

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Circus Maximus

#### What to see

##### Circus Maximus

The Circus Maximus lies between the Palatine and the Aventine Hills, in the so-called Valle Murcia, and it is mainly buried at 8 meters below sea level. First Arena to be built, it dates back to 4th century BC.; it was also the largest in Rome, with its 10.000 square meters and a capacity of 300.000 spectators. In Ancient Rome circuses were used for sports, races, athletic contests and for religious and triumphal celebrations (Iudus). Chariot races consisted in seven rounds and a whole competition in 24 races; in front of the finish lines were buried the altars of the god Conso, ancient Latin divinity, protector of field's working, of harvests and crop's conservation.

In 31 b. C., after the battle of Azio, Emperor Augustus wanted to cover the original duff and wood building with beautiful marbles and decorations: the new circus was 640 meters long and 118 meters wide, and in 10 BC Augustus decided also to place on the longitudinal axis in the centre of the arena (spina) an obelisk coming from Heliopolis (Egypt). The obelisk is 24,62 meters high and it is now located in Piazza del Popolo. Another Egyptian obelisk coming from Karnak was added by Emperor Constantine in 357 AD. This one is 32,80 meters high and now it is placed in Piazza del Laterano. After the fall of Roman Empire the Circus was abandoned and almost completely filled up; in 1645 a Jewish graveyard was founded on it and during the 19th century even a gasometer was built there and pulled down only in 1911.

The whole area was re-developed and cleared from all the buildings in 1934. The only one left was the Torre della Molfetta: St. Francis, the patron of Italy, lived there for a while.

Wheelchair access: yes

##### Palatine Hill

From the panoramic terrace in Piazzale Ugo La Malfa, in front of the Mazzini Monument by Ettore Ferrari (1949), you can have a view over the Palatine Hill, where the twins Romulus and Remus, according to the legend, were brought up by a she-wolf and where Rome was founded. From the 1st century BC the Palatine became the most wanted residence for important Roman citizens (such as the poet Catullus and the orator Cicero) and then it was also chosen by the Emperors for their regal palaces. Later on even Gothic Kings, Byzantine Exarches and Popes used to live there. During the 16th century the property of the hill was transferred to the Farnese Family and then to the Borboni from Naples.

Nowadays you can admire the magnificent ruins of Domus Augustana (part of the Palace of Domitian), called this way because, for 300 years, it had been the official residence of the Emperors who came after Domitians. Those Emperors were named "Augusti". It is a two-floor-building, whose façade overlooks the Circus Maximus. Close to the Domus Augustana you can visit the Palace of Septimius Severus, who extended the surface of the hill using supporting arcades: the residence, equipped with thermae, overhung the side of the slope thanks to sturdy load-bearing arches, with a dominating position over the Circus Maximus.

Entrance: Via San Gregorio, 30 or Piazza Santa Maria Nova, 53

Timetables: Mon-Wed-Sat: 09:00 a.m. – 02:00 p.m. (entry allowed until one hour before closing time)

Tue-Sun: 09:00 a.m. – two hours before sunset

Tariffs: 8 Euro

Toilets and bookshop: yes

Useful Information: Closed on national holidays

Wheelchair access: no

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Baths of Caracalla

#### What to see

##### Thermae of Caracalla

In ancient Rome there were more than 170 public baths, the “Balnea”, Greek name ( just like “thermae”) associated to the idea of “warm”, used also to name the spa built by Agrippa close to the Pantheon in 25-19 BC. The imposing construction of the Thermae of Caracalla began in 212 AD with Emperor Marco Aurelio Severo Antonino Bassiano (Caracalla) and finished in 216 AD, but under the reigns of Eliogabalo and Alessandro Severo they were even enlarged with a long arcade fence. The outer barrier measured 337 meters by 328, over an area of 11 hectares: they could host 2.000 bathers and there were also a Gymnasium, two libraries ( a Latin one and a Greek one), an Art Gallery and Gardens. The huge rooms, with alternations of niches and exedras, were richly decorated with coloured marbles, statues and mosaics and were covered with vaulted roofs. The “Calidarium” had a peculiar structure, with circular plan and an imposing dome (34 meters of diameter) resting on eight huge columns, four of which are still visible. The Calidarium has always been a model for the construction of mausoleums and early Christian sacred buildings. The cistern was fed by the “Acqua Marcia” aqueduct, with a flow of 80.000 cubic meters.

The thermae went on functioning for 300 years, until the Goths, during their occupation, cut off the aqueducts ruining the whole structure. A great number of the rich decorations of the Thermae of Caracalla were taken away in order to decorate the Church of St. Maria in Trastevere; since the 16th century some architectural elements have been decorating Palazzo Farnese, while since 1612 two big monolithic basins of Egyptian granite, 5,50 meters long, were moved in the place in front of Palazzo Farnese itself. Finally some floor mosaics are kept in the Museo Gregoriano Profano in the Vatican City. From 1938 to 2000 the Calidarium area has been a charming seat for summer concerts and performances by the Opera House.

