

LIVING &gt; TRAVEL

# 24 Hours in Rome: An Insider's Guide



MAY 11, 2016 4:11 PM  
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Claudia Schiffer in Rome

Photographed by Arthur Elgort, *Vogue*, December 1994



The drive into Rome from Fiumicino Airport quickly (or not so quickly, depending on traffic) goes from uninteresting to spellbinding. Such is the power of this some-2,770-year-old city, where ruins innumerable still stand among telephone poles and Vespa tracks, and where imposing umbrella pines filter sunlight that's somehow both golden and delicate. Even at its dirtiest, Rome entrances from the moment you cross its threshold.

Wanderlust on a time budget, though, can make "soaking it all in" a bit tricky. But with a little focus and determination, anywhere can be absorbed within 24 hours. Where better to start, then, than a place as complex and dynamic as Rome?



The Penthouse Suite at the Baglioni Hotel Regina

Photo: Courtesy of the Baglioni Hotel Regina



**9:00 a.m., approximately:** Pull up to your hotel. If you're a big spender, go for the Penthouse Suite at the Baglioni Hotel Regina on Via Veneto—the master bedroom looks, through floor-to-ceiling glass windows, straight at the Vatican and the sunset (the hotel has more affordably priced rooms, too). Drop off your bags and get to walking. If you've arrived from the U.S., chances are you've flown overnight, and any stalling will allow jet lag to sink its teeth in.

**9:30 a.m.:** Stop by the Trevi Fountain. Yes, it's highly, highly touristy, but nonetheless, it's beautiful to behold, especially so after a recent refurbishment underwritten by Fendi. Do what my grandfather taught me: Turn your back to the fountain and throw a coin over your shoulder. The legend is that it will guarantee a trip back to Rome—I like to think of it more as an amped-up version of the standard mall-fountain coin toss. Then keep wandering—you can even walk to the Colosseum (just a lap around the outside will do; the lines to get in are often very long).



Porto Fluviale

Photo: Courtesy of Porto Fluviale





**11:30 a.m.:** Recharge over a late breakfast/early lunch at Porto Fluviale, a restaurant favored by young Romans, according to Maria Pasquale, the brainchild behind the popular blog Heart Rome. It offers a pizzeria and a cicchetti menu (a Venetian phrase for individual canapés and snacks). Also, have an Aperol Spritz while you're at it, because it seems everyone in Italy drinks them.

**1:30 p.m.:** Catch an Uber to the Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana, a stunning building a bit further afield from central Rome that now serves as Fendi's global headquarters. The travertine marble-clad building was originally commissioned by Benito Mussolini in 1935. In recent cultural fame, besides Fendi's revamp, it also appeared in *Zoolander 2* as the office for House of Atoz, Kristen Wiig's faux fashion empire.



The Sistine Chapel

Photo: Courtesy of The Sistine Chapel



**3:30 p.m.:** The Sistine Chapel. Because if you're only in Rome once, for just one day, it would be a sin not to see it. Michelangelo's ceiling is a thousand times more magnificent in real life.

**5:00 p.m.:** Okay, you're human, rest for a little bit at the hotel, or amble around Via Veneto—the home of la dolce vita.



Caffè Propaganda

Photo: Courtesy of Propaganda Restaurant



**7:00 p.m.:** Head for dinner at Caffè Propaganda, centrally located near the Colosseum, for contemporary Italian fare. Pasquale says: “It has a stunning black-and-white bistro-esque feel. The menu changes regularly but always features a few Roman classics and modern twists. The cocktails are some of the best in the city.”

**9:00 p.m.:** Enjoy a quick drink and cigar at the Jerry Thomas Project, one of Rome’s speakeasies (you’ll need to do some sleuthing to gain entry—this is still an exclusive property). Alternatively, if you’re in Rome in the summer months and a teetotaler, check out an outdoor movie on Tiber Island.

**End of the day:** Head back to the Hotel Regina and finally get some solid sleep. You’ll be leaving in the morning.