

For 850 years since the building of the first aqueduct until the interruption caused by the Goth's invasion of Rome in 537a.D., the city was provided with a progressively improved waterworks system, which was no match, for its abundance and quality, for any other city in the world.

In the beginning, table water was collected in a network of underground passages, while surface water was collected in large brick basins. Population growth and the larger quantity of water needed to provide with water fountains and thermal baths in the patricians' villas, made it necessary to exploit sources far away from the city and to build large aqueducts, whose projects had obviously to cope with the land's varying altitude to keep the right pipelines' angle. So the path could run underground or sometimes be in open air, in trenches dug at land level or in elevated structures, such as those of the Acquedotto Claudio. Six of the ancient Rome's eleven aqueducts run in the Park's area: Anio Vetus, Marcia, Tepula, Julia, Anio Novus. Two of them, Tepula and Julia, took their waters from sources in the Colli Albani, while the others from the high path of the Aniene river or from the Simbruini and Prenestini mountains' sources. Rome's decadence marks the highest development point of its waterworks system; the Baths' decadence, the population

decrease and the city's administrative inefficiency, made reparation and maintenance works become rare and partial. Large Parts fell down and sprouting water created many swampy areas in Roman countryside, but the great arches that made Rome's landscape famous stood the test of time and of man. The use of the aqueducts was limited to those used in churches or temples. Some ditches were dug to collect water, but basically Romans used for over 1000 years the Tevere's unhealthy waters. Only at the end of 16th century Romans saw a working aqueduct again, thanks to Sixtus V, called by the citizens "er papa tosto" (the tough Pope) for his energy. After the historic minimum in the Middle Ages (17.000 people), Rome's population started to grow back, so the building of the Acquedotto Felice (named after the Pope's original name) was started: completed in less than 5 years it is 28.7 km long, 8 of which elevated. The area surrounding the aqueduct was left in that state of abandonment that appealed to many artists and tourists in the following centuries.



THE SEVEN AQUEDUCTS AND TOR FISCALE

Enclosed by the districts of Cinecittà and Quarto Miglio, between the two important arteries which are the Appia Nuova and the Tuscolana, crossed by the layout of the ancient Via Latina, the area of the Aqueducts up to the Torre del Fiscale represents the remnant of a stretch of Roman countryside which once joined the Alban Hills to the gates of the city.

A true crossroad of Rome's waterworks network, it takes its name from the impressive remains of Rome's famous aqueducts system. Six of the ancient city's eleven aqueducts ran across this area, forming a system that allowed, during the city's peak development period, a water-flow of 13 m³ per second. To all of this we must add the Acquedotto Felice, built by the Popes during the Renaissance and still used today for

irrigation. Along with street and sewers, the making of aqueducts was carefully followed, both to meet citizen's hygienic needs and to affirm the Empire's culture: the aqueducts had to stand up to the standards of "firmitas, venustas, utilitas", i. e. solidity, beauty and usefulness. A large part of the pipes cannot be seen, either because they run underground, or because sometimes more recent structures have been built over the older ones, as the Acquedotto Felice, built on the course of the Marcio. The high arches of the Acquedotto Claudio, along with the Felice's



lower ones, still rise above the area and together with secular pines and remains of ancient suburban villas such as the Vignacce and the Sette Bassi, make the whole area a very scenic place.



THE APPIA ANTICA REGIONAL PARK

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 in which houses many remains of the important republican and imperial age aqueducts.

THE SEVEN AQUEDUCTS

Anio Vetus. It is the Park's most ancient aqueduct, the first to be built following modern ideas that allowed to carry water from areas as far as the valley of the Aniene River. Built between 272 and 269b.C. thanks to part of Pyrrhus' spoils of war, it features a 64 km long (mostly underground) meandering path.

Claudio and Anio Novus. Started by Caligula in 38a.D. and finished by his successor Claudius in 52a.D., they cross the Park together in the same arched structure. Both took their water from the basin of the valley of the Aniene River. At Via Latina's 7th mile, near to Capannelle, the Anio Novus' path ran together with Acqua Claudia's pipe, and they both emerged from the ground first on a continuous structure and then on a long series of arches



characteristic of this part of the Roman countryside. Just think that the aqueduct's highest point is 28 meters high, like a 9-floor building. Plinius, remarking the structure's magnificence and the arches' height that supplied every part of the city, stated that nothing was worthier of admiration in the whole world.