Address: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 52

Timetables: Summer – 09:00 a.m.-07:30 p.m. (06:30 p.m. Tue-Sun)

Winter – 09:00 a.m.-04:30 p.m. (03:30 p.m. Tue-Sun)

Monday – 09:00 a.m.-02:00 p.m. (01:00 p.m.)

Tariffs: 6 Euro

Toilets: yes

Useful Information: Tel. 065758626/0639967700

Wheelchair access: no

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Porta di San Sebastiano/ Museum of the walls

#### What to see

##### Casina del Cardinal Bessarione

This very rare example of suburban Renaissance villa was used as a small hospital in early 14th century, then as a monastery and, towards the half of 1800, it became a country tavern. The restoration brought the internal decorations and the nice Italian garden back to their ancient splendour. The bond with Cardinal Bessarione, humanist and bishop in the Tuscolo, might be ascribed to the fact that the nearby Church of St. Cesareo was a fixture of the Tuscolo Episcopate. The Church was built upon Roman ruins dating back to 2nd century BC and has a Renaissance façade by Giacomo della Porta; on the inside you can admire mosaics and decorations from the period of Pope Clemente VIII (XVI th century), whose coat of arms is still adorning the ceiling.

Address: Via di Porta di San Sebastiano,9

Useful Information: Tel. 0667103833 – Closed for restauration work

##### Arch of Drusus

Close to Porta St. Sebastiano rises the Arch of Druso, actually a fornix with monumental forms, with which the Aqueduct Antoniniano stepped over Via Appia, in order to reach and supply the Thermae of Caracalla.

Address: Via di Porta di San Sebastiano

##### Museum of the Walls

Since 1990 the inside of Porta St. Sebastiano is the seat of the Museum of the Walls, with display panels, plastic models of the different steps of the building of the walls, as well as plaster casts of some decorative elements. The didactic course (divided into ancient, medieval and modern sections) runs through the story and the architectonic transformations of the town walls which have defended Rome from 200 AD up to the Breach of Porta Pia in 1870. Some of the panels are dedicated to the fortifications during Royal Time and the Republic and to the history of the ancient Via Appia.

From the Museum you have access to the rounds way all along the top of the walls as far as the fornices in Via Cristoforo Colombo and you will surely enjoy the breathtaking view from the two Towers.

Address :Via di Porta San Sebastiano, 18

Timetables: Tue-Sat: 09:00 a.m.-07:00 p.m. (ticket office closing time: 06:30 p.m.)

Sun: 09:00 a.m.-05:00 p.m. (ticket office closing time: 04:30 p.m.)

Tariffs: 2,60 Euro

Toilets and bookshop: yes

Useful Information: Closed on Mondays and on national holidays. Tel: 0670475284.

Wheelchair access: no

##### Porta St. Sebastiano

Originally known as Porta Appia, it was renamed during Christian age, rebuilt by Onorio and restored by Belisarius in 400 AD. It is flanked by two medieval Towers and it leans against the Aurelian Walls, the imposing town walls built by Emperor Aureliano (270-275 AD) and finished by his successor Probo (276-282 a.C.). The walls incorporated the Seven Hills, thus protecting Rome from the Marcomanni, the Quadi, the Iatungi and the German, defeated by Aurelian himself. The walls were 19 kilometres long, 6 meters high and 3 meters thick and they had 18 doors and 381 towers.

The present aspect of the Gate is the result of several transformations throughout centuries; the last triumphal cortege entering the city from Via Appia was the one led by Marcantonio Colonna after the victory of Lepanto over the Turks in 1571.

# Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

## Information point Parco Regionale Appia Antica

### What to see

#### Information Point Parco Regionale Appia Antica

Established by Regional Law n°66 of November 10th 1988, with its own State Holding Company, in 2002 the park was enlarged with the annexation of Tor Marancia Estate to the Park of Caffarella, the Park of Acquadotti and the Area of Latin Tombs, covering an area of around 3,500 hectares; the aim is the junction to the Roman Forum and the Park of Castelli Romani with the removal of all the incompatible productive assets.

