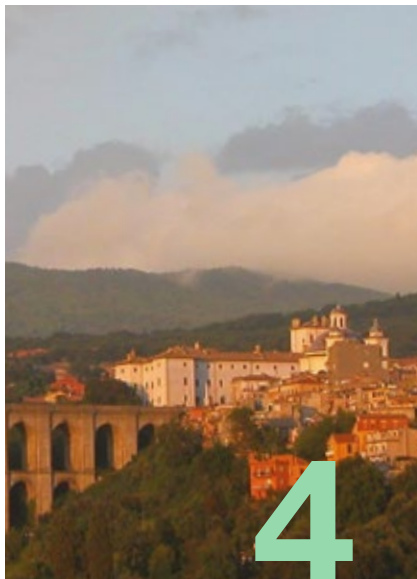
A place to be experienced and loved



Visit
**CASTELLI
ROMANI**

Index

A place to be experienced and loved



Meet the area



Not to be missed



The ancient boroughs



Welcome to Castelli Romani

The territory of "Castelli Romani" (Roman Castles) includes seventeen hilltop towns, situated on the fertile soil of the Lazio volcano and surrounded by lush vegetation. This area is known and appreciated for its history, spectacular landscapes, and famous wine and gastronomic traditions.

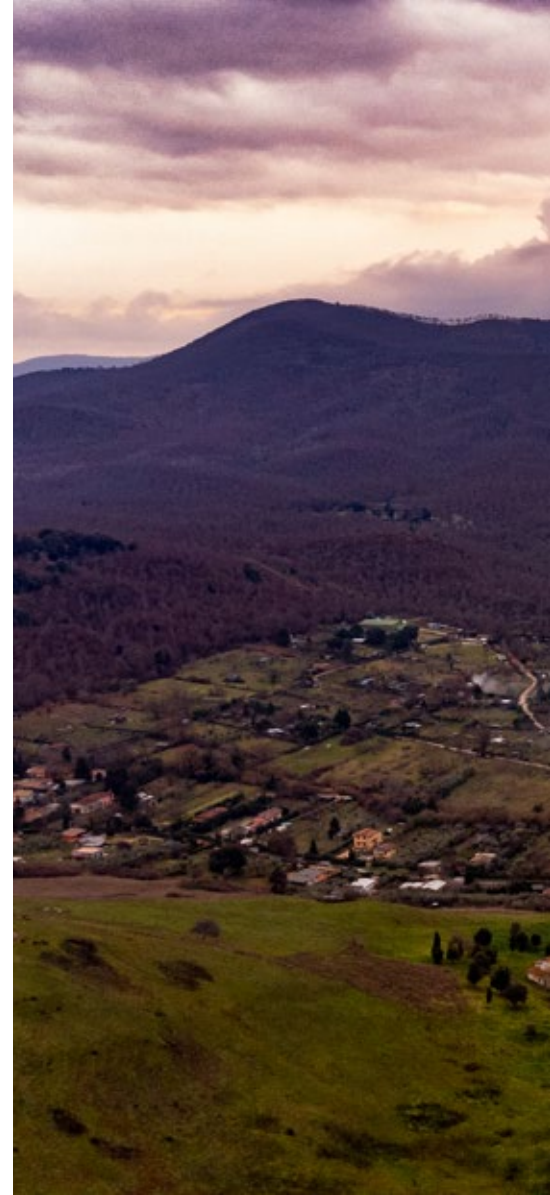
In one of the most peculiar and varied areas of Lazio, past and modernity meet, just a few kilometers from Rome and far from the chaos of the big city. Here leisure and travel truly go hand in hand, welcoming both the adventurous and those looking for a quiet place to relax and unwind.

The history of Castelli Romani is evident in the archeological remains scattered throughout the area, each telling a different story of ancient battles and traditions. Imagine horseback riding through the woods of the Castelli Romani Regional Park, kayaking on the clear waters of Lake Albano, enjoying delicious dishes whose origins can be

traced back thousands of years, or biking along the Via Appia and the Tusculum Archeological Park. These are just some of the activities this magical place has to offer. Castelli Romani has its origins in the ancient city of Alba Longa, the cradle of Roman civilization, which became a resort in Roman times. The Latins (an ancient Italic people from the region of Lazio) colonized the area around 2000 BC and established the earliest known human settlements such as Tusculum, Aricia, Lanuvium and Velitrae. These peoples were already firmly united in the Latin League four centuries before the founding of Rome.

Much later, in the 17th century, the area became a popular vacation destination for Roman noble families. It was also the perfect place to have parties!

For this reason, the prestigious and elegant Tuscolane villas were built. They were destined to become the real status symbol of their time for the nobility and the members of the papal court.





Curiosity

Castelli Romani: the origins of this name

In 1309 the Papacy was forced by the French crown to move from Rome to Avignon. The city of Rome, deprived of the important papal presence, fell into a serious crisis and became a dangerous city. Thus began the so-called "fortress" phase. Many Roman noble families preferred to leave the city and began to build fortified residences on their estates near Rome, AKA the Roman Castles!

Get to know the history of this territory

The Castelli Romani area coincides with the area of the Alban Hills, formed after the intense eruptive activity of the ancient volcano of Lazio, which began in the Pleistocene 2.58 million years ago! The volcanic activity created, in several phases, various hills and mountains such as the Campi di Annibale, Monte Cavo, Colle Iano, as well as the volcanic lakes of Albano and Nemi and many others, which dried up and eventually became fertile valleys. Some of the best wines of Lazio are still produced today on these same soils. The earliest traces of human presence date back to the Paleolithic era and are still visible.





