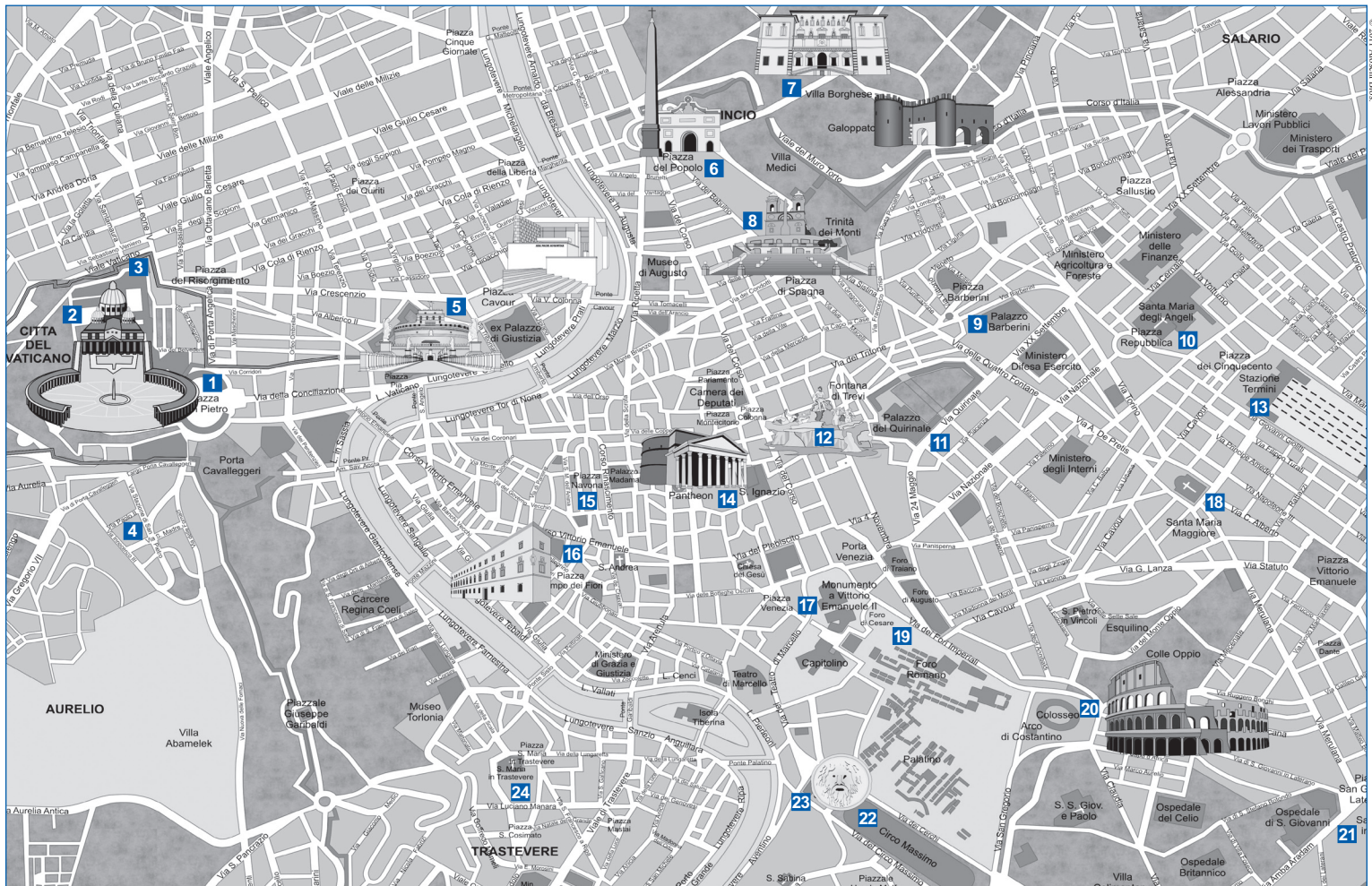


The SIGHTS of ROME



1 ST. PETER'S SQUARE was commissioned in the 17th century by Pope Alexander VII. It was designed by the heralded successor to Michelangelo, the incomparable Italian sculptor and architect Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Built in the Baroque style, the great open space was created so that more of the faithful would be able to see and receive the blessing of the Pope.