The seat of the Foundation was established in the former Latina Paper Mill, in the nearby of the Tomba di Geta and the Sepolcro di Priscilla. Within the perimeter of the Park run the first 16 km. of the track of ancient Via Appia, built by the censor Appio Claudio. It was the first great route to the south and it followed the various steps of Roman Conquest: it first connected Rome to Capua, then, in 268 BC, it was extended to Benevento, and in 191 BC it to Brindisi, which could be reached, after a 13-day-run, in a distance of 365 miles (540 km.): each 10 miles (14 km.) there was a post-stage for horse change (Stationes) and refreshment-places for travellers (Mansiones). Via Appia was the most important consular road, as to be called "Regina Viarum" (the queen of roads) and to be lined by tombs and funerary monuments, as the "Law of the Twelve Tables" forbade burials within Rome's urban area.

Address: Via Appia Antica, 58/60

Timetables: Mon-Fri 09:30 a.m.-01:30 p.m. / 02:30 p.m.-05:30 p.m.

Sunday and holiday 09:00 a.m.-05:30 p.m.

Tariffs: On request guided Tours on foot or by bike for groups of at least 15 persons.

Toilets and bookshop: yes

Useful information: Tel. 065126314/065135316.

Via Appia Antica is closed to private traffic on Sundays and National Holidays

Wheelchair access: yes

#### Church Domine Quo Vadis?

The Church is also called St. Maria in Palmis. Tradition has it, and this was made popular by Polish writer Sicutkiewicz, that it was built on the place where Jesus appeared to St. Peter, running away from Rome to escape martyrdom, in order to convince him to go back and face his destiny. Jesus left his footprints on a marble slab, but actually the slab, a copy of the original conserved in the Basilica of St. Sebastiano, is only a typical example of a pagan ex voto for the success of a journey.

Address: Via Appia Antica, crossroads with Via Ardeatina

Timetables: Open during the Holy Mass.

Wheelchair access: yes

#### The tomb of Priscilla

Opposite the "Domine quo Vadis?" church, at the crossroads between the via Appia and the via Ardeatina, stands the sepulchre that is thought Tito Flavio Abascanto, influential liberto of the emperor Domitianus, had built for his wife Priscilla, who died young and whose funeral is described by the poet Statius (Silvae, V,1).

The base of the sepulchre is quadrangular, it was originally covered in blocks of travertino stone and contains a burial chamber set out as a Greek cross in which the sarcophagi were placed and upon which a cylindrical structure with thirteen niches rests. The entrance to the tomb was from the side opposite the via Appia: the original access is occluded by an early twentieth century farm house, where cheese was made until a few decades ago. In late mediaeval times a watch tower made of re-used brick and pieces of marble was added to the sepulchre.

Address: Via Appia Antica, 76

Timetables: open on Sunday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Tariffs: free entrance

Wheelchair access: yes

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Caffarella Valley

#### What to see

##### Caffarella Valley

The Valley, during the Middle Ages, was named “Vallis Marmorea” (Valley of Marble), thanks to the rests of many ancient buildings. An affluent of the river Tiber, the river Almone, always sacred to Romans, runs through the valley and there is also a “sacred wood”, where stood the Nymphaeum of Egeria. Legend has it that in a cave Numa Pompilio used to meet the Nymph, advisor and wife of the king. The whole area of 132 hectares became property of various eminent Roman Families which enriched it with villas, temples, sepulchres, columbaria and tombs, between 2nd century BC and the beginning of the Imperial Age. After the fall of Roman Empire several towers stood to guard and protect the country estates, then farmhouses and mills were built. The unification of the different plots of land into one estate begun with Giovanni Pietro Caffarelli in 1529. Later the property passed first to the Rospigliosi Family, then to the Pallavicini Princes and, in 1816 to Duke Giovanni Torlonia.

You can visit the Sepulchre of Annia Regilla, very well kept, and the Temple of the god Reticolo (from Latin “redeo”, return), dedicated to the deity which convinced Hannibal to stop his march to Rome: it's an elegant tomb, dating back to the half of the II nd century a.C., built in red and yellow files, in the shape of a temple with full walls, marked with semicolumns, pilasters, framed windows and marble tables. The sepulchral room was covered by a barrel vault, now collapsed, while the upper floor was reserved to funeral ceremonies.

Near the junction between Via Appia Antica and Via della Caffarella is the Chapel of Reginald Pole, an English Cardinal known to be opposed to the Anglican Reformation of Henry VIII: it is a round little chapel with a small dome on the top, built in 1539 in polychrome files, similar to roman ancient buildings, as an ex voto for escaping an ambush made by the King's men right there.

