

Italy

Part 10

Rome -

*Colonna Palace &
Mouth of Truth*

June 20, 2015





June 20, 2015 - After leaving the Colosseum, our guide Vittorio dropped us off right at the corner of the Colonna Palace. We went in to see if they had tickets available for that day to take the tour and they did. That's me standing in the doorway entrance to the palace.

The Colonna Palace is the living quarters of the current Prince of the Colonna family who have owned and lived in the palace for over 20 generations. We got tickets to see both the art gallery of the palace and the apartments of the Prince where they actually live.





The tour had just started as we joined them in the first foyer area, which was covered with paintings. The guide was describing some of the paintings.

There were a few marble stairs descending into a great hall filled with more paintings. As we walked down the stairs, the guide pointed out a cannonball with a big chip in the marble stairs. She said it was fired by the French in 1849 and likely came through the roof or window. It was left there as a reminder of the history.



This is the large hall of paintings gilded with gold leaf and painted ceiling. Having just come from the long walking tour of ancient Rome and the Colosseum, I was happy to see the red velvet benches where I could sit and rest my feet while the guide explained things.





Anna and I noticed some mirrors were even painted.







A glimpse of the inner garden courtyard through an upstairs window. During the tour it started to rain, so we were not able to walk through it.









Each room we entered was lined with paintings and some artsy furniture like this table on the right.





Ornate doors and very large tapestries.





A uniform of days past.





Every room had painted ceilings, and the one on the right has the Colonna coat of arms....a single column. Colonna means column in Italian.





Then we entered Princess Isabelle's apartment area, which has been kept exactly as it was when she lived there until 1984. Below is a portrait of Marie Mancini. She was in the French court of Louis XIV, and they fell in love. But Marie was brought by her mother to Rome for an arranged marriage to Lorenzo Colonna for advantageous reasons between the two families.

Our guide explained that they had three sons, and after the third child was born, Marie left her children and fled Rome. She didn't return until after her husband, Lorenzo, died.





The chandeliers in the palace were all made of the very expensive handblown Murano glass from Venice.



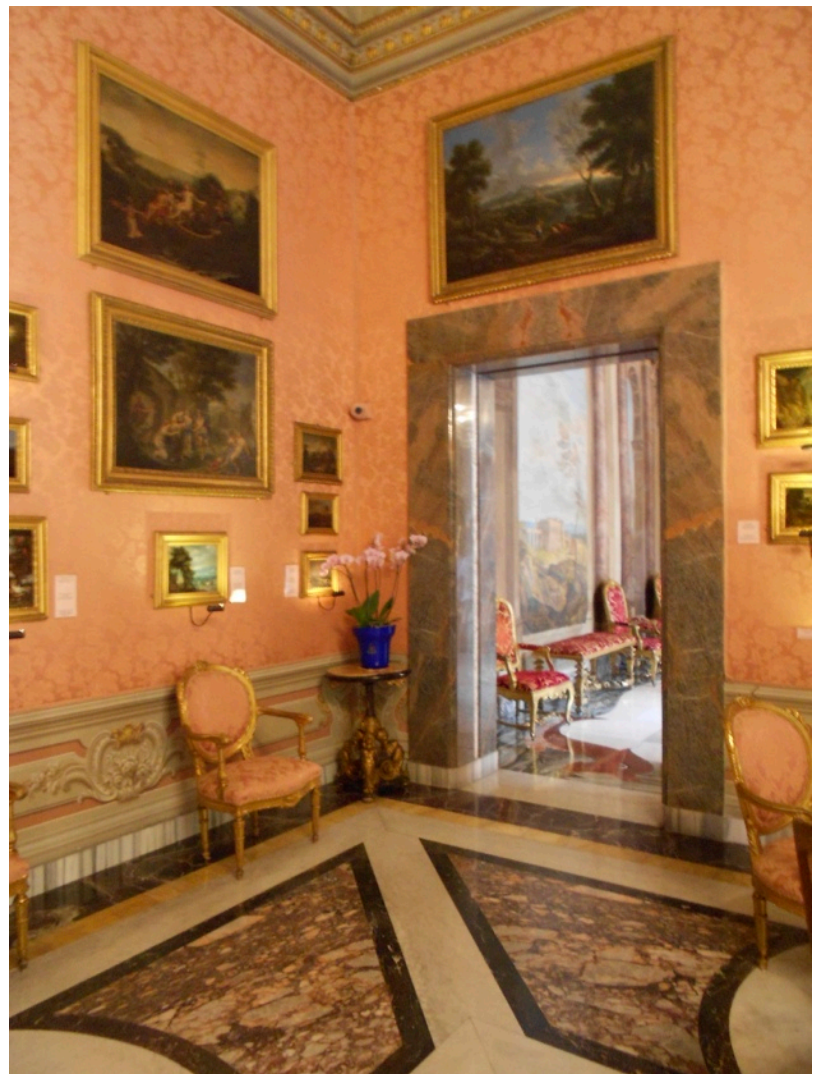


Below another painting of the Colonna coat of arms with the single column in the center.





