

## Michael J. Gyulai | Midnight in Rome Blog

### Michael J. Gyulai's **Best of Rome**

#### Best Espresso in Rome

**Sant' Eustachio**

Piazza Sant' Eustachio, 82 (Between Piazza Navona & the Pantheon)

#### Best Gelato in Rome

**Giolitti**

Via Uffici del Vicario, 40 (Just north of the Pantheon)

#### Best Outdoor Caffè for Good Weather

**Antico Caffè della Pace** (+39) 066861216

Via della Pace, 4-5-6 (Just west of Piazza Navona)

- Full bar, best people watching on busy pedestrian corner, and beautiful waitresses

#### Best Indoor Caffè for Bad Weather

**Salotto 42** (+39) 066785804

Piazza di Pietra, 42 (Small piazza just west off of Via del Corso, east of the Pantheon)

#### Best Place to Eat Fine Cheeses, Cured Meats, & Sip Wine in a Space Built for Royalty

**Casa Blevé** (+39) 066865970

Via del Teatro Valle, 48-49 (between Piazza Navona & The Pantheon)

- It make look mediocre when you enter and choose your items, but once you enter the unbearably elegant main 'salone' to enjoy your meal, you'll see what I'm talking about

#### Best Shopping in Rome

Best Internationally Known Brands: **Via dei Condotti** (Runs off the Spanish Steps)

Best Italian/Roman Brands: **Via Cola di Rienzo** (b/w Piazza del Popolo & the Vatican)

#### Best Pizza in Rome

**Da Baffetto** (+39) 066861617

Via del Governo Vecchio, 114 (West of Piazza Navona, beyond Caffè della Pace)

- Prepare to wait in line out front and order fast inside

#### Best Traditionally Homemade Roman Cuisine

**Maccheroni** (+39) 0668307895

Piazza delle Coppelle, 44 (between Piazza Navona & the Pantheon)

- Welcoming, warm atmosphere. Relaxed & basic décor, just like the dishes.

#### Best Place to Eat a 5 Course Dinner on a Bed & then Dance in a Grotto

**The Supperclub [CLOSED]** (+39) 0668807207

Via de' Nari, 14 (Just south of the Pantheon)

- Up-market & progressive, great DJs, glamorous crowd, requires reservations for dinner (call office number above) & list placement for drinks/dancing without reservations (see contact names below). This is where I went to bartending school and Roberto (lead downstairs Grotto bartender) was my teacher.

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### Best Dedicated Dance Club

**GOA** (+39) 065748277  
Via Libetta, 13 (Just off the tourist map southbound)  
- Has reputation for pulling great international DJs (saw DJ Jazzy Jeff here in 2006) but can be hit or miss (mainly does House / Electronica music). Check with the club for the lineup & usually requires list placement (see contact names below).

### Best After-Hours International Pub

**On the Rox** (+39) 0645492975  
Via Galvani, 54 (in Testaccio, south of Trastevere)  
- Used to come here every weekend after we got off work @ 2 a.m. because they go 'till 4 or 5. Crowd is a mix of Italians, Americans, and international young people. This whole area of Testaccio is crammed with clubs but the crowd is a little 'rougher' than elsewhere in the city. Ask for Christian and say Mike from Magnolia / California sent you.

### Best Club with Chandeliers Hanging from the Ceiling

**La Maison** (+39) 066833312  
Vicolo dei Granari, 3 (Just west of Piazza Navona)  
- Another hit or miss depending on the promoter but the space is open & beautiful

### Best Lounge I Have Never Been To

**Grotta Pinta** (+39) 3493960096  
Vicolo di Grotta Pinta, 12 (A bit hidden just off Piazza Campo de' Fiori)  
- The owner of Magnolia, where I worked for the majority of my time in Rome, had opened this place years earlier, but had neighbor noise complaints and it was shut down. The entire time I lived in Rome it remained closed, but just as I was leaving, they acquired new licenses, renovated, and reopened. Ancient-Rome design in multiple grottos, very international crowd. Find **Majd** (Mah-sh-duh), tell him I sent you, & he'll take care of you.

### Best Way to Party in Rome with Loads of Beautiful, Young International People

Call **Alfredo Martinez** (+39) 3280840339 or **Jobe** (+39) 3404987314  
- These two run the hottest international parties at all the clubs listed above & usually have something going on at a different spot every night of the week. Call them, ask their weekly lineup, and mark your calendar accordingly.

### Best Tourist Stuff

Best On-foot Exploration: **Trastevere** zone  
Best View of the City: **Piazza Giuseppe Garibaldi** (above Trastevere)  
Best Museum: **Galleria Borghese** (contains the best-of Bernini)