



Roman prelude

AS the excitement surrounding the Academy Awards ramps up in LA, **Richard Gere** (above) has been in Europe. Gere, who missed out on an Oscar nod for his sizzling performance in "Arbitrage," hosted a private screening of the flick in Rome on Tuesday. Later, he dined at restaurant Antica Pesa with friends including "Last Tango in Paris" director **Bernardo Bertolucci**. A source said, "It was like his own private pre-Oscar party." Gere will appear at the awards show with his "Chicago" cast as a tribute to musicals.