

DAILY TOUR

CASTELLI ROMANI WITH LOCAL PRODUCTS TASTING



Fountain of Neptune, Papal gardens, CASTEL GANDOLFO

DESCRIPTION

Our first stop will be **Castel Gandolfo**.

This village, overlooking the Albano Lake, has been the holiday destination of popes, cardinals and Roman Curia for centuries. Originally the residence of the Savelli Family, Urban VII transformed it into a Papal Palace in 1623. It also houses the most important astronomical observatory, known as "the Vatican Observatory". The surrounding countryside also boasts numerous valuable monuments: the Church of St. Thomas of Villanova by Gian Lorenzo Bernini; a 16th-Century Roman gate; the majestic Villa Clodius, built in the Republican era; the Baths of Diana, created under Domitian's rule. Equally-beautiful and intriguing are the remains of the ancient villas of Castel Gandolfo, the Albanum Domitiani (the country house of the Emperor Domitian), and Villa Barberini and Villa Cybo.

Next is the visit of **Ariccia**, artistic treasure of Castelli Romani.

Here we will have the chance to see the finest architectural examples of the European Baroque: the monumental complex of Piazza di Corte -a masterpiece of Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Carlo Fontana. The complex includes Chigi Palace, with its rich halls, stucco decorations and precious antiques, the large park surrounding it, and the Collegiate Church of Santa Maria Assunta, inspired by the Pantheon in Rome. Do not miss the Sanctuary of Santa Maria di Galloro and the deconsecrated Church of San Nicola di Bari. You will appreciate this area's Fraschette, local restaurants selling the delicious Ariccia pork (porchetta).

Enjoy a light lunch at the "Chiosco La Selvotta", an open air Fraschetta within a wonderful wood of chestnut trees where the temperature never climbs over 20° C -not even in July. It is open from spring to fall, only. The menu offers the typical local pork with the only perfect wine to go with, which is the Romanella Ghiacciata, a kind of lightly sweet and prickling wine. All dishes are absolutely delicious!!!

After this lovely experience we move to **Frascati**.

The town is famous for its villas built by the papal nobility in the 16th Century, which served as lodging for the representative delegation and as summer vacation residences. These beautiful villas, built by the most prestigious architects and artists of the 16th and 17th centuries, are surrounded by cultivated land, forests and scenic gardens. Other well-known villas are: Villa Aldobrandini, Villa Falconieri, Villa Torlonia, Villa Mercedes, Villa Grazioli and Villa Mondragone.

In Frascati we will also have the possibility to taste the typical wine of the Frascati area by visiting an antique winery.

THE TOUR INCLUDES

- » Full day local guide
- » Visit of Castel Gandolfo, Ariccia and Frascati
- » Light lunch with porchetta
- » Visit to an old wine cellar with wine tasting
- » Taxes

UPON REQUEST

- » Transfer
- » Entrance fee to museums or other

INFORMATION

- » In case of bad weather the lunch will be served in another local restaurant