

5 appetising places for a VEGETARIAN MEAL

31 **ROMEOW CAT BISTROT**

Via Francesco

Negri 15

South Rome 📍

+39 06 5728 9203

romeowcatbistrot.com

Why watch cat videos when you can have the real deal, while sipping a hazelnut cappuccino and noshing on avocado and lime cake? True to form, these felines are largely indifferent to the customers, who come for the seasonal vegan and raw offerings. Desserts are the speciality. But savoury treats like Thai noodles and patatas bravas are also worth the visit.



32 **COL CAVOLO**

Via Cesare Bosi 7

Centre North 📍

+39 340 863 8176

A vegan bistrot that plays on the Italian expression 'with cabbage', meaning 'nonsense'. Though there's no baloney on this menu, which puts a vegan twist on traditional Italian dishes: think lasagna made with seitan, pesto, and mushrooms. Other dishes break with tradition completely, like the peanut cream pancake with caramelised onion and apple. Save room for the vegan tiramisu and cheesecake.



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GAY-FRIENDLY BARS AND CLUBS

146 **LIBRERIA TUBA**

Via del Pigneto 39-A
Centre East ⑥
+39 06 7039 9437
libreriatuba.it

A funky cafe/bookstore opened and run by a group of feminists in the heart of Pigneto's hip 'pedestrian island', with one of the best patios in the neighbourhood. By night, it combines cocktails with roundtables on feminist literature (the name 'Tuba' means fallopian tube in Italian). By day, it serves great cappuccino and croissants.

147 **MY BAR**

Via di San Giovanni
in Laterano 12
Colosseum and
San Giovanni ⑤
+39 06 700 4425

Close to the Colosseum, it's only natural that My Bar would get its fair share of tourists by day. But by night, the vibe takes on a rainbow hue, with the pride flag hoisted high at the entrance. The enviable street terrace makes it a communal space for all walks of life. It's also a good spot for karaoke.

148 **K MEN CLUB**

Via Amati Amato 6-8
East Rome ⑫
+39 349 587 6731
kmenclub.com

A techno-infused gay sex club with a variety of constantly changing themes, from rubber and leather to nude nights. There are both private rooms and public spaces, glory holes and mazes. Check the website for the dress code (or non-dress code) on the night you want to visit.

149 **POPPE PARTY**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The dance party that celebrates Britney Spears, Backstreet Boys, Mariah Carey, Spice Girls, and all the best – but mostly the worst – pop music ever. So if you're not that innocent, and you want it that way, head to POPPE Party to live your sweet, sweet fantasy and spice up your life. Check their Facebook page for dates and locations.

150 **MUCCASSASSINA**

AT: QUBE DISCO
Via di
Portonaccio 212
Tiburtino ⑪
muccassassina.com

Muccassassina (The Killer Cow) is Rome's most legendary gay club, open only on Fridays. It started in the early 90s as a fundraiser for gay rights initiatives. Since then it has become something of an institution in Italy thanks to the quality of its music and the celebrities who come here to party. The music is loud. The beats are fast. The DJs (often wear nothing but thongs).

5 unusual BOOKSHOPS

171 GIUFÀ LIBRERIA CAFFÈ

Via degli Aurunci 38
Centre East ⑥
+39 06 4436 1406
libreriagiufa.it

A funky bookshop/cafe co-op, where you can enjoy a creative panino, while reading Vonnegut. This shop is a hub for the alternative intellectual crowd in the hip San Lorenzo neighbourhood, thanks in part to hosting ongoing events, such as author talks and readings.

172 OTHERWISE BOOKSHOP

Via del Governo
Vecchio 80
Centre West ③
+39 06 687 9825
otherwisebookstore.com

This independent English-language bookstore stocks thousands of volumes in two rooms, ranging from novels to non-fiction, from children's books to graphic novels, from postcards to notebooks. It also regularly hosts events and meetings with authors and organises reading groups. It's open quite late at night.

