

## A Hell of a City: Dante's *Inferno* on the Road to Rome

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### DANTE CHRONOLOGY

(From the *Cambridge Companion to Dante*)

1265 Dante born under the sign of Gemini

1283 Dante's father dies and Dante comes of age. He is married shortly thereafter to Gemma Donati with whom he has four children (Jacopo, Pietro, Giovanni, and Antonia)

1289 Dante takes part in the battle of Campaldino against Arezzo

1290 June 8, death of Beatrice

1293–94 *Vita nuova* written

1294 Dante meets Charles Martel, king of Hungary, and heir to the Kingdom of Naples and the country of Provence, in Florence

1295 Dante enters political life

1300 Boniface VIII proclaims Jubilee Year. June 15, Dante becomes one of the six priors of Florence for a term of two months. Easter 1300 is the fictional date of the journey of the *Divina*

*Commedia*

1301 As Charles of Valois approaches Florence, Dante is sent on an embassy to Pope Boniface VIII

**1302 January 27, the first sentence of exile against Dante reaches him in Siena. On March 10, Dante is permanently banished from Florence**

1303–05 *De vulgari eloquentia* and *Convivio*, both unfinished, written

1303 Guest of Bartolomeo della Scala in Verona

1304 Birth of Francesco Petrarca

1309 Papacy moves from Rome to Avignon

1310 Henry VII of Luxemburg descends into Italy. Dante writes Epistle to him. Possible date of *Monarchia* (others think it may have been written as late as 1317)

**1312–18 Guest of Cangrande della Scala in Verona**

1313 Death of Henry VII. Birth of Giovanni Boccaccio

1314 *Inferno* published. Epistle to the Italian cardinals

1315 Florence proposes to repeal Dante's exile on the condition that he acknowledges his guilt. Dante refuses. *Purgatorio* published

1319 Dante in Ravenna as guest of Guido Novello da Polenta. Latin correspondence with the humanist Giovanni del Virgilio

1320 Dante lectures on the *Quaestio de aqua et terra*

**1321 Completion of Paradiso. September 13 or 14, Dante dies in Ravenna**