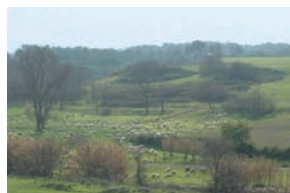




little humid and low zone. At the edges of the woods we can find hawthorns and blackthorns, in the shady zones shrubs made up by species such as cornelian cherry and berretta del prete. In fresher zones there are remarkable spreads of blackberry bushes and true ferns. Many wide



zones are kept at meadow-pasture, characteristic of the typical Roman countryside scenery. Among the city's various green areas the Caffarella Valley is by far the one that houses the largest number of animal species. Among the amphibians we can find green frogs and cristate tritons, common and emerald toads; among the reptiles natrixes, rat snakes,

colubers and Aesculapian snakes, green and wall lizards, geckos and emidactyls; among the birds the most remarkable species are those of the ash heron, which can be found along with the water rail, the water-hen and sometimes the snipe. Along the Almone river seldom we can find the kingfisher, the white dancer and the yellow dancer and the river nightingale. City pigeons, common swifts, house-martins and chimney-sweeper redstarts are widespread in the area. The bird-fauna sums up to a total of 78 species, and there are 15 mammal species. It is also possible to find many invertebrates, among which some insect species once typical of the Roman countryside and now vanished or very rare elsewhere.



La valle della Caffarella



VISITING CAFFARELLA VALLEY

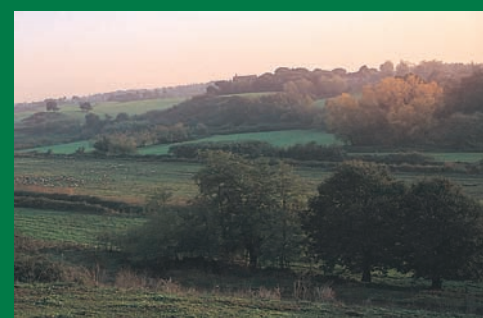
The Caffarella Valley can be visited daily. It can be easily reached by underground or by bus both from Via Latina and from Via Appia Antica. For information, guided tours and bicycle rental, Punto Info Appia Antica 5S, open Mon-Sun; Sundays and holidays also Largo Tacchi Venturi.

Info: 06 5135316
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- PARCO APPIA ANTICA
 - Park perimeter
- CAFFARELLA VALLEY
 - public areas
 - Private areas
- PEDESTRIAN TRAILS
- ENTRANCES

ENTE PARCO REGIONALE DELL'APPIA ANTICA
 Parc's main offices and visitors centre
 Via Appia Antica 42
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AURELIO CANDIDO & PARTNERS



THE CAFFARELLA VALLEY



PARCO REGIONALE DELL'APPIA ANTICA

The Caffarella Valley is located near the Aurelian Walls and between two ancient roman roads, Via Appia and Via Latina, both leading to southern Italy. The valley played an important role both in the history and in the myths and legends of Rome: along the river Almona, an affluent of the Tiber, important rites connected with the mysteries of the Mother Goddess Cybeles were held at the Ides of March; a sacred wood, whose traces can still be seen, was here preserved since the early times of the city; here a secluded nymphaeum, according to the legend, was credited to be the romantic meeting place of Numa Pompilio and his lover and counsellor, the nymph Egeria. During the Republic, and in the centuries of the Empire, the land housed big country estates and villas.

The valley's rural character didn't change after the fall of Rome, as the first towers rose to watch the fields,

farm-houses and mills. In the 16th century, in the valley was settled a big farm owned by the Caffarelli family (hence



THE PARK OF THE APPIA ANTICA HAS BEEN DECLARED PROTECTED SINCE 1988.