Castelli Romani, a place that will stay in your heart.

The uniqueness of Castelli Romani can be felt in every season. In the smells, in the atmosphere of the villages, walking along the ancient paved paths where

the Latins celebrated their rituals, or immersing yourself in nature.

Here you can practice your favorite sport, relax in the Castelli Romani Regional Park or get to know the local culture through the cuisine, a tradition that is still passed down from generation to generation. Be enchanted by the refined architecture of the 17th century Tuscolane villas and the views they offer.



Take a dip in the two volcanic lakes.

Lake Albano, with a depth of 170 meters, is the deepest volcanic lake basin in Italy. The surrounding area can be explored on foot or by bicycle. The route winds along the beaches, sports clubs and in the green of the coastal forest, where the Roman monuments of the village of "Maccarese", the Doric and Bergantine nymphaeum are located. The lake itself can be explored by kayak, SUP, sailboat or boat. Lake Nemi, on the other hand, is smaller and seems wilder. Imagine swimming in the cool, crystal clear water and resting on the small beaches surrounded by the green of the forests and the chirping of birds. Visit the nearby Museum of Roman Ships, where the ancient and magnificent ships of Emperor Caligula, recovered from the depths of Lake Nemi in the 1930s, have been recreated. Or visit the Temple of Diana, a mystical site overlooking the lake dating back to the third century BC. Sports enthusiasts can reach the village of Nemi via a 20-minute hiking trail that passes by the hermitage of

San Michele Arcangelo. Do not miss visiting the Emissary of the Lake, an artificial underground canal 1600 meters long, built in the 4th century BC by the inhabitants of ancient Aricia, leading to Vallericcia, the third basin of the area, drained in the past to make room for agriculture. The path is almost completely straight and has the purpose of regulating the water level of the lake and preventing it from overflowing.

A walk through the underground of Castelli Romani.

For lovers of underground tourism, we recommend two historical and cultic sites: the Catacombs of Ad Decimum and San Senatore. The Catacombs of Ad Decimum are so called because they are located on the tenth mile of the ancient Via Latina. They are the most famous of the area because the two tunnels dug into the tufa are still in excellent condition. In the catacombs there are about a thousand tombs: San Senatore, on the other hand, is rich in polychrome frescoes and pagan and Christian funerary inscriptions.



In search of the most picturesque landscape

Imagine being able to admire Rome in silence, from a distance and surrounded by nature.

From the highest point of Rocca di Papa, the "Campi di Annibale", below "Monte Cavo", a path leads to the ancient Via Sacra (Sacred Way). This road was used by the Latins to reach the Temple of Jupiter and is still paved

with the original cobblestones. At the end of this ancient road you reach the viewpoint "occhialone" (big glasses), from which you can see at a glance the two volcanic lakes of Nemi and Albano, which are next to each other, and in the background the sea. Because of their shape, the two volcanic lakes are compared by popular opinion to a giant pair of glasses.

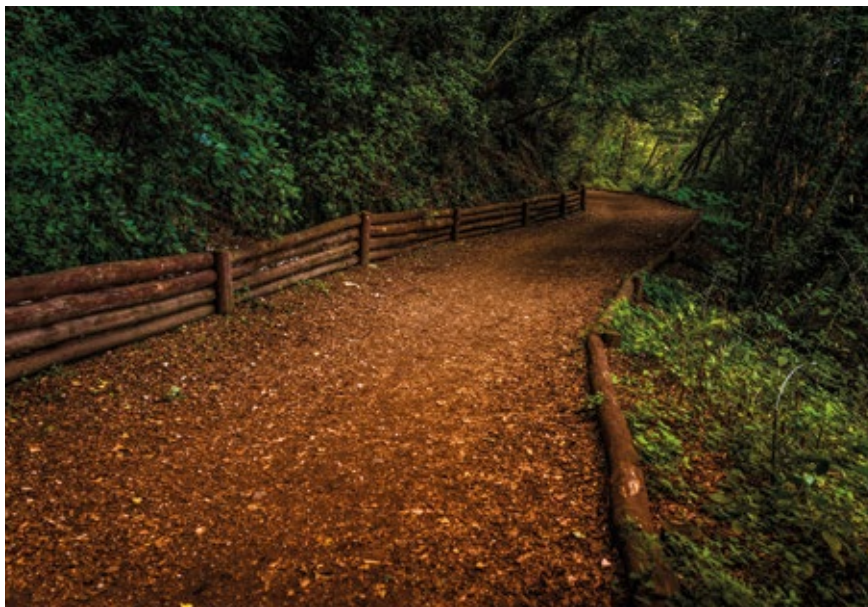
From the medieval fortress of Rocca di Papa you can admire Rome, the Eternal City, and on a clear day you can see the dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

Hiking on old and new paths

The Regional Park of Castelli Romani has more than 150 kilometers GPS of marked trails with different levels of difficulty that can be covered on foot, by e-MTB or on horseback.

