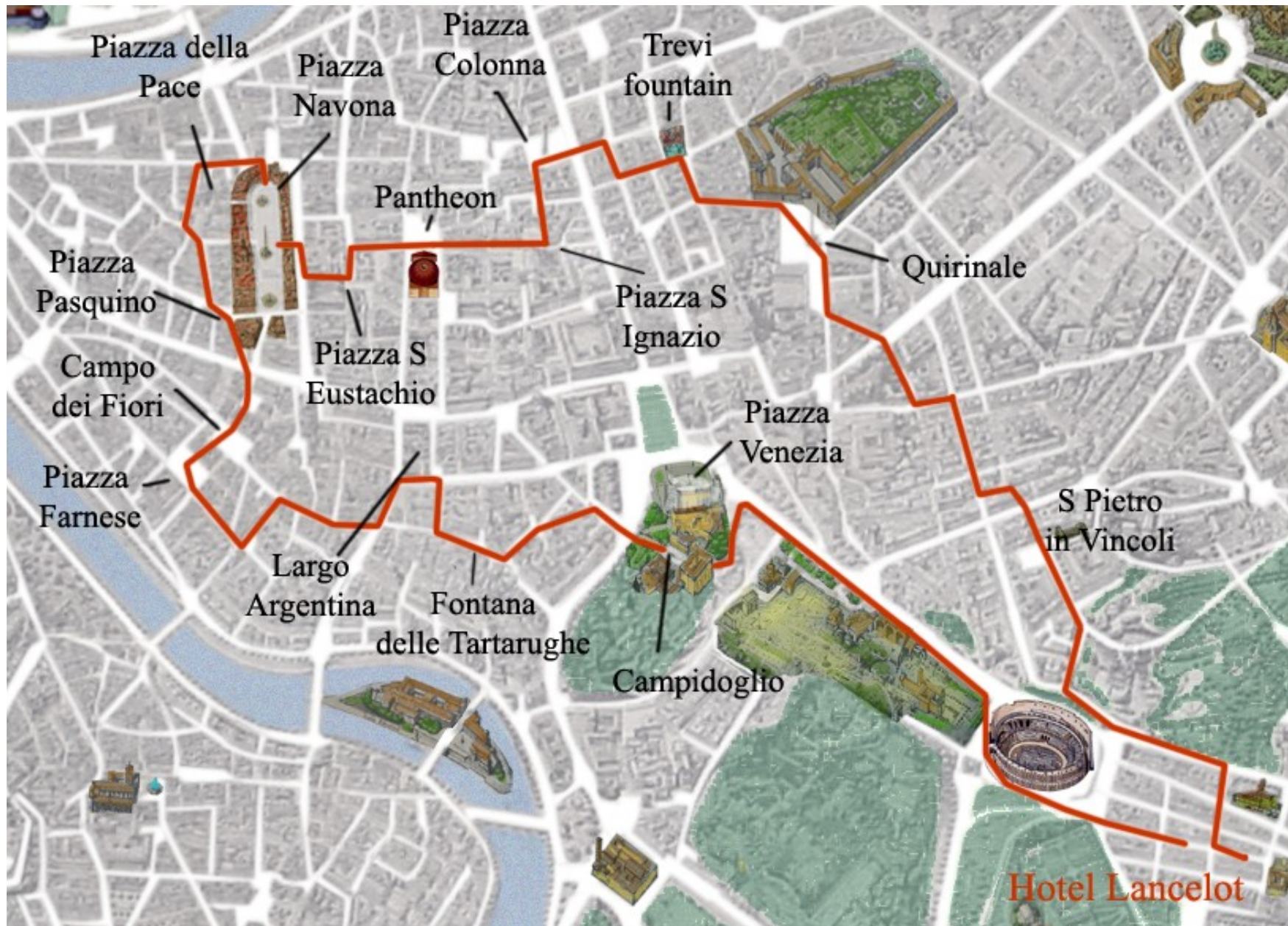


# Hotel Lancelot Walks & Itinerearies

# Historical Centre



## ***Historical Centre***

### **Campidoglio**

Campidoglio, or Capitoline, was the most important of Rome's seven hills. The piazza at the top of the hill was designed by Michelangelo in the 1530s and took over a hundred years to complete. The grand stairs leading up to the piazza were also designed by Michelangelo. The building opposite the stairs is Rome's city hall. At the centre of the piazza is a magnificent second century equestrian statue.

