

Recommended Restaurants

This list of recommended restaurants probably needs to be updated as we haven't had an opportunity to visit some of them lately. If you have any other recommendations, or if you have an opinion about any of these, please let Fr. Greg know!

Near the American Embassy and Santa Susanna

ANTICO RISTORANTE DEL GIGLIO

Via Torino 137, tel: 06.488.1606. Closed Sundays.

Located between the Main Train Station or "Temini" and the Rome Opera House, this restaurant is very convenient if you are staying near the station or on or near the Nazionale. A delightful restaurant that is also a lot of fun, it specializes in classic Roman and Lazio region cooking. Moderate.

COLLINE EMILLIANE

Via Avignonesi 22, tel: 06.871.538, Closed on Fridays.

Located south of the Piazza Barbarini, the street is directly behind Via del Tritone and you will need to walk down about a block and a half. A small crowded restaurant that requires reservations, the food is excellent and specializes in cuisine from the Emelliane region of Italy. Try their veal in a cream sauce served over a bed of mashed potatoes. Moderate to Expensive.

"DA GIOVANNI" Via Antonio Salandra 1, tel. 06.485.950. Closed on Sundays and all of August. Located just two blocks from Santa Susanna Church -- on the corner of Via XX Settembre and Via Salandra. A family run restaurant -- you'll be greeted by Signora Vitucci (mention Fr. Greg's name and she'll smile) and her son Fabrizio. The waiters' names are Vito and Andrea (brothers). The Agnolotti (pasta stuffed with veal) is the best -- as is the cannelloni when they have it. Fr. Greg likes the roasted chicken, but ask for a breast. Fr. Steve likes everything on the menu. The fish is very good too and they'll de-bone it right at the table and pour olive oil over it if you say yes.

THE ST. REGIS GRAND HOTEL is located right across the street from Santa Susanna. (via V.E. Orlando, 3, 00185 Rome). Tel: 06.4709.2712. They have a wonderful restaurant called Vivendo - expensive, but worth it. They also have a beautiful cocktail bar, and high tea on Sunday afternoons. A great place for elegant dining, for weddings and anniversaries, and for just watching the people.

RISTORANTE DA VICENZO, Via Castefidardo, 4/6 (off Via XX Settembre) Just down the street from our apartment and from Santa Susanna. A great great fish restaurant! 06.484.596. Closed Sundays and all of August. Clams, mussels, smoked swordfish, penne all'arrabbiata (hot pasta: peppers, tomatoes, garlic). Baked sea bass or flounder. Saltimbocca alla romana (veal and ham cooked in a wine sauce), grilled pork chops, roast chicken. Fabulous desserts.

GEORGE'S

Via Marche 7, tel: 06.420.84575, Closed Sundays.

Located on the street behind the Excelsior Hotel which sits on the Via Veneto. This restaurant not only has a magnificent patio but a piano bar as well. The setting is elegant and the service is absolutely wonderful. Specializing in classic Roman dishes. Expensive.

GIOVANNI

Via Marche 64, tel: 06.482.1834. Closed Friday evenings and Saturdays.

Located on the street behind the Excelsior Hotel which sits on the Via Veneto. Family run and very elegant restaurant, the service is excellent and setting is very elegant. Traditional Roman dishes done with a bit of a flare. Expensive. Good for special events, like lunch after First Communion! This is the very favorite of Sr. Rosaleen Sheridan, RSHM!

GIRARROSTO FIORENTINO Via Sicilia 46, tel: 06.428.80.660. Always open. Need Reservations. Near the American Embassy. They have good beef here -- it's from Tuscany. Fabulous veal, fish and the best potatoes and antipasti. Highly recommended. A/C. This is one of the Paulist Fathers' current favorite which we can only get to once a year these days!!

GIRARROSTO TOSCANO

Via Campania 29, tel: 06.482.1899. Closed on Wednesdays.

Located on the street that runs along the inside of the Aurelian wall by the Villa Borghese, just down from the Porta Pinciana. This recommendation is from friends at the American Embassy. Everyone wants a good steak, but here in Italy steak is a Tuscan dish, as Romans eat veal. So as you may not get to Florence on this trip, here is a recommendation. Expensive!

HOSTARIA GIULIO Via della Barchetta, 19. Phone: 06.6880.6466. Closed Sundays. Moderate. Fabulous pastas: homemade ravioli filled with spinach and ricotta cheese, fettuccine with garlicky pesto, orecchiette tossed in winter with broccoli and in summer with fresh tomatoes and mozzarella. Gnocchi homemade daily. Veal and Fish also.

HOSTERIA ULDERICO A SAN CLEMENTE, Via San Giovanni in Laterano, 106. 06.7045.0935. No Sat. Dinner or Sunday. Great for lunch after touring some of our favorite Churches (San Clemente, Quattro Coronati, San Giovanni in Laterano, etc.)

