



## Secret Rome & the Countryside: Exemplary Private Palaces, Villas & Gardens and Archeological Sites

Sponsored by The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art

Organized by Pamela Huntington Darling

Saturday, October 3rd to Sunday, October 11th, 2015 – 8 days/8 nights



Called the Eternal City, Rome is a treasure of architecture and art, history and culture, and has been an essential destination for sophisticated travelers for centuries. Yet behind the city's great monuments and museums lies a Rome unknown to even the most seasoned visitors. **Our exceptional program offers an intimate group of discerning travelers unprecedented access to Rome's most exclusive and evocative treasures—a secret Rome of exquisite *palazzi*, villas and gardens, world-class art collections and momentous and behind-the-scenes sites accessible only to the privileged few.**

**By exclusive personal invitation of Italian nobility, ambassadors, curators and eminent members of the Roman elite**, for eight unprecedented days we will discover, with their owners, exemplary private *palazzi*, castles and villas—*rarely, if ever, opened to the public*—in the city and surrounding countryside, as well as legendary archeological sites open only by special request.

During our privileged, exclusive discovery, we will observe the development of Roman architecture, décor, art and landscape design with expert lecturers, architect Thomas Rankin, historian Anthony Majanlahti and art historians Sara Magister and Frank Dabell.

### Program



#### **Day 1: Saturday, October 3rd**

**Afternoon welcome and visit to the Capitoline Museums, with Professor Thomas Greene Rankin.** Professor Rankin and Pamela Hunting Darling will welcome you with a brief introduction to our exceptional program, followed by a walk with Professor Rankin to the **Capitoline**, the most important of the **Seven Hills of Rome**, where we will visit the **Capitoline Museums** to view masterpieces of classical sculpture to set the context of the “*Grand Tour*.”

**Late afternoon private reception at the *Cavalieri di Rodi*, headquarters of the Knights of Malta.** The *Casa dei Cavalieri di Rodi* is the ancient seat of the Roman priorate of the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, also known as the **Knights of Malta**. Built onto the ruins of the Forum of Augustus in the 12th century and restored in the 15th century, the palace contains impressive sculptures from the ancient Forum and a *loggia* with panoramic views, where we will enjoy refreshments.



**Welcome dinner at the residence of a former Italian Senator, a notable member of the Roman community.** With our gracious host and our expert lecturers, we will celebrate the start of our significant program in true Roman style at our host's beautiful private palazzo decorated with important works of art, gardens and a grand terrace offering splendid views of the major monuments of Rome. A wonderful and festive way to begin our discovery!

#### **Day 2: Sunday, October 4th—“Classical Rome’s Most Private & Most Public Venues,” with Prof. Thomas Rankin**

**Morning visit to the house of Livia and Augustus, the Hypogeum and the Flavian Amphitheatre.** We are invited *behind the scenes* to view the **Rome’s first imperial residence**, at the heart of the rich archaeological park of the Forum and Palatine Hill, to view the grand dining room and intimate study of the **Emperor Augustus** and the **marvelously frescoed and recently restored halls of the Casa di Livia** (Augustus’ wife), followed by refreshments in the garden.

**The Hypogeum and the third level of the Flavian Amphitheatre**, commonly known as the Coliseum, **this iconic edifice of classical Rome is rarely visited in depth**. We will enter on the arena floor, descend into the subterranean chambers of the Hypogeum, and view the Seven Hills of Rome from its uppermost levels.



**Lunch at the residence of a member of Rome's cultural and social elite, offering stunning views of Rome**

Our gracious hostess will receive us for a convivial, delicious homemade lunch at her stunning residence, decorated with marvelous décor and major works of art, located on the Via del Circo Massimo between the Coliseum and the Domus Aurea. The large terrace offers splendid views of Rome, including the vestiges of Rome's oldest and largest of ancient arenas, the Circus Maximus, that hosted chariot races from at least the fourth century BC.

**Afternoon private visit to Domus Aurea. The one-time palace of Emperor Nero** and later a great inspiration for Renaissance artists, such as **Raphael**, the Domus Aurea dazzles the fortunate few visitors permitted entry with its grand halls, once flooded with light but now buried under the city's successive layers. After eight years of restoration, it has just reopened for private visits upon special request.

**Evening dinner with Marchese Corso Patrizi Montoro at Palazzo Patrizi Montoro.** Our host will warmly welcome us, with experts Thomas Rankin and Frank Dabell, at his historic family residence, set between the Pantheon and Piazza Navona. We will view his significant art collection, acquired in the 16th and 17th centuries by prominent family members, and enjoy a convivial dinner with our host complimented by the family's fine wines.