2 ST. PETER'S BASILICA is perhaps the most recognizable Catholic churches in the world. Built in the Late Renaissance style and financed through the sale of indulgences, construction began in 1506 and was not completed until 1626. According to Catholic tradition the basilica was erected over the burial site of the apostle Peter.

3 The **VATICAN MUSEUMS** are home to the extensive collection of religious art, sculpture and artifacts which have been collected and organized by the Vatican over the past 600 years.

4 ST. PETER'S TRAIN STATION is a convenient point for passengers entering Rome by rail to disembark and begin their exploration of the Vatican.

5 ST. ANGELO CASTLE AND NATIONAL MUSEUM houses a large collection of antique weaponry, historic artifacts and paintings which date to the Renaissance. The original fortress was built in the 2nd century to serve as Emperor Hadrian's mausoleum

6 PIAZZA DEL POPOLO served for centuries as the major gateway into Rome. The Piazza visitors see today was designed in the neoclassical style of the early 1800s. At the center of the piazza stands the Egyptian obelisk of Pharaoh Sety I (1290 – 1279 BC).

7 The **BORGHESE GALLERY** was the former villa of the renowned Borghese family. Today visitors have the opportunity to view a wonderful collection of sculpture, antiquities and paintings.

8 SPANISH STEPS are recognized as Europe's widest staircase. The 138 steps were built in the early 1700 and financed by a gift from French diplomat Étienne Gueffie. The famous steps connect the Church and Piazza Trinità dei Monti (top) with the Piazza di Spagna (bottom).

9 BARBERINI PALACE is an elegant Renaissance palace which dates to the 1620. The palace belonged to the powerful and influential Cardinal Maffeo Barberini. Soon after acquiring the property Barberini was elected Pope and took the name of Urban VIII. As a historic note, it was Pope Urban VIII who ordered the great astronomer Galileo Galilei to recant and stand trial on charges of religious heresy. Today the palace is home to the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica (National Gallery of Ancient Art).

