

Heritage Choir Newsletter #13 – Rome, Italy

It's Friday, October 11th, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. This morning we will visit the Rome Temple Complex, which includes a Visitors' Center and Family History Center.....



The Rome Italy Temple is in northeast Rome near the village of La Cinquina Bufalotta. Its exterior is constructed from Bianco Sardo granite.

The Rome Italy Temple is part of a 15-acre religious and cultural center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, which includes a Multifunctional Meetinghouse, a Visitors' Center, a Family History Center and Housing for Visitors.



Design - The temple's design echoes aspects of the ancient city. A motif created by Michelangelo for the Piazza del Campidoglio on Capitoline Hill in the 1500s, an interlaced 12-point star, is woven into carpets and displayed in floors, ceilings and railings throughout the building. The curved ceilings, the curved walls, the expression of the colonnades and columns; and, that started this very early concept of a curved church, a curved temple and temple building are reflected on both the exterior as well as on the interior.

The temple's exterior is granite with decorative glazing. The interior includes Italian granite and chandeliers made in Verona, Spanish marble, African wood and American stained-glass art.

Visitors' Center - In the visitors' center, a life-size statue of the Christus accompanied by the original Twelve Apostles face the temple through full-length windows. The statues are replicas of sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen's works displayed in the Church of Our Lady in Denmark.

Piazza - The visitors' center, temple patron housing and a meetinghouse connect to the temple through an Italian-style piazza from native travertine. The Church also salvaged 110-year-old Basalt cobblestones from the streets of Rome for the temple roundabout. If you look closely, you can see the grooves worn in by the passage of old wagon wheels.

Trees - Olive trees from the old farm were preserved, and ancient olive trees from northern Italy, ranging in age from 400 to 500 years old, are planted in the piazza. The Church also preserved Italian stone pine trees on the property that line the stairs leading to the temple.

This Afternoon the Choir will Perform at the Vatican.....**to be continued in next week's Newsletter.**

Rome "Fun Fact" #13. The Carrara marble for the three-quarter scale statues in the Rome Temple Visitors' Center was taken from the same quarry in Tuscany as the marble used for Michelangelo's David.