It is a protected area established in 1988 by a regional law. The area includes the vast portion of the Agro Romano crossed by the first 16 km of the ancient consular way (from Porta San Sebastiano to the Appia Nuova crossing at Frattocchie); the area of the Caffarella Valley; the archaeological complex of Via Latina tombs; the area close to the Tuscolana way which houses many remains of the important republican and imperial age aqueducts.

the name). After some years, the property passed under the possession of the Pallavicinis and then of the Torlonias, thus preserving those typical "romanlike" country landscapes that made many painters and artists fall in love with them. In the fifties of 20th century, an overflowing urban growth almost ended this millenniums-long history, as the valley was risking to be entirely covered by a concrete flood. Thanks to the political campaigns led by scholars and intellectuals, among which Antonio Cederna is to be remembered, and followed by an ever-growing number of citizens, the valley suffered only little damage and eventually

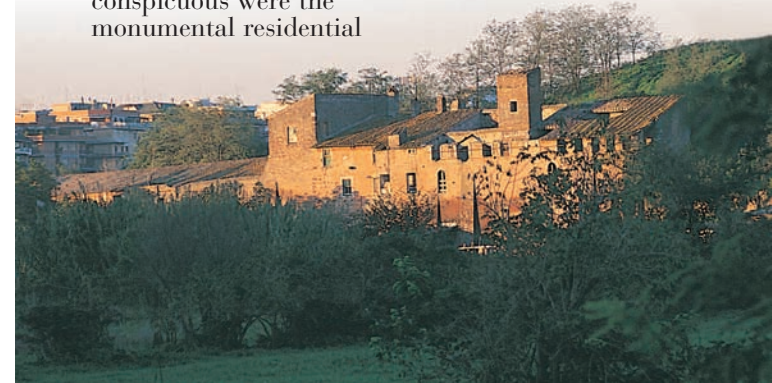
became part of the Appia Antica Regional Park. The larger part of the land (132 hectares) was restored at the end of the 90s by Rome Municipality, and now is ready for all to enjoy. A walk in the Caffarella is today an exciting adventure in a unique setting, ranging from traces of Roman history, to grazing cattle and a blooming nature - only a step away from Rome's historic centre.

The history of human occupation shows no interruptions from pre-modern and archaic age to today.



In fact, it is easy to understand how early the valley was inhabited, located as it is in a very fertile area with an orography that enables a quick passage to the Colli Albani and to the southern Italy. The highest development stage was between II century b.C. and the beginning of the imperial age when the valley starts to be crowded by sepulchres, dovecotes, little temples and room tombs, while in the neighbouring areas many big villas start to appear - some of them will remain in use up to the late centuries on Rome after the falling of The Empire. Among these villas, very conspicuous were the monumental residential

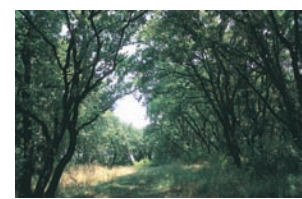
house built by Herod Atticus and his wife Annia Regilla and, later, the great complex built around Massentius imperial palace. During the early Middle Age the area around the Appia belonged to the Counts Tuscolani that fortified and militarised it to control every transit to their Tuscolo possessions. The abundance of water in this area allowed agricultural and handicraft activities, so there were built several water-powered mills and fulling plants. The reunification of all the allotments into one large estate started in 1529 with Giovanni Pietro Caffarelli. Later the property of the estate passed to the princes Pallavicini and in 1816 was bought by the duke Giovanni Torlonia. The continuous maintenance and improvement works by the Torlonias,



mainly to the complex hydric network, surely helped to preserve the countrylike characteristic scenery that the estate had acquired since the first works by the Caffarellis. Starting from the 1920s an exception to the town planning-scheme provides a division of the valley into streets and lots, and this was confirmed by the 1931 and 1953 plans. The struggle to preserve the valley started in that year. Only in 1981, Rome Municipality

approved a restoration project for this area and in 1988 the area became part of the Appia Antica Regional Park. In 1992 and 1996 Rome municipality allocated the funds necessary to acquire and finally restore the largest part of the area.

Human millenniums-long presence and intense agricultural activity had inevitably brought a radical change in the natural vegetable mantle.



Nevertheless elements of this territory's original nature have survived and thanks to the recent restoration have been preserved. Therefore, in the valley today we can recognise: some strips of oak wood, remains of the caducous wood, and in the most humid zones we can find

elm and "berretta del prete" (priest's hat); elements of Mediterranean bush, remains of the evergreen elm wood; white willows and poplars remains of the swampy wood; another residue of the alluvial forest, made up by a humid bay-oak wood of a high naturalistic value which occupies a

