

## Tivoli and Hadrian Villa

The villa was constructed at Tibur (modern-day Tivoli) as a retreat from Rome for Roman Emperor Hadrian during the second and third decades of the 2nd century AD.

Hadrian was said to dislike the palace on the Palatine Hill in Rome, leading to the construction of the retreat.

After Hadrian, the villa was occasionally used by his various successors Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Lucius Verus, Septimius Severus and Caracalla. The villa was the greatest Roman example of an Alexandrian garden, recreating a sacred landscape and it shows echoes of many different architectural styles, mostly Greek and Egyptian.



Hadrian, a very well-traveled emperor, borrowed these designs, such as the caryatids by the Canopus, along with the statues beside them depicting the Egyptian dwarf and fertility god, Bes.



A Greek so called "Maritime Theatre", also known as the Island Enclosure, exhibits classical ionic style, whereas the domes of the main buildings as well as the Corinthian arches of the Canopus and Serapeum show clear Roman architecture. Hadrian's biography states that areas in the villa were named after places Hadrian saw during his travels.