Did you know that the ancient Via Francigena (an ancient road and pilgrimage route) passed through Castelli Romani? Imagine how many times this road has been walked and how many people have passed through the same villages, forests and shining lakes on their way to Jerusalem. Today the route of the ancient pilgrims

to Rome is well marked: From Velletri, in the following order, you will meet the lake and the village of Nemi, the Via Sacra, Lake Albano and Castel Gandolfo, and finally the Appia Antica that will lead you to Rome. Depending on the starting point, you can reach the capital in four hours or in a few days. However, if you want to take a longer hike, you can walk south from Rome along the Via Francigena.



The elegance of the Tuscolane villas

The landscape of the area between Frascati, Monteporzio Catone and Grottaferrata is dotted with late Renaissance and Baroque residences built by the Roman nobility on the Alban Hills, now known as the "Ville Tuscolane".

Among the residences worth visiting is Villa Falconieri in Frascati, known for the beauty of its fresco decorations inside and its majestic park. It was built in the 16th century and today houses the "Vivarium Novum Academy", an international educational institution

dedicated to the study, teaching and promotion of the classical languages: latin and ancient greek.

Villa Aldobrandini, overlooking the main square of Frascati, is a sight to behold: surrounded by lush vegetation, it houses a nymphaeum (shrine dedicated to one or more nymphs) composed of beautiful fountains and multi-level terraces.

Villa Mondragone, the largest of the Tuscolane villas, Villa Grazioli and Villa Tuscolana are worth visiting for their breathtaking views (the last two are now prestigious hotels).

In the footsteps of the Grand Tour

Painters and writers from the time of the Grand Tour (a traditional educational tour of Europe with Italy as its main destination) who traveled through Italy often visited Castelli Romani: Ariccia in particular. The elegant Piazza di Corte of the ancient village of Ariccia was designed by Bernini. In front of it stands Palazzo Chigi, which can be visited along with its large park.

The beautiful interiors of the palace



were chosen as the location for several scenes of the movie "Il Gattopardo" (1963) by Luchino Visconti. Also, a few times a year you can take part in the "Vita da Principi" experience, a traveling theatrical performance that tours the many rooms of the palace. A few steps from the main square is the "Locanda Martorelli", which hosted many great artists of the Grand Tour who traveled through Italy.

A borgo made of flowers

Since 1778, in June, Genzano di Roma is filled with the sweet scent of flowers. Many local men and women patiently "peel" the flowers day and night to collect the petals with which to decorate the main street of the town, which leads to the Santa Maria della Cima church.

A natural canvas that houses wonderful paintings, real works of art made of colorful petals. About 400,000 flowers are needed for the exhibition, which covers 2,000 square meters. It is the famous Infiorata Festival, the pride of the Genzanese artists, which takes place the weekend of the Feast of Corpus Christi in June.

Astronomy and science for the curious

The Castelli Romani area is one of the most important European areas for scientific research.

It hosts several scientific institutions, such as the International Research Centers of Frascati, the Astronomical Observatory of Monte Porzio Catone and Villa Mondragone in Monte Porzio Catone, where Pope Gregory XIII Boncompagni reformed the calendar in 1582 to the current Gregorian calendar. Your scientific tour can start here and continue with a visit to the Museum of Geophysics and Volcanology in Rocca di

Papa, the Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo (within the Vatican State), the Geopaleontological Museum in Velletri and the Astronomical Park "Livio Gratton" in the Prati del Vivaro (Rocca di Papa), where interesting meetings and astronomical observations are organized throughout the year.

The Vatican in Castelli Romani

The majestic Papal Palace that greets you upon your arrival in the main square of Castel Gandolfo undoubtedly contributes to making this town one of the most beautiful in Italy.

Every Saturday, an old-fashioned looking train departs from the old Vatican City train station to Castelli Romani to visit the Papal Villas and the Vatican Gardens.

You'll have the chance to take a stroll among the botanical rarities, the farm and the archeological remains of "Villa di Domiziano" and pass through the huge cryptoporticus which will lead you to the lush Barberini Gardens. The



visit to the Papal Palace, with its halls full of works of art, will complete the tour. Before returning to Rome by train, take a walk through the charming town of Castel Gandolfo with its art and craft stores, ice cream parlors and restaurants. Make sure to take a look at the beautiful Lake Albano (also known as Lake of Castel Gandolfo).

In search of gastronomic delights

When it comes to food, Castelli Romani are often associated with "porchetta". This famous and tasty pork product, whose history dates back to Roman times, boasts an ancient tradition and today bears the IGP seal.

Porchetta is not the only traditional dish you can try here! Among the many vegetables grown in the volcanic region, the artichoke is undoubtedly one of the best. It is at its best in traditional cuisine in the "matticella", a bundle of irregularly shaped pieces that result from pruning the vines, seasoned with wild mint, fresh garlic and a good portion of extra virgin

olive oil from the region.

Another delicacy not to be missed is the "Ciambella al Mosto" (doughnut with must), traditionally accompanied by a good glass of wine.

