

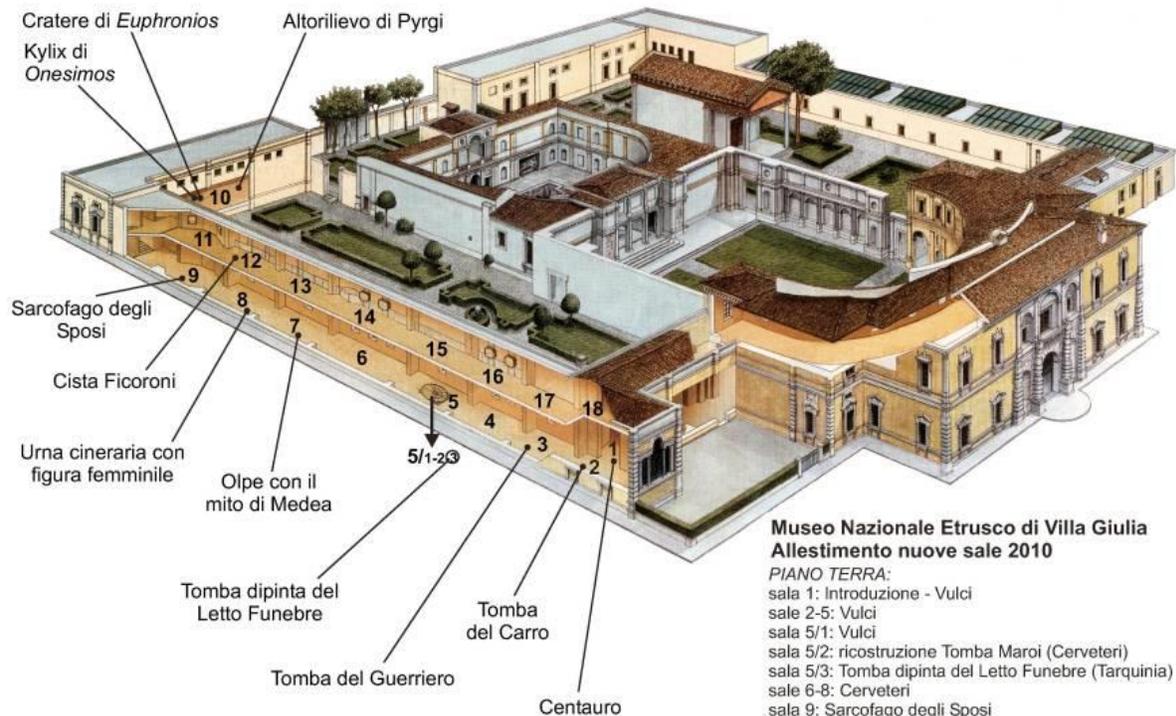
Etrusco di Villa Giulia - Museo Nazionale Romano

Piazzale di Villa Giulia Square, 9 (00196)

Metro A: Flaminio.

Tram: 2, 3, 19

8:30 AM - 7:30 PM (Closed Monday)



Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia Allestimento nuove sale 2010

PIANO TERRA:

- sala 1: Introduzione - Vulci
- sale 2-5: Vulci
- sala 5/1: Vulci
- sala 5/2: ricostruzione Tomba Maroi (Cerveteri)
- sala 5/3: Tomba dipinta del Letto Funebre (Tarquinia)
- sale 6-8: Cerveteri
- sala 9: Sarcofago degli Sposi
- sala 10: Cerveteri - Pyrgi

PIANO PRIMO:

- sala 11: sala epigrafica
- sale 12-16: Collezioni antiquarie (ex Museo Kircheriano)
- sala 17: Acquisizioni
- sala 18: Collezione Cima Pesciotti

Villa Giulia, located in [Villa Borghese](#) area, was built as a country retreat for **Pope Julius III**, at the time it hosted a collection of innumerable statues which were moved to the [Vatican Museums](#) after the Pope's death.

Vignola, Vasari and the sculptor Ammannati planned the gardens (**Michelangelo** contributed as well). Since 1889 it has been the most important Etruscan museum in Italy. It exhibits handicrafts originating from the main excavations in Lazio and in Tuscany.

The facade of the Villa Giulia, the pattern (1552) of which reminds a triumphal arch, the courtyard and the gardens, as well as the splendid Nymphaeum, a scenographic complex with stairs, caves, passages, four **caryatids** supporting a little balcony and, underneath, the Acqua Vergine Fountain, are particularly admirable. It decayed along the centuries and acquired its old splendour in 1889; ever since that year it has been the **most important Etruscan museum in Italy** (Villa Giulia National Museum) hosting handicrafts originating from the main excavations in Latium and Tuscany:

We would like to recall the "Dawn Faliscan **Krater**" of the 4th century BC, the very famous "**Couple Sarcophagus**" from Cerveteri of the 6th century BC; the "Ficoroni Buckle" and the "Veio Apollo".

The "Etruscan-Italic Temple from Alatri" can be considered as a sort of appendix of the museum: it was built in 1891 by Count Adolfo Cozza who based himself on the excavations made in the 19th century and on **Vitruvium's** description. This magnificent complex had been the seat of the famous Strega Prize for Literature since 1953.

The great Etruscan civilization (which gave its name to Tuscany) was one of Italy's most advanced, although it remains relatively mysterious, in part because of its centuries-long rivalry with Rome. Once Rome had absorbed the Etruscans in the 3rd century b.c., **it set about eradicating all evidence of their achievements, as it did with most of the peoples it conquered.**

Today this museum, housed in the handsome Renaissance Villa Giulia, built by Pope Julius III between 1550 and 1555, is the best place in Italy to familiarize with the Etruscans, thanks to a cache of precious artifacts, sculptures, vases, monuments, tools, weapons, and jewels. Fans of ancient history could spend several hours here, but for those with less time, here's a quick list of the unmissable sights. The most striking attraction is the stunning **Sarcophago degli Sposi (Sarcophagus of the Spouses)** a late-6th-century b.c. terra-cotta funerary monument featuring a life-size bride and groom, supposedly lounging at a banquet in the afterlife—there's a similar monument in the Louvre, Paris. Equally fascinating are the Pyrgi Tablets, gold-leaf inscriptions in both Etruscan and Phoenician from the 5th century b.c., and the **Apollo of Veii**, a huge painted terra-cotta statue of Apollo dating to the 6th century b.c. The **Euphronios Krater** is also conserved here, a renowned and perfectly maintained **red-figured Greek vase** from the 6th century b.c. which returned to Italy from the New York Met after a long legal battle won in 2006.