**Day 3: Monday, October 5th—"Art in Situ: Caravaggio and Company," with Prof. Frank Dabell**

**Morning private visit to the Galleria Borghese, the Aviary & Secret Gardens, with the Chief Curator, Dr. Marina Minozzi**, who will welcome us to the Galleria Borghese, **closed to the public on this day**, for a private visit conducted by art historian Frank Dabell, to view the museum's many masterpieces, including works by Titian, Raphael and Caravaggio, and sculptures by Bernini and Canova. Afterward, Dr. Minozzi, will lead us on a visit to the Secret Gardens and Aviary, also closed to the public on this day.



**Private Lunch at Villa Taverna, the residence of John R. Phillips, United States Ambassador to Italy, and his wife Linda Douglass.** Thanks to the privileged invitation of the Ambassador and Mrs. Douglass, we will enjoy a convivial lunch in the gardens, accompanied by Dr. Marina Minozzi and experts Frank Dabell and Thomas Rankin, followed by a private visit of the residence. This unique property and gardens are of rare beauty and immense value.

**Afternoon free time or visit with Professor Thomas Rankin to the Pantheon and nearby classical, medieval and Renaissance sites.** The Pantheon is the best-preserved ancient Roman building in the world, and the ultimate reference for classical architecture. The original temple was built by Agrippa, friend and son-in-law of Emperor Augustus, but the structure as we see it owes its genius to Emperor Hadrian, who reigned between 118 and 138 AD. Within a short walk, we will see the **Temple of Hadrian**, the **Column of Marcus Aurelius** and the only Gothic church in Rome, the **Basilica Santa Maria Sopra Minerva**, which was built on the foundations of a temple to Minerva, goddess of wisdom.

**Early evening private visit to the Palazzo Taverna and the studio of interior designer Patrick Gallagher, followed by cocktails at his residence.** International interior designer Patrick Gallagher has invited us for a private visit to Palazzo Taverna. Considered the most romantic palace in Rome (mentioned by Dante in his masterpiece *The Divine Comedy*), this 13th-century palace was once the residence of the famous Borgia and the Orsini families, and boasts a picturesque ancient courtyard and 17th-century fountain, a stunning décor and a remarkable picture gallery.



**Free dinner: our suggestion, Il Buco ristorante**, a five-minute walk from the hotel, this family-run restaurant offers excellent Tuscan dishes with a Roman influence and meticulous service. *Please reserve with the hotel's concierge.*

**Day 4: Tuesday, October 6th—"Rome and its Foreign Academies," with Professor Thomas Rankin**

**Morning private visit to the Residence of the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, on Aventine Hill.** Thanks to the gracious invitation of Ambassador Kenneth F. Hackett, we will enjoy a special visit, with our expert Thomas Rankin, to the Ambassador's residence, set on the Aventine Hill in the beautiful Villa Domiziana, built in 1953 as a private residence.



**Late morning private visit and lunch: the American Academy in Rome, Aventine Hill.** We will be welcomed to the American Academy in Rome by archaeologist Kimberly Bowes, Director, and Tina Cancemi, Associate for External Affairs, for a special private visit, **closed to the public**, of the Academy's admirable buildings, including Villa Aurelia, built by Cardinal Girolamo Farnese in 1650-1687, the Rare Books Room and the breathtaking gardens on the crest of the Janiculum Hill with spectacular views of Rome. We will enjoy a delicious lunch with the AAR fellows in the dining room, prepared by the Academy's Sustainable Food Project Staff with ingredients fresh from their garden, inspired by Alice Waters.



**Afternoon private visit & tea with Prince Nicolò and Princess Rita Boncompagni Ludovisi at their historic residence, Villa Aurora.** Our eminent hosts extend a rare invitation to discover their spectacular residence, built in 1570 and expanded in 1858, to admire splendid frescoes by Guercino, the **only ceiling painted by Caravaggio** and antiquities dating back to 500 BC, followed by tea with the Prince and Princess.

**Cocktail & dinner at the residence of Baroness Natalia Coppa Solari, Palazzo Massimo di Pirro.** Historian Anthony Majanlahti and Professor Rankin will accompany us to the **Palazzo Massimo di Pirro**, where Baroness Natalia Coppa Solari will warmly welcome us to her residence on the exquisitely restored *piano nobile* for cocktails and a convivial dinner. Designed by Giovanni Mangone, the palazzo's unique décor includes an ancient Roman mosaic floor, significant sculptures and works of art. During cocktails, our experts will lead us on a visit while discussing the history of the Massimo dynasty—the *oldest family in Rome*—dating back more than 2,000 years.



