

## *Heritage Choir Newsletter #9 – Rome, Italy*

*It's Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. Today, you will enjoy a guided visit to the Vatican Museums including St Peter's Basilica Sistine Chapel.....*



The Vatican Museums were born from that first group of statues. It started in 1506 when a statue representing Laocoön, a figure in Greek mythology, was found. Considered today as one of the most important museums in the world. The different Popes that have ruled, have gathered and preserved over the years some of the most important art masterpieces of all times and you can admire today.

Listed are interesting facts regarding the Vatican Museums:

1. The Vatican Museums were founded by Pope Julius II in the 16th century.
2. There are a total of 54 museums, with the last ones being the Sistine Chapel with its ceiling decorated by Michelangelo and the Stanze della Segnatura decorated by Raphael.
3. It is said that the Vatican Museums contain the world's largest collection of art with 9 miles of pieces, which could wrap four and half times around the Vatican walls.
4. The Vatican museums are a series of 1400 rooms, chapels, and galleries and they constitute former wings of the Vatican Palace.
5. Michelangelo was a maverick with details. The tree from which Eve plucks the fruits of the forbidden fruits in the Sistine Chapel is not an Apple Tree - the leaves on the tree indicates that it is a fig tree.
6. St. Peters Basilica is part of the Vatican Museums and is famed to be the biggest catholic church in the world. The measurements of the cathedrals around the world are listed within the basilica to ensure that they all can fit within the confines of St. Peters.
7. Part of the Museum is the Passetto di Borgo that connects the pontiff's official residence to Castel Sant'Angelo. The underground passage saved the life of Pope Clement VII in 1527 when the soldiers of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V rampaged through the Vatican City and murdered priests and nuns.
8. Among the most popular museums include; Vatican Historical Museum, Museo Gregoriano Egiziano, Museo Gregoriano Etrusco, Museo Chiaramonti and Museo Pio-Clementino.

Today, we will continue to enjoy the Vatican Museums.....**to be continued in next week's Newsletter**

### **Rome "Fun Fact" #9**

The Sistine Chapel in the Vatican Museums has the same dimensions, as described in the Old Testament, as the Temple of Solomon on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.