HOSTARIA DA NERONE, Via delle Terme di Tito, 96. Good for lunch after touring the Forum or the Coliseum. 06.481.7952. Closed Sundays. Antipasti display. Homemade ravioli. Fettuccine alla Nerone, a creamy dish with salami, ham, peas, mushrooms and eggs. Chicken with tomatoes and peppers in a wine sauce. Roast Rabbit.

IL GIARDINO

Via Zucchelli 29, tel: 06.488.5202, Closed Mondays.

Located just south of the Piazza Barberini, walk down the Tritone a block or so and take a right. While some of the waiters may try to keep you in the front rooms, where tourists often end up, go up the stairs and keep moving toward the back of the

restaurant. In the very back is a magnificent garden that is covered and heated in the winter and open in the summer. This is where you want to eat. Great pastas, their spaghetti con vongole veraci (or spaghetti with fresh clams) has some red pepper flakes in it which gives it a zip and their linguine con limone is pasta in a wonderful lemon cream sauce. Moderately priced. During the summer open on Sunday evenings for dinner, but not for lunch.

OSTERIA 44, Via Aureliana 42/44, 00187 Roma, 06.4201.3318; email: info@osteriaquarantaquattro.com website:<http://www.osteriaquarantaquattro.com/> A relatively new restaurant in the Paulist Fathers' neighborhood, Osteria 44 is just around the corner from San Camillo de Lellis. Sergio is your host and he delights in explaining the daily menu. Just the other day, Fr. Greg had a wonderful baked Flounder with potatoes and fresh vegetables and his guest enjoyed a delicious rack of lamb. Located on a quiet Roman street, Osteria 44 has both outdoor and indoor dining.

LA PENTOLACCIA

Via Flavia 38, tel: 06.483.477 OR 06.485.777

Located on the Via Flavia, a side street that runs parallel to Venti Settembre about two blocks from the Church. This is a small gem of a restaurant with some wonderful food. Fr. Greg especially likes the Bresaola and the Cod Fish with pine nuts. But they also have wonderful beef, lamb and pastas. And Fr. Steve has not yet decided what his current favorite is, but it's just a matter of time! Given its small size, it's always good to make a reservation on Friday and Saturday nights. Because of the many British hotels on the Flavia, La Pentolaccia fills up early and is now open on Sundays.

LA PIAZZETTA, Vicolo del Buon Consiglio, 23/a (at the Forum end of Via Cavour.) Tel: 06.699.1640. Closed Sundays. Reservations advised. Very secluded. Shaded terrace. Service not hurried. Herb focaccia bread. Creamy risotto, perfumed with a touch of ginger and zucchini flowers. Pasta alla Norma (tomatoes, mozzarella, eggplant). Grilled fish.

TAVERNA FLAVIA

Via Flavia 91, tel: 06.474.5214, Closed Sundays and Saturdays for Lunch.

Located on the Via Flavia, a side street that runs parallel to Venti Settembre about two blocks from the Church. Mimo who owns this wonderful restaurant is always sitting behind the cash register and his extensive staff will take very good care of you. This was a favorite hang out for American movie stars in the 1960s and 1970s when Rome was the location for many American films, and the walls are covered with autographed photos. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton dined here regularly when they filmed Cleopatra and there is a back dining room filled with Elizabeth Taylor memorabilia. Enough about the atmosphere, the food is quite good. The salads are extra-ordinary here, especially the "Elizabetha" named for Elizabeth Taylor. It is made of fresh arugola, shrimp and baby mozzarella and it is out of this world! All of their fish and meat dishes are wonderful. It can be bit Expensive but it is worth it! Fathers Steve and Greg both recommend it. Father Greg says its a great place for a small wedding reception!

Centro: Near the Campo de Fiori

AL BRIC

Via del Pelligrino 52, tel: 06.687.9533, Closed Mondays.

Located on a street that runs off of the Campo de Fiori by the Cancelleria (the opposite direction from San Andrea towards St. Peters). A new addition to Rome the restaurant is owned and run by Roberto, the son of our local wine merchant here in Rome. Because Roberto grew up in his father's wine business, he has designed a restaurant designed around fine Italian wine. Each night the courses are designed for wines that are highlighted. If you wanted to try a particular kind of wine and have a dish that complimented it, this is the place to go. Small, modern and yet intimate. Comes highly recommended. Expensive.

COSTANZA

Piazza Paradiso 63/65, tel: 06.681.717, Closed Sundays.