Grapes have been grown in the fertile volcanic valleys of Castelli Romani for many centuries: Frascati Superiore DOCG is proven to come from ancient vines dating back to the second century

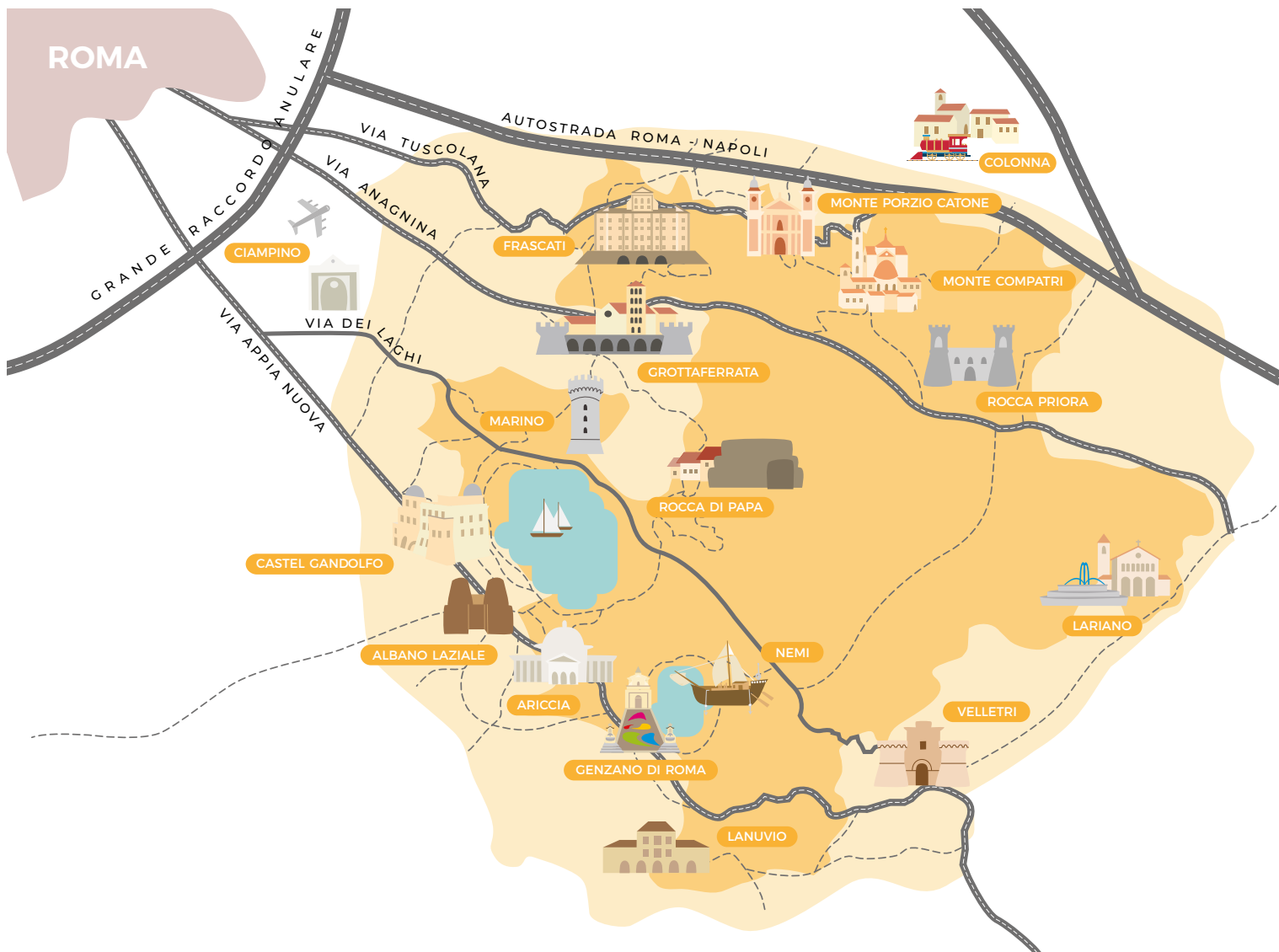
BC. Legend has it that this grape variety was introduced to Greece by Telemachus, son of Odysseus! It is a straw-colored wine that stands out for its intense floral scents.

Another wine worth mentioning is certainly the Velletri DOP, produced in the valleys formed by the last eruptions of the Lazio volcano. A real volcanic flavor!



The ancient boroughs

ROMA





ALBANO LAZIALE

the origins of Rome

Albano has very ancient origins: traces of human presence date back to the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods. According to tradition, the place where the town is located is exactly the place where Alba Longa once stood. Villas, churches, thermal baths, archeological sites, museums, amphitheaters, monasteries, tombs and catacombs: the landscape of Albano reflects history from ancient times to the present day. The city seems like a small Rome where time has stopped and history radiates from every street, square, corner and fountain. Here you can visit the Cisternoni, an ancient structure for collecting water that was used until the last century, or

the Baths of Caracalla, public thermal baths that generally date back to the reign of Caracalla (30 BC - AD 640), or the Orazi and Curiazi tombs (dating back to the first half of the 1st century BC), the Museum of the Seconda Legione Partica and the Diocesan Museum.

The lively streets of the city are full of bars and pubs that are open late into the night. The city is characterized by a series of events that take place throughout the year. These include the Bajocco Festival (a street performers' festival) and the Anfiteatro Festival, which takes place in the atmospheric setting of the Roman amphitheater.

Find out more



Altitude
400 masl



Area
23,8 km²



Population
41.654

Curiosity

The broccoli "Capoccione" (big head) is the main typical product of Albano. It is a high quality broccoli variety that owes its name to the size of its inflorescence. It is the main ingredient of one of the most popular dishes of Albano's gastronomic tradition: the broccoli "attufati" (steamed broccoli)... It would be a real pity not to try it while you are here!

