

# EATING OUT IN ROME

## THE RED CAT RECOMMENDS

There are endless numbers of restaurants, trattorias, osterias and pizzerias in Rome, most of them good, and some of them excellent. These days you get more and better for your money in Italy than in most of the US or UK. As there, the big cities are more expensive, and Rome is no exception. It's easier now to keep score because the Euro is a little more than a dollar.

If you're traveling on an expense account, want to impress someone, or money is no object you might want to try:

- Hosteria dell'Orso, via dei Soldati (evenings only)
- Dell'Hotel Excelsior, via Veneto 125. Open every day
- Le Maschere and Le Rally del Grande Hotel, via Orlando 3. every day
- La Pergola at Hilton Hotel
- Le Jardin del Lord Byron Hotel- small and out of the way but highly regarded.

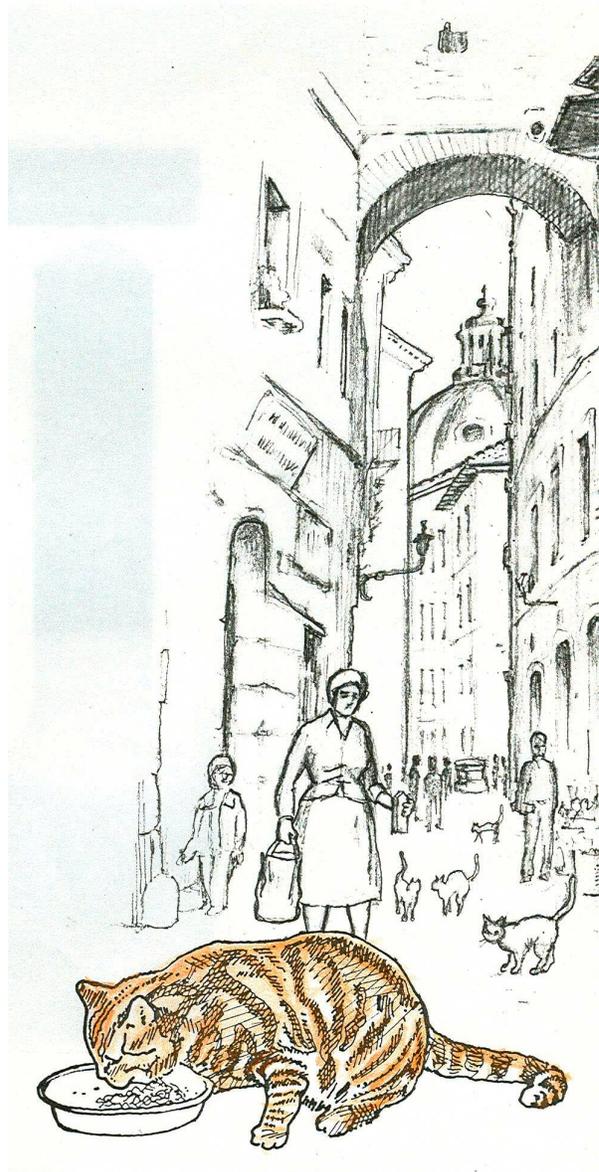
Here's a list of restaurants by neighborhood. I can't assure that they are still in operation or what their prices run to these days, but at last look, they were worth considering. Price ranges are (H) high, (M) moderate and (L) low.

### **Colosseum, San Giovanni, Termini**

- Charly's Sauciere- via San Giovanni 268 (Swiss French) H.
- Apicio- via Principe Amedeo 3; H-M
- Cannavota- Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano 20, M-L
- Osteria Piccioni- via del Boschetto 16, L

### **Piazza del Popolo, Pantheon**

- Carmelo alla Rossetta- via della Rosetta 9, closed Sunday H-M seafood near the Pantheon
- La Campana – vicolo della Campana 18, closed Mon. very old place. M
- Wiener Bierhaus- via della Croce 22, a change of pace from Italian food. M



### **Via Veneto to Piazza Venezia**

- Andrea- via Sardegna 26, closed Sun. H-M Food from the Marche.
- Giovanni- via Marche 19, closed Sat. M family restaurant.
- Loreto- via Valenziani 19, H-M Good seafood.
- Al Moro- Vicolo delle Bolette, closed Sun. H-M. Between Trevi fountain and via del Corso. Clientele of regulars.
- Piccolo Mondo- via Aurora 39, popular crowded restaurant. M. Closed Sun.
- Da Enzo- Vicolo dello Scavolino, little simple trattoria near Trevi Fountain where you can eat inexpensively. L. Closed Sun.

