



*This is an ornamental pool in the gardens of the Emperor Hadrian's villa, near Rome. Known as the Canopus, this part of the villa was inspired by a city in Egypt.*

## PEACE AND QUIET

Although the Romans were very sociable, they also valued the privacy of their country homes. The Roman writer Pliny remarked that he enjoyed not having to wear a formal toga at his villa. He also appreciated having no one living nearby: "There's peace and quiet all around, which is just as good for your health as the clear sky and pure air."

## HADRIAN'S VILLA

One of the most amazing villas was built by the Emperor Hadrian at Tivoli, near Rome. Hadrian designed a group of impressive buildings including a stadium, a library and two bath-houses - all surrounded by splendid gardens. He based some of the buildings on sights he had seen during his travels to Egypt, Greece and other parts of the empire.

## BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Some of the most attractive villas were situated on beautiful stretches of coastline, where their owners could spend summer days bathing in the sea. Fashionable Romans flocked to resorts such as Baiae, on the Bay of Naples, where several emperors built lavish villas. The Emperor Tiberius had no fewer than 12 villas on the island of Capri, just off the Italian coast.