Wheelchair access: yes

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Catacombs of Saint Callixtus

#### What to see

##### Catacombs of Saint Callixtus

The most ancient cemetery of Roman Christian community: founded around the middle of the 2nd century, in the beginning the Catacombs of St. Callixtus were private burial sites, but, throughout 300 years they became larger and larger up to contain 75.000 Christians; some of the wide cemeteries cells were used for religious observances, others for funeral banquets. The transformation from Catacomb into Basilica was ratified by the "Edict of Milan" in 313 AD, with which Emperor Constantine recognized freedom of worship to Christians. The Catacombs of St. Callixtus owe their name to the deacon head of the Cemetery who became Pope during the III century and enlarged the underground area that became the official burial site of Rome's Bishops for 200 years: the Crypt of the Popes, now empty, once contained the remains of 9 Popes and of 8 Bishops of the 3rd century; Callixtus was, however, the first Pope to be buried there in 222 AD : Pope Pasquale I discovered this tomb in 821 and the bodies were moved into the Church of St. Cecilia in Trastevere under the High Altar, where is shown the original statue of St. Cecilia by Maderno.

The catacombs were abandoned after the Barbarian invasions, when the Popes, from 7th century DC, decided to transfer the Martyr's bodies into the churches within the town walls, as pilgrimages outside were dangerous because of the Barbarians. The Catacombs of St. Callisto were re-discovered in 1849: they spread over 10 square km., creating tangled grids 20 km. long, extended on five levels. On the walls signs, graffiti, symbols of Christian faith and Greek inscriptions made on the gypsum sealing the tombs. There is also a Latin inscription with the word "martyr". The Catacombs, called "coemeteria" (cemetery) till 1400, had developed mostly along the suburban ways, especially over the Appian Way, because the "Law of the Twelve Tables" prohibited the inhumation of the dead in town, also for hygienic reasons.

Early Christians, maybe in order to imitate the burial of Christ, whose body had been laid in a room hollowed into the rock, preferred inhumation to the cremation practiced by Romans. The body had to be preserved for the future return of the soul in the day of resurrection: hence the cult of martyrs and saints.

Address: Via Appia Antica, 110

Timetables: Summer 08:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Tue-Thu also 02:30 p.m.-05:30 p.m.

(ticket office closing time: 05:00 p.m.)

Winter 08:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Tue-Thu also 02:30 p.m.-05:00 p.m.

(ticket office closing time: 04:30 p.m.)

Tariffs: 3 Euro with Archeobus ticket

Toilets and bookshop: yes

Useful information: Tel. 0651301580 / 065130151 / 064465610. Closed on February and on Wednesdays.

Wheelchair access: no

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Catacombs of St. Sebastiano

#### What to see

##### Catacombs of St. Sebastiano

The Catacombs of St. Sebastiano have been the first to be indicated with the Greek expression "katà kymbas" (by the cave), hence the name used to design all the underground cemeteries. Inside these Catacombs, disposed over four levels, was buried St. Sebastiano, victim of Diocletian's persecutions; in the crypt of the Saint you can admire a bust ascribed to Bernini. They have been, for a long time, the only catacombs to be visited, together with St. Lorenzo and St. Pancrazio; in 1st century, in this area, there was a pagan cemetery which was transformed into a Christian one during 3rd cent., after the conversion of the land's owner, who started the first excavation works. In 258 DC, during persecutions by Valeriano, St. Peter's and St. Paul's relics were secretly moved here from their tombs in Vatican and Via Ostiense, where they were later brought back.: only during periods of strong persecutions the gallery were secretly dug under the estates of rich Christians ( just like the Catacombs of Pretestato, with crypts and cubicula decorated with paintings from 2nd century. – Via Appia Pignatelli,11).

Address: Via Appia Antica, 136

Timetables: Summer: 08:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Tue-Thu also 02:30 p.m. -05:30 p.m.

(ticket office closing time: 05:00 p.m.)

Winter 08:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Tue-Thu also 02:30 p.m. -05:00 p.m.

(ticket office closing time: 04:30 p.m.)

Tariffs: 3 Euro with Archeobus ticket

Toilets and bookshop: yes

Useful Information: Tel. 067850350. Closed on Mondays and from 11 November to 10 December.

Wheelchair access: no

##### Church of St. Sebastiano

The Basilica of St. Sebastiano was first dedicated to SS. Apostles Peter and Paul, St. Sebastiano being buried there only in 3rd cent.: he was a servant of the Imperial Family and was condemned to be pierced to death by arrows, during Diocletian's persecutions. The Basilica was built in the first half of 4th cent. and re-built by Ponzio and Vesanzio in 1609; the façade is from 1612 and it was ordered by Cardinal Scipione Borghese; on the inside a ligneous ceiling by Vesanzio and in the first chapel on the left, on the tomb of St. Sebastiano, you can admire the Saint's statue by Giorgetti upon model by Bernini. The first chapel on the right holds on the inside the stone of the footprints left by Jesus when he met St. Peter on the Appian Way, where now the Church Domine Quo Vadis? stands. Actually it is just an ex voto for the success of a journey. In front of the Basilica a large square with the votive column of Pio IX, dating back to 1852. In the nearby there is the entrance to the Jewish Catacombs in the Vigna Rondanini, a cemetery of the Jewish community during the Republic Era, used during 2nd and 4th cent. (Via Appia Pignatelli, 4. Information and reservations: Tel. 0668806897).

