

VILLA BORGHESE AND BORGHESE GALLERY

After moving to Rome in 1541, the Borghese family became very important following the appointment of Camillo Borghese as Pope Paul V in 1605. The park in which their villa was situated was landscaped to include a lake with a small Ionic temple on an island.

The Borghese family was patron of many Renaissance artists, in particular Bernini, and the Gallery's founder, Cardinal Scipione Borghese, accumulated some of the greatest art treasures of all time.



The city of Rome obtained the Villa from the Borghese family in 1903 and since then it has been open to the public. The gardens are a lovely place to relax, with cafés and peaceful walks, and there is even a replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in the grounds. You will find statues of Byron, Goethe and Victor Hugo, and picturesque temples made to look like ruins.



Much of the collection is now in the Louvre, after being sold by Pauline, Napoleon Bonaparte's sister. She married Prince Camillo Borghese in 1807 and posed as Venus for this sculpture by Canova. After it was finished her husband locked it away and did not even allow the sculptor to see it again.



Bernini's two masterpieces *Apollo and Daphne* and *Rape of Proserpina* should not be missed.

Here you can see the nymph Daphne trying to escape from the god Apollo at the very moment the gods listened to her prayers and decided that turning her into a tree was the best way to rescue her. Her hair and fingers are turning to leaves and her toes are elongating into roots, while a fine bark is beginning to cover her body. Bernini was inspired by the Roman poet Ovid's telling of the story in his epic poem *Metamorphoses*.



The Greek myth of the god of the Underworld abducting the daughter of the goddess of the Harvest explained the mystery of different Seasons for the early Greeks: Ceres mourned for her daughter for the 6 months she had to remain with Pluto, thus causing crops and plants to die during Winter and only start to grow when Proserpina comes back to the earth.

The sculptor's amazing skill with marble can clearly be seen in the way the girl's flesh seems to be pressed in by the god's fingers as she struggles.



The sculpture of Aeneas carrying his father Anchises out of Troy was sculpted by Bernini and his then 16 year-old son in 1613.

The face of Bernini's *David* is supposed to be that of the sculptor himself, using a mirror held by Scipione Borghese

David is about to launch a rock at Goliath.

Many famous paintings are also housed here, such as Carravaggio's *Boy with a Basket of Fruit*, Raphael's *Lady with a Unicorn*, Titian's *Sacred and Profane Love*, and Rubens' *Deposition*.

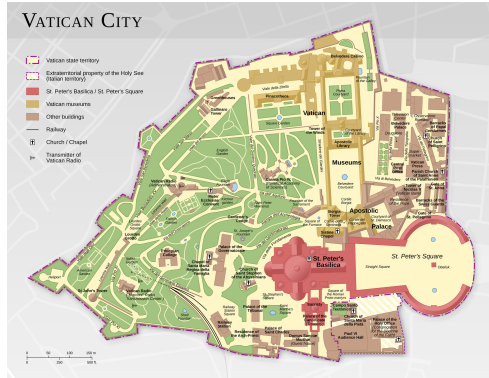


ALSO

Look for the famous Gladiator mosaic from a 4th century AD villa and notice the *trompe l'oeil* ceiling fresco by Rossi (1778) which shows Romulus being received as a god on Olympus.

USE THIS SPACE TO SKETCH OR MAKE NOTES ON EXHIBITS WHICH APPEAL TO YOU

VATICAN MUSEUMS, VATICAN CITY AND ST PETER'S SQUARE



Two of the Classics Department's favourite statues can be found in the Vatican museums!

However, first things first ...

You don't notice as you arrive, but the Vatican City has been a sovereign state since 1929, with its own radio station, newspaper, postal service and the Swiss Guards to police it. As the site where St Peter was martyred and buried, it is the residence of the Popes who succeeded him.

St Peter's Square was designed by Bernini 1656-1667 in the Baroque style, incorporating an existing Egyptian obelisk brought to Rome by Caligula in 36BC and a fountain designed by Maderno in 1613. Bernini created a second fountain and an elliptical colonnade.

St Peter's Basilica was begun by the Emperor Constantine in 319-333 AD and Michelangelo made significant changes in 1547, modifying the shape of the dome to make it more ovoid than the dome of the ancient Pantheon. On the inside of the dome is the inscription: TV ES PETRVS ET SVPER HANC PETRAM AEDIFICABO ECCLESIAM MEAM. TIBI DABO CLAVES REGNI CAELORVM ... you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church. ... I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven ...



Michelangelo created the 'Pieta' - statue of Mary holding Christ's body - in 1499 when he was just 24. It is protected by a bulletproof screen since being attacked by a vandal with a hammer in 1972. The bronze statue of St Peter has a shiny right foot, polished by the touches of pilgrims through the years. The final photo is the inauguration of Pope Francis in 2013.

VATICAN MUSEUMS

It is impossible to see everything in these museums in one visit! There are several interlinked buildings and galleries and the famous Raphael rooms and Sistine Chapel are at least a twenty minute walk from the entrance. These Renaissance Papal palaces contain treasures from all eras of history and from all over the world, not just Rome itself.

At least one member of the Classics Department can't wait to revisit the (Roman copy of a Greek original) statue-group of the Trojan priest Laocoon trying to protect his sons from serpents sent to attack them by the goddess Minerva after he advised the Trojans not to take the wooden horse into the city of Troy. www.pyrrha.me.uk/poetry4.html

2nd photo is the statue of Augustus with his divine 'relative' Cupid at his feet, 3rd the Apollo Belvedere perfectly embodies the ideals of Classical beauty, and Latin students who are fans of Haterius in CLC Book 4 will enjoy finding the relief sculptures from his family tomb. The discus thrower *Discobolos* is a Roman copy of a Greek original by Myron and the face of the Roman copy of Praxiteles' *Aphrodite of Cnidos* resembles the Empress Faustina c.170AD.



In the Raphael Rooms, decorated for Pope Julius II, you can see *School of Athens* as you go in. There are then steps to the **Sistine Chapel**, the Pope's private chapel where a conclave of Cardinals elects a new Pope - white smoke rises from the chimney when they all agree.



The massive walls of the Sistine Chapel have frescoes by some of the finest artists of the 15th and 16th centuries. The 12 paintings on the side walls, by e.g. Perugino, Ghirlandaio, Botticelli and Signorelli, show parallel episodes from the lives of Moses and Christ. The decoration of the walls was completed 1534-1541 by Michelangelo who added the great altar wall fresco, *The Last Judgment*. The dead are hauled up from their graves to face the judgment of Christ. Classicists will recognise the rather surprising picture of Charon and his boat in the Underworld.

On the ceiling Michelangelo, working alone on specially designed scaffolding, created 9 main panels charting the Creation through to the



Fall of Man, surrounded by topics from the Old & New Testaments - and surprisingly - Greek and Roman Sibyls who were said to have foretold the birth of Christ.