



## CASTEL SANT'ANGELO

Castel Sant'Angelo, one of the most original monuments in Rome, dates back to the ancient Roman period between 123 - 139 A.D. but has been deeply transformed over the centuries.

Castel Sant'Angelo was once the tomb of the Roman Emperor Hadrian. Now it is a military museum.

Hadrian wanted to erect a monumental tomb destined to contain the emperor's ashes and those of his successors.

It was built on very solid ground and in an area previously used as a cemetery.

The monument was probably composed of at least three overlaid architectural bodies - a square base, a large cylindrical body, and a third and last piece. The former structure, dating back to the ancient Roman period, is now almost unrecognizable. The fortress in Rome was so impregnable that popes rushed there to hide when they were in danger.



# **DUOMO DI MILANO**

## **MILAN CATHEDRAL**

Milan Cathedral is the cathedral church of Milan, Italy and it is located on the city's main square. It occupied the most important site in ancient Milan, originally called Mediolanum.

A new basilica was built on this site in the 5<sup>th</sup> century with an adjoining basilica added in 836. Unfortunately, they were damaged in a fire in 1075.

The new Duomo was built in 1387 in a Gothic style by several architects but the head of the construction works was Simone Da Orsenigo. Now it's an important tourist destination and the symbol of Milan. The style of the Duomo, being the result of secular works, does not respond to a precise movement, but rather follows a "gothic" idea. Actually, the Gothic construction on the rest of the Duomo was completed in the 1800s.

The Gothic cathedral took nearly six centuries to complete. It is the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, the 5th-largest church in the world and the largest in Italy. It is 157 mt long, 108 mt high and 92 mt wide with its five wide nave of 16.75 mt. It can accommodate about 40,000 people.



# **The Verona Arena**

The Verona Arena is an amazing Roman amphitheatre and it is located in the centre of Verona, Italy. It was built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century by the Emperor Augustus. The amphitheatre is very famous because it is one of the best preserved in Italy and it is still used today for Opera representations and concerts. Great artists like Pink Floyd and Pavarotti have played and/or sung there. In the past the Verona Arena could accommodate fifteen thousand people but now it can host only ten thousand because of the big stage. It is built of red limestone, a stone very common in Verona. It is 32m high and it has four tiers of arches.



## **Castel del Monte**

Castel del Monte is situated in Andria, in southern Italy, at an altitude of 540 meters. It was constructed in the 1240s by Frederick II. It is famous for the octagonal design and it is considered the most beautiful castle in Apulia. The castle was built in a Greco-Roman style and at first perhaps it was meant to be a hunting lodge but now it is believed to always have been a considered as a citadel or fortress. Nowadays, it is a UNESCO World Heritage site and it is depicted on the back of the 1 Euro cent coin. The main wall of the fortress is 25 meters high and it has eight bastions. It is also one of the most visited places in Apulia.





## **DUOMO DI MONREALE**

### **MONREALE CATHEDRAL**

The Monreale Cathedral or Duomo di Monreale is located in Monreale, near Palermo, Sicily, Italy. It was built by Guglielmo d'Altavilla, King of Sicily, in 1174-1185. Perhaps it is the finest Norman building in Sicily. Later construction work in the 1500s was designed by Giovanni Domenico Gagini and Fazio Gagini. The Monreale Cathedral has a mix of architectural styles. There are parts with a very old architectural style and there are also other parts with a recent style. For example, if we go inside the building, we can also see some neo-gothic parts. It's famous for its beautiful golden mosaics which completely cover the walls of the nave and aisles inside the building along with its many columns. On the outside we can see four Corinthian columns. The neoclassico portico was added in the 18th century.



# LEANING TOWER OF PISA

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is the campanile, or bell tower, of the cathedral of the Italian city of Pisa, known worldwide for its unintended tilt. Construction of the tower occurred in three stages across 199 years. The most accredited architect of the first phase of construction was Bonanno Pisano.

The Tower of Pisa is also known because it is said that Galileo Galilei dropped two cannonballs of different masses from the tower to demonstrate that their speed of descent was independent of their mass for his experiments about gravity.

Work on the ground floor of the white marble campanile began on August 14, 1173 and it was finally completed in the mid-1300s. The ground floor is a blind arcade articulated by engaged columns with classical Corinthian capitals. The tower is made of marble and stone and it is 55.86 m tall. It began leaning soon after the beginning of construction and now it is more than five m off perpendicular. The Leaning Tower was closed in the 1990s and the tower was anchored. It reopened in 2001 for tourists and now it is safe to visit.



# DIAMOND PALACE OF FERRARA

The Diamond Palace is a Renaissance-style palace located on Corso Ercole I d'Este 21 in Ferrara, in the region of Emilia Romagna, Italy.

The Pinacoteca Nazionale di Ferrara (National Painting Gallery of Ferrara) is located on the main floor.