This room was very pretty
all done in pink.



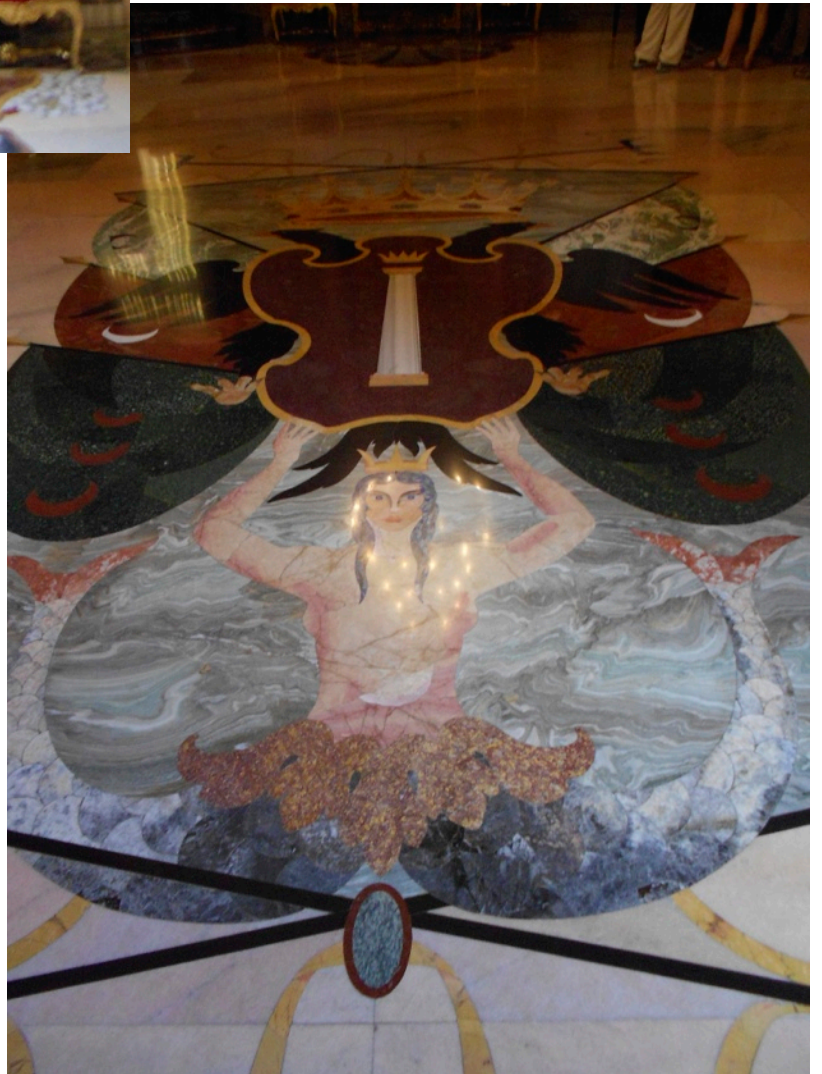


More Murano glass chandeliers.





This is a floor on the right
with once again the
Colonna coat of arms of
the single column.





A small chapel off of one of the rooms.





The tapestry above was actually too big for the wall and it had to be folded on each end.





Two of the more famous paintings in the palace art gallery.





The chair on the left is where the Popes sit when they visit the Colonna Palace. It had a canopy overhead hanging from the ceiling. Apparently there has to be a canopy over the Pope's head wherever they go.

The uniform on the right was worn by the Prince Colonna until 1968.



con decorazioni per le cerimonie ufficiali in Vaticano

Uniform of Assistente al Soglio Pontificio of Prince Colonna until 1968.
After 1968, the Prince Assistente al Soglio wears white tie
with decorations for official events in the Vatican



A description of the uniform and medals worn.