***Day 5: Wednesday, October 7th—“A Day in the Countryside,” with historian and author Anthony Majanlahti***

**Morning visit to the Villa Farnese de Caprarola.** Accompanied by historian Anthony Majanlahti, we will enjoy a daytrip through Rome’s scenic countryside to visit extraordinary private villas and their remarkable gardens, beginning with the **Villa Farnese de Caprarola**, one of the world's finest examples of Renaissance-Mannerist architecture, with outstanding frescoes and a marvelous *casino*, summerhouse and exquisite gardens.



**Private lunch with Princess Giada Ruspoli at Castello Ruspoli in the marvelous village of Vignanello.** Princess Giada Ruspoli will warmly welcome us to her family residence, **Castello Ruspoli**, for a delicious homemade lunch and tour. The castle's earliest traces date back to 847, and the present edifice to the 16th century, including **one of the best-preserved Renaissance gardens in Italy**. After lunch, we will enjoy a specially arranged **recital** in the **Collegiata di Vignanello church** next to the castle, designed by Giambattista Contini and consecrated by Pope Benedetto XVIII in 1725.

**Late afternoon private visit—Villa Lante Bagnaia, one of Italy's best-loved gardens.** Led by Anthony Majanlahti, we will discover the gardens of **Villa Lante Bagnaia**, considered, with Villa d’Este, to be one of the two best-loved gardens in Italy.

**Free dinner: our suggestion, restaurant La Pigna**, an unpretentious, family-run restaurant with a warm atmosphere, welcoming service and fresh, delicious fare near the hotel. *Please reserve through the hotel’s concierge.*



***Day 6: Thursday, October 8th—“The Private Vatican & the Official Collections,” led by historian Dr. Sara Magistrar***

**Morning private visit to Vatican City’s unique sites, not open to the public, and the Swiss Guards.** By rare invitation, we will visit the **spectacular 16th-century Villa** in the **Vatican Gardens**, an architectural jewel, adorned with frescoes, stuccoes, mosaics and fountains, and **the Swiss Guards** quarters, the world’s smallest army, to glimpse the life of the Pope's private guard and this sovereign state, the smallest country in the world, **neither open to the public.**

**Lunch at Il Matriciano.** The owners of this family-run restaurant, near the Vatican, will welcome us for a relaxed lunch of delicious, freshly prepared Roman specialties—a favorite of the prominent locals and those in the know.

**Afternoon visit to the Vatican, led by historian Dr. Sara Magister**, including the Vatican Museums' Sistine Chapel, Raphael Rooms and Painting Gallery. Dr. Magistrar will expound on the overwhelming richness of the Vatican collections, including frescoes by Perugino, Botticelli and Ghirlandaio, the world's supreme Greco-Roman sculptures and paintings by Italy's and the world's great masters: Leonardo, Raphael, Filippo Lippi, Titian and Caravaggio. **Thanks to Sara Magister, we will enjoy special access to certain rooms in the Vatican.**



**Cocktails and dinner at the most prestigious private club in Rome, housed in a historic palazzo.** Accompanied by Thomas Rankin and Frank Dabell, we will be welcomed for cocktails and dinner by our host, the Vice President of the American International Club of Rome and a prominent member of the Italian-American community.



***Day 7: Friday, October 9th—“Villas and Palazzi,” with art historian Professor Frank Dabell***

**Morning visits to the Villa Farnesina & the Palazzo Farnese.** Professor Frank Dabell will guide us on a morning visit through the extravagant interiors of the magnificent Renaissance palace, **Villa Farnesina**, once the grand meeting place of prelates, noblemen, artists and writers. We will continue with a highly exclusive visit to the magnificent **Palazzo Farnese**, as guests of the French Ambassador to Italy, and a special tour of the newly restored Carracci Gallery, the palace's stupendous interiors and exuberant High Renaissance frescoes.

**Luncheon at a private residence next to the Palazzo Colonna with the distinguished owner.** Our hostess, an eminent member of Roman society, a prominent businesswoman, and an art collector, will welcome us to her private residence in a splendid Baroque palace for a convivial lunch on the veranda of her large terrace overlooking the Palazzo Colonna.

**Afternoon exceptional private visit: Palazzo Colonna.** At the invitation of Prince Prospero Colonna, the Chief Curator and Head of the Palazzo Colonna Collection will welcome us to the Galleria and the private apartments of Princess Isabelle Colonna for a private visit led by Frank Dabell. One of Italy's most historic and luxurious palazzi, Palazzo Colonna has remained in the family for 20 generations and reflects their esteemed position by its grandeur, sumptuous architecture and works of art, the largest and most significant private collection in Rome.