Commissioned by Sigismondo d'Este, brother of the Duke Ercole I, it was designed by the architect Biagio Rosetti. It was built between 1493 and 1503 and it was used as a residential home by the Este family and, starting in 1641, by the Villa Marquis. Finally, in 1832 the palace was acquired by the municipality of Ferrara to house the National Gallery of Art and the Civic University.

The most striking feature is the bugnato of the exterior walls: it consists of some 8,500 white marble blocks carved to represent diamonds, hence its name. The positioning of the diamonds varies in order to maximize the light reflected off the building, creating a visual effect.

Now it is an important National art museum and exposition site.



# **PALAZZO DUCALE DI VENEZIA**

## **THE DOGE'S PALACE**

The Doge's Palace or Palazzo Ducale is located in Piazza San Marco, Venezia, Italy. In 810 Doge Angelo Partecipazio decided to build the palace as the seat of government as well as the home of the Doge, the supreme authority of the former Republic of Venice. Doges lived there until 1797. No trace of the original building remains.

The palace we see nowadays is built in a superb Venetian Gothic style and it is one of the main landmarks of Venice. We can also admire Renaissance decorations, for example the eastern facade built in 1485. Construction began in 1172 and it was finished many centuries later. It was restructured and restored countless times, mainly because of repeated fires. Famous architects like Bartolomeo Bono, Filippo Calendario, Antonio Abboni, Andrea Bregno and Giovanni Bono were involved in its construction over the centuries.

Since 1923 it has been a museum, visited by millions of people from all over the world.





## **ARA PACIS AUGUSTAE**

The Ara Pacis Augustae, "Altar of Augustan Peace" commonly shortened to Ara Pacis, is an altar in Rome dedicated to Pax, the Roman goddess of Peace. The monument was commissioned by the Roman Senate on July 4, 13 BC to honor the return of Augustus to Rome after three years in Hispania and Gaul and consecrated on January 30, 9 BC.

Today, the Ara Pacis is installed in Rome in a new museum, which opened in 2006 .

The Ara Pacis is essentially a small building enclosing an actual altar where sacrifices were performed. The enclosure is almost square - about 11 and a half meters on the open west and east sides and about 10 and a half meters on the north and south sides.



## **Palazzo Farnese - Farnese Palace**

Palazzo Farnese is in Piazza Farnese Rome, Italy. The palace was designed by some of the most prominent architects of the 16<sup>th</sup> century: Antonio da Sangallo the Younger, Michelangelo and Giacomo della Porta. It is a primary example of Roman High Renaissance architecture and one of the most important High Renaissance palaces in Rome. The key Renaissance features of the main facade include the alternating triangular and segmental pediments that cap the windows of the piano nobile, Michelangelo's projecting cornice and his architrave to support the huge papal coat of arms in the centre. The facade of the Palace is made of travertine and it covers an area of 29x56 mt.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it was considered one of the “four wonders of Rome”.

Since 1936 it serves as the French embassy in Italy. Inside Palazzo Farnese, there is a great scholarly library concentrating on the archeology of Italy.



# ST. PETER'S BASILICA

St. Peter's Basilica is located in Vatican City, a city-state within the city of Rome, Italy, where the Pope lives. It is the most famous Roman Catholic church in the world and a major pilgrimage site.

Construction of the present day building was begun by Pope Julius II in 1506 and finished in 1626. It is admired for its Renaissance sculpture and its Renaissance and Baroque architecture. Its design, construction and decoration involved all the greatest masters of those days: Michelangelo Buonarroti, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, Bramante, Carlo Maderno, Antonio da Sangallo and Giacomo Della Porta. Michelangelo designed its amazing dome. Built out of travertine stone, St. Peter's is one of the biggest buildings in the whole world: it's 218 mt long, 116 mt wide and 133 mt high.

St. Peter's Square, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, is a large plaza located in front of St. Peter's Basilica. At the centre of the square is an Egyptian obelisk erected there in 1586 and two granite fountains, one built in 1675 by Bernini and another designed by Maderno in 1613.



# VILLA BORGHESE GARDENS

Villa Borghese is a landscape garden in the naturalistic English manner in Rome, Italy. It includes buildings, sculptures, monuments and fountains by famous artists from the Baroque, Neoclassical and Eclectic periods. The garden was projected by Flaminio Ponzio in 1605. It is the third largest public park in Rome (80 hectares or 148 acres).

In 1605 cardinal Scipione Borghese, a nephew of pope Paul V started its construction. The villa was built by the architect Flaminio Ponzio after a sketch from the cardinal himself. At the end of the eighteenth century an artificial lake was created in the middle of the park. On the island in the lake, a small Ionic temple was built. In the eighteenth century, the restoration and improvement of Villa Borghese was commissioned by Marcantonio Borghese and carried out between 1784 and 1790 by architects Antonio and Mario Asprucci. The neoclassical Greek temples of Asclepius, of Diana and of Antoninus and Faustina were also added.

In 1903 the city of Rome obtained Villa Borghese from the Borghese family and opened the park to the public. Villa Borghese park is also home to several museums. The most famous is the Galleria Borghese, which has a collection of famous sculptures and paintings.