



ITALY IS ITALY WAS: ROME

3/29/2024

ITALY GIST 101



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—a presentation by Lori Wolper—



ROMAN RESEARCH

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Grey granite columns



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Bricks and limestone



Casement

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THE 3 PLANES OF PANTHEON SANTA MARIA ROTUNDA:

The pantheon, a roman temple was the first freestanding unreinforced concrete dome in the world until the late 1960's. It was dedicated to all gods of Pagan Rome. The engineer/architect was Apollodorus Damascus. It was completed by Hadrian, the emperor during the Trajan reign around 125 AD. In 609 AD, it became Santa Maria Rotunda representing the Christian Church. It consists of 3 sections: a portico with granite columns, a large domed rotunda and a rectangular area connecting the other 2 sections. It measures 142 ft. in diameter and height.

Walls: It was made from bricks, Roman-Era concrete walls 23 ft thick and decorated with white marble and gilt. The concrete is a concoction of mortar and small stones that were mixed with limestone and bricks. The Romans invented a system interlocking brick arches, vaults, and piersto allowing the base or drum to be even weight and support.

Base of the walls(lower drum): They started with the same width with heavy travertine(limestone) mixed with concrete and bricks.

Midway summit up the walls(dome): The dome is still covered in plaster. Due to the material weight and height, they used a light material called volcanic tufa which is a type of pumice and a mix of concrete called caementa.



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Top of the dome(summit): Feather-light pumice that contains five rings of 28 rectangular coffers



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THE 3 PLANES OF PANTHEON SANTA MARIA ROTUNDA

Floors: The floor is made of colored swirl marble and is designed with a series of geometric patterns. The theme is with square and roundels of color. They are subdivided into a grid and some points of the grid intersects circles. The original design has been maintained. The floor is from 125 AD.

The marble colors have names: Phrygian purple, Numidian yellow, grey granite and red porphyry create the floor design.



White swirled marble

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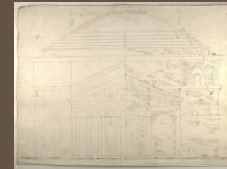


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THE 3 PLANES OF PANTHEON SANTA MARIA ROTUNDA

Ceiling: The upper dome is covered in plaster. It has five tiers of square coffers (28 per row). The size of them decreases as they go higher. This creates a sense of depth. The top two coffer rows contain recess and the rest have 4 recess to carry the forces.



Plaster

The coffers represent the five planets known to the Romans at the time.

The opening at the very top is called a Oculus. It is 27 feet in diameter

Materials used: The Oculus is made with a lighter materials called pumice.



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ARTISAN ONE * 5 TAKEAWAYS

1. In 1504, he completed a 17-foot-tall statue of the biblical hero David. This is important because this was a testament to his excellence at carving real human figures out of marble. This was the main statement of the Renaissance which was the ideal of a perfect humanity. It was installed as the symbol of the Florentine Republic.

2. His mother died when he was 6 years old, and his father organized a nanny for him. The nanny's husband worked with stones, and he began experimenting with marble at a young age. This is important because his love of sculpture would not have happened. He had the opportunity to work with natural stone. He was the master of sculpting the human form.

3. Michelangelo was summoned to Rome by Pope Julius II. He was commissioned to finish a project to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It took him 4 years to finish. This allowed him to achieve things that would amaze the whole world. This led to other projects that influences the Roman Catholic teaching. The importance of these projects has been reflected in our world religions.

4. The paintings were stories of the Old Testament and included the Creation of the World and Noah and the Flood. The works were a masterpiece of human creation that is reflected in our lives today. His paintings of the Last Judgement were used to seek a counter to the Protestant Reformation by representing the DOCTRINES of the Catholic Church.

5. Best remembered for his work in Rome on the St. Peter's Basilica, he worked as the head architect for the rest of his life. He designed the dome of the Basilica. This is the largest church in the world and is important and valuable for all humanity to see.



David

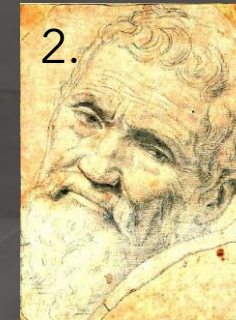
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The Creation of Adam
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The Sistine Chapel 3. & 4.



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Michelangelo (1475-1564)

Summary: Michelangelo was born March 6, 1475, in Tuscany and died February 18th, 1564, in Rome. His mother died when he was 6 years old, and he was put with a nanny at that point. The nanny's husband was a stonecutter which formed the artist's lifelong love affair with marble. His idea about art was different. He learned about human anatomy by dissecting bodies and drew from models. He was better than older sculptors because he showed fine details in his work. His work is comparable to Leonardo's Mona Lisa and its place in history of oil painting. His true love was carving real human figures out of marble.