173 IL MARE LIBRERIA INTERNAZIONALE

Via Leon Battista
Alberti 1
Testaccio and
Aventino ⑧
+39 347 614 1118
ilmare.com

Opened in 1975, this is, allegedly, the biggest bookstore in the world solely dedicated to books about the sea. Their catalogue includes over 35,000 titles, spanning from the history of navigation to marine biology and recipe books. You can also find maritime maps, boat and ship models, and compasses.

174 IL MUSEO DEL LOUVRE

Via della
Reginella 8-A
Centre West ③
+39 06 6880 7725
ilmuseodelouvre.com

A mix between a bookshop, an art gallery, and a Wunderkammer, the Museo del Louvre is divided in two contiguous spaces: one for the antiques and collectible books, ex-libris, art catalogues, and postcards all dedicated to the historic avantguards of the 20th century, the other for photos. The archive comprises more than 140,000 prints, most of which are vintage.

175 LIBRERIA FAHRENHEIT 451

Piazza Campo
de' Fiori 44
Centre West ③
+39 06 687 5930
libreriafahrenheit451.wordpress.com

There are still some gems left in the touristy Campo de' Fiori. Libreria Fahrenheit 451 is one of them. Store owners are particularly proud of their books on photography and their rare books, which include a signed edition of *Fahrenheit 451* dedicated to one of them, alongside other editions of Ray Bradbury's dystopian masterpiece.





THE TOMBS OF VIA LATINA



312 MAUSOLEUM OF THE ARDEATINE QUARRIES



313 PARTISAN ATTACK IN VIA RASELLA

Via Rasella 141
Trident ④

During the Nazi occupation of Rome, on March 23, 1944, a rubbish bin containing 40 pounds of TNT exploded in front of this still-pockmarked building, killing 33 marching German soldiers. The culprits were Italian resistance fighters. The Germans responded by executing 335 prisoners at random.

314 MUSSOLINI'S BALCONY

AT: PALAZZO VENEZIA
Piazza Venezia
Colosseum and
San Giovanni ⑤
+39 06 6999 4211
[vive.beniculturali.it/
it/palazzo-venezia](http://vive.beniculturali.it/it/palazzo-venezia)

You've seen the historical footage: Il Duce looming over Piazza Venezia, denouncing the Allied Powers while pounding his fist and raising his chin. Throughout the 1930s, the fascist dictator's office was located in the Sala del Mappamondo in the Palazzo Venezia, with a balcony that overlooked the square. After World War II, the balcony was sealed off in disgrace.

315 AIR RAID SIREN

Piazza della Bocca
della Verità 16
Testaccio and
Aventino ⑧

There were about 60 air raid sirens on top of Rome's roofs during World War II. Many of them were removed over time, but there are still 10 in place. They were produced by the company La Sonora, which still exists, and were activated with an electric wire system in case of an imminent attack. This one sticks out above the roof of the Fondazione Teatro dell'Opera di Roma and is best seen from the Circus Maximus.



363 **WALL OF FAME**
Via dei Magazzini
Generali
South Rome 14

A who's who of the personalities that influenced artist JB Rock, painted in alphabetical order, from vDante Alighieri to Zorro (a self-portrait of the artist). Extending nearly 60 metres, the parade of black-and-white faces on a red background includes Barack Obama, Pope John Paul II, Ray Charles, Malcolm X, and Quentin Tarantino.

364 **MUSEO MAAM**
Via Prenestina 913
East Rome 12

MAAM, an acronym that stands for Museum of the Other and the Elsewhere Metropoliz, is set inside a squat in the Rome outskirts. Its residents are some of the artists. Through word of mouth, they've invited universities, galleries, independent curators, and random people to take part since 2012. Open Saturdays.

