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Travel

Rome alternative Caravaggio on foot HEritage offer explore our past best way to...

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Rain on Wednesday, a real sense of seasons shifting, and that means summer's coming to Europe ... Rome alternative

With cruising continuing to grow and offer value travel, many West Australians will find themselves in the port of Civitavecchia, near Rome — as, indeed, will a couple from Bunbury who will be there for the day and wonder what's best to do. It's quite a hike, the 70km into Rome, and day tours are long — usually between eight and 10 hours. But if you've seen the city's highlights before, you can easily spend a day in the, perhaps, surprisingly picturesque port town of Civitavecchia. Aim for Michelangelo Fort and the Roman Baths of Traiano, and the rest will unfold. civitavecchia.net Caravaggio on foot

How to tackle Rome from a different angle and for free? Go and see six Caravaggio masterpieces by walking around these three churches, which makes a pleasant four- to five-hour exploration of the city: The Basilica of Santa Maria del Popolo in Rome; Basilica of St Agostino in Campo Marzio; Church of St Louis of the French. HEritage offer

The National Trust of WA has a membership offer for its upcoming heritage festival. Members receive free or discounted admission to more than 180 properties around Australia and more than 800 around the world and anyone joining between now and May 20 saves \$35, paying \$65 rather than the usual annual \$100. A spokesperson says: "The timing is perfect for people considering travel to the UK for their summer and wanting to visit National Trust properties over there." nationaltrust.org.au explore our past

The Australian Heritage Festival is the country's biggest annual community- driven heritage festival. There are lots of WA events including a multicultural exhibition at the Belmont Museum, Historic Canning in Photos at Riverton Library and an Anzacs archaeology exhibition at Army Museum of WA in Burt Street, Fremantle. At nationaltrust.org.au, search "heritage festival" and download the festival booklet. best way to queenstown

Even though Perth has a direct flight to Auckland with Air New Zealand, to get to Queenstown I'd prefer to fly to Melbourne and connect on the flights Virgin Australia has just announced. From October 28, there will be four flights a week between Melbourne and Queenstown, with business class and Economy X, with more leg room, on a Boeing 787-300. Flights are on sale at virginaustralia.com. regional charter flight

My compliments to Scott Cogar, head of Broadwater Hospitality Group, who's behind the first Qantas 737-800 commercial charter flight to a WA regional centre. The plane is being chartered by Broadwater Hotels and Resorts to take delegates to Geraldton for a summit designed to chart the area's future in tourism. The plane will fly low over the Abrolhos Islands and Pink Lake. The flight is on Sunday, May 27, and \$218 return, with local produce on board and a bit of time in Geraldton. Save the date; booking details will be in our WA pages next week. poster boy

While there are plenty of people wondering how to get more tourists here spending money, we have an ambassador out there doing the job for us. Daniel Ricciardo won the Formula 1 Grand Prix in China on Sunday, displaying all the characteristics we'd like to think West Australians have. He's easygoing, funny, personable, unpretentious, a bit of a larrikin, brave, talented and competitive. From our northern suburbs, he

also represents our multicultural mix. “Western Australians. Wouldn’t you want to hang out with us?” delightful dinner

Our Round the World Dinner on Tuesday night was packed with more impressive West Australians — readers who travel the world and love its stories, music and cuisine. It represented some of the best of what we West Australians can create. See more in the blue column on the right. birthday treats

The Fullerton hotel in Singapore is celebrating its 90th anniversary between June 29 and July 1. There will be an evening with Peranakan food and the inaugural Fullerton Concours d’Elegance, will have more than 90 vintage, classic and supercars, and the launch of the 2018 Ferrari Portofino. fullertonconcours.com

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