Find out more



Altitude
412 masl



Area
18 km²



Population
19.118

Curiosity

The Palazzo Chigi of Ariccia has been the setting for numerous film and television productions such as "Il Gattopardo" (1962), a masterpiece by Luchino Visconti starring Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale and Alain Delon. In 1979 Fellini chose the palace as the location for his film "Prova d'orchestra". The filming continues to this day!

The name Gian Lorenzo Bernini is often associated with St. Peter's Basilica and its majesty, but the great artist also created some incredible works outside the capital. One of them is the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, which encloses the historic center of Ariccia. Piazza della Repubblica is one of the main attractions, as is the monumental bridge, built between 1847 and 1854, which overlooks the park of Palazzo Chigi. Palazzo Chigi is an elegant and prestigious Baroque-style building that hosts events and movie sets. The Villino

ARICCIA

the Grand Tour and Bernini

Volterra and the Sanctuary of Santa Maria di Galloro are also worth a visit. In Vallericcia, a nearby drained body of water, the remains of ancient Aricia have been found. According to legend, Aricia was founded by Ippolito, a mythological prince of Athens.

Ariccia is famous for its porchetta PGI, to which a festival is dedicated in September. This typical product can be enjoyed all year round accompanied by a good wine in the various frascchettes that enliven the town and attract thousands of visitors.





CIAMPINO

at the gates of Castelli Romani

Ciampino, with its airport and train station, is a crossroads of many different histories. It was established as a municipality only in 1974, when it became independent from Marino. In Roman times, many farms flourished on the soil of this crossroads, such as that of Quinto Voconio Pollione (2nd century AD), which came to light again during the excavations for the construction of

the railroad line. Many valuable objects were recovered from the Roman villa, such as fragments of statues, beautiful marble mosaic floors and two "lead aquarium fistulae" (ancient water pipes) that indicate the name of the owner. The village has a modern look, but the area hides Roman and even medieval treasures, such as the "Torre dell'Acqua Sotterra".

#visitcastelliromani ●●●●

Find out more



Altitude
124 masl



Area
11 km²



Population
38.533

Curiosity

Ciampino Airport was originally an airfield established in 1916 for airship operations. In the 1930s it became a military airport and opened to civilian traffic. Since the 1960s, its high security standards have made it the airport of choice for most heads of state and personalities visiting Rome and Italy.

Find out more



Altitude
426 masl



Area
14,19 km²



Population
8.971

Curiosity

In the city of Popes, even the typical product has a religious nuance! The peaches of Castel Gandolfo are known as "priest's cheeks", so called because of their rosy and velvety appearance; especially delicious thanks to the fertile volcanic soil. For 80 years, a peach festival has been held at the end of July, offering more than a hundred varieties of peaches from local producers, from all over Italy and abroad. The typical Sunday peach aperitif is naturally accompanied by the excellent local wine.

CASTEL GANDOLFO

the summer residence of the Popes



Castel Gandolfo sits on the edge of a volcanic cone overlooking Lake Albano and is famous for its luxurious nature and the elegance of the historic center, which has earned it the title of "one of the most beautiful villages in Italy". Castel Gandolfo is known all over the world for the summer residence of the Popes, which can be visited along with its gardens. The elegant gardens also house the remains of Domiziano's Villa and the Vatican farm. In the square in front of the Papal Palace is the oldest posthole in

Italy; San Tommaso di Villanova church is next to it, along with an elegant fountain designed by Bernini. If you're up for it or into modern forms of art, check out the open-air street art gallery in Piazzale Pertini, which focuses on social issues. The shores of Lake Albano are lined with restaurants and bathing establishments, and the equipped beaches offer the possibility to rent boats, rowboats, and sailboats. You can also admire incredible Roman monuments overlooking the lake, such as the Doric Nymphaeum and the Bergantino Nymphaeum.





COLONNA

from the Bronze Age to street art

The village of Colonna is the smallest in Castelli Romani, but what it lacks in size, it makes up for in lively festivals. The town is located on a hill on the northern side of Lazio's volcano, and it is best known for its grapes and kiwi fruit, as well as its Monte Compatri-Colonna DOP wine and for the Pincinelle, a long pasta made only of water and flour. All these local products are celebrated every year with festivals that attract

visitors from all over the region. Also worth mentioning are the Church of San Nicola di Bari and its large tridacna (giant clam shell) used as a holy water stoup, as well as the Baronial Palace's elegant architecture. Wandering around this little town, you'll find many graffiti depicting scenes from daily life in ancient times: they were painted by street artist Davide De Angelis, aka Gofy.

Find out more



Altitude
343 masl



Area
3,5 km²



Population
4.309

Curiosity

It is said that the noble family Colonna derives its name from the fiefdom and not vice versa! In fact, the town owes its name to the remains of an ancient Roman column, a symbol of the historic Roman patrician family that strongly marked the Castelli Romani area.

#visitcastelliromani ●●●●

Find out more



Altitude
320 masl



Area
22 km²



Population
22.331

Curiosity

In 1856, Frascati was the first town in the Papal States to be served by a railroad line. This event has marked the modern history of gastronomy and wine in the region: The railroad was popularly called the "hangover train" because on Sundays it brought visitors back to Rome from the taverns and frascettas (typical restaurants where you can enjoy typical Roman dishes).

