

Ciao, fellow traveler!

Happy New Year! January in Rome is a time of extraordinary spiritual and cultural events, and I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates with you.

The Jubilee Has Begun

The Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica are now open, marking the start of the Jubilee! Pilgrims from around the world are gathering to experience this sacred and historic occasion.

Other key Jubilee events this month include:

- **Opening of Holy Doors:**

- *January 1:* St. Mary Major's Basilica.
- *January 5:* St. Paul's Outside the Walls.

- **Jubilee of the World of Communications:**

- *January 24–26:* A celebration of professionals in media, including a special meeting with the Pope in Paul VI Hall on January 25.

The Reopening of the Passetto di Borgo

I was overjoyed to hear that the **Passetto di Borgo**, the historic secret passage connecting Castel Sant'Angelo to the Vatican, has reopened to visitors! Closed since 2018, this 13th-century elevated walkway offers stunning views and a unique perspective of Rome's rich history. Don't miss this remarkable journey above the city streets.

January Festivals and Events

- **Festa della Befana** (*Until January 6*): Celebrate Epiphany with festive markets, sweets, and traditional appearances by La Befana, the beloved figure of Italian folklore. Piazza Navona is the heart of the action.
- **Roma Capodarte 2025** (*January*): Kick off the year with free cultural events, including concerts, exhibitions, and performances across the city.

Cultural Highlights

- **Art Exhibitions:**
 - *Joan Mirò & Antonio Ligabue (Until January 12)*: Explore modern art at the Historic Infantry Museum.
 - *Botero Retrospective at Palazzo Bonaparte (Until January 19)*: Celebrate the vibrant works of Fernando Botero.
- **Live Music**: Enjoy concerts, opera, and tribute shows in venues across Rome throughout January.

Rome is buzzing with excitement this month, making it the perfect time to experience its unique blend of culture, spirituality, and history.

In Personal News

I am working diligently writing and editing book 3 of the Travel Italy Series - Ultimate Festival and Travel Guide Rome & Beyond. I find it so difficult to stay under Amazon's 550 page limit!

I absolutely love Rome but I also enjoy visiting the smaller towns around Rome. They are easy to get to by train, bus or by car and they are absolutely delightful and senza turisti (without tourists!) So look for this book to arrive in March (stretch goal) or April with plenty of options for events in Rome & Beyond.

I hope your travel plans, hopes and dreams all come true!

Warm regards,

Katerina Ferrara

Immersion Travel

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