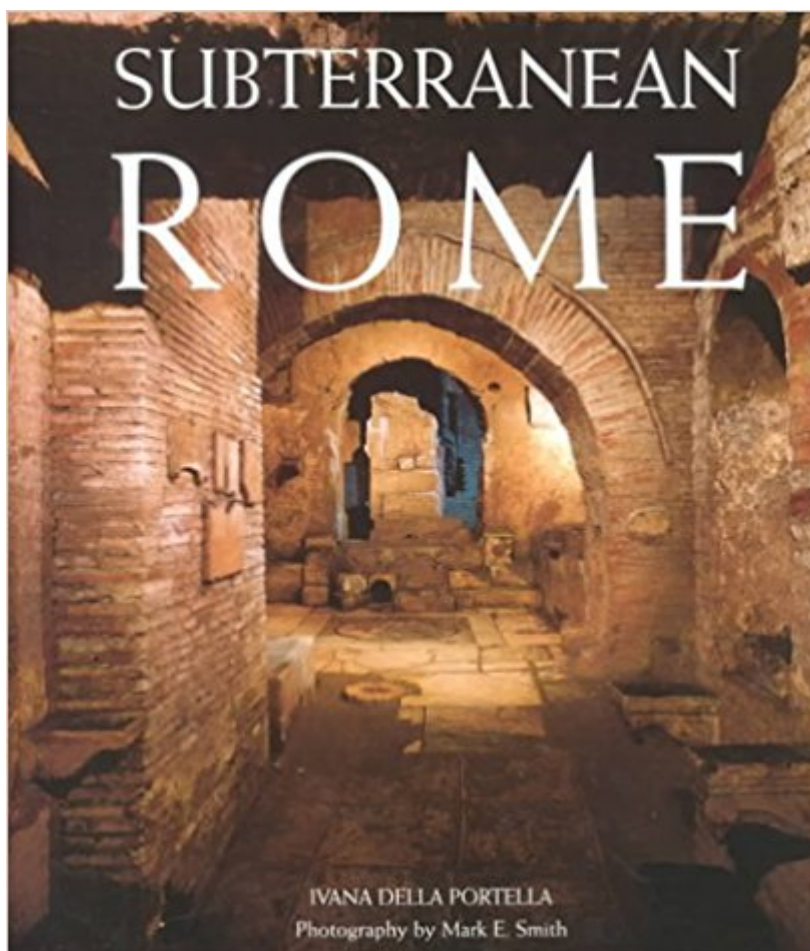


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Subterranean Rome



Synopsis

Dust jacket notes: "Beneath the pavements of monumental Rome, the Rome of the imperial Fora and the great basilicas, lies another Rome, secret and less flamboyant, where everyday buildings open up to reveal unsuspected treasures of art and history. This is subterranean Rome. Though perhaps somewhat less magnificent or picturesque than the city above ground, it is equally - or even more - evocative and fascinating. Like a kind of Atlantis, buried beneath its centuries-old covering, its gardens, temples, baths and nymphaeums tell us a story of ancient times, made up of light and life, but also of shadows, persecution and death. Here we find the mysterious temples dedicated to the cult of the god Mithras that seem to bring alive the magical atmosphere of initiation and sacrifice. Here too are nymphaeums, places of pleasure and physical and spiritual refreshment; columbaria with their astonishing funerary architecture; hypogea and underground passages that still preserve precious works of art beneath churches, palaces, and even in the basements of unpromising-looking houses. However, subterranean Rome does not consist only of mysterious and sacred places, for we also find urban and secular structures like the quarters of the Seventh Cohort of Guards, or the famous Golden House, the Domus Aurea. With evocative photographs - several published here for the first time - this book reveals the hidden world of subterranean Rome, guides us through the most fascinating sites, in many cases previously unvisited, and frequently difficult of access. It represents a journey in time that explores the most ancient roots of western culture."

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Customer Reviews

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and the great basilicas, lies another Rome, secret and less flamboyant, where everyday buildings open up to reveal unsuspected treasures of art and history. This is subterranean Rome. Though perhaps somewhat less magnificent or picturesque than the city above ground, it is equally - or even more - evocative and fascinating. Like a kind of Atlantis, buried beneath its centuries-old covering, its gardens, temples, baths and nymphaeums tell us a story of ancient times, made up of light and life, but also of shadows, persecution and death. Here we find the mysterious temples dedicated to the cult of the god Mithras that seem to bring alive the magical atmosphere of initiation and sacrifice. Here too are nymphaeums, places of pleasure and physical and spiritual refreshment; columbaria with their astonishing funerary architecture; hypogeums and underground passages that still preserve precious works of art beneath churches, palaces, and even in the basements of unpromising-looking houses. However, subterranean Rome does not consist only of mysterious and sacred places, for we also find urban and secular structures like the quarters of the Seventh Cohort of Guards, or the famous Golden House, the Domus Aurea. With evocative photographs - several published here for the first time - this book reveals the hidden world of subterranean Rome, guides us through the most fascinating sites, in many cases previously unvisited, and frequently difficult of access. It represents a journey in time that explores the most ancient roots of western culture."

It is strange what you can dig up in the way of history. This book is more or less the only good reference in English to the areas underground in Rome. It has certainly a very good amount of material, likely not all that might be had as there is likely a good deal more to see. I wish that it had paid attention to the underground areas of the Coliseum, a clear area of much underground that is not often seen and that is at least in the wheelhouse of the business at hand here. That said, the pictures are top notch. The text perhaps is limited in some respects, not choosing to give much in the way of details to some things such as the Vatican Parking Lot or the huge Vatican archives where much of the Pagan statuary not seen on the streets and the Jewish grave markers that have been held by the RC Church are to be found. While these areas are closed to the public, I happened to view them with a Dosen who was doing Archeological work there and had authority to let me view these. I suspect that there is some Subterranean Rome yet to be added to this text which is known, more that may yet be found. Compared to the competition (which does not exist) the work stands out as supreme in its area.

Average

This book is very interesting as far as the information about certain subterranean areas within Rome. The only problem I saw right off was that there is unfortunately a great deal of repetition in the photos--as if there wasn't enough to photograph of ancient Rome. The author includes, in my opinion, too many pictures of paintings and art on the walls and not enough pictures of the area itself. All in all, I sincerely recommend this book if you are very interested in Catacombs and other parts of ancient Rome.

great

The engineering of these people was amazing. It's awesome how these subterranean structures and buildings can hold the weight of the city above. Reminds me also of Istanbul, which if you are interested in this book, you should check out subterranean Istanbul as well. The pictures in this book are of very good quality and nice and big and colorful. This book is also very explanatory and gives a detailed accounting of the history that happened in each room. I would recommend this title to anyone interested in ancient architecture or even a general history of pagan Rome.

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