Address: Via Appia Antica, 136

Timetables: Summer: 08:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Tue-Thu also 02:30 p.m. -05:30 p.m.

(ticket office closing time: 05:00 p.m.)

Winter 08:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. Tue-Thu also 02:30 p.m. -05:00 p.m.

(ticket office closing time: 04:30 p.m.)

Tariffs: 3 Euro with Archeobus ticket

Toilets and bookshop: yes

Useful Information: Tel. 067850350. Closed on Mondays and from 11 November to 10 December.

Wheelchair access: yes

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Cecilia Metella

#### What to see

##### Circus and Villa of Massenzio

The monumental area was formed by three main buildings: the Palace, the Circus and the Mausoleum. The one still existing, the Circus, 530 meters long and 90 meters wide, was built by the Emperor Marco Aurelio Valerio Massenzio in 309 BC, added to the Royal Palace and dedicated to his son Romolo, died at the age of nine and buried right into the Mausoleum, held within a huge four-sided portico: of the former building on two levels, today the only part remaining is the cylindrical body of the elevation of the crypt, while a farmhouse dating back to 1700 stands where once was the pronaos. At the top of the Circus there were two semi cylindrical towers, 16 meters high; between them there were 12 rooms from which race chariots used to start. In the centre of the arena there used to be the "spina", a barrier along the longitudinal axis around which the chariots went around, where a 16,54-metre-high obelisk was settled. In 1649 the obelisk was moved by Innocenzo X in the middle of the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi by Bernini, in Navona Square. On the curve of the Circus stood a huge Triumphal Arch and the terraces had more than 10.000 seats. The whole area was acquired by the Municipality of Rome in 1943, thanks to an expropriation.

Address: Via Appia Antica, 153

Timetables: Summer, Tue-Sun 09:00-07:00 p.m. (ticket office closing time: 06:30 p.m.)

Winter, Tue-Sun 09:00-05:00 p.m. (ticket office closing time: 04:30 p.m.)

Tariffs: 2,60 Euro

Toilets: yes

Useful Information: Tel. 067801324. Closed on Mondays

Wheelchair access: yes

##### Tomb of Cecilia Metella

Built between 25 and 10 BC, it is the sepulchre in the best state (and the best known) in the Appian Way, a model for the following imperial funerary monuments.

This cylindrical Mausoleum is 11 metres high, with a diameter of 30 metres, and it stands upon a cubic basement, following a typical Hellenistic solution. It is covered by travertine and adorned on the top by a frieze with festoons and bucranes (oxen's skulls), again typical Hellenistic decorations. The bucranes motif gave to the place the name of "capo di bove" (head of ox) and became a characteristic element of Roman funerary decoration. The sepulchral chamber was dedicated to Cecilia, daughter of Quinti Cecilio Metello Cretico and wife of Licinio Crasso. In 1302 it was transformed into a fortress by the Caetani Family and increased in height thanks to a battlement, still visible nowadays, added together with a tower and a nearby castle; by the hypogeum you can still see a lava flow dating back to 260.000 years ago. Face to the tomb of Cecilia Metella you can visit the remains of the castrum and those of the Church of St. Nicola.

Address: Via Appia Antica, 161

Timetables: Summer, Tue-Sun 09:00 a.m.-07:15 p.m. (ticket office closing time: 06:15 p.m.)

Winter, Tue-Sun 09:00 a.m.-04:30 p.m. (ticket office closing time: 03:30 p.m.)

Tariffs: Admission by ticket only.

Toilets: yes

Useful Information: Tel. 067802465/0639967700. Closed on Mondays.

Wheelchair access: no

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Sant'Urbano What to see

#### Church of St. Urbano

In Vicolo St. Urbano, a side road of Via Appia Pignatelli, whose name comes from the family of Pope Innocenzo XII, who settled it at the end of 1700, you can admire an old building which was supposed to be the Temple of Cerere and Faustina and was transformed into the Church of St. Urbano in 9th-10th century. The prostyle and tetrastyle temple, rising on a high podium, now filled in, was built with lateritious with the seals of Marco Aurelio's Era impressed on them. The façade has got four Corinthian fluted columns, whose intercolumnations were bricked in during 7th century, and a architrave with three smooth fascias, made with marble coming from the Mount Pentelikan, near Athens. The inside, enlarged after the closing of the pronaos, decorated with frescos from 1011 AD and re-painted in 1600, was formed by an almost square cell, covered by a barrel vault, and walls marked by Corinthian square pilasters. In the central lacunar, the only preserved part, you can see two painted figures, in all probability Erode Attico, a rich Athenian rhetorician, and Annia Regilla, his Roma wife, to which the temple was dedicated.

