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INSIDER'S GUIDE TO ROME

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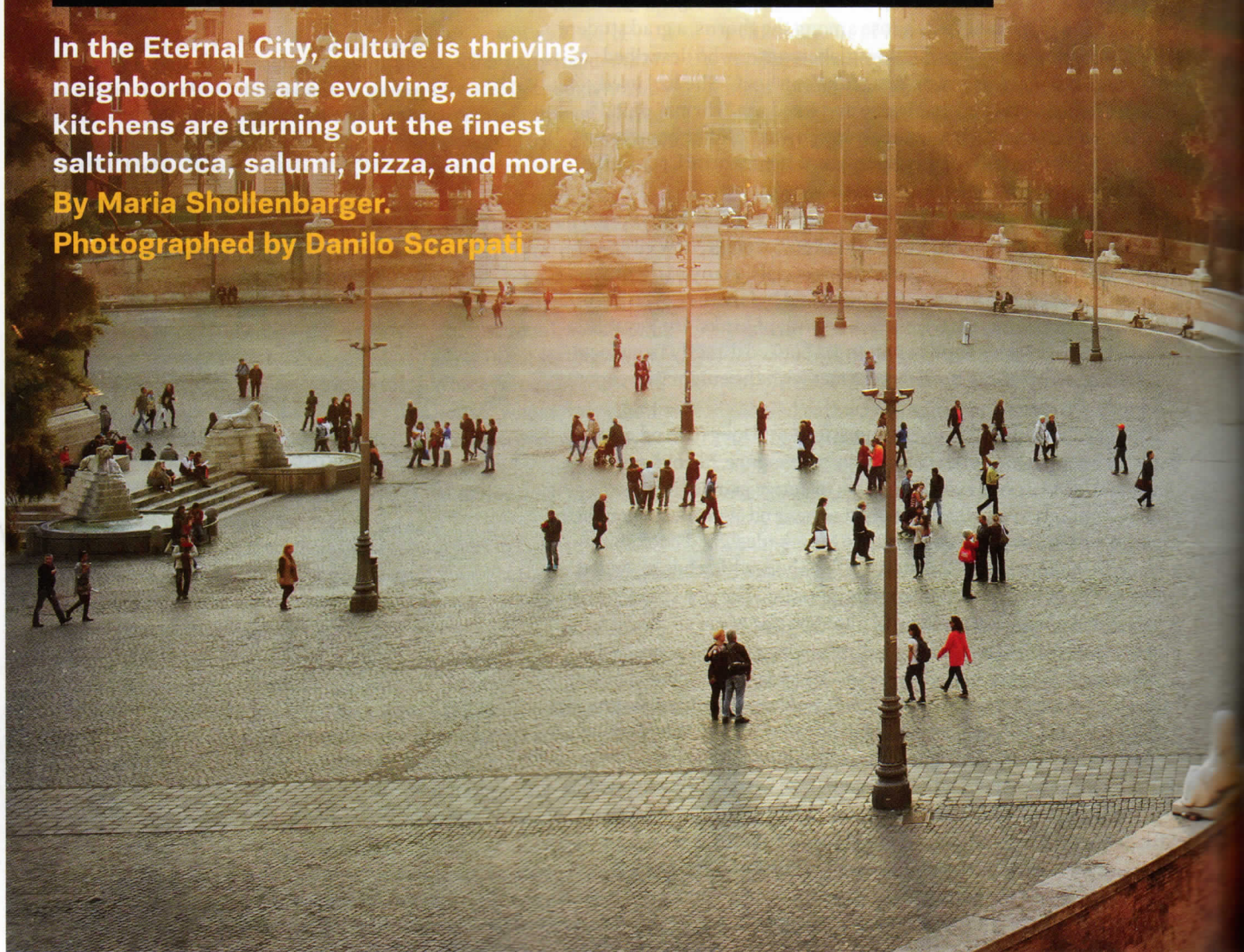
Our Definitive Guide to

Rome

In the Eternal City, culture is thriving, neighborhoods are evolving, and kitchens are turning out the finest saltimbocca, salumi, pizza, and more.

By Maria Shollenbarger.

Photographed by Danilo Scarpati





Lay of the Land

Campo Marzio

Commonly referred to as Centro, this aristocratic neighborhood offers the best of Italian luxury-goods shops (Fendi, Bulgari, Valentino).

Prati

Edging the western bank of the Tiber River, this lesser-known suburb is filled with affordable boutiques and excellent *gelaterie*.

Testaccio

This formerly working-class district is not terrifically picturesque, but authentic pleasures abound in it, including artisanal butchers, shops, and trattorias.

Trastevere

The chic *quartiere* trades in medieval Rome's most reliable postcard perfection, from its cobblestoned lanes to the Basilica of Santa Maria.

Vatican City

Come here to explore treasured sites such as the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica.

Getting Around

Expect to walk a lot. For 'long hauls,' try the metro (atac.roma.it) or a taxi.



Stay

The Couture Suite at the St. Regis Rome.

The city's hottest hotel openings and longtime favorites.

New & Noteworthy

MARGUTTA 54

Owned by nobleman Alberto Moncada di Paternò, Margutta 54 is utterly private (set in an enclosed courtyard) and awash in history (Picasso painted here). But the sleek suites are the draw, with their ample sitting areas and cleverly configured bathrooms. romeluxury.com. \$\$

HOTEL ST. GEORGE

Rooms at this 16th-century palazzo, restored in 2008, range from the most welcoming single room (French double bed; large bath with a raincan

showerhead; a lovely window seat) to "family" accommodations measuring upwards of 500 square feet. Bonus: the subterranean spa. stgeorgehotel.it. \$\$\$

FIRST HOTEL

This stylish newcomer won't be to all tastes; the bright white lobby with its small, overlit bar and preponderance of questionable art lacks coziness. The 29 rooms and suites are infinitely more appealing—spacious for Rome, and done up in soft shades of taupe. thefirsthotel.com. \$\$\$

The Classics

ST. REGIS

The former Grand Hotel, built in 1894, was completely renovated in 2000; its 161 rooms are suitably vast, with Regency, Louis XVI, and Neoclassical elements. stregis.com. \$\$\$

HOTEL HASSLER ROMA

Rich French silks, gilded furniture, and playful frescoes make up the interiors of this celeb favorite. hotelhasslerroma.com. \$\$\$

HOTEL DE RUSSIE

With its sprawling tiered gardens and mix of earthy pastels and dark

woods, the Russie feels like a quiet urban oasis. hotelderussie.it. \$\$\$

HOTEL EDEN

Traditions live on here: guests are greeted by a top-hatted doorman before entering the opulent lobby, which has an imposing staircase with ornamental wrought-iron railings. edenroma.com. \$\$\$

PORTRAIT SUITES

Interior designer Michele Bönan has outfitted the sexy, Ferragamo family-owned hotel with black-stained oak, white-marble bathrooms, and ice-blue flannel chairs. lungarnohotels.com. \$\$\$\$

EYES ON J.K. Place Roma The team behind the seminally stylish J.K. Place hotels in Florence and Capri are bringing their deft blend of high style and genuine warmth to the heart of the *centro storico*. Expect a late-spring 2013 opening.