ARTISAN TWO * 5 TAKEAWAYS

1. After his death he was said to have a workshop of over fifty apprentices. He is important because he had more jobs than any other painter at the time. He died early in 1520 at 37 years old.
2. He had one of the largest funeral processions of his time. It ended at the Vatican where the service was held. He was very popular with a following of friends, of pupils, of artists, of renowned writers, and of personages of every rank.
3. He asked in his will to be buried in the Pantheon in Rome next to Maria Bibbiena. His death is unknown.
4. Raphael was known as one of the most productive artists of his time. He explored man's importance in the world through artwork that shows supreme beauty.
5. He mastered the techniques of High Renaissance art such as sfumato or perspective and correctness with authentic emotion and expression. He had his own style that emphasizes clarity, rich color, effortless composition that was distinctly his own.



Sistine Madonna
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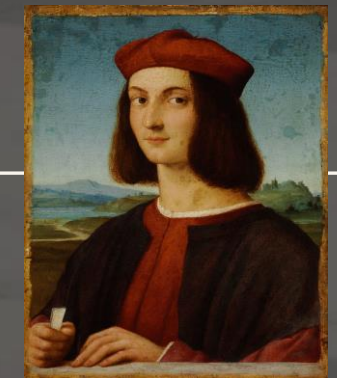
The Transfiguration
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Disputation of the Holy Sacrament
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Woman with a Veil
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Raphael (1483-1520)

Summary: Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino was born in 1483 and died in 1520 in Rome. His parents came from wealthy merchant families from Urbino and Colbordolo in the Marche region. His father was a painter who worked for the Duke of Urbino. His mother died when he was nine years old. His father helped with Raphael's training. He inherited his father's studio. His main artistic influence became Leonardo da Vinci, using gesture to create dialogue. Pope Julius II invited him to Rome becoming known as the "Prince of Painters". He started work on his apartments at the Vatican. Eventually he was commissioned to the position of architectural commissioner of the new St Peter's Basilica in 1514.

ARTISAN THREE * 5 TAKEAWAYS

1. Bernini was one of the first to move away from the traditional ways of creating work. It is important because he observed humans and nature instead of studying Classical statues. He was a progressive that focused on human emotion and sensuality.
2. He transformed the sculptural busts. This was so important because it had not been used since Ancient Roman times. This is valuable to know because his method became an art form that presented informal portraits of the living.
3. He changed the way sculptures were presented. Why do we look from all sides because Bernini created "in the round" meaning works that stood alone in grand spaces.
4. He was inspired by theatre, which helped him represent drama through his architecture and sculptures.
5. He pioneered a new era in European sculpture that became synonymous with the Baroque movement. The takeaway is that he left a deep mark on such a long period of art history.

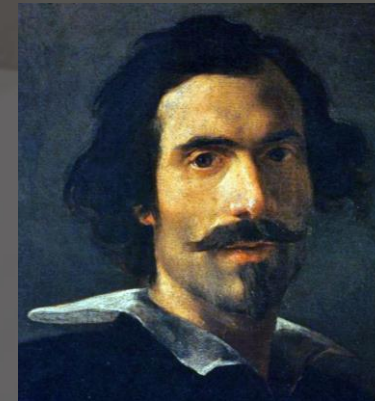


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The Ecstasy of St. Teresa, pierced by the arrow of divine love (In Rome's Santa Maria della Vittoria)



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Damned Soul

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Bernini (1475-1564)

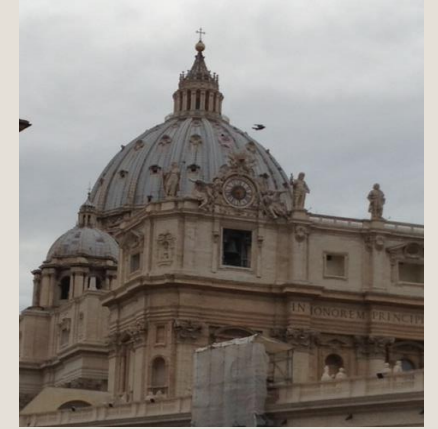
Summary: Bernini was born in 1598 in Naples. The sixth of thirteen children. He died in Rome in 1680. He began sculpting from an early age working with his father. His first work was with age eight. He was compared to Michelangelo before his time. He contributed to the Baroque movement. One of his famous phrases was "the white marble has to assume the likeness of a person, it has to have color, spirit and life." He had a hot temper and used his emotions to show extreme gestures in his sculptures. It seems many of his major works dealt with violence and women. He was wonderful at catching the best time to render the mouth is when the subject has just spoken or is just about to begin speaking.

