

## LOOKING CLOSELY



Gaspar Van Wittel, called Vanvitelli (Amersfoort 1652/53–1736 Rome),  
*Rome, View of the Tiber at Ripa Grande*, ca. 1690, oil on canvas, 97 x 171 cm / 38.1 x 67.3 in

## ITALY LOST – FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE OLD MASTERS

It is widely accepted that the poet John Milton could not have laid out his Paradise had he not gazed upon the ridges, slopes, waterways, grottos, and greenery of the Italian countryside. Indeed, early-modern Italy supplied Milton with his conception of an Earthly Paradise. A century later, the Vedutisti captured the views upon which Milton gazed. These artists not only recorded the beauty of landscapes now so changed by wars and perceived progress, but also simple, quotidian Italian life, likewise threatened by extinction.

### WATCH

*National Gallery curator Francesca Whitlum-Cooper discuss Canaletto's 'The Stonemason's Yard', an enigmatic and unusual Venetian view by the artist.*

### READ

*Giulano Briganti's 'The View Painters of Europe' for Italian view paintings measured against the words of contemporary travellers.*

### VISIT

*The Getty Museum's recent exhibition on view painting.*

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*About view paintings in Robilant+Voena's virtual exhibition gallery.*