Acqua Marcia. This aqueduct, started by praetor Quinto Marcio in 44b.C. and completed in about two years, conveyed water coming from the sources on the Via Valeria to the Capitol. Its 91 km long pipeline started underground from the sources and sprouted at the so called "Roma Vecchia" farmhouse, where it mingled with the Aqua Tepula and Aqua Julia's pipelines (spechi). The three "spechi" can still be seen in their bricks-reinforced opus reticulatum. Only small arches near to the Roma Vecchia farmhouse and in other spots close to the city can still be seen. The rest was destroyed

during Acquedotto Felice's building in 1585.

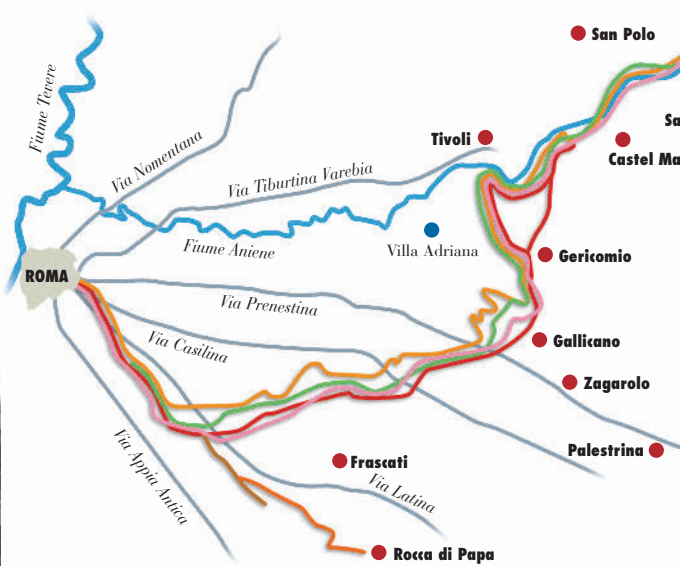
Aqua Tepula. Placed over the Acquedotto Marcio it was built by the consuls Cepio and Longinus in 125b.C. Its waters, coming from the Colli Albani volcanic area, were warm.

Aqua Julia. Built by consul Agrippa in 33b.C. and named after Caius Julius Caesar Ottavianus, soon to become emperor Augustus, it carried water coming from the Squarciarelli sources, near Grottaferrata, and merged it with water coming from the Tepula to improve its quality.

Felice. It was built by the Pope Sixtus V between 1585 and 1590 to provide with water Rome's hilly parts, which had no aqueducts after the decadence of waterworks in the Middle Ages. Its water came from the Pantano Borghese sources along the Prenestina way and went as far as the Fontana del Mosè in Largo Santa Susanna. The aqueduct's pipeline leaves the underground near the Roma Vecchia farmhouse and is laid over the Acquedotto Marcio, using its structure. Its building caused in some places the destruction of the older Marcio, Tepula and Julia aqueducts.



On the first of the two points where the arches of the aqueducts of Claudius and Marcius intersected, taking advantage of its raised height, a tower was erected in the XIII century, nowadays known as the **Torre del Fiscale**, from the name of its owner in the XVII century, Filippo Foppi, who was the pontifical treasurer, that is the "revenue officer". The tower, about thirty metres in height, is built in the typical masonry technique of the XIII century out of blocks of tufa; it is quadrangular in shape, with little rectangular windows with marble framing. It was used as a watchtower, and was the central element of a small castle which belonged to the Annibaldi family who controlled the Via Latina in the area of the "Campo Barbarico".



AQUEDUCTS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	WATER SOURCES	FLOW (mc al g.)
ANIO NOVUS	47-52 d.C.	Aniene (Subiaco)	190.000
ANIO VETUS	272-269 a.C.	Aniene (Vicovaro)	180.000
MARCIA	144-140 a.C.	Aniene (Arsoli)	190.000
CLAUDIA	38-52 d.C.	Aniene (Arsoli)	185.000
TEPULA	125 a.C.	Colli Albani	16.000
JULIA	33 a.C.	Colli Albani	50.000