FRASCATI

Tuscolane villas and sunsets overlooking Rome

Frascati is the most popular town of Castelli Romani. It is famous for the elegance of its Tuscolane villas and for the deliciousness of its culinary specialties and wines. The Tuscolane villas, splendid patrician houses from the late Renaissance and Baroque periods, were built by the Roman nobility. The villas were enriched by gardens with unique architecture and color schemes. Some are privately owned, others can be visited freely, including Villa Falconieri and Villa Aldobrandini. Have you always dreamed of spending your vacation in an elegant Italian villa? Villa Tuscolana,

a historic property, is now open as a prestigious and refined hotel, where you will have the unique opportunity to take a step back in time and relax amidst one of the most beautiful landscapes in Italy. Also worth seeing are the cathedral, the Bishop's Palace, the Gesù Church and the Aldobrandini stables, which house an archeological museum. Frascati is not only a place, but also a wonderful wine! Its vineyards are among the most renowned in Rome and are known throughout Italy. The Cannellino and the Frascati Superiore both have the DOCG label, while the Frascati has the DOP.





GENZANO DI ROMA

the flower of Italy

The town of Genzano di Roma is famous for its Infiorata, an event that combines elements of religiosity and folklore. The Infiorata takes place every year on the weekend of the Feast of Corpus Christi, and thousands of visitors flock to see the wonderful floral artwork. The main street leading to the cathedral is covered with incredible images made up of colorful petals of all kinds of flowers. It is interesting to follow the different stages of the Infiorata: from the drawing on

the ground to the "spallamento" when children run over the pictures.

Genzano is also famous for its artisan bread IGP, made in old ovens and characterized by the contrast between the crispy outer crust and the soft, spongy interior.

The Sforza-Cesarini family transformed the townscape of Genzano di Roma in the 17th century, building a palace bearing the family's name and later a romantic garden overlooking Lake Nemi.

Find out more



Altitude
435 masl



Area
17,9 km²



Population
23.894

Curiosity

Why are there so many "norcinerie" (typical pork butcheries from Norcia, Umbria) in Genzano? Because in the last century many artisan families from Norcia settled here to spread the art of processing and slaughtering pork. Do not miss the unforgettable taste of these delicacies made in the Castelli Romani, accompanied by the IGP certified bread from Genzano!

Find out more



Altitude
329 masl



Area
18,4 km²



Population
20.450

Curiosity

In Villa Grazioli Mario Monicelli filmed with Alberto Sordi a hilarious scene of his famous movie "Il Marchese del Grillo": he transformed the elegant princely villa of the Odescalchi family into an abandoned country estate where the Marquis takes his friend Blanchard, captain of the French troops.

The small and elegant Grottaferrata is famous for the Abbey of San Nilo and for the historical national fair of medieval origin that has been taking place every year in March for over 500 years. The Abbey, fortified with a massive crenelated wall, houses Catholic Basilian monks who follow the Byzantine rite of the Church of Constantinople. The church of Santa Maria is flanked by a bell tower: both are decorated with Romanesque style ornaments and Baroque style stuccoes. In the aisle there are the so-called Grotta Ferrata and the Farnese Chapel with frescoes by Domenichino.

GROTTAFERRATA

the ancient crypta ferrata

The immeasurable value of the church also comes from the cloister, the cryptoporticus of an ancient Roman villa and the library, which has more than a thousand ancient manuscripts. The building also houses a laboratory for the restoration of ancient books and the Archeological Museum. Do not miss the opportunity to visit the catacombs Ad Decimum, where there are about a thousand tombs dating from the 2nd to the 5th century AD, and Villa Grazioli, one of the famous Tuscolane Villas, which is now a charming hotel and can be visited on request.





LANUVIO

city of the Emperor

Lanuvio is a landmark in the history of Castelli Romani, from pre-Roman times to the Middle Ages. The orator Cicero testifies that the town was a place full of religious buildings, among which stands out the sanctuary of Juno Sospita Lanuvina, whose cult dates back to very ancient times. Of great scenic importance are the remains of the original two-story porch of the sanctuary, at the end of which there is a door that gives access to a series of underground passages, behind which some archeologists suspect the cave that housed the sacred serpent of Juno

Sospita mentioned by Propertius and Eliano. After careful restoration and rehabilitation works, the western side of the Sanctuary of Giunone Sospita, the Loreto Bridge, the area of the Villae ad Bivium and the Roman Domus in Via Gramsci are now fully accessible again.

Lanuvio is surrounded by medieval walls and a watchtower near the entrance to the town.

It can still be visited and offers a breathtaking view. Lanuvio offers a rich calendar of folk and religious festivals, including a music festival in June, which stands out in modern times.

Find out more



Altitude
324 masl



Area
43,9 km²



Population
13.605

Curiosity

Lanuvio is one of the three cities in the world where two Roman emperors, Commodus and Antoninus Pius, were born, which is why it has the title of "Urbs Imperatorum" (City of the Emperor). Moreover, it is located in the exact place where, according to the ancient legend of Lanuvium, it was founded by Lanoios, a companion of Aeneas. In the 12th century it was renamed Civita Lavinia, a name it kept until 1914, when it finally became Lanuvio.

Find out more



Altitude
358 masl



Area
27 km²



Population
13.509

Curiosity

Who in Italy has never heard of the bread of Lariano? It is compact, quite dark and tasty and keeps fresh for several days. The real bread of Lariano MCG is a centuries-old recipe and is made from a mixture of soft wheat semolina with natural yeast (biga) and a double leaf, baked in wood-fired ovens fueled mainly by chestnut wood. Beware of imitations!