365 **STRANIERA**
Viale dell'Acquedotto
Alessandrino
East Rome 12

The work by Moscow-based Alexey Luka translates to '(Female) Foreigner'. In a style akin to Picasso's cubism, distorted shapes converge to form a woman's face, encompassing the entire side of this residential building. The colour scheme is in harmony with the surrounding cityscape.

5 fun activities for a RAINY DAY

396 MUSEO LEONARDO DA VINCI EXPERIENCE

Via della
Conciliazione 19
Vatican ②
+39 06 683 3316
[leonardodavinci
museo.com](http://leonardodavinci.museo.com)

Here you won't hear museum attendants yell "Do not touch!". Quite the opposite. This is an interactive exhibition showcasing more than 50 full-scale reproductions of Leonardo's machines, so that you can try and figure out, firsthand, how these models work. Good audioguide to boot.

397 EXPLORA Via Flaminia 80-86 Centre North ⑨ +39 06 361 3776 mdbr.it

Explora is a hands-on museum of the world in miniature, where kids get to feel grown-up. They can pretend to be a farmer, a banker or the ever popular firefighter. There's also a food lab where kids learn to bake cookies. Book ahead.

398 CINEBIMBICITÀ AT: CINECITTÀ Via Tuscolana 1055 East Rome ⑬ +39 06 7229 3269 cinecittasimostra.it

Every Sunday, Rome's famous movie studios, Cinecittà, put on a series of activities for children. For the regular cost of admission, kids get to dress up in movie costumes, learn how to make storyboards and illustrate scenes while learning about the history of cinema. Activities are in Italian, but many don't require speaking.

399 VIGAMUS (VIDEO GAME MUSEUM)

Via Sabotino 4
Vatican ②
+39 06 3751 8325
vigamus.com

Vigamus is a video game museum that starts in the 1950s with *Tennis for Two*, through *Pong* in the 70s, *Pacman* in the 80s, all the way to the virtual reality of today. Many games are available to play for free. Every Monday and Thursday it hosts VR days, where you can experience the Oculus Room.

400 MUSEO DELLA MEMORIA GIOCOSA

Via Marco Vincenzo
Coronelli 26
East Rome ⑫
+39 06 2170 0782
lamemoriagiocosa.it

The Museum of Childhood Memories revolves around the toy collection of an Austrian man who escaped Nazism as a child. As an adult, he continued collecting European, Asian, and American toys. The museum also has a theatre that puts on children's shows. Admission is free. Call ahead for booking.



396 MUSEO LEONARDO DA VINCI EXPERIENCE

449 **FREE BIKE TOURS ROME**

Via delle Botteghe Oscure 35 / Piazza dei Calcarari 4
Centre West ③
+39 328 562 5201
freebiketoursrome.com

Rather than free, these bike tours operate on a 'pay what you want' basis, whereby you pay at the end of your tour whatever you think is fair. Clients meet their guide at one of the two meeting points, where they rent a bike for 10 euro. Rides last for about four hours, and can be entirely customised based on what you'd like to see, from the countryside of the Appian Way, to the urban revival of Centocelle.

450 **SENZA FRENI CICLOFFICINE**

Via dei Leutari 30A/31
Centre West ③
+39 348 777 3530

A great little bike shop just behind Piazza Navona. You can rent your two wheels for the day for about 10 euro. They work long hours, so you can start your day bright and early (8.30 am) and go as long and as far as your legs will take you (but they do close at 8 pm). They also restore and revamp old bikes.



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SPORTS CENTRES
and CLUBS

451 **COMPLESSO NATATORIO DEL FORO ITALICO**

Piazza Lauro de Bosis 3
Aurelio ①
+39 06 3272 3315
federnuoto.it/centri-federali/c-f-complesso-natatorio-foro-italico

One of Italy's premier aquatics centres, the Complesso Natatorio del Foro Italico dates back to 1959 when it was built to host the swimming portion of the modern pentathlon of the 1960 Summer Olympics. It includes five pools, two of which are covered, offering various levels of swimming training.

