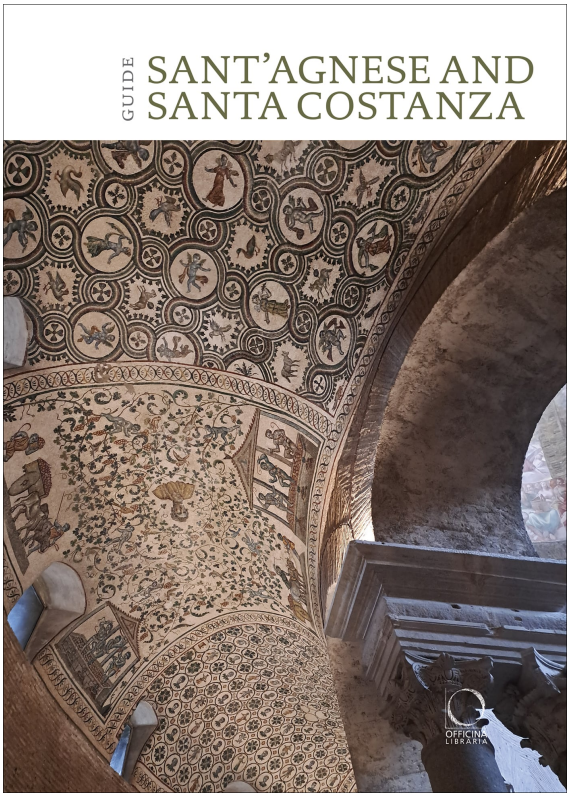
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St Agnes extra moenia and Mausoleum of St Costanza

English Guide

Serena di Giovanni

ISBN	9788833672816
Publisher	Officina Libraria
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Italy and France
Size	210 mm x 150 mm
Pages	112 Pages
Illustrations	98 color, 12 b&w
Price	£14.00

- A book full of high-resolution photographs that allow you to see previously unseen details of the church's architecture and fascinating mosaics
- Slim format that can be taken along on a visit to the basilica
- In addition to detailed historical and iconographic explanations, there are maps that make it possible to trace the current location of all the works described in the volume
- First English-language complete guide dedicated to one of the most important monuments of the late antique period, among the most visited in Rome

The monumental complex of St Agnes is located on the Via Nomentana in the north-east of Rome. The site consists of an underground cemetery (catacombs), the remains of the ancient circiform sepulchral basilica, commissioned by the imperial family of emperor Constantine, the mausoleum dedicated to St Constance and the basilica of St Agnes Outside the Walls, built by Pope Honorius I (625-638) on the small room with an altar, venerated as the burial place of the martyr Agnes.

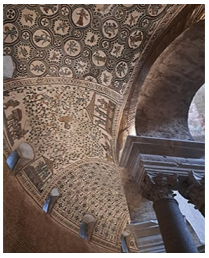
The mausoleum dedicated to St Constance, which houses the remains of the imperial princess Constantine, is a splendid example of late antique architecture. The deambulatory is covered by a sumptuous mosaic decoration with Hellenised geometric motifs and cosmic-seasonal phytomorphic and zoomorphic elements, symbolic scenes such as the harvest and portraits of historical figures.

The basilica of St Agnes, until the beginning of the 17th century, was below ground and to reach the ground floor a staircase was used. The basilica still retains many elements unchanged from the time of Pope Honorius: the splendid reused roman columns, the famous mosaic showing Agnes between Honorius I and Pope Symmachus, and the Proconnesian marble and porphyry facing of the apse… Above the high altar is the statue of St. Agnes, made by Nicolas Cordier from gilded metal, using an ancient oriental alabaster for the bust.

Serena di Giovanni obtained a master's degree in Art History at the University of Roma Tre, and a specialisation in Historical Artistic Heritage at the Sapienza University of Rome. She works at the Ministry of Culture as an art historian. Her areas of study and research are medieval art, museology, and the conservation and protection of Italy's artistic and cultural heritage. She has published contributions on the Giottesque frescoes in the Sala Capitolare del Santo in Padua and collaborated on the recent exhibition and catalogue *Roma medievale. The Lost Face of the City* (2022).







Publish date 8th Feb 2027