WORLD-FAMOUS ROMAN SITE

Summary: The Vatican is an independent city-state in the heart of Rome. It is the center of Christianity since its early foundations. The Vatican is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Francis presides at the Vatican with many iconic art and architecture features. The official language is Latin and the population in 2019 was 825 people.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

1. The Vatican has its own judicial system, stores, bank, post office, radio station and newspaper. They use the same Euro currency as Italy.
2. It has its own 90-strong army that protects the papal people. These guards are recruited from Switzerland's four Catholic cantons or states.
3. The army recruits must be aged between 19 and 25, be at least 5' 7" tall and remain unmarried during their tours of duty.
4. Their striped uniforms were designed by Michelangelo. This is valuable to know because the medieval colors represent the Medici popes (red, yellow, and blue).
5. The museums in the Vatican are the largest in world. Several important masterpieces are inside: Raphael Room, Sistine Chapel, Museo Pio-Clementino (greatest works of classical sculpture, Pinocoteca (Rome's best paintings). These museums are open to the public. Most of the 106-acre land hides behind high walls and is out of bounds to all but a privileged few.



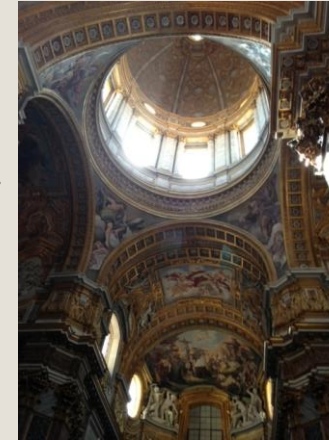
THE VATICAN

WORLD-FAMOUS ROMAN SITE

Summary: St. Peter's Basilica is the most famous church in size, Christendom, and Catholicism's religion. The first St. Peter's church was built in 326 by Pope Sylvester I with funds from emperor Constantine. This dome is within its borders of the Vatican. In 1506, Pope Julius II laid the first stone of the new Saint Peter's Basilica on the site of the Saint Veronica, which stood outside the old medieval church. The tomb of St. Peter is at the center of the Basilica.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

1. This church is the spot where St. Peter's was buried after his crucifixion in AD 64 or 67. This is valuable to know because it is the most important point of pilgrimage of visitors from all over the world.
2. When the completion was taking place the popes called on some of the most famous architects of the Renaissance Era. The top 3 artisans in the presentation had many famous works such as Bernini's grandiose Piazza San Pietro square.
3. There were designs drawn up by Bramante, then Antonio da Sangallo. Michelangelo is such a valuable artisan to know because he was asked to correct their mistakes and redesign the dome.
4. Bernini's Cathedra Petra, was designed to encase a chair that was used by St. Peter to preach to the Romans.
5. There is a crypt and two very famous tombs, della Porta's for Paul III and Bernini's tomb.



ST. PETER'S BASILICA

WORLD-FAMOUS ROMAN SITE



SISTINE CHAPEL

Summary: The Sistine Chapel 's ceiling is 1,116 square yards and was built between 1477 and 1480 by Pope Sixtus IV, for whom the chapel is named. The chapel is a rectangular brick building with six arched windows on each of the two main walls and a barrel-vaulted ceiling. It was completed in four years in 1512. Michelangelo was commissioned to paint the Renaissance frescoes by lying down most of the painting time. The restored frescoes are divided into nine sections, arranged chronologically. The first describe five key events from the Book of Genesis.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

1. The Sistine Chapel ceiling frescoes depictions are world renowned. The reason for this is they depict God's creation of the world and of man, humanity's fall from grace and punishment up until the birth of Jesus, the savior of humanity.
2. The frescoes paintings are the cornerstone work of High Renaissance art at its most famous biblical stories. It is valuable to know because it is the pinnacle of European artistic achievement and religious masterpiece.
3. The side walls are often overlooked. The panels on the left side show scenes from the life of Christ, and on the right the life of Moses.
4. What are the 5 key events from the Book of Genesis? It is important that when you are looking up to the ceiling you have basis of what you are looking at. The Separation of Light and Darkness; the Creation of the Heavens; The Separation of the Land and Sea; the Creation of Adam; and the Creation of Eve.
5. Michelangelo called painting torture. His most famous section was the fingers of God and Adam. This is important because it represents the divine breath of life with God's and Adam's hand touching.

