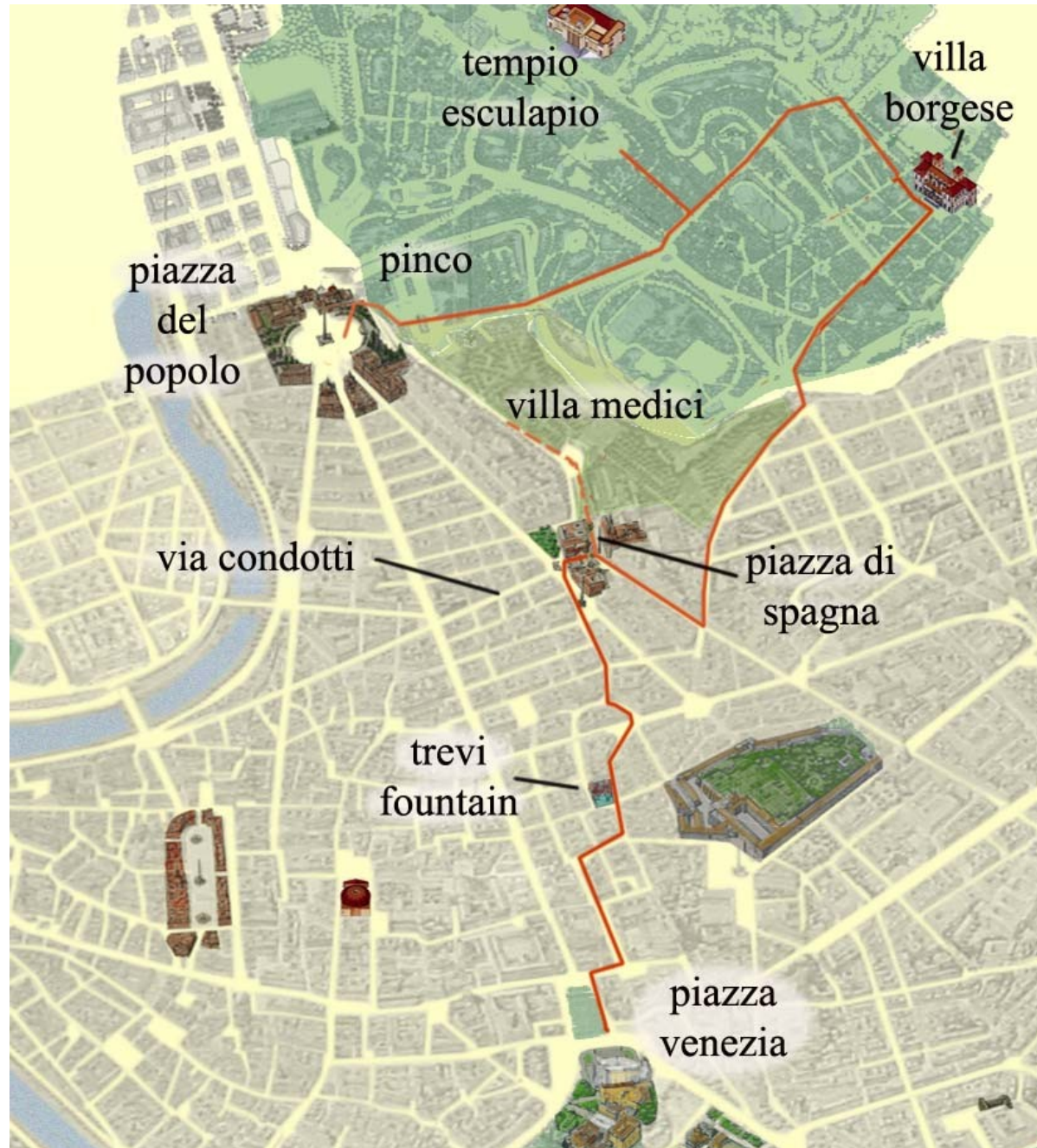


Hotel Lancelot Walks & Itineraries

Borghese



Borghese

Trevi Fountain

Rome's most romantic and best known fountain was completed by Nicola Salvi in 1762. Water for the fountain is supplied by one of Rome's earliest aqueducts.

On the right side of the fountain are two drinking sprouts which offered a rare opportunity for lovers to kiss in public. Newly weds and lovers still take a drink together from this fountain to bring good fortune to their love.

It is also customary to throw a coin into the fountain - over your shoulder while facing away - which is hoped will ensure your return to the eternal city.

Piazza di Spagna

The steps which dominate the piazza were built in 1725 with funds provided by the French ambassador. It has been a magnet for artists and poets and for a while became the 'ghetto de l'inglese'. The English romantic poets Keats and Shelley lived in a house overlooking the steps which is now a museum crammed with memorabilia of the two poets and of Mary Shelley (author of Frankenstein), Lord Byron and other romantics who spent time in the neighbourhood.

The fountain at the foot of the steps - Il Barcaccia - was designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini's father, Pietro Bernini.

Via Condotti

Lined with exclusive shops displaying italian 'alta moda' in women's fashions, shoes, perfumes, leather, watches, lingerie and furs.

Villa Medici

The villa was built for cardinal Ricci in 1540 and was purchased by Ferdinando dei Medici in 1576. In 1801 the villa was acquired by Napoleon to become the French Academy. The villa offers one of the best views of Rome and a good way to get inside the building is to visit one of the regular art exhibitions held here. (see www.villamedici.it for more information).

Villa Borghese

Cardinal Scipione Borghese was an avid art collector and built the Casino for lavish entertainment and to house his art treasures. It now houses the Borghese Museum which exhibits many great paintings, sculptures and mosaics. Visits to the gallery are by appointment only, and Lancelot staff will be happy to assist you in this.

Villa Borghese Gardens

The Villa Borghese Gardens is a vast complex of parks and shaded pathways with numerous interesting sculptures, fountains and squares, chief among them being the Casino or Villa Borghese which houses the Borghese art gallery. To the left of the villa are the sculptured gates of Bioparco and further on is the Museo Canonica. Continuing down Viale Pietro Canonica is the Tempio di Esculapio. This island temple is by Antonio Asprucci and depicts the god of health.

Pincio

A stunning view of the city can be enjoyed here. Pincio is named after the Pinci family which owned it in the 4th centry.

Piazza del Popolo

This piazza at the northern gate to the city was laid out in 1538. The central obelisk was moved here from Circo Massimo in the mid-16th century. Carolo Rainaldi designed the twin baroque churches.

The church of Santa Maria del Popolo houses many artistic treasures. Legend has it that Nero was buried on this spot and that he continued to haunt the area until the church was built.