Lariano is commonly known as the land of bread and mushrooms, but more recently this little town has been enriched by a new museum center, opened in 2021, which collects archeological findings from different periods found by citizens during excursions or digs.

Lariano has been autonomous since 1967 and over the years has created its own festivals, such as the well-known "Sagra del Fungo Porcino". For some years now, the Infiorata Larianese has been held in Piazza Sant'Eurosia during the summer, as well as the musical events "Battery in

LARIANO

the scent of bread and forests

Piazza" and the "International Meeting of Wind Instruments". Despite its young constitution, Lariano is rich in history: its name derives from the Roman family Arria, which was resident in the area in ancient times. The Maschio di Lariano still houses the ruins of the ancient castle, which in the Middle Ages was the subject of disputes between the noble families themselves and the Church. The structure was destroyed in 1436. The woods of Lariano also hide a small gorge and many springs of water that can be found in the enchanting woods.





MARINO

where fountains spurt wine

Marino, located on a spur of peperino stone, was a flourishing Roman settlement and later became an important possession of the noble Colonna family, who built a palace of the same name and the Basilica of San Barnaba. Today the village is best known for its splendid old town, the surrounding countryside and the good white wine that is celebrated every October with the famous Grape Festival. Underground, just below the town, you can visit the hand-

dug tunnels in Peperino, originally used to store wine and later used as shelters during the bombings in the 1940s. In Santa Maria della Mole, archeologists found the Tabernae della Mutatio ad Decimum, an ancient Roman post office. Also fascinating is the excavation of the thermal plant that took advantage of the sulfur emissions of the area. The delicious "ciambelle al mosto" (doughnuts with must) are a must and can be had only during harvest time.

Find out more



Altitude
360 masl



Area
26.1 km²



Population
43.797

Curiosity

In the heart of the historic center of Marino is the "Vicolo Baciadonne" (the kissing alley, one of the narrowest streets in Italy) ... It is so narrow that two people passing it at the same time would be forced to kiss! ! The underground caves of Marino are a huge labyrinth completely dug in the Peperino stone, where especially the wine found the perfect conditions for storage in its barrels.

Find out more



Altitude
576 masl



Area
24,57 km²



Population
12.078

Curiosity

In Monte Compatri, on the slopes of Monte Salomone, there was the most famous quarry of the so-called "Pietra Sperone del Tuscolo". It resembles the tuff stone, but it is of darker color. This stone was one of the most commonly used building materials in the Castelli Romani area and was even used for the Colosseum!

Monte Compatri is situated on a tuff hill of volcanic origin overlooking the Aniene Valley and is one of the highest villages of Castelli Romani.

Under almost every house in Monte Compatri there is an intricate network of tunnels connecting numerous underground wine cellars.

The town houses the largest cathedral in Castelli Romani, the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, as well as Palazzo Borghese and the library of the elegant Palazzo Annibaldeschi. Nearby is the small sanctuary of the Madonna del Castagno with a small art gallery.

MONTE COMPATRI

the rock of Castelli Romani

From here you can reach the top of Monte Salomone on foot. A walk through the countryside leads to the "Collina degli Asinelli" (Donkey Hill), where you can meet these funny and lovable animals, and finally to the panoramic path that leads to Frascati.

In August, do not miss the solemn evening procession of the "Assumption of the Virgin", which includes a historical re-enactment in which participants wear traditional costumes from the 16th and 17th centuries; and the fair of San Giuseppe, which has now seen more than ninety editions!





MONTE PORZIO CATONE

a charming little town at the foot of ancient Tusculum

Monte Porzio Catone is known not only for its excellent wine, but also for its splendid orchids and its famous nativity scenes, for which it hosts two international exhibitions every year.

The town is located on the northern slopes of Tusculum, between Frascati and Monte Compatri: it can be recognized from afar by the unmistakable outline of its Cathedral. From here you can enjoy an unforgettable panoramic view of Rome and the chestnut woods.

Do not miss the Barco Borghese, a huge

archeological complex of Roman origin, consisting of 190 vaulted underground rooms from the Roman era (1st century BC), warehouses and cisterns. Other places worth visiting are the ancient pre-Roman city of Tusculum, with its amphitheater and magnificent view over the entire Latina Valley, Villa Mondragone, one of the best preserved Tuscolane Villas; and last but not least, the Astronomical Observatory, an important scientific building dating back to 1939.

Find out more



Altitude
451 masl



Area
9,4 km²



Population
8.631

Curiosity

If you walk through Monte Porzio Catone, you will surely come across the statue of Tocco, a very famous and cherished dog, so much so that several stories and even a book were written about him. Tocco was the town's mascot: he was loved by everyone and accompanied parades, pageants and even the band. Three years after his death, in 1999, a statue was erected in his honor to celebrate the bond between man and dog.

Find out more



Altitude
521 masl



Area
7,33 km²



Population
1.910

Curiosity

The original nucleus of Nemi is known as "Pullarella". The name derives from the word "pulla", which means chicken yard, and is linked to the romantic idea that the castle is compared to a hen and the houses of the town to the chicks of the hen.

Nemi is a charming medieval village overlooking Lake Nemi, where two ships belonging to the Roman Emperor Caligula were found in the 1930s. Nemi is best known for its delicious strawberries and the festival held in their honor.

Near the lakeshore is the temple of Diana Nemorensis, the ancient deity of forests and fertility, which became the religious center of the Latin League after the destruction of Alba Longa.