Address: Vicolo di Sant'Urbano

Timetables: Sun. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m.

Useful Information: Priest in the Church of St. Sebastiano – Tel. 067808900

Toilets: no

Wheelchair access: no

#### Nymphaeum of Egeria

At the foot of the hill where once stood the Temple of Cerere and Faustina, there is a cave. Roman legend has it that Numa Pompilio and Egeria, wife and advisor of the King, used to meet there. The nymphaeum was formed by a wide rectangular room, with niches in the walls, and it was covered by a barrel vault; in the main niche there was a fountain fed by a channel flowing at the back of the building.

Wheelchair access: yes

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Nymphaeum of the Quintili Family

#### What to see

##### Nymphaeum of the Quintili Family

The majestic nymphaeum facing the via Appia a little further on formed the original entrance to the villa of the Quintili brothers, with its imposing structures extending over a vast area of Roman countryside, between the Appia Antica and the Appia Nuova and which, today, is the entrance for visitors coming to see the monument.

The current aspect of the nymphaeum is due to fortifications added during the Middle Ages to the part of the villa facing the Appia and belonging to the counts of Tuscolo and subsequently to the Astalli, who constructed a castle to control trade along the road.

Owned by the brothers Sesto Quintilio Condiano Massimo and Sesto Quintilio Valeriano Massimo, both consuls in 151 A.D., in 182 A.D. it became the property of the Emperor Commodo, who took possession of it after having the owners killed, on the pretext of a conspiracy.

The numerous buildings forming part of the villa are arranged in various distinct groups and feature various building styles, pertaining to different construction phases, from the II to the III/IV century A.D.

Beyond the spectacular entrance nymphaeum extends a vast garden which leads to the residential and representative part, with the brickwork structures of its magnificent thermal areas standing out, still preserving sections of the extremely rich, multi-coloured, decorative marble flooring, recently brought to light. On the lower level of the residential area, raised up on a system of terraces, stood the cryptoportici, service areas and heating rooms for the residential chambers. A vast circus, added at a later stage to the complex, was situated on the south-east side.

At the entrance to the via Appia Nuova lie the reception areas and an Antiquarium, housing finds from the villa and its surroundings.

#### The tombs of mile V

##### Tomb with spiral staircase

Opposite the Quintili Villa, on the other side of the road, are preserved the remains of a tomb in "Opus Mixtum", possibly a variant of the more common tower tombs: on a parallelepiped plinth stands an octagonal element, which should have originally been surmounted by a statue or a belvedere platform, with a winding staircase inside; the building technique and constructional features allow this tomb to be dated from the Trajan era (end I/beginning II century A.D.).

##### Tower tomb

Continuing along the left side of the road, passers-by come across a tower-style mausoleum, whose remains include the nucleus in flint-stone concrete and the funeral chamber, in "Opera quadrata" Peperino stone with a vaulted ceiling, which can be dated from the mid I century B.C.

##### Tomb with statue

Further along on the left a nucleus in flint-stone concrete is visible, belonging to a monumental tomb in front of which stands a male statue, wearing a toga, in white marble, without a head.

##### Thermal building

The preserved brickwork structures on the right of the road belong to a thermal building forming part of a place of rest for travellers and also belonging to a particularly large villa, dating from the I-II century A.D.

Toilets: no

Wheelchair access: no

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Casale Rotondo

#### What to see

##### Casale Rotondo

Cylindrical Mausoleum with an helicoidal approach ramp, it owes its name from the Medieval farmhouse built above it and now transformed into a villa. It is the biggest in the Appian Way: its quadrangular basement measures 35 meters per side and once it was covered with travertine. In the past the tomb was ascribed to Messala Corvino, consul in 31 BC, and it was rebuilt at the beginning of the Augustan Age by his son Marco Valerio Messalino Cotta. The architectural elements embedded into the brick walls on the side of the Mausoleum belong to another sepulchre in the shape of circular aedicule, with a conical scale-roof overlapped by a pinnacle, attributable, thanks to an inscription fragment, to a member of the Family of Aureli Cotta.

##### The tombs of mile VI

###### Tower tomb

Immediately following the via di Casal Rotondo/via di Torricola crossroads, to the right lies a tower tomb, conserved with its concrete flint-stone nucleus and made of multiple, superimposed and decreasing blocks, and the burial chamber and its barrel vault in "Opera quadrata" Peperino stone, where the funeral statue was probably placed.

###### "Opus Mixtum" tomb

Again on the right stands a square-based, two-storey monument in "Opus Mixtum" web-work and brick, with a rear entrance, in a poor state of preservation.