Just around the corner from the Church of San Andrea di Valle, it is more a street than a piazza. It sits over the Theater of Pompey but while the walls of the restaurant are stone and quite intimate, there are no ruins to view. However the food is excellent and the daily pasta special alone is the worth the trip to the restaurant. A basic Roman menu of both fish and meat. In the warm weather there is a small but crowded patio for diners. Moderate to Expensive.

DA PANCRAZIO

Piazza del Biscione 92, tel: 06.686.1246, Closed Wednesdays.

Located just off the Campo de Fiori, towards San Andrea Di Valle. A good basic meat and seafood restaurant in the Centro. While the atmosphere is grotto-like, the particular fascination of this restaurant is that it built directly on top of the Theater of Pompey where Julius Ceasar was assassinated. Go downstairs to use the restrooms and see some of the ruins of the theater, in fact if you can dine downstairs, all the better, although sitting in the Piazza, you get to people-watch as you eat! Expensive.

RISTORANTE PIERLUIGI

Piazza de'Ricci, tel: 06.686.1302, Closed Mondays.

Located on the Corso Vittorio Emmanuale, just past the Chiesa Nuova on the way to St. Peters. A small intimate restaurant with a large outside patio in the piazza, in which to dine in good weather. The pasta and the fish here are quite good. This is traditional favorite of students from the Pontifical North American College. Moderately priced.

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-Centro: Near the Parliament/Pantheon/Corso

ABRUZZI

Via del Vaccaro, tel: 06.679.3897, Closed Saturdays.

Located next to the Church of the Holy Apostles, walk past it, and as you come to the next street, the front door of the restaurant will be directly in front of you. This is the hang out for American priest students studying in Rome as their residence is just around the corner, near the Trevi Fountain. A simple and classic restaurant with large prints of Rome on the walls, it specializes in cuisine from the Abruzzi region of Italy. The waiters have been there for years and are very gracious. Try the pasta amatraciana -- it's fabulous (tomatoes and pancetta). The fish here is good and the spaghetti with

clams (con vongole) is excellent. Be sure to try the Amaro Abruzzi which they will put on the table after the meal. It is flavored with oranges. Moderately priced.

DAL POMPIERE In the Jewish Quarter: Via S. Maria del Calderari, 38, off Via Arenula. Tel: 06.686.8377 Closed on Sundays and July 20-Aug.31. Charming restaurant on the second floor of the 17th century Cenci Bolognetti Palace. Don't miss the carciofo alla giudia for antipasto: a fried artichoke that looks like a pressed flower. -- also zucchini blossoms stuffed with mozzarella and anchovies, then deep-fried. Roasted lamb, baccala (salt-dried cod) etc. Fr. Greg has eaten there, and it is recommended in: Great Eats Italy by Sandra Gustafson (Florence, Rome and Venice).

AL 59 RISTORANTE DA GIUSEPPE Via Angelo Brunetti, 59 near the Piazza del Popolo. Economical. Reservations essential for dinner (06.321.9019). Bolognese cooking! Try the tortellini with pumpkin or the spinach ravioli. Great desserts.

LA FONTANELLA, Largo della Fontanella Borghese, 86. 06.687.1582. Closed on Mondays. Expensive. Gorgeous décor. Abruzzo inspired. Antipasti good. Insalata Fontanella: argula, cheese, mushrooms, prosciutto in a mustard vinaigrette. Raw mushrooms with fresh slices of Parmesan cheese. Spinach salad. Zucchini ravioli, crepes filled with black ruffles. Spaghetti with seafood. Papparadelle al sugo di lepre (wide noodles in a robust hare sauce). Roasted and grilled Danish and Chianti beef, game and truffles in season, baby Abruzzo lamb, A warm vanilla soufflè draped in rich chocolate sauce, Fabulous reputation!

IL FALCHETTO

Via Montecatani 12, tel: 06.679.1160, Closed Fridays.

Located between the Church of San Ignazio and the Corso. A classic Roman restaurant that can get quite crowded and the table are close together. Moderately priced.

LA CANACCIA

Via della Guglia 63. No telephone!

Located off the Piazza Montecitorio near the Parliament. You really have to look for this restaurant because they have no telephone, but our friends at the American Embassy rave about the food and many Italian politicians regularly dine here. The owner's name is Salvatore and he serves wonderful fish and pasta "alla norma." Moderately priced.

LA SACRESTIA:

Via del Seminario 89, tel: 06.679.7581, Closed Wednesdays.

A wonderful place for pizza, located just a block from the Pantheon on the way to San Ignazio. The pizzas and calzones are great but the service can at times be slow.

L'EAU VIVE

Via Monterone 85, tel: 06.688.01095. Closed Sundays.

