

TRAVEL

4B** (F-9A)*5D)

O&E Monday, May 4, 1992

ART, AMUSEMENTS
LIVE ON IN THE
ETERNAL CITYBy Alan Cowell
Now York Times Syndicate

As Europe's capitals go, Romans acknowledge with a mix of pride and regret that theirs best exemplifies the old adage that time is money. In other words, in this city it is virtually impossible to spend time without spending money in substantial dollars.

So the question arises: Is it still worth it now that youth's lost memories of dollar-a-bowl pasta are gone and the famed three coins in the Trevi Fountain won't even buy a cappuccino?

The answer, with some significant qualification, is yes. And the reasons are as clichéd as ever.

For all the buzzing, high-decibel motorini, the purse-snatchers, the suicidal lemming-rush of the traffic and the pull of carbon monoxide over the Pantheon, this is still a city of art and amusement, of romance that extends from the young couples locked in a kahlula embrace to the sudden glimpse under some archway on some cobbled byway of a cascade of geraniums catching the sunlight by a fountain and a statue.

Starting at 5 p.m., especially on Saturday, Romans take their strolls and do their shopping and coveting along the main central arteries and their tributaries, from the Piazza del Popolo along the Via del Corso to the Piazza Venezia.

Follow the flow to the Piazza Novona with its fountains and curbside artists — \$10 for a portrait in pencil, less for a caricature sketch; the Pantheon, where any number of ice-cream parlors in adjacent side streets offer exotic flavors for just under \$2 a cone; and, for a morning outing, stroll through the open-air market of the Campo dei Fiori, where shoppers buy their fruit, vegetables and other produce from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Whatever else has changed — and despite the traffic — central Rome is still a compact stroller's city, and it is still possible to experience that particular thrill of getting a glimpse of Italy beyond the monuments for nothing more than the price of a cup of coffee.

EVENTS

The major art exhibitions will be displaying the works of Caravaggio, Raphael and the Italian futurist Enrico Prampolini in May.

And, though its reputation is

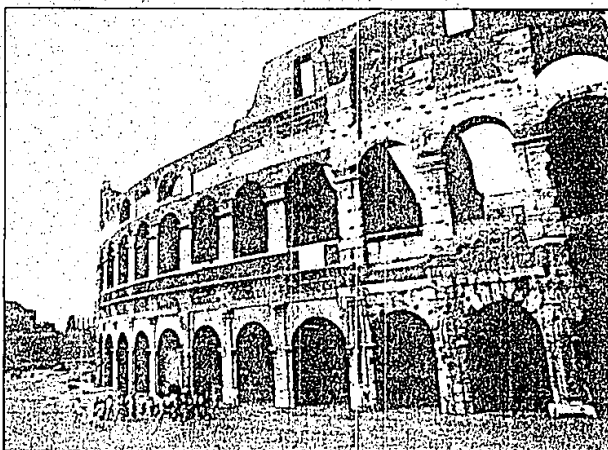


Photo courtesy of Italian Government Travel Office

Rome's most awe-inspiring ancient monument is the Colosseum, where Romans once flocked to see gladiatorial contests.

THERE'S
NO PLACE
LIKE ROME

nowhere near as exalted as La Scala's in Milan, the Rome Opera will be presenting a program of opera and ballet from May to early June.

The Caravaggio exhibition, smaller than "The Age of Caravaggio" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 1985, runs through May 24 at the Palazzo Ruspoli, at 418 Via del Corso. It is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Admission is \$9.50. For more information call 6832177.

The drawings of Raphael, assembled from many parts of the world, are on display at the Accademia di Francia, at 1 Viale della Trinità dei Monti, through May 30. The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily except Monday morning. Admission is \$9.50. For more information call 67611.

At the Palazzo dell'Esposizione at 194 Via Nazionale, the Enrico Prampolini exhibit offers a rare retrospective of the artist's work. Admission is \$10. The exhibition runs through May 25 and is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. except Tuesday. For more information

call 686465.

The Rome Opera, at Piazza del Campidoglio, offers tickets ranging from \$18 in the gallery to around \$130 for seats in a central box.

The program includes Rogerito, Leonavalle's "Pachacuti" and Pietro Mascagni's "Amico Fritz" on May 6-10, 13, 16, Franz Lehár's "Merry Widow" on May 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24, 27, and Luciano Demaret's "Fille du Regiment" on May 26, 29, 31 and June 4, 6. For more information call the box office at 4674568.

Opera is also performed at the Teatro Valle, at Via del Teatro Valle, where Gioacchino Rossini's "Caliph of Baghdad" will be presented May 8 and 9. Rossini's "Cinderella," presented June 3 and 5, will be sung by award-winning young opera singers. For more information call 6543791.

The ballet program at the Rome Opera is thick: "Iphigénie en Tauride," which will be presented June 12, 13 and 14 with the Pina Bausch company.

For chamber music the National Academy of Santa Cecilia, at 4 Via

de' Condottarone, offers Friday-midnight concerts throughout May. Admission ranges from \$18 to \$30. For more information call 641014.

SIGHTSEEING

Rome sometimes seems to be nothing more than sights waiting to be seen — from the Basilica of St. Peter's at the Vatican to the Colosseum. But there are other perspectives.

From June 1 through Sept. 30 the Aqueduct will ply the Tiber on a 20-minute ride from the Isola Tiberina to the Ponte Duca da Ostia, via the Ponte Cavour. It will cost about 10 cents — \$1.80 round trip — and can be boarded at any of these three points.