### **Historic Center, Piazza Navona, Campo dei Fiori**

- Papa' Giovanni- via dei Sediari 4, H. closed Sun. Features truffles on most dishes.
- L'Eau Vive- via Monterone 85, international (mostly French) food served up by singing nuns from all over the world. H-M. Closed Sunday.
- I Preistorici- via Ortebelli 13, tiny restaurant with imaginative dishes. H-M. Closed Sun.
- Antica Trattoria Polese- Piazza Sforza Cesarini 40, M-L. Closed Tues. Cuisine of Friuli.

### **Trastevere and Circus Maximus**

- Galeazzi- Piazza S. Maria in Trastevere 3/3a, seafood right in the heart of Trastevere. Closed Mon. H-M.
- Antica Pesa- via Garibaldi 18, M. Closed Thurs. Small typical restaurant with nice garden.
- Da Ciceruaccio- via del Porto 1, M. Closed Mon, open eves only. Waiters in prison garb insult the customers.
- Alvaro al Circo Massimo- via del Circo Massimo 53, M. Features fish and mushrooms.

### **Prati and the Vatican**

- La Rustichella- via Angelo Emo 1, M. One of the Red Cat's kittens swears by the spinach gnocchi and the risotto alla crema di scampi. Near Vatican Museum.
- Dante Taberna dei Gracchi- via dei Gracchi 266, Closed Sunday eve. and Monday. Abruzzese place with lamb and generous portions. H-M
- La Maioletta- via Aurelia antica 270 at via Olimpia. M. closed Monday. More Abruzzese cooking in a villa. M.
- La Fiorentina- via Andrea Dorea 18/22 Closed Wed. M-L

### **Parioli and Salario**

Coriolano- via Ancona 14, Closed Sun. H-M. Roman family run restaurant.

Club 56- via Basento 56- Was the hobby of a teacher who likes to cook. Who knows if he's still at it. Open evenings & closed Sun. M.

Unione Sarda- via Basento 74, M. Closed Sun. Good appetizers, seafood, rabbit, pork and lamb.

Al Ceppo- via Panama 2/4 (at Piazza Ungheria) Closed Mon. H-M. An old favorite of the Red Cat, it has good pasta and grilled meats.

Caminetto- Viale Parioli 89, Closed Thursday. H-M. Another old favorite.

Note: If there's a glutton among your traveling companions, or if you just like to eat and want to have a good time, go to one of the following, but make reservations beforehand, and if possible go in a group of four or more;

- Ambasciata d'Abruzzo- via Tacchini 26, Closed Sunday
  - Consolato s'Abruzzo- Piazza Elio Callisto 15. Closed Sunday evening and Monday.
- These two restaurants are similar. To start, they load up your table with a vast quantity of salami, cheeses, hams, etc., followed by two or three types of pasta, then usually two main dishes. You don't select anything except maybe dessert. You'll be supplied with water, red and white wine and after dessert they'll bring out lots of bottles of liqueurs, the most deadly of which is Centerbe, a tasty 140 proof drain cleaner. Not the most refined places in Rome but fun and good value for a reasonable fixed price. The waiters have no qualms about shooing you out when it's time to go.

Everyone has their favorite restaurants in Rome. In the mid 70's one that I loved and frequented regularly was the Trattoria Capannelle on via Appia across the road from the Capannelle Racetrack. The food was simple but good, and reasonable. The place tended to be populated by jockeys and large fat gamblers with cigars. It was also decorated with the worst racehorse paintings in creation. Just hope it hasn't gone out of business, or worse, been given a facelift to upgrade it.

Buon Appetito!

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