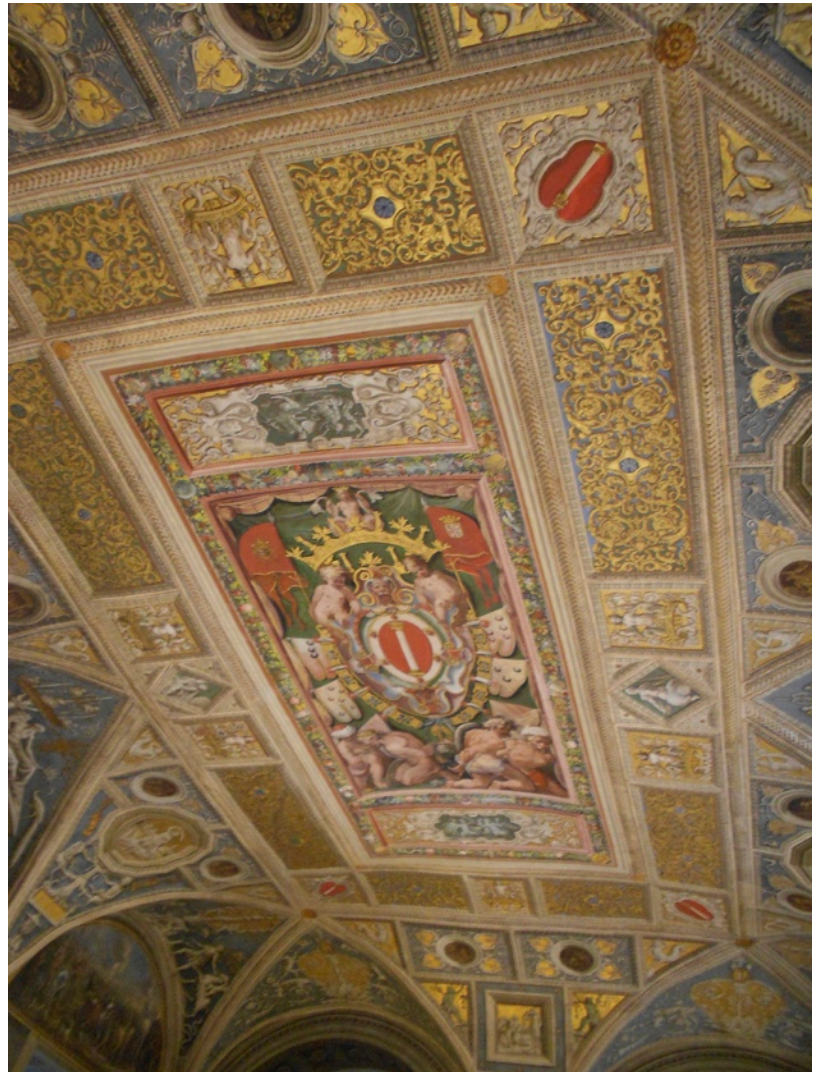
A very old antique family baby cradle.

We then entered what is referred to as "the fountain room". It was the most warm and cozy and is currently used by the Prince and his family.





Once again the Colonna coat of arms painted on the ceiling of this room.





It is a very large room with multiple sitting areas, but still felt warm and cozy. It has glass windowed doors that open into the garden courtyard.





We were shown this
very old clock.





It was demonstrated how before electricity a candle was placed inside to light up and show the time. The man used a lighter to show the effect.





Actual family photos
with various Popes
sitting on the table. The
current Prince Colonna
on the right shaking
hands with the Pope.





An interesting sofa designed to sit on either side.





A fabric covered room divider lined with old family portraits.





More chandeliers.





This is an actual dining room that they use in present day for special occasions like birthday celebrations.





The final room we visited housed the varying types of uniforms worn by the servants in the palace over the years.





We were given a complimentary bottle of water as displayed on the red covered table to end our tour.



On our way out we saw a room marked as a restroom and opened the door to see this big room with the vanity and a second door leading into the restroom area.



It was pouring rain and even though our hotel was just around the corner we were caught without our raincoat and umbrellas, so we got soaked walking the short way.



Back at the hotel we changed into some dry clothes and dried out hair with the hair dryer. As the rain stopped and the sun came out, we were ready to walk again in search of the "Mouth of Truth." If you saw the old movie "Roman Holiday" there's a scene in it with Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. The old medieval legend goes if you tell a lie and put your hand in, it will get bitten off.





There was a line waiting and we were told only one photo allowed for each of us, so Anna and I snapped one each pretending to have our hands bitten off!

The "mouth of truth" is outside in front of an old church in a gated area. We stepped into the gift shop of the church and saw this beautiful old mosaic on the wall.



VRBANO VIII P. M.
VETVSTISSIMAS HAS MVSIVAS IMAGINES IN ORATORIO S. DE
NITRICIS INTRA B. PETRI BASILICAM A IO ANNE VII AD ANNO VM DC
XXI DIFICATO OLIM EXTANTES ET INEIVSDEM BASILICA SVB PAVLO
AMPLIFICATIONE PIE SERVATAS HIC AD PERPETVVM REI SACR
MONVMENTVM IO ANTI CHEZZIVS ROM HVIVS DIACONIAE CANON
DONAVIT ET AFFIGENDAS CVRAVIT AN SAL MDCXXIX



Photo on the left is of a fountain across the street from the church where the "mouth of truth" is.

Starting our walk back to the hotel it began to rain again. We stepped into another church, and I snapped this photo of it on the right. We continued walking and a major downpour started where the roads were filling up to 6 inches of water rapidly. Even with our umbrellas in tow this time, we got soaked. We just continued walking and sloshing until we arrived back at the hotel.