Located between the back of the Pantheon and the Largo Argentina. Run by and Order of Belgian nuns. French food appears to be the specialty, but at 10 PM each evening the sisters hold evening prayer right in the middle of the restaurant and

incorporate all of the guests. A unique experience and a place that Father Greg sometimes takes people who are visiting Rome.

PAPA GIOVANNI

Via dei Sediari 4, tel: 06.686.5308. Closed Sundays.

Between the Church of San Andrea di Valle and the Piazza Navona, some of our friends at the Embassy claim that this is the best restaurant in Rome. Reservations are absolutely necessary. The restaurant features wine from all of Italy and all over the world. Truffles, a popular Roman dish, is a house specialty. Expensive!

TERRA DI SIENA

Piazza Pasquino 77/78, tel: 06.683.07704, Closed Sundays.

Located in a small piazza on the way towards the Tiber and St. Peter's, on the southern end of the Piazza Navona. A family owned restaurant, it specializes in Sienese and Tuscan food. Very nice and intimate setting, it specializes in grilled meat and of course, Tuscan boar. This is a special favorite of Father Greg's. Moderate.

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-Other Places in Rome

THE CASSIA/NORTHERN ROME

DA MAMMA ITALIA

Via Dell'Aqua Traversa 196, tel: 06.33.12.786, Closed Mondays.

Very close to Marymount International School on the Cassia, this is a very unique restaurant. It is characterized with large comfortable rooms and a magnificent patio in the back. Mamma herself, of oftentimes there to greet you when you arrive. This is also a dance school that features ballroom dance, and if you ask, you might get a lesson. Very good food at reasonable prices. Moderate.

CASTEL SAN ANGELO/PIAZZA CAVOUR

LA PICCOLA IRPINIA

Via Pietro Cavallini, tel: 06.320.4508, Closed Sundays.

Located between the Tiber and Piazza Cavour just across from the Ministry of Justice. This restaurant features dishes from southern Italy in Irpinia and specializes in egg based pasta. Nice atmosphere and good service. Moderate.

SPANISH STEPS

ALLA RAMPA

Piazza Mignanelli 18, tel: 06.678.1900, Closed Mondays.

Located in the piazza behind the column of the Immaculate Conception and the American Express office, just down from the Spanish Steps. This is one of Father Steve's favorites and where he takes visitors for lunch. The restaurant has the most extensive antipasto bar in Rome, over one hundred different items. While many diners have this for a first course, it is so extensive that it makes a magnificent main course. Sit inside or outside under the large umbrella and street entertainers will come by. Excellent food, if you are in the mood for pasta, try the gnocchetti verdi alla gorgonzola. This is baby green gnocchi (made with spinach) in a gorgonzola cream sauce and is home made. Everything is very good and expensive, unless you settle for the antipasto bar! Cash only, no credit cards.

CIAMPINI

Viale Trinita dei Monti 1, tel: 06.678.5678, Open from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Located at the top of the Spanish Steps. You are at the Spanish Steps and you would like to stop for coffee or a sandwich called a "pannini" or perhaps some delicious home made ice cream. This is the place for you.

TRASTEVERE

LA TANA DE NOANTRI

Via della Paglia 1/2/3, tel: 06. 589.6575, Closed Tuesdays.

Located just off the Piazza di San Egidio and not very far from Santa Maria in Trastevere. This is wonderful place for pizza and pasta and they specialize in bruschetta, an oven roasted toast with wonderful toppings. On Sunday evenings, Father Greg likes to take people to the San Egidio evening prayer at Santa Maria in Trastevere at 8:30PM and then go to this restaurant for pizza and wine. A wonderful experience and they take reservations. Inexpensive to Moderate.

GALEASSI

Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere 3, tel: 06. 580.3775, Closed Mondays.

Located right in the central piazza of Trastevere, a fabulous site for people watching, it specializes in food from the Abbruzzi region of Italy. In the Spring or Summer this is a delightful place to be, but being in the very center of one of the most popular spots in Rome, it can be a bit pricey. Moderate to Expensive.

VATICAN

TRE PUPAZZI

Via Borgo Pio 183, tel: 06.686.8371.

Located down the Borgo Pio that begins in front of the Santa Anna Gate to the side of St. Peter's Square. You need to walk about 3 or 4 short blocks down the street and its on the right hand side. A family run restaurant that also serves wonderful pizza at lunchtime, it is frequented by a number of American bishops when they come to Rome. If you are at St. Peter's and looking for a good place for lunch try this restaurant. However as they get quite crowded, try to get there by 1 or 1:15 PM. This is Sr. Mary Ann Clarahan's (our Liturgical Consultant and sometime cantor) personal favorite for meetings and celebrations! Moderate.

There are many, many, many more good restaurants. Do check out Sandra Gustafson's book. And leave time for a nice walk after lunch or dinner. Go to bed early. Get up early.