###### Small temple tomb

Continuing on the right passers-by can note a small temple tomb in brickwork two storeys high. The access stairway is preserved, together with the left wall of the upper chamber, which was used for funeral ceremonies. As is customary the entrance to the underground burial chamber is at the rear. The building forms part of the interior of a courtyard, bounded by a brick wall which has fragments of marble reliefs embedded in it, representing griffons.

###### Columbarium

Again on the right there next follows a square-based, brickwork columbarium with arcosoli and niches in the side walls.

###### Selce Tower

On the left of the road, on top of the concrete nucleus of a circular tomb from the Roman era, which must have been of a similar type and shape to the Cecilia Metella Mausoleum, stands the medieval "Selce Tower", an impressive structure dating from the XII century. Erected on radial, ribbed walls it follows the typical design of the so-called "striped towers", where a strip of Peperino stone chips is followed, almost half way up, by another band of regular-shaped white marble and travertine blocks

Toilets: no

Wheelchair access: No

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Villa dei Quintili

#### What to see

#### Villa dei Quintili

Built during the Imperial Age, this Roman villa owes its name to its builders: Sesto Quintilio Condiano and Sesto Quintilio Valerio Massimo, two rich brothers belonging to one of the most important aristocratic Senatorial Families during Antonini's Era (the names of the owners are still impressed on some leaden aquaria fistulae found there). The two brothers were friends of Marco Aurelio's but, during the reign of Emperor Commodus, the son of Marco Aurelio, they fell into disgrace: Commodus accused them of plotting against the throne and they were both executed in 182 AD. The Emperor moved into their country home shortly thereafter. The archaeological excavations have brought to light only 1/3 of the 24 hectares of the original possessions: it was the largest among the great suburban villas, so big that its ruins were called "Roma Vecchia", ancient Rome. The nearby aqueduct used to carry the water of the spring Bulicame to the villa. During the middle Ages the two-floor-nymphaeum, formed by a wide semicircular exedra with a big fountain in the centre and niches on the walls, was incorporated into a fortress belonging to the Counts of Tuscolo, whose remains consist today in a beautiful loggia built by the Astalli Family in the 13th century. Behind the nymphaeum there was a porticoed garden, 300 metres long and 100 meters wide; close to it stood the thermal area: a wide hall (meters 13,50 x 11,60) with 14-metre-high walls, windows disposed on two floors and a pool in the centre. Beside it there is an enormous round room with a diameter of 36 meters and later it was added a 400-meter-long hippodrome. Another wing of the palace incorporates a two-floor-cistern, also reproduced by Piranesi, with a diameter of 29 meters and supplied by an aqueduct derived from the Aqueduct Anio Novus, upon which they built the Casale di Santa Maria Nuova. During XIX century the property of Villa dei Quintili passed to Torlonia Family from which the Italian State bought it.

Address: Via Appia Nuova, 1092

Timetables: Summer, Tue-Sun 09:00 a.m.-07:15 p.m. (ticket office closing time: 06:15 p.m.)

Winter, Tue-Sun 09:00 a.m.-04:30 p.m. (ticket office closing time: 03:30 p.m.)

Tariffs: 4 Euro

Toilets and bookshop: yes

Useful Information: Tel. 067182273/0639967700

Wheelchair access: yes

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

### Aqueducts

#### What to see

##### Park of Aqueducts

The Roman Censor Appio Claudius got to build simultaneously, in 312 BC, the Appian Way and the first aqueduct, 16 km. long, diverting the flow of a spring between the Via Prenestina and the Via Collatina. Before that the Romans got the water directly from the rivers, the wells and the springs. After that they have been using for 850 years, till the interruption caused by the Goths in 537 AD, a system with no equals in the ancient world for quality and plenty of water. The Park of Aqueducts is protecting a territory that was a real crossroad of the water system in Ancient Rome: 6 out of the 11 aqueducts that supplied Rome, crossed this area of 15 hectares (Anio Vetus, Claudio, Anio Novus, Acqua Marcia, Acqua Tepula and Acqua Julia), transporting 13 cubic metres of water per second. In 1585-90 another one was added by Pope Sisto V (Felice Peretti): the Aqueduct Felice, built following the course of the Acqua Marcia and still used to irrigate. The impressive arcades of the Aqueduct Claudio together with the smaller ones of the Aqueduct Felice give to the whole surrounding a charming and evocative atmosphere. The terminal was the Spes Vetus, by Porta Maggiore, where eight aqueducts used to converge in order to be spread towards their respective distribution lines, following underground routes.

