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travels

city's loveliest (if lesser known), is now open at the Villa Torlonia, a glittering venue for 20th-century Italian painting.

And as if all that weren't enough, the via Margutta will host a series of shows, spectacles, and parties this June, coinciding with the release of gallerist Moncada's book on its artistic past. So when next in Rome, be sure to do as the Romans: Immerse yourself in culture, but don't miss out on the fun. —MARELLA CARACCIOLLO

**AN INSIDER'S
ROME**

Caracciolo and her husband, artist Sandro Chia, favor these local stops, old and new

HOTELS

Abitart Hotel Four-star hotel in the trendy and somewhat out-of-the-way Ostiense neighborhood. The interiors are a tribute to contemporary art and design. Via Pellegrino Matteucci, 10; abitarthotel.com

Buonanotte Garibaldi A tiny but luxurious guesthouse in the heart of bohemian Trastevere, tended to by artist and textile designer Luisa Longo. Via Garibaldi, 83; buonanottegaribaldi.com

Hotel Locarno Just a few steps from the magnificent Piazza del Popolo, this old-time classic has attracted artists and writers ever since it opened in 1925. Great garden, bar, and tearoom. Via della Penna, 22; hotellocarno.com

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Café Chiostro del Bramante Secluded American-style bar in a stunning and quintessentially Roman architectural setting. Arco della Pace, 5; chiostrodelbramante.it

Cioccolateria Said An old chocolate factory turned restaurant and bar, Said also houses one of the best chocolate boutiques in town. Frequented by artists living in the Pastificio Cerere building next door. Via Tiburtina, 135; said.it

Metodo Classico This recently opened venue serves fabulous food and wine, has inspiring interiors, and is situated just a few steps from the MAXXI. A must. Via Guglielmo Calderini, 64; 011-39-06-324-42-62

Pastificio San Lorenzo One of the finest new restaurants in Rome, offering a modern take on traditional Italian cuisine. First-rate wine list and an artistic crowd. Via Tiburtina, 196; pastificiocerere.com/ristorante/index

Primo al Pigneto Excellent restaurant in the heart of a suburb colonized by up-and-coming artists. Via del Pigneto, 46; primoalpigneto.it

Wine Bar Camponeschi This enoteca, in one of the city's most riveting piazzas, hosts regular exhibitions curated by influential art critic Achille Bonito Oliva. Piazza Farnese, 50; ristorantecamponeschi.it