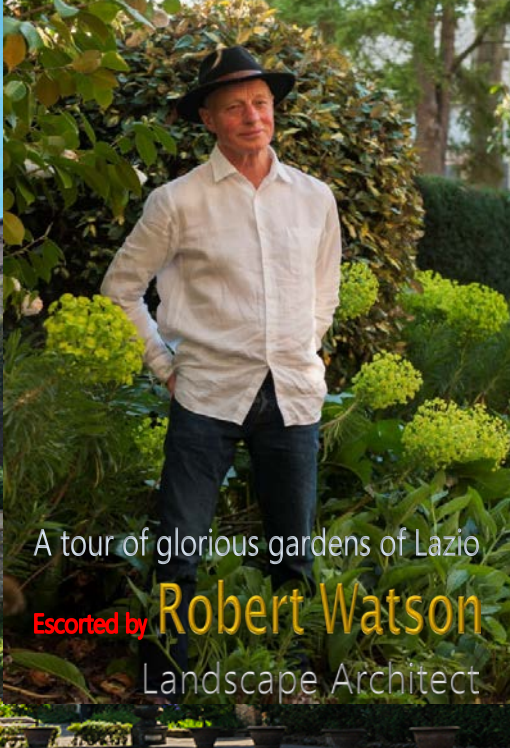


# Garden TOURS of ITALY

*I Giardini del Latium*



A tour of glorious gardens of Lazio

Escorted by **Robert Watson**  
Landscape Architect

CONNECTITALIA - NZ  
<https://www.connectitalia-nz.com>



**Come with us!**

[info@connectitalia-nz.com](mailto:info@connectitalia-nz.com)

# ABOUT CONNECTITALIA-NZ LTD

Our company's mission is to promote greater liaison between Italy and New Zealand, reflecting the different but complementary backgrounds of the company's two directors, Beniamino Petrosino and Anne Scragg. Our principal focus is planning and escorting exclusive small group tours in Italy offering a cultural experience with a difference. Our tours are most definitely not of the whistle-stop "Today is Tuesday so it must be Belgium" kind. We pride ourselves in providing you with the time and comfort to really enjoy what you are seeing and doing and you will never feel rushed. Our tours start and finish in Italy so you are most welcome to join us from anywhere in the world. Whether you are travelling on your own or with others, you can expect individual care and attention from two escorts who are willing to go the extra mile to ensure you have an unforgettable time. We also encourage travellers wanting to visit New Zealand from overseas to contact us and we will be very happy to provide you with a New Zealand tour package tailored to meet your particular needs and interests. We use accredited tour operators to ensure our tours are trouble free and we insist on the highest standards of customer service in all situations throughout our tours. Your comfort and security are of paramount importance to us. Whether you are planning a trip to Italy or a trip to New Zealand with us, it will be our pleasure to look after you throughout your tour. We are confident you will enjoy a unique cultural experience and a lot of fun along the way.

## Robert Watson our Garden Tour Escort

Robert Watson is a landscape architect based in Christchurch. He undertakes a wide range of landscape design and planning projects for urban and rural clients and has been involved in a wide variety of major projects around New Zealand over the last 35 years. He is a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Landscape Architects and an Assessor for the NZ Gardens Trust. Robert's work has won numerous prizes including a Gold award at the 2009 Ellerslie Flower Show for a garden he designed for the Canterbury Horticultural Society. Another of Robert's projects is the renowned Broadfields Garden, a NZ Garden Trust Garden of International Significance, for which he was a finalist in 2015 NZILA Awards. Connectitalia-NZ is thrilled that Robert has agreed to lead its Italian garden tours and is looking forward to giving our clients the experience of a lifetime.

### Robert Watson



*"Following a brief career in the law I travelled and worked in Europe spending time in northern Italy where I taught and visited some of its great gardens. On my return to NZ I studied landscape architecture as a post graduate student at Lincoln University.*

*This course included the history of Italian gardens for which I have a passion. I have since then returned to Italy on several occasions and visited more of its gardens for the sheer pleasure of being there and to better understand their place in the history of garden design.*

*I was delighted when Connectitalia-NZ asked me to lead its Italian garden tours. I know Connectitalia-NZ tours are unlike most tours in that they are small, exclusive and unregimented and this appealed to me. Not only will we visit some stunning Italian gardens, we will enjoy a unique cultural experience along the way."*

*"I sincerely hope you will join us!"*

For any queries email [info@connectitalia-nz.com](mailto:info@connectitalia-nz.com)