WORLD-FAMOUS ROMAN SITE



THE SPANISH STEPS

Summary: The Spanish Steps were built between 1723 and 1726 in Rococo style. They lead from the Piazza di Spagna square (at the base) to the French monastery church Trinita dei Monti (at the top). There are 135 steps to the top ending on Pincio Hill. The fountain at the base means "Fountain of the ugly boat". The Tiber river flooded the area in 1598 and stranded the ugly little boat on the spot.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

1. The steps were named after the palace of the Spanish ambassador to the Vatican. This is important because the Spanish embassy was located opposite of the square Piazza di Spagna.
2. The steps were commissioned by the French king Louis XII. The French monastery church was built between (1502-1587) The name is confusing because the steps were not named after French King Louis XII, but the Pope at the time would not allow this and named it after the Spanish embassy that was opposite of the steps.
3. There are three different terraces, referring to the Holy Trinity. This should help with people showing respect while climbing the steps. People are not allowed to sit on the steps.
4. In April, to celebrate its anniversary the Spanish Steps have a sea of azalea flowers. The people of Italy celebrate these steps.
5. Today the surrounding area is a lux shopping area, with the street Via Condotti being the highlight which will be important when visiting.

WORLD-FAMOUS ROMAN SITE

Summary: The Trevi Fountain was constructed from 1732 to 1762. It is Rome's most famous fountain. The fountain's style is one of baroque and is known throughout the world. It is located on the Piazza di Trevi square and was first designed by Bernini for Pope Clemens XII. It is nearly 30 meters high and built against the back of the Palazzo Poli building. It is made of the same material travertine stone as the Colosseum.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

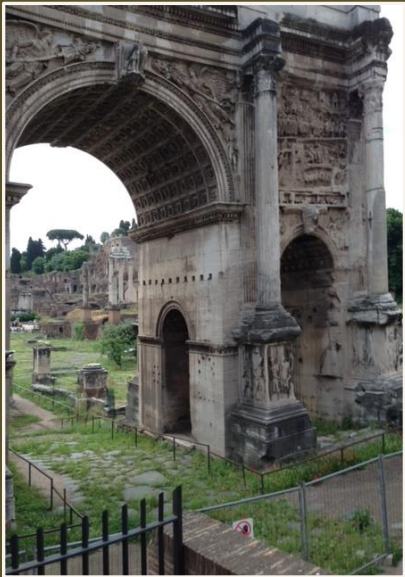
1. The fountain was designed by Bernini firstly, but due to costs and it took 50 years longer to build. A less expensive plan was redesigned by architect Nicola Salvi.
2. The Italian name is "La Fontana di Trevi" is comes from tre via, which means three roads. This is important because the three roads used to come together at the site and this location is used as a meeting point for many people and has been seen in various famous movies as well.
3. It was built on the site of an ancient Roman water source; This is important because it links back to Rome's past.
4. Its central figure, is Neptune, the god being pulled to the sea on his shell-shaped chariot with two winged horses and tritons. These were young gods of the sea. This is important to know because it represents the changing tides of the sea. There are two statues in the niches next to Neptune. These two represent abundance to the left and health to the right.
5. There is a tradition to throw a coin into the fountain if you wish to return to Rome the eternal city, tossing two coins means you'll return and fall in love, tossing three coins means you will return, find love, and marry. It is good to know that the money in the fountain goes to a good cause feeding the hungry.



TREVI FOUNTAIN

CREDIBLE RESEARCH SOURCES:

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Roman Forum

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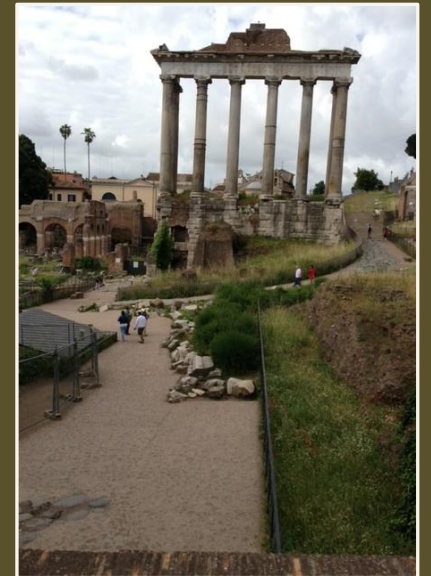
Fodor's Exploring Italy:
4th Edition author: Tim
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The Colosseum



Roman Forum



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