### **Piazza Venezia**

This is the center of Rome and there are several important monuments, ruins and museums in the vicinity.

The Piazza is dominated by the Vittoriano – a monument to Italy's unification. From Piazza Venezia you can continue along one of the other routes suggested. It takes about 15 minutes to walk from Piazza Venezia to the Lancelot along the Via dei Fori Imperiali. Alternatively, there are several buses you can take (85, 87 or 117).

### **Piazza Mattei**

This cosy piazza is dominated by one of Rome's loveliest fountains which was designed by Giacomo della Porta some time in the 1580s. The tortoises, for which the fountain is now named, was added in the following century by Bernini.

### **Largo Argentina**

### **Piazza Farnese**

This piazza is dominated by the magnificent palazzo designed first by Sangullo, continued by Michelangelo and finished by Giacomo della Porta. The palazzo is considered to be one of the finest renaissance palaces in Rome, and has housed the French embassy since the 1870s.

### **Campo dei Fiori**

In the morning there is a colorful food market in this square. The cowled statue in the middle is of Giordano Bruno burned at the stake in the same spot. At the western corner is one of the oldest bakeries in Rome which offers a great pizza. In the evening the square is popular with young people, who pack out the many bars and cafes.

### **Pasquino**

Piazza di Pasquino is known for the torso of a statue representing Menelaus with the body of Patroclus, but which became known as Pasquino after the name of a tailor who lived nearby and who had a reputation for lampooning the powerful. His tradition continues as messages and poems continue to be placed at the base of the statue.

### **Piazza della Pace**

The square of S. Maria della Pace was designed by Pietro da Cortona in 1656. There are frescos by Raphael. Concerts are often performed in this church. **Piazza Navona**

The piazza gets its shape from the ruins of Emperor Domitian's stadium (AD 86) on which it

stands. Over the centuries the square became a place for games, tournaments and processions. From the 17th to the 19th centuries the square used to be flooded to allow barges for the nobility to parade in a background of fireworks.

### **Pantheon**

This is the best preserved monument from ancient Imperial Rome, and for many centuries it remained the largest dome ever built. The dome is shaped as a sphere, the base of which would rest on the floor. There is a 9 meter hole in the top of the dome which provides illumination to the interior. It is amazing to think that the Romans were able to resolve the many engineering problems in the construction of this building without the aid of computer aided design, and that the dome has remained standing for nearly 2000 years despite the removal of its protective brass cover in the 17th century.

### **Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza**

This is possibly the most imaginative geometrical design by Borromini. The concave facade is countered by the convex bulk of the dome. The interior is based on a six-pointed star which terminates in a fanciful corkscrew dome.

### **Piazza S Ingiazio**

The square is designed as a theater in which everyone becomes the performer. Such theatrical settings of piazzas helps to explain the Italians' love for dramatic gesture and 'bella figura' (dressing well for the part we all play in the public theatre).

### **Piazza Colonna**

The column at the centre of this Piazza was erected in AD 180 to commemorate Marcus Aurelius's victories in battle. Inspired by Trajan's column, the 30m column is covered in vivid spiraling reliefs. The reliefs on the lower part represent the conquering of the

### **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.

### **Quirinale**

The immense palazzo served as the papal summer residence for almost three centuries until 1870 when Italy was united and it became the king's residence. When Italy became a republic in 1946 it became the president's residence.

### **San Pietro in Vincoli**

Houses the mighty Moses by Michelangelo. Conserved in the reliquary on the main altar are the chains said to have been used to shackle Saint Peter in Jerusalem.

### **Alley way**

Step back in time through the passageway into narrow streets of craftsmen gilding picture frames and restoring antique furniture.