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- 10 ST .MARIA DEGLI ANGELI BASILICA** (St. Mary of the Angels and the Martyrs) was commissioned by Pope Pius IV and Michelangelo began construction in 1563. He did not live to see the wonderful church completed. The church is rather unique in that it was built within the ancient Baths of Emperor Diocletian.
- 11** The **QUIRINAL PALACE** was built as a summer residence in 1583 by Pope Gregory XIII. It sits atop Quirinal Hill, the highest of Rome's seven hills. This was once the site of pagan Roman temples. Since construction, the palace has been home to many Popes, Kings and Italian Presidents.
- 12 TREVI FOUNTAIN** is one of the most beautiful and recognizable sites in Rome. The fountain was commissioned by Pope Clement XII in 1730. Competition for the fountain's design was won by the Roman architect Nicola Salvi. Built in the Baroque style, the fountain was completed in 1762.
- 13 TERMINI TRAIN STATION** was built in 1867. Located in the heart of Rome, the station has undergone extensive modernization over the years. Today over 150 million passengers use the station annually.
- 14** The **PANTHEON**, though it has a carved dedication to Marcus Agrippa, was actually built in 126 AD by Emperor Hadrian. The temple was to honor all Roman gods. With its great dome which opens to the sky and its massive Corinthian columns quarried in Egypt, the building remains one of Rome's great structures. Nearly 1500 years later even the incomparable Michelangelo was impressed by the Pantheon.
- 15 PIAZZA NAVONA**, is the main public square in Rome. In the 1st century this was the site of a great sports stadium which had been commissioned by Emperor Domitian. Today the beautiful Baroque architecture which encircles the piazza follows the general outline of the stadium. Among the most famous features of the piazza is Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers (1651).
- 16 CAMPO DEI FIORI** (Field of Flowers) has been a commercial center for merchants and tradesmen since the Middle Ages. The piazza was also used as a site for public execution. The piazza's famous statue of astronomer and mathematician Giordano Bruno is a reminder that in centuries past, free speech and innovative ideas were rarely compatible with good health and longevity. Today Campo dei Fiori continues to serve as an open market and public gathering place.
- 17 VENICE SQUARE, CAPITOLINE HILL AND THE MUSEUMS** are in close proximity to each other. The square is famous for the massive marble monument dedicated to Italy's first king, Victor Emmanuel II. On Capitoline Hill visitors will find the Piazza del Campidoglio. Designed in the mid-1500s by Michelangelo, construction on the piazza was not completed until 400 years after the great master's death. The beautiful palaces which line three sides of the piazza are home to the Capitoline Museums. The museums hold a wondrous collection of classical Roman statues together with art from the Middle Ages and Renaissance.
- 18 ST. MARIA MAGGIORE BASILICA**, was commissioned by Pope Sixtus III in the mid- 400s. The church honors the Virgin Mary and was built to represent the center of the Roman Catholic world. Over many centuries the interior and façade of the church have undergone extensive renovation. Some people are of the opinion the St. Maria Maggiore Basilica is the most beautiful in all of Rome.
- 19** The **ROMAN FORUM** was the heart of the ancient city. Amidst the classic ruins visitors can still feel that here, for centuries, was the center of the Rome and its great empire. Here the politicians sought the ear and support of the masses. Here markets and commerce thrived. Here victorious Emperors received the praise of the people. Here gladiators fought and criminals met the justice of Roman law. For hundreds of years this was the very center of the civilized world.
- 20** The **COLOSSEUM**, a marvel of design, engineering and construction, is perhaps the most recognizable symbol of the power and majesty of the Roman Empire. The Colosseum was started late in the 1st century by Emperor Vespasian and completed by his son Emperor Titus. It was a monument to Rome's triumph during the "Jewish Revolt" in Palestine (66–70 AD). For over 400 years (spanning the reign of 42 Emperors) the primary function of the Colosseum was to provide violent amusement and entertainment for the people of Rome.
- 21 ST. JOHN IN LATERAN BASILICA** is Rome's cathedral and official seat of the Bishop of Rome (the Pope). Perhaps surprisingly, St. John's church is actually held in higher ecclesiastical esteem than the Vatican's more famous St. Peter's Basilica. Due to earthquakes and fires over the centuries the church has been rebuilt many times. The church seen today dates to the mid-1300s.
- 22** The **CIRCO MASSIMO** (Circus Maximus) was a large circular track used for chariot races. Massive seating encircled the track and tens of thousands of Romans regularly attended the races. Little of the original architecture remains but visitors can clearly see the great structure's outline and impression.
- 23 ST. MARIA IN COSMEDIN CHURCH** dates to the 700s. Over the centuries numerous additions and renovations have taken place. The church is a popular attraction due to the large marble carving of "La Bocca della Verità" (the Mouth of Truth). It was here in the portico of St. Maria's that Gregory Peck, much to the Academy Award winning anxiety of Audrey Hepburn, stuck his hand into the Mouth of Truth in the movie "Roman Holiday" (Paramount Pictures – 1953).
- 24 ST. MARIA IN TRASTEVERE CHURCH** dates back to 1140. It was built with the patronage of Pope Innocent II. The Pope tore down the original sanctuary which had graced the site for the previous 700 years. This was an act of revenge on the part of Innocent II. The original church had held the tomb of Innocent's Papal rival, Pope Anacletus II. Anacletus II was removed and Pope Innocent II was entombed in his place.