In the Middle Ages, Nemi was not yet perceived as a real city, but rather as a large farm. This changed when a castle was built in the 9th century.

Around the same time the Palazzo Ruspoli was built. It was surrounded by magnificent hanging gardens.

In 1936, on the shore of Lake Nemi, the Museum of Roman Ships was built. It houses various archaeological finds, some of which come from the temple of Diana Nemorensis.

NEMI

the mirror of the Goddess Diana







ROCCA DI PAPA

Republic for a day

Find out more



Altitude
680 masl



Area
40 km²



Population
17,144

This picturesque medieval village is situated on the slopes of Monte Cavo in a panoramic position. Rocca di Papa has preserved its medieval structure and offers wonderful views of the houses clinging to the rock.

Hidden in the winding maze of steep streets are several churches, such as Santa Maria Assunta, the Church of the Crocifisso, the Sanctuary of Madonna del Tufo and the Monastery of Palazzolo.

The highest point of the town, the "Belvedere" of the medieval fortress,

offers a unique view that reaches the sea and Rome.

A little further from the fortress, at the same altitude, are the so-called Campi di Annibale and part of the "Via Sacra". The town of Rocca di Papa is littered with beautiful murals and graffiti, and houses the Museum of Geophysics, which is equipped with interactive and educational rooms.

For those who love horses and stars, do not miss the "Pratoni del Vivaro" and the "F. Fuligni Astronomical Park".

Curiosity

If you get married in Rocca di Papa, you cannot miss the tradition of the spouses' doughnut! By tradition the newlyweds must gift their guests with a total of 54 doughnuts (typical sweet of the area). The rule says that the doughnuts have to be distributed according to the degree of kinship: : 6 to neighbors, 8 to cousins and friends, 12 to uncles, 18 to Baptism Godparents and 24 to Confirmation Godparents... So yummy!

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Altitude
768 masl



Area
28,27 km²



Population
12.013

Curiosity

The snow trade was the main economic activity in Rocca Priora between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. The snow was collected and stored in wells covered with hay, then brought to Rome in carts and sold to wealthy families who used it to cool their iceboxes, the precursors of modern refrigerators.

ROCCA PRIORA

the ancient “ice-box” of Rome

Rocca Priora is the highest town of Castelli Romani. For centuries its economy was based on the trade of snow used to preserve food, so much so that it was given the title of “Nevaio of Rome”. The Sanctuary of the Madonna della Neve still testifies to the close connection that the town has always had with this particular activity. A walk through the alleys of the old town, perched on a high hill overlooking Monte Ceraso, offers timeless views and from the “Belvedere” you can enjoy one of the most impressive views of the castles

that tower over Rome on Monti Tiburtini and Prenestini. Hidden in the streets of the village are the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, the adjacent Palazzo Savelli and the Robazza Museum, which houses various paintings, bronzes and the great marble frieze that Maestro Mario Benedetto Robazza dedicated to Dante's Inferno.

The forest of Cerquone, with its centuries-old Turkey oaks, and the Pantano della Doganella, with its newt and salamander fauna, are ideal if you want to immerse yourself in nature.





VELLETRI

the birthplace of Emperor Augustus

The ancient city of the Volsci is rich in culinary and wine delicacies. In 2020 the bread of Velletri received the De. Co. award (an important recognition certificate). In the area there are many historic wineries that participate in the "Festa dell'uva" (Grape Festival). The town has created the "Carciofolata Velletrana", a festival where you can taste the typical artichokes alla Matticella. Velletri has always been rich in history and tradition and is abundant in churches, palaces and museums. The Church of Santa Lucia was built in 1032; the first construction of the Town Hall dates back to 1590; the Porta Napoletana dates back to 1511; the Palazzo dei Conservatori was

completed in 1822. During World War II, unfortunately, many of the monuments were severely damaged by bombing and subsequently rebuilt. Ugo Tognazzi chose it as a country residence and as a place where he lived out his culinary passion and experimented, and it was also the place where the actor found, in some cases, the inspiration for his film works. Today, the actor's residence houses a house museum. Not to forget the Archeological Civic Museum of Velletri "Oreste Nardini", where, among other things, the famous sarcophagus of the Labors of Hercules is exhibited, and the Diocesan Museum, where the precious "Croce Veliterna" is kept.

Find out more



Altitude
380 masl



Area
118,2 km²



Population
53.365

Curiosity

Velletri has hosted famous people throughout its long history: it was the birthplace of the father of Emperor Octavian Augustus; it hosted Goethe, who made it a stop on his Grand Tour in 1787, which he described in his famous "Italian Journey"; it had Giuseppe Garibaldi among its residents; more recently, it was finally chosen as a residence by Ugo Tognazzi.

How to get here

The public transport busses (Cotral) connect all the towns of the Castelli Romani with Rome and with each other.

They cross the **Via Appia** and the Via Latina (today **Via Anagnina / Tuscolana**), two former Roman consular roads that are now important arteries of the modern road network. **Train stations** are located in several towns of the Castelli Romani, such as Albano Laziale, Marino and Santa Maria delle Mole (Appia Antica), Frascati, Velletri, Castel Gandolfo, Ciampino and Colonna. By train you can reach Naples or Rome. Ciampino is also the location of **Rome G.B. Pastine International Airport**. Moreover, the **A1 Rome-Naples highway** has two exits in the direction of the Castelli Romani: Monte Porzio Catone and San Cesareo.





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