# VACANZE ITALIANE – Come with us!

Beniamino Petrosino



I am the founder of CONNECTITALIA-NZ. I came from Italy to live in New Zealand in the 1980's and have worked as a chef, restaurateur and consultant in the hospitality industry in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and the United States of America. I have taught Italian in schools and privately and also English to refugees. In 2003, Hazard Press published my novel "The Passage of the Frog and the Wild Strawberries of 1942" set in the Mezzogiorno regions of Italy where I grew up and it would give me great pleasure to introduce you to this magical land and its people. In late 2015 I met Anne Scragg when she became one of my Italian language students. In 2016 we ran a successful cultural programme in Christchurch showcasing many special Italian foods and wines and introducing our guests to delightful Italian locations off the beaten track. Now Anne and I take our guests to see the enchanting places we have talked about and ensure they have a cultural experience like no other. Our future plan is to secure a home in Italy so you will even be able to put down your luggage and forget about it!

Anne Scragg



I initially trained as a lawyer and worked in private practice in New Zealand for some years. I had a few years off work while my family was young and then returned to work as an adjudicator and mediator. Over time I became involved in designing and establishing specialist dispute resolution schemes in the public and private sectors. In 2015, I retired from a senior management role with the intention of doing something entirely different. One day my husband came in from the letterbox with one of Beniamino's business cards and I thought Italian language lessons might be just what I needed! I have been to Italy several times and have loved every visit. I am confident I know what non-Italians need and want when travelling and I want to share my passion for Italy with others. I also want to show our guests from other countries the treasures that my homeland, New Zealand, has to offer and would be delighted to work with you to plan your trip through the land of the Lord of the Rings.

## Exclusive Tours of Italy

*"Over the last few years we have got together to bring people a genuine glimpse into Italian culture and customs. Now our intent is to take you there for an experience unlike any other."*

For any queries email  
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CONNECTITALIA-  
<https://www.connectitalia-nz.com>

# I Giardini del Latium

THE GARDENS OF LATIUM with Robert and Beniamino



## I Giardini del Latium - 8 days (7 nights)

NZ\$ Price TBA (price subject to change - single supplement may apply)

On this tour, you will:

- Visit outstanding Italian gardens with Robert Watson, a renowned New Zealand landscape architect
- Learn about developments in Italian garden design from the Renaissance to the modern day
- Admire the exquisite gardens of the summer palace of the Popes overlooking Lake Albano
- Visit UNESCO heritage site Villa d'Este and the magnificent ruins of Hadrian's Villa
- Marvel at 16<sup>th</sup> Century stone statues and stunning water features in heritage Italian gardens
- Visit the ancient land of the Etruscans and imagine yourself transported back in time thousands of years
- Enjoy learning about Italian culture and customs from Beniamino, your Italian escort
- Enjoy excellent accommodation in stunning surroundings. No boring high rises for us!
- **Not** be getting up every day at 7am and moving on to your next stop
- Learn about the regional cuisine from an experienced Italian restaurateur and enjoy local delicacies
- **Not** have absolutely everything mapped out for you – there will be surprises along the way that you will want to tell all your friends about when you get home and **MOST IMPORTANTLY** you will have fun!-😊

*“This will be an inspiring and stimulating trip around seven well-known gardens located north and south of Rome. It will include an ancient Roman garden, several Renaissance gardens and two romantic creations inspired by ruins.*

*We will find out when and why these gardens were created, who designed them and what inspired their owners. I'd like to share all I've come to know about them and I'd very much like you to join me.”*

**Robert Watson (Landscape Architect)**

## Tour outline

Start date: TBA

End date: TBA



**Note:** *The tour package is a land package only. Flights to suit your individual needs can be arranged for you or you can make your own flight arrangements if you prefer.*



### TRAVELLING AROUND THE REGION OF LAZIO, NORTH AND SOUTH OF ROME

On 26 May, the tour group will meet in the late afternoon at a charming hotel in the heart of ancient Rome, where the group will stay for the first night. That night we will enjoy a traditional Roman dinner at a local restaurant and get to know the two tour escorts, Robert Watson, a renowned New Zealand landscape architect and Beniamino Petrosino, the founder of Connectitalia-

NZ Ltd. The following morning the group will be picked up by our driver and driven to the Tivoli area, close to Rome, where we will visit the impressive gardens of Villa d'Este and Hadrian's Villa.

Villa d'Este dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and is located in Tivoli, close to Rome. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, it is best known for its glorious Renaissance garden with its terraced hillside and stunning fountains. This garden is without doubt one of the most famous water gardens close to Rome and is a "must see" for us on our tour.