- **Aqueduct Anio Vetus (Old Aniene):** it is the biggest aqueduct in the Park, built between 272 and 269 BC by Manio Curio Dentato and Fulvio Flacco, with part of the spoils of the victory over Taranto and Pyrrhus. It follows a 64-meter-distance, meandering and mainly underground, carrying the water of the Valley of River Aniene, between Vicovaro and Mandela. It was mainly used to irrigate and to supply the fountains of villas and gardens.

- **Aqueducts Claudio and Anio Novus (New Aniene):** the construction works were started by Caligula in 38 AD and were finished by his successor Claudio in 52 AD. They both carried the good-quality water of the basin of Aniene Valley, 68 km far. Later the water became muddy and Traiano substituted the springs with those in the nearby of Trevi nel Lazio, 86 km. far. Close to the Capannelle, by the 7th mile of Via Latina, the Anio Novus duct ran over the duct of Acqua Claudia and together they emerged from the ground with a long series of impressive arcades (up to 26 meters high) 15 km. long, thus giving to this part of Roman countryside an evocative aspect. Pliny the Elder, remarking the magnificence of the structure, that supplied every part of the city, used to say that nothing else in the whole world was worthy of such a great admiration.

- **Acqua Marcia:** built in 144-142 BC by the praetor Quinto Marcio Re, it was the first aqueduct to convey to the Capitol the excellent water of the springs in Via Valeria (particularly suitable to be mixed with wine), 91 km. far, in the nearby of Marano Equo, between Arsoli and Agosta. The aqueduct started from the springs running underground along 80 km. and emerged along the remaining 11 km., where the ducts

## Discovery the treasures of Appia Antica park

(spechi) of the Acqua Tepula and Aqua Julia laid one on another. The low arcades by the Casale of Roma Vecchia are still visible, while the rest of the structure was destroyed during the building of the Felice Aqueduct, during Renaissance. The Acqua Antoniniana, headed for the Thermae of Caracalla, and the Rivus Herculaneus were two branches of the Acqua Marcia.

- **Acqua Tepula:** the aqueduct, laid upon the Aqueduct Marcio, was built by Servilio Cepione and Cassio Longino Consuls in 125 BC. Its water was tepid (16-17° C) and came from the volcanic area in Colli Albani, running along 17 km. through the Agro Tuscolano below Marino. The arcades of both aqueducts can be admired in Via del Mandrione and in Porta Maggiore. >From here the Acqua Tepula went on to the Arch that later became known as Porta Tiburtina.

- **Acqua Julia:** the aqueduct was carried out by Marco Agrippa Consul in 33 BC and was so called in Caio Giulio Cesare Ottaviano's honour (Emperor Augustus); it conveyed the water from the springs of Squarciarelli (in Grottaferrata), mixing it to the water of Acqua Tepula, in order to improve its quality, to make it colder and to increase its flow. It covered a distance of 23 km., 11 of which on the surface, as far as Porta Maggiore, from where it branched off towards several directions: (Celio, Esquilino, Viminal, Quirinal, Forum, Capitol, Palatine and Aventino)

- **Acquedotto Felice:** it used the springs of the ancient Acquedotto Alessandrino, carried out by Emperor Severo Alessandrino in 226 AD in order to supply the Thermae Neroniane, rebuilt by the Emperor himself. The Acquedotto Alessandrino was the last aqueduct to use the water coming from the area of Pantano Borghese, near Colli Albani, 22 km. far away, maintaining the same altitude of about 70 meters above sea level along the whole distance, thanks to the 52 imposing arcades, until it reached Porta Maggiore. After the decline due to the Barbarian Invasions, that forced the Romans to use the unhealthy water of River Tiber for more than 1000 years, the Popes decided to build new aqueducts taking advantage of the remaining structures and springs already utilized by the Romans. They raised four aqueducts, among which the Acquedotto Felice, planned by Pope Gregorio XIII Boncompagni in 1583 and carried out by Sisto V (Felice Peretti) in 1585-90. It was 28,7 km. long: 8 km. were super elevated, leaving the underground track near the Casale di Roma Vecchia, where it ran upon the Acquedotto Marcio, using its piers and frames. It was built by Domenico Fontana in order to supply the areas of the hills: Esquilino, Quirinal and Viminal and it ended in the nearby of Termini in Largo di Santa Susanna, where it flows into the Mosè Fountain. The carrying out of the Acquedotto Felice caused the destruction of part of the ancient Acquedotto Marcio, Tepula an Julia. Nowadays its water is used mostly to supply the fountains in Rome Historical Center.

Address: Parco degli Acquedotti- Terminus of Archeobus, Viale Appio Claudio (side road of Appia Nuova, 1000).

Toilets: no

Wheelchair access: yes

Free entrance to monuments (Catacombs excluded) from 1 to 18 and over 65..

The ticket is 50% reduced for youth between 18 and 25.