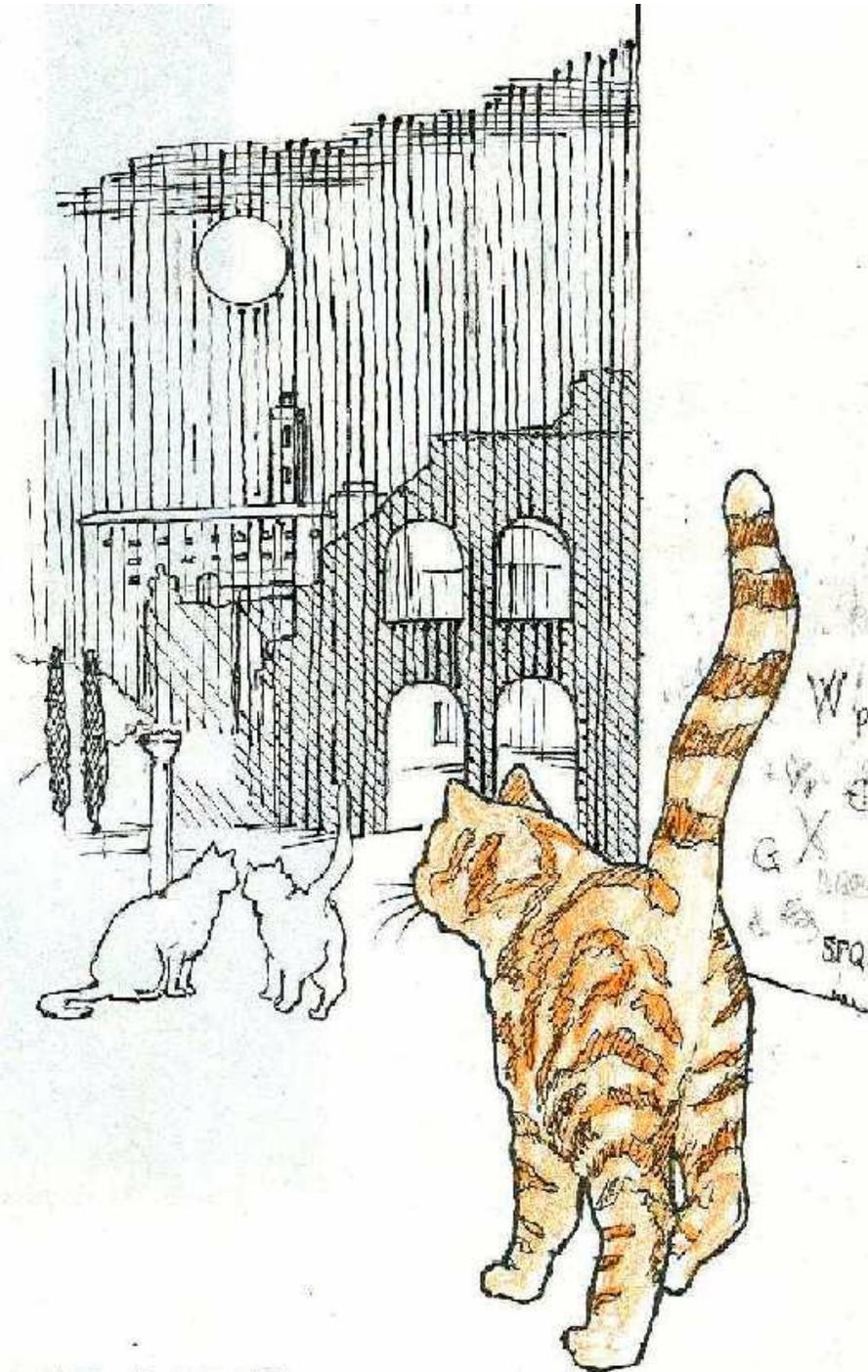


Social life in Rome centers around eating. There are concerts, cinema, nightclubs, discoteques, etc., but people spend long evenings in restaurants more than anything else. Discos, jazz clubs and piano bars get going later, when most of the city is asleep.



NIGHT LIFE

Any references to specific establishments are to be questioned. This was first written some time ago and these places come and go in an instant.

**Bars**- The term “bar” in Italy generally refers to what are essentially stand-up coffee bars where you can get anything from an ice cream cone to a glass of whiskey. They are for quick refueling, not places to linger over a drink or look for a mate.

**“American bars”**- fulfill the latter needs. Most hotels have them and there are a few around town such as Harry’s Bar at the top of the Via Veneto, where you can enjoy a drink in pleasant surroundings. The term “pub” has become increasingly popular as young people learn to drink like Englishmen, Irishmen or Americans.

**Piano bars**- Intimate places where drinks and conversation mingle with live music. They usually open only in the evening and stay open late. A few are or were clustered around Piazza del Popolo, on or just off of via Ripetta, including Le Prive, Simon Pub, Mirabelle and Il Dito al Naso. Hostaria del Orso, where Michelangelo lived while painting the Sistine Chapel, is (or was) another piano bar, but also a discoteque and expensive restaurant. The Little Bar, in via Gregoriana, 54/a was another favorite of prosperous American expatriots in a happier time.

**Nightclubs**- There aren’t many left. For the most part, they’ve given way to the discos, but as long as there are prosperous and foolish tourists ready to part with their cash, there will have to be a place to fill this need.

**Jazz Clubs**- When the Music Inn, the Centro Jazz St. Louis, and the Mississippi Jazz Club held sway, there was good value for the money. Alas, they’re gone. Others have probably risen but the only older ones I’m aware of that are apparently still in business are the Club Latino, near the Mattatoio on the south side of town, and the Alexanderplatz in Prati.

**Discotecques**- I won’t even try. They have an average life span of about 6 months. Check out local entertainment newspapers if that’s your thing.

**Concerts**- A few years ago, Rome finally got a first rate new concert hall complex, the Auditorium, on the north side of town, between Villa Glori and Ponte Milvio. There are three concert venues, with a wide variety of events.

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