The route goes nowhere near traffic and ancient monuments, but it does circulate through parts of the ancient city — Trastevere, once working-class, now gentrified, and riverside apartments that might almost be at Paris. The boat runs, in theory at least, every 40 minutes from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

See what's cooking in Paris' many culinary, wine shops

By Everett Potter
special writer

In Paris, conversation about food and wine takes precedence over many things in daily life.

Not surprisingly, there are many shops devoted to every aspect of culinary art and viticulture. Two of them are especially well-known: Dehillerin (18 Rue Coquillière, Paris 75001; telephone 011-331-42-36-5313) has aisles filled with copper cookware, oyster knives, bread pans and wire whisks in sizes that range from a few inches to the height of a small child.

Au Bain Marie (10 Rue Boissy-d'Anglais, Paris 75008; telephone 011-331-42-66-5974) sells all the adornments of an artfully set table, from asparagus plates to breakfast sets designed with images of sunflowers.

A couple other shops are more off the beaten path, but just as much fun. Lescene-Dura (63 Rue de la Verrière, Paris 75004; telephone 011-331-42-72-0874) is the place many bistros and brasserie owners buy wine glasses. The shop has been in business since 1875, serving the needs of restaurant owners, as well as the average Parisian.

The interior has all the aesthetic charm of a plumbing supply house. But there's usually a fire in the pot-bellied stove, a good place to warm the hands before holding a fragile glass.

It is an art to select the right glass for the right wine. The Institut National des Appellations d'Origine (INAO), a Paris-based organization, has made it easier by classifying the appropriate glasses to use for various occasions.

For example, the official INAO wine-tasting glass, made of lead crystal, is shaped like an elongated eggcup with a short stem and a wide base. It holds 8 ounces of wine and, at Lescene-Dura, is priced at about \$15 (at the current exchange rate of 5.3 francs to the dollar).

The shop also has special glasses for Bordeaux, Beaujolais and Alsatian wines.

There are squat glasses for Ricard, at about \$18.50 each. Gold-rimmed Armagnac glasses resembling large chimbleys are about \$40 each. Those who prefer strong spirits will find old-fashioned whiskey shot glasses priced at about \$11.50 each.

Lescene-Dura also has thousands of corks in different sizes, cork-screws of every shape and description, wine carafes, wine-cellar thermometers and heavy blue-cotton aprons for about \$18.50 each.

Just a few blocks away is Quimper Faience (84 Rue St. Martin, Paris 75004; telephone 011-331-42-71-9303), which is the Paris showroom for brilliantly colored pottery from Brittany.

For more than 300 years the Faïenceries de Quimper fab Henriet have been producing "faïence," earthenware pottery that is hand-painted using the company's famous "coup de pinceau" (stroke-of-the-brush) technique.

The signature pieces are decorated with the design of a peasant man and woman, colored in various shades of yellow and blue and covered with an opaque glaze. Each piece is initialed by the artist, with no use of stencils or decals.

For those who can't get across the Atlantic, there are two shops in the United States: Quimper Faïence, 141 Water St., Stonington, Conn. 06378, telephone (203) 539-1712 and Quimper Faïence, 1121 King Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314, telephone (703) 519-8239.

☆☆CONDOMANIA☆☆

Fabulous resort condominiums

<p>ORLANDO Area From \$619.00/wk Two and three BR, two bath luxury condominiums 5 miles from Disney</p>	<p>DAYTONA BEACH \$399.00/wk One BR ocean front efficiency on the world's most famous beach</p>
<p>HILTON HEAD ISLAND From \$490.00/wk Two bedroom two bath family condos for 7 nights Private beach access, indoor and outdoor pools, tennis, etc.</p>	
<p>See your travel agent or call 800-258-2701 Passport Society Travel Inc.</p>	

• The pulse of your community • The pulse of the world

Win a weekend getaway to the Stratford Festival in our "Where's William?" Contest

Find William Shakespeare hidden in the pages of your Observer & Eccentric Newspaper today or in any Monday edition during the next four weeks and you will be eligible to win a weekend at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, Canada.

Eight Observer & Eccentric readers will win a three day weekend for two on Friday, June 19, through Sunday, June 21, 1992 which includes Friday and Saturday night lodging at the Victorian Inn, Saturday brunch at the Church Restaurant, and two tickets to three of this season's premier performances:

William Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet"
Robertson Davies' "World of Wonders"
Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore"

Your package also includes a backstage tour of the world-renowned Festival Theatre as well as a post-performance reception on Saturday evening.



To qualify for a chance to win this wonderful theatre weekend, find William! Scan the pages of your Observer & Eccentric every Monday through May 25th and find where we've hidden a tiny picture of Shakespeare. Then by May 29, mail to:

Where's William?
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schuchcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

Clearly print your name, address, daytime telephone number, along with the issue date and code number under William Shakespeare's picture.



**40 Seasons
STRATFORD
FESTIVAL**
 Your best ticket to Shakespeare

All correct entries will be entered in an impartial drawing for this exciting weekend excursion.

RULES: YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER TO ENTER. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1992. CONTEST IS NOT OPEN TO EMPLOYEES OF OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS, AFFILIATED COMPANIES OR THEIR FAMILIES. PRIZES NOT REFUNDABLE. ON THEATRE TRAVEL, WINNERS PROVIDE THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS IS THE OFFICIAL DETROIT-AREA PRINTER SPONSOR FOR THE STRATFORD FESTIVAL

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS