

— THE — GRAND TOUR

UNIQUE GUIDED TOURS

PRIVATE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

Private Virtual Guided Tours of Italy and Europe:
Corporate e Social Events for MICE & Clubs



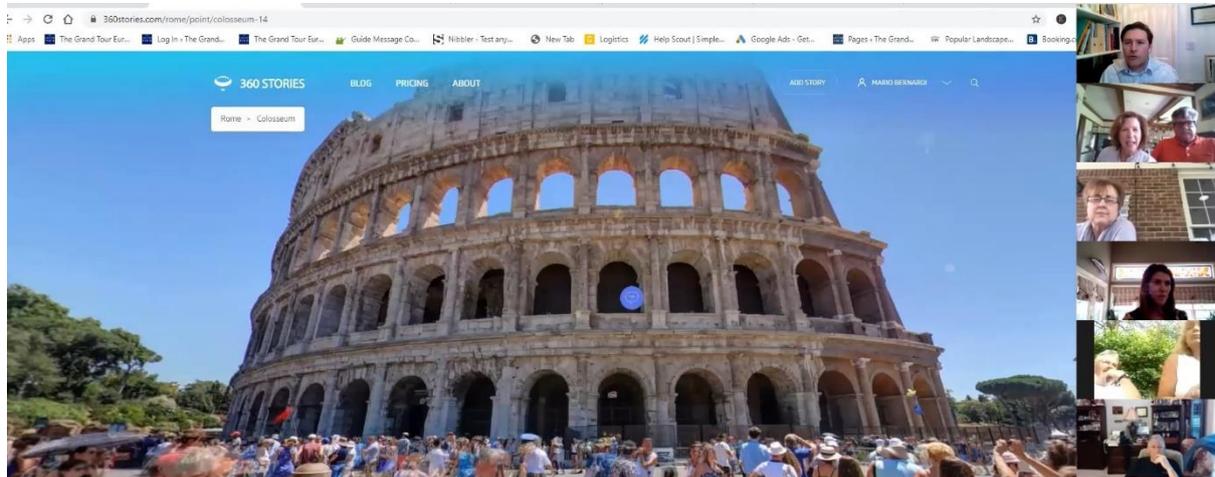
The New Frontier of Cultural Travel Experience! Virtual Guided Tours with an expert Guide using the Zoom App you can connect live, interact, share with your family. Each Guided Tour is about 50 minutes to an hour of LIVE streaming time, you can ask live questions and interact with other participants and at the end take our quiz! It's a fun and engaging and fun way to spend your time with your Colleagues and a Great Team Building tool where colleagues can learn about Leadership and Challenges in History!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- ▶ Duration: 1 hour – about 50 minutes talk plus time for Q&A
- ▶ Cost: from 250 euros total for up to 15 connections, then 10 euros per extra connection.
- ▶ Don't know how many people are going to be joining. Not a problem, just pay the 250 euros deposit then we will charge the balance once the virtual tour is finished based on the actual participants.
- ▶ Participants from 1 to 100 (best is between 5 to 25 participants to maximize interaction)

HOW TO USE ZOOM <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>

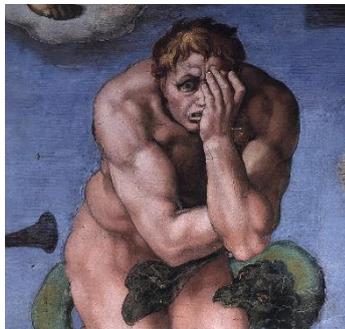
Watch some of our Free Virtual Experiences on YOUTUBE <https://bit.ly/3dE3RhN>



We can create many Bespoke Experiences, anyway, these are some of our favourites:

THE VATICAN

The Secrets of the Sistine Chapel



We will enter the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican using an official 3d photographic model that we will be able to navigate as if we were walking inside in person. We'll have the Chapel all to ourselves and using a mix of high res pictures and other media we will be able to discover the many secrets kept by the Chapel of the Popes. We will talk about Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Perugino and the other early renaissance Masters who worked in the Chapel before Michelangelo arrival, then we will explore the symbology and the hidden messages in the frescoes as well as some lesser-known facts and anecdotes!

There will be time to interact and to ask questions and then at the end there will be an online quiz for those you want to test their knowledge of the Chapel!

The Secrets of the Vatican

The Vatican is often synonymous of secrecy, and in fact there is so much more than meets the eye within its walls, after a brief overview of the history of the Papal State, and how it came to be the world's smallest Country, we will explore with hires photos and 3d photographic models some of the hidden areas of the Vatican: The Masks Room with the Pope's secret Chair, The Secret Archive, the Tower of The Winds, the Library, the Niccoline Chapel and other rooms



that the common visitor doesn't even suspect their existence just walking in front of closed doors. Lastly, we will explore the Pauline Chapel, Michelangelo's unknown masterpiece painted just after the completion of the Sistine Chapel Last Judgement for the Pope Paul II Farnese. An incredible opportunity to learn all the behind the scenes of the Vatican City State!

Saint Peters Basilica, Emperor Constantine and the Origins of Christianity



Saint Peters Basilica in the Vatican is the world's largest Church and a stark image of the Catholic Roma Church: Baroque splendour, pompous ceremonies, large crowds. But all these grandeur had humble origins: the Tomb of Saint Peter the Apostle originally believed to be a simple earthly burial, later transformed in a red shrine and eventually buried under the large Basilica build by Emperor Constantine, who sought in the new religion a fresh start for a national belief that could unite once more the Romans under a new faith, at a time when nobody believed and worshiped the old gods anymore.

The Rooms of Raphael in the Vatican

In 1508 Raphael started what was going to be his greatest and longest enterprise: decorating the papal Rooms by creating a painted summary of both Theology and History of the Church. Helped by a team of excellent Artists like Giulio Romano, Francesco Penni, Giovanni da Udine, Perin del Vaga and Many others Raphael used contemporaries like Pope Julius II and Leo X Medici as models for the frescoes, in which he also portrayed himself and many other artists. We'll virtually explore in detail all of the allegories and symbology of the frescoes including some hidden messages and figures, like the daughter of Pope Julius and many other historical and biblical figures.



The Vatican Museums: The collections of the Popes

The Vatican Museums are a complex of more than 20 collections, spanning nearly ten thousand years, from 8 millennia BC vases from the middle east to XX century art, displayed in over 8 km of galleries (5 miles) and about 300 rooms. In this overview we'll start from the Pinecone Courtyard, explore the collection of Greek and Roman sculptures, in the Belvedere Complex, including the famous statue of Apollo, the Laocoon and the Belvedere Torso, the statues of animals, the Coffins of St. Helen and St. Constance, the Galleries of Tapestries and the frescoed Maps of all Italy painted in 1585. The Vatican Museums also include a small Egyptian Collection, an important Etruscan Museums, the Portraits from Palmyra, statues from Hadrian's Villa and many other wonders than we will explore using a number of 3d images, photos and videos and great storytelling to condense it all in a comprehensive but agile virtual experience. Great for both connoisseurs and first timers who want to learn more or just get acquainted with the Vatican and its Museums.

ROME

The Colosseum and the Life of the Gladiators



More than the Roman Forum or the Roman Baths, the Colosseum, and every other Amphitheatre, is now a symbol of the Roman Civilization: an image at the same time of construction and engineering perfection and of brutality and cruelty. This talk will also give us the chance to learn how the Gladiators lived

and what was their life like and what was their way of thinking and their social status, besides the 'legendary' images created by Hollywood.

The Secrets of the Pantheon

The Pantheon, the Temple dedicated to all the Gods, is one of many buildings that were built under Emperor Augustus to mark the beginning of a new Era, and since then it has become a milestone of architecture and political and religious propaganda. It is in fact the Mother of all Domes, and we will explore its rich history, ceremonies, hidden rooms and parts, including unique images of its inside, and will explore its importance throughout the centuries from Brunelleschi to Jefferson, from Alberti to Bernini.



Bernini vs Borromini, the rivalry that shaped Rome



Rome is uniquely associated with the Baroque Art, from Saint Peter's Square to the altar of the Basilica, to the many churches and fountains and other urban baroque elements there is no corner of Rome untouched by this unique and controversial style. The Beginning of the XVII century saw two young artists contending to become the new star of baroque art and architecture and much of the Roman baroque is in fact a consequence of their cooperation and rivalry: the more classicist and formal Bernini and the

more extravagant and inventive Borromini had about 20 years of challenges and achievements to dominate the eternal city as the leading architect.

The Borghese Gallery and Gardens

The Borghese Gallery, known as the Queen of the Private Art Collections. An exceptional collection of art from the world-famous masters, housed in a Villa that was built in the 1600s, the interior marks is the perfect setting.

unique XVII century collection of Renaissance and Baroque painting, with Ancient Roman and modern sculptures that were originally created by the powerful Cardinal Scipione Borghese. Starting from the top floor, admiring paintings by Raphael, Titian, Botticelli and Perugino, as well as Roman and modern sculptures and coffins. On the first floor discover the stories behind Bernini's Statues and admire the six Caravaggio Masterpieces, owned by the Cardinal, who did not hesitate to blackmail the painter Cavalier D'Arpino to acquire two of them in the XVII century. Afterwards, head off to the gardens which surround the Casino Borghese, heading towards Via Veneto.

The Myth of Ancient Rome: Augustus and the Fields of Mars

When Octavian Augustus became emperor after the Battle of Actium in 31 BC he had already been using the Story of the Origins of Rome and its mythology to carve a space in it for himself and his family. Historians often say that the winner tells history, but in this case, as, in fact, in many other cases, the man winner is the one with the best story, and this is certainly true for Octavian and the Myth of Rome. We'll explore how Augustus turned the Fields of Mars and central Rome into an urbanistic celebration of himself and Julius Caesar legacy. The Ara Pacis, the Pantheon, the Horologium and many other urbanistic and architectural features of the new Rome built for the Emperor blow the Gens Julia horn and celebrate them as the Family born from the sacred blood of the founders to rule Rome and make it the great ruler of the world.

Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli: the Dream of an Emperor

Hadrian's Villa, probably the most marvellous building that the human mind has ever conceived. Hadrian's Villa is like a reproduction of the Emperors world's and memories in a complex that is as big as a mid-sized city. We will explore the Canopo, the Imperial Palace, the Baths and the several amazing building of this unique Villa conceived by one of the graeatest Roman Emperors.

FLORENCE

Botticelli and the Origins of Renaissance in Florence

Florence is known as the crib of renaissance, mostly due to the Patronage of the Medici Family and their wealth so generously invested in art and culture, we will look at the relationship between the artists and the city and the idea of Beauty that especially Botticelli represented in a magnificent way becoming the true icon of Ideal Beauty and Neoplatonism. Power, Money, Philosophy, Religion and Art were uniquely intertwined in Florence XV century to become an epitome of cultural and political development for the centuries to follow.



The Uffizi Gallery – officially Licensed Tour



Originally build as the Offices for the City of Florence, the Uffizi Galleries host today the most important collection of Renaissance art in the world. From Piero della Francesca to Filippo Lippi, from Botticelli to Perugino and Ghirlandaio, from Michelangelo to Titian and Leonardo da Vinci, and many others including Caravaggio, the Uffizi Galleries offers a unique collection of Italian art displayed mostly in a chronological order that makes easy to understand an

navigate the various styles of Florentine art thought the centuries and how it became the “School of the World”.

NAPLES

In the Belly of Naples: Stories and Art from an Ancient city



A virtual tour through some of the most precious hidden treasure of Naples, starting from the Pio Monte della Misericordia, which was founded by seven young people from Naples in 1601. The historical palace and the church built in the XVII century, still preserve a wide artistic heritage. Among them is one of the best-known masterpieces of Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, as well as a rich group of paintings from different schools and periods. We will continue discovering the Via dei Tribunali which is similar to the old Decumanus,

the old Roman city main road, and we will visit some masterpieces hidden in the churches of central Naples, such as “Christ Driving the Merchants from the Temple” by Luca Giordano in the Girolaminis church, the Madonna dell’Arco, the paintings by Mattia Preti in the church of S. Pietro a Majella, the incredible Veiled Christ by Sammartino and the Sansevero Chapel, and incredible masterpiece of the architecture and sculpture of XVIII century late Baroque Art.

Naples Underground: Stories from Beneath the City

There are over 10 catacombs that still exists in Naples, the most famous are the Catacombs of San Gennaro which date back to the 2nd Century. Starting with the Catacombs of San Gennaro, under the Sanità district, are the largest Catacombs in southern Italy. They cover around 5600 square meters and they are home to the remains of San Gennaro, the patron saint of Naples. The catacombs are arranged on two levels, with the lower one dating back to the first and second centuries. San Gennaro catacombs are known for frescoes and the “Crypt of the Bishops”, where some Neapolitan bishops are buried.

The catacombs of San Gaudioso were lost for centuries: they were rediscovered when Dominicans began the construction of Santa Maria della Sanità Church in 1601. The actual burial site dates back to the fifth century. Although not the largest catacomb it has an impressive collection of 5th and 6th century mosaics and an interesting insight into the burial practices that took place. Finally, visit the Fontanelle cemetery. Located in a cave in the hillside, it was built to as a place to put bodies that had already been interred in local churches, to make room for the newly dead to rest in their local churches within the city walls. In 1656 victims of the plague were to also join them, before becoming a paupers’ cemetery in the later centuries.



The Royal Palace of Caserta

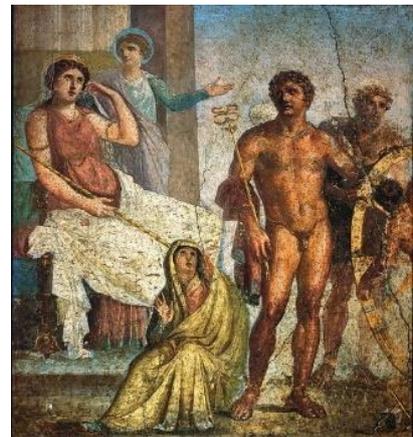
Build to rival Versailles the Royal Palace of Caserta is the most beautiful Palace in Europe,



originally to rival Versailles, which was its model, it definitely surpassed it in elegance and style. Designed by Luigi Vanvitelli for the King Charles the Bourbon of Naples, who lately became Carlos III of Spain, leaving his throne to his son Ferdinando, it has over 1200 rooms and had a 2 miles long gardens decorated with fountains adorned by statues inspired by classical mythology.

Pompeii: the buried lives - officially Licensed Tour

When the Vesuvius Volcano erupted many citizens of Pompeii tried to escape, but others seek refuge in their building and remained trapped with their belongings for centuries. Today over two-thirds of the city have been excavated and the bodies of those Pompeiians have been found, telling us their story, together with their houses, their temples, their thermal baths and thousand of objects, artefacts, statues, frescoes, mosaics. We will explore Pompeii in a narrative way bring back to life the Pompeiians and their stories up to their tragic end.



SICILY

Agrigento and the Valley of Temples



Agrigento was founded by the Greeks in Sicily with the name of Akragas, as in a nearby river there were crabs from which the city derives its name. Later became the roman Agrigentum and in the middle ages what was left of the inhabitants moved to the highest part of the ancient city creating the town of Girgenti. Protected by a long wall the city's pride were its temples, some among the largest ever built in the ancient world. Now, this area is known as the Valley of the Temples and it's a Unesco world heritage site. We will discover its story and monuments with 3d models and reconstructions,

and we will be able to virtually enjoy the history and the atmosphere of this magnificent Sicilian gem!

Palermo: Phoenicians, Greeks, Arabs and Normans

Palermo is a unique melting pot of Mediterranean cultures across over 28 centuries: founded by the Phoenicians with the name of Ziz, was then taken by the Greeks and the Romans, who called it Panormus. During the Middle ages between the IX and the XII century, Palermo was the capital of the Emirate of Sicily during the Arab conquest. When the Normans conquered the Island Palermo became the capital of their kingdom which lasted only under a century but became a rich cultural center where Byzantines, Christians, Arabs, and Jews lived, worked, and thrived together. As a result of this unique mixture, some great buildings are still preserved today: the Palazzo dei Normanni, Europe's oldest parliament still in use, with its glittering Cappella Palatina, a Christian chapel with Islamic decorations and byzantine decorations, its a feast for the eyes and the soul. Churches, palaces, music, and food in Palermo everything tells still today the story of the great Normans who ruled on many cultures as one. We will explore the Cathedrals of Palermo, Cefalú, and Monreale as well d the Cuba and Cubula the magnificent leisure villa surrounded by exotic gardens and waters.

VENICE

The Secrets of Venice: Casanova and his time



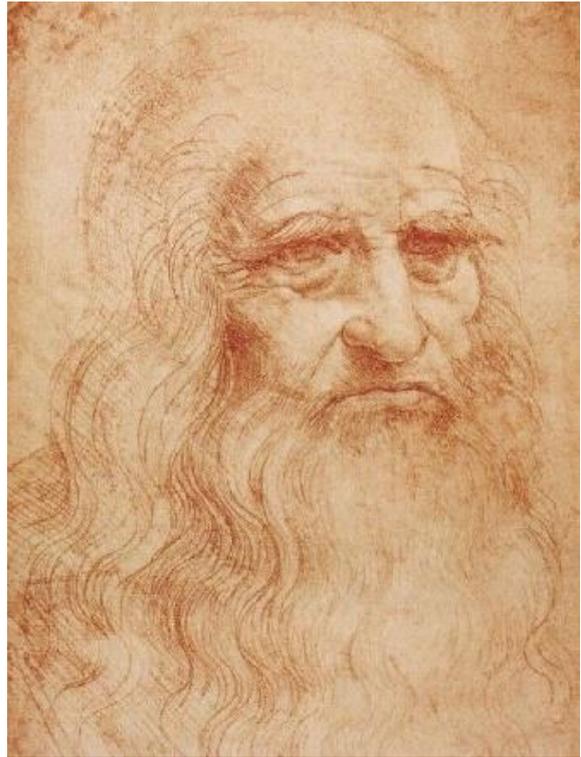
Giacomo Casanova is always associated with the libertine image of the seducer, but he was an extremely cultivated man, a resourceful, experienced traveler, and a great storyteller, skill that he used to get always ahead of his misfortunes. We will follow some key moments of his life, from the humble beginnings to his

career as a priest in Rome, which, as you can imagine, didn't last long and definitely did not end well... because of a girl! He traveled extensively throughout Europe to Paris, London, Germany, Russia, Poland, Spain... collecting hearts and often ending up imprisoned or banished. A great personality with many skills and many facets still to be discovered, like being an excellent writer, he wrote many books including a Sci-Fi novel and many other things that contributed to creating the myth of Casanova.

GREAT ITALIANS

Leonardo da Vinci, the Genius

Leonardo da Vinci is universally recognised as an Absolut Genius, way ahead of his time, and he embodies more than anyone else, the Italian Renaissance: Science, Technology, Study of Nature, Art, Architecture, Engineering, Poetry, Anatomy, Geology, Geography, there is no field of human knowledge that he left unexplored.. Although he always wanted to be acknowledged mostly as a Scientist and an Inventor, in his lifetime he was mainly known and employed as a painter and architect, and often as a military and infrastructure engineer, in which he excelled. Anyway he was ambitious and he sought to publish science and research books all his life, which were never printed in his lifetime nor till much later in the XIX century. This Virtual Experience offers an unusual look at the life story of one of the most gifted man who ever lived, a Great Italian and a true inspiring figure, often only superficially known, who deserves to be better understood.



Michelangelo the pursuit of Fame

For Michelangelo sculpting and painting was not the making of an artwork, but to bring to this world something already existing in the Mind of God. So all his life Michelangelo main pursuit was to live up to this call, a mission that he carried out meticulously and fighting against anyone who stood in his way, from the Medici to the Popes. Michelangelo's life will illuminate lots of its artworks and achievements, especially in the last years when he moved to Rome and also became the architect of the Basilica of Saint Peters.



Raphael Sanzio of Urbino

Raphael was son of the artist Giovanni Santi and was send to study at the workshop of Pietro Perugino at an early age. Although he died young at the age of 37 he left an amazing number of masterpieces, portraits, large frescoes, and his legacy was inherited by a number of talented artists which had worked with him for a number of years. We'll have a closer look to his unique life and artworks, his relationship with women, the popes and his lesser known activity as an architect in which he excelled as well.

Caravaggio: The Anabasis of the Soul

Caravaggio, admired and loved by his contemporaries, was almost ignored for centuries to be rediscovered as one of the greatest masters only in the XX century. He had a violent life, and was on the run for the last years of his short life, we will follow his travels to show how fast his style and his art was changing as he rushed towards the inevitable end of a violent but extremely productive life.

Vivaldi the sound of Venice

Antonio Vivaldi was, at the beginning of the last century, considered a minor Venetian musician, known mainly for some tunes used by one of Bach's sons in his compositions, and then forgotten. But when at the beginning of 1900 a large collection of his manuscripts were uncovered in a private collection, with thousands of partitions and hundreds of concertos, a new Genius of Music was uncovered and he has become one of the most famous and played baroque musicians ever since. We will look into his life, his time, his personal struggles and a secret love story. We'll dive into his music following some original autograph partitions, paintings of his time, and much more.



Titian, the Master of Colour

Tiziano Vecellio, simply known as Titian, is one of the greatest masters of the Italian Renaissance, standing tall with his more popular Florentine contemporaries like Michelangelo and Leonardo. He was gifted with a long and productive life and his style evolved from the allegorical and mysterious composition close to his master Giorgione's style, to an almost impressionist style bold and evident brushstroke. A modern, intense and glorious master who enchanted Nobles, Popes, Kings and Emperors with his art.

The Bold and Furious: Tintoretto in Venice

Son of a "Tintor", a humble cloth dyer, Jacopo Robusti known as Il Tintoretto, was one of the most productive artists of Venice, making some of the largest canvases known to these days. His style was fast, bold, energetic, with flashes of light and dancing figures in a dream like background. He transfigured painting into something oneiric, magical but at the same time direct and spontaneous. We'll enter the Palazzo Ducale, or Doges Palace in Venice, and the Scola Grande di San Rocco to admire his artworks right in the places where they were originally meant to be, giving us the unique possibility to experience his art exactly how he designed it.

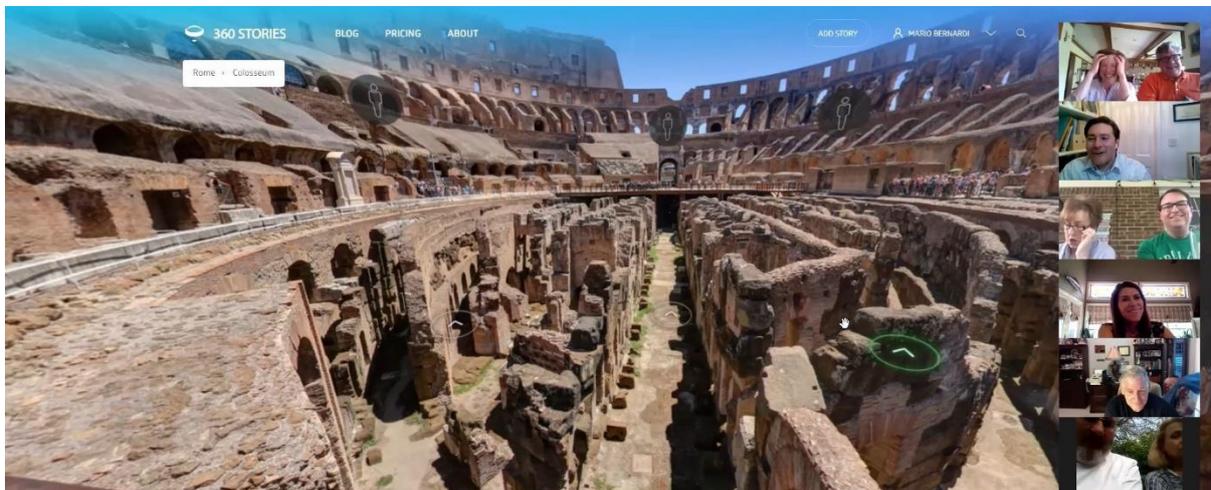
Andrea Palladio and the Venetian Renaissance

Palladio is synonymous of classicism and solemn buildings: almost every XVIII and XIX century public building in Europe and North America had some of the style and the feature of Palladian architecture. He was able to interpret the Renaissance style brought to Venice by Roman and Florentine artists like Sansovino and Serlio, in a new almost quintessential way that created a new language of which he wrote a complete grammar. We'll explore his buildings in Venice and in the Veneto Region, as well as his legacy that spread around the world making him one of the most influential artists of all times.



Antonio Canova or the Ideal Beauty in Marble

Antonio Canova was considered the great sculptor of his time and worked for Popes, Queens and even for Napoleon and Thomas Jefferson, who commissioned him George Washington's statue in which he is portrayed as an ancient Roman statesman. Canova embodied the ideal of classicism and the renewed interest in the Roman Empire art in the XIX century's Europe, he is considered the greatest classicist sculptor and his works are in the most important museums in the world: from St. Petersburg's Hermitage to the Louvre, from the Borghese Gallery to the Vatican Museums. We will discover his masterpieces and his legacy, from his origins in Possagno in the mainland of Venice, to his works in Rome and the Vatican and his travels to France and England.



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