**Dinner with the French Ambassador to the Holy See at his residence, Villa Bonaparte (to be confirmed).**

Accompanied by our experts, our eminent host will welcome us to his marvelous historic residence, where we will admire the Villa's stunning architecture, décor, splendid gardens and enjoy a convivial evening and dinner. Built in 1750 for Cardinal Silvio Valenti Gonzaga, the Villa was inhabited by the Bonaparte family after the fall of the French Empire.

**Day 8: Saturday, October 10th—“Journey to the Most Important Villas in Imperial & Renaissance Culture,” with Prof. Thomas Rankin**



**Morning visit to Villa Adriana, Emperor Hadrian's Villa.** We will first discover **Hadrian's Villa**, built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian, who ruled in the second century AD at the height of the empire. Covering some 300 acres, it is the most extensive ancient Roman villa in the region, fundamental to understanding Roman antiquity.

**Lunch at Sibilla.** Set among the ruins of a first-century BC temple, this gastronomic restaurant is well known for its traditional Roman cuisine. We will enjoy a relaxing and sumptuous lunch in the gardens overlooking the Villa Gregoriana waterfalls and temples, famously painted by countless artists, including Andrea Palladio.

**Afternoon at Cardinal Ippolito II d'Este's Villa and Gardens.** With Hadrian's Villa fresh in our minds, we will continue our journey back in time to discover the exquisite **Villa d'Este**, the 16th-century palace of Cardinal Ippolito II d'Este, and its stunning gardens and follies. Designed by Pirro Ligorio, the historic villa's vaulted ceilings and sumptuous marble are embellished with important frescoes and sculptural elements in the late Roman mannerist style. The villa's spectacular gardens—included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites—are considered *the world's most perfectly preserved Renaissance garden complex*.

**Evening farewell dinner at the residence of Ludovica Rossi Purini**, who will welcome us with our experts to her magnificent home, with supreme architecture and art, to celebrate *en grandeur* the end of our unique tour. Devoted to culture and social growth through music, our hostess, an eminent member of international cultural institutions, organizes concerts with leading musicians at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C., the American Academy in Rome, the U.S. Embassies in Italy, and many more.



**Sunday, October 11th—Breakfast and “A presto!” until our next unprecedented tour!**

**Tour Price:** \$8,000 per person double occupancy; \$9,000 single occupancy; based on a minimum of 15 participants, maximum 22 participants; plus a fully tax-deductible \$500 donation to ICAA. Members at the Contributor or Individual-Professional level or higher may attend the ICAA tours.

**Tour Price includes:** 8 days of private visits and receptions; 8 nights accommodation at the elegant 3-star luxury Albergo del Senato: Superior and Triple rooms double occupancy; Double standard rooms and Superior rooms single occupancy; 8 breakfasts; 6 lunches; cocktail receptions; and 5 dinners in private residences; all costs involved in the program, transport to and from events during the tour, all private visits and expert lecturers.

**Accommodations:** We will stay at the 3-star luxury hotel Albergo del Senato, ranked Trip Advisor's 6th best lodging of 1,264 hotels in Rome, in the heart of the historic city, on Piazza della Rotonda, in front of the Pantheon. Each room is handsomely decorated in a classic style with Rubelli furnishings and all the modern amenities: WiFi, air conditioning, etc., and a rooftop terrace with delightful views of Rome. Superior rooms have views on the Pantheon. [www.albergodelsenato.it](http://www.albergodelsenato.it)

**For more information and to assure your participation, please confirm before July 25th.**

Reservations are confirmed according to date of registration. Confirmed participants will receive a full itinerary. Please email Pamela Huntington Darling: [pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com](mailto:pdarling@exclusiveculturaltours.com); or call (Paris, France): Tel. +33 1 45 67 62 81.



Pamela Huntington Darling

### Expert Lecturers:

**Thomas Greene Rankin** came to Rome as a Fulbright Scholar in 1991 after completing his undergraduate degree in architecture at Princeton and his Masters in Architecture at Harvard. Mr. Rankin's architectural firm is dedicated to cultural and urban sustainability, architecture and design. He is also professor in Rome at several universities.

**Frank Dabell**, an Art historian, was raised in Rome and studied at Oxford University and the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London. A former fellow of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, he lectures for the Met in Europe and is on the Art History faculty of Temple University in Rome.

**Dr. Sara Magister** earned her master's in art history and her doctorate in archaeology from the University of Rome and is a consultant for the Vatican Museums and the former minister of culture, designing museum exhibitions and supporting the restoration of monuments. A native Roman, Dr. Magister is also a professor at an American University in Rome.

**Anthony Majanlahti**, historian and author, is an expert on Rome's noble families and their public works. He recently published the best-selling books: *The Families Who Made Rome* and *Roma Occupata 1943-44*.

*Due to the exceptional nature of certain private visits and receptions, if a venue is modified confirmed guests will be notified.*