



The Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore

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- In this elegant and triumphal photographic masterpiece accomplished at the height of today's technology, we can admire, in detail, the grandeur of all its artistic details
- The Basilica is Pope Francis' final resting place
- For the first time in its centuries-long history, The Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore is presented here in never-before-seen gigapixel and 1:1 scale photography

The Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore is the only patriarchal basilica of the four in Rome to have retained its paleo-Christian structures. The Basilica dates back to 425 AD and in this elegant and triumphal photographic masterpiece accomplished at the height of today's technology, we can admire in detail the grandeur of all its artistic details: the mosaics of the nave; the ceremonial arch dating to the pontificate of Pope Sixtus III (432-440 AD); those of the apse made at the behest of Pope Nicholas V (1288-1292); the Cosmatesque floor; the coffered ceiling designed by Giuliano da San Gallo; the Nativity scene by Arnolfo di Cambio; the High Altar by Ferdinando Fuga; the Borghese, Cesi, Sforza, and Sistine Chapels; and the Crucifix and St. Michael chapels by Luigi Valadier.

The Basilica is Pope Francis' final resting place.

Tradition has it that the Virgin Mary herself inspired the choice of the Esquiline Hill for the church's construction. Appearing in a dream to both the Patrician John, the landowner of the Esquiline Hill, and Pope Liberius, she asked that a church be built in her honor on a site she would miraculously indicate.

Text in English and Italian.

Curated by **Andreas Raub**, Director of the Liberian Museum Complex of Santa Maria Maggiore from 2022.