Hadrian's Villa is also a UNESCO World Heritage site located at the foot of the Tiburtine Hills in Tivoli. This sprawling archaeological site is one of the best-kept and most visited sites in Italy. The villa was constructed for the Emperor Hadrian between 118 and 138AD and comprises residential buildings, baths, nymphaeums, pavilions and gardens.

Our accommodation on 27 May and the following 2 nights will be in a luxurious hotel in the Frascati area. Frascati is one of several attractive historic hill-towns to the south-east of Rome known collectively as the Castelli Romani.



While in this part of Lazio, we will explore the area and may wish to sample a glass of famous Frascati white wine produced locally or maybe a Frascati Frizz aperitif. Grapes have been grown in this area since the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC and Frascati wine is known as Rome's signature wine.

We'll visit the enchanting gardens of Ninfa (TBC) with its crumbling medieval walls providing a unique micro-climate for the many rare plants gathered from all parts of the world, Ninfa is a photographer's delight and is often described as "the perfect garden."



Torrecchia Vecchia is a charming English styled garden designed by the well-known landscape architect Dan Pearson. It has an amazing history, having initially been part of a large estate of a great Roman family of which Julius Caesar was a descendant.



We will also visit the gracious gardens at Castel Gandolfo on the way. These beautifully manicured gardens are located at the summer retreat of the Popes and have recently been opened to the public by Pope Francis. This is a delightful, peaceful place, overlooking Lake Albano.



When we leave our hotel for our journey north of Rome we will visit elegant pentagon shaped Villa Farnese at Caprarola and its magnificent Renaissance gardens. Closeby is a fascinating Etruscan necropolis where we will explore ancient burial grounds, the earliest dating from 3000 years ago.



Our destination for the night of 30 May and the next two nights will be Viterbo in northern Lazio, where we will stay for three nights in wonderful accommodation in a secluded gem in driving distance from the ancient town centre. Viterbo is surrounded by medieval walls built during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is located in a wide thermal area and is famed for its many spas and thermal baths.



Viterbo also lies in the heart of the ancient Etruscan region and many fascinating remnants of that civilization survive. It is close to picturesque villages such as Tarquinia and Tuscania full of Etruscan history, isolated hilltop villages such as Civita di Bagnoregio and the scenic crater lake Bolsena. We will have time to explore this region bursting with history while also visiting two of Italy's most famous gardens in the area.

Villa Lante at Bagnaia is a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Renaissance garden designed for Cardinal Gambara. The garden is perfectly proportioned and richly detailed. It uses the Palladian circle and square in its structure, with buildings serving as garden ornaments and outstanding fountains and water features throughout the garden.



Bomarzo, a village at the foot of Mount Cimino, is home to a unique and eccentric garden, Sacro Bosco designed by Prince Vicino Orsini and the renowned architect Pirro Ligorio. The park is embellished with giant stone sculptures of monsters, dragons, mythological beings and exotic animals along with temples, fountains and obelisks marked with strange symbols. This garden provides a unique experience to visitors and is one of four great gardens we visit that are members of the Grandi Giardini Italiani association.



It is going to be difficult to leave this enchanting area of Italy but sadly, on Sunday 2 June, we will depart for Rome, the end of the tour. We can take you to a central point in Rome or Rome International Airport depending on your onward travel plans

### Tour inclusions

- All accommodation costs sharing a double or twin room including breakfasts. Note - a single supplement may apply for single travellers wanting their own room. We will discuss this with you prior to confirmation. All accommodation will be of a very high standard
- All tour travel costs including de-luxe coach or minibus transport and associated charges such as fuel, tolls, taxes, with local drivers
- Daily sightseeing. It will be completely up to you whether you want to participate or spend the day independently
- Transfers to Rome Fiumicino Airport or a central point in Rome at the conclusion of the tour
- One group dinner including wine and soft drinks at a restaurant in Rome on our first night.
- Local guides as needed

### Tour exclusions

- Meals and beverages other than those included
- City taxes, room service meals and mini bar refreshments
- Telephone/internet charges
- Porterage
- Gratuities
- Individual sightseeing not undertaken as part of the tour
- Expenses incurred on sightseeing trips other than transport costs
- **WE DO NOT ARRANGE TRAVEL INSURANCE. COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**



For any queries email  
[info@connectitalia.co.nz](mailto:info@connectitalia.co.nz)  
[www.connectitalia-nz.com](http://www.connectitalia-nz.com)