

Rome Italy Temple Video Script

[NARRATOR]

Just outside of modern-day Rome, a new religious center has emerged near the village of La Cinquina Bufalotta.

In homage to the cultured city for which it's named, the 40,000-square-foot Rome Italy Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints takes design cues from ancient Rome — enduring influences that have impacted the world in architecture and art for 2,000 years.

[SOT- David A. Bednar, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles]

[00:01:13]

"It is beautiful. The craftsmanship is expert and perfect."

[SOT – Niels Valentiner, Architect]

"This had to be one that when you walked onto this site, every person should feel like they were on an Italian site. [00:02:32] They would recognize it because of the materials, because of the design, and because of the surrounding."

Farm/History

[NARRATOR]

In 1997, the Church purchased an available 15-acre farm.

[SOT – Stephano Mosco, Temple Site Administrator]

"When the Church bought the land, nobody of course knew exactly what was going to happen here. But members started calling this piece of property "the future temple site."

[NARRATOR]

During the Church's October general conference in 2008, President Thomas S. Monson announced plans for a temple in Rome. Two years later, he broke ground on the project.

[SOT – Christian Bruno, Former Missionary]

“It was a great day for me, for my family, and for all the Saints in Italy.”

[NARRATOR]

Now, Italian members celebrate another historic day — the completion of their much-anticipated temple.

[SOT – Laura Vardeu, Italian Church Member]

“I have strong feelings, because finally we have a temple very close to us here in Italy.”

[SOT – Naomi Mannino, Italian Church Member]

“Now, my children will have more opportunities to go to the temple than I had when I was younger. I came from Sicily. So I could go to the temple just once a year.”

[SOT – Giacomo Armillei, Italian Church Member]

“It’s really a great opportunity and blessing for all the Saints here in Italy to go back to our Heavenly Father’s house.”

Temple Design

[NARRATOR]

The sacred structure’s curved Bianco Sardo granite-clad walls are inspired by the oval design of the Baroque era that incorporates an impressive array of stained-glass windows inspired by the olive tree.

[SOT – Niels Valentiner, Architect]

“The Church of San Carlo in Quattro Fontane — I immediately thought could be inspiration for the temple.”

“That started this very early concept of a curved temple and temple building both on the exterior as well as on the interior.”

Materials

[NARRATOR]

The finest materials can be seen throughout the Rome Italy Temple, from the stone flooring quarried in northern Tuscany and marble from Spain to the sapele, burl and cherry wood millwork and glass fixtures from Venice, all created and installed by top artisans and craftsmen.

[SOT – David A. Bednar, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles]

“The temple is an expression of our love and devotion to the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing is too good for the Lord.”

Interior/Grand Staircase

[NARRATOR]

Materials highlighted in the temple’s remarkable grand lobby staircase — a true engineering feat.

[SOT - Bret Woods, Senior Project Manager]

“It's connected just at the top and the bottom. So it's essentially a free-floating staircase. And of course, an elliptical shape.”

[NARRATOR]

The oval design, reminiscent of Michelangelo’s masterpiece, the Piazza del Campidoglio.

[SOT - Bret Woods, Senior Project Manager]

“It's something to behold.”

[NARRATOR]

The piazza’s intricate elliptic pattern carries over into the flooring, ceiling and staircase that surrounds a one-of-a-kind hand-blown glass chandelier which incorporates the Venetian leaf pattern.

Paintings/Baptistry

[NARRATOR]

Original paintings hang in all areas of the temple reminding temple guests of Jesus Christ and his teachings to follow Him. This work of art in the baptistry depicts the Savior's baptism.

The baptistry's purpose is in keeping with the Savior's example to enter the waters of baptism and His commandment that all must be baptized.

Here, temple patrons can act on behalf of those who didn't have the chance to be baptized in this life.

Inlaid stone wraps around an oval font adorned with Roman-style Acanthus leaves, held up by 12 oxen representing the 12 tribes of Israel.

Instruction Room/Mural

[NARRATOR]

More superb artwork decorates the instruction room where devout members learn about God's love, creation and purpose of life. The mural reveals a magnificent setting depicting Italy's landscape, from countryside to seascape.

Bridal Room

[NARRATOR]

Crystalline sconces and hand painted chairs enhance the Baroque-era feel of the Bridal Room.

Sealing Room

[NARRATOR]

And in the Sealing Rooms, families are joined together forever, demonstrated by the mirrors' seemingly endless reflection that symbolizes eternity.

Celestial Room

[NARRATOR]

The Celestial Room epitomizes the progression of reaching Heaven itself. An exquisite hand-made crystal chandelier serves as the center piece of the room,

accented by elegant hand-made furnishings, from Italian artisans, down to the most intricate detail.

[SOT – David A. Bednar, Senior Project Manager]

“In our Holy Temples, available are the most sacred and important sacrament or ordinances that we receive as members of our Church. And those ordinances bring peace. They bring purpose. They're a source of remarkable joy.”

Visitors' Center

[NARRATOR]

One of the most striking elements of the temple campus—the Visitors' Center, a masterpiece in its own right.

[SOT – David A. Bednar, Senior Project Manager]

“When I saw the statues of the Savior, the Christus, and the Twelve Apostles, it was just a spiritually stunning moment for me.”

[NARRATOR]

Facing the temple through full-length windows -- a life-size statue of the Christus, accompanied by the original Twelve Apostles – except for the Paul figure, which replaces Judas Iscariot.

They are replicas of the Bertel Thorvaldsen statues in the Church of Our Lady in Denmark.

The Lutheran Church granted special permission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to digitally scan the statues which are carved out of Carrara marble taken from the same quarry in Tuscany as Michelangelo's David.

An original mural depicting olive trees in an Italian countryside compliments the sacred ensemble.

Visitors can also view a model of the Rome temple showing a cutaway of the interior in exact replica.

Piazza

[NARRATOR]

The Visitors' Center, temple patron housing and meeting house connect to the temple through an Italian-style piazza of native Travertine.

[NATS – hammer tapping of cobblestones]

[NARRATOR]

The Church has gone to great lengths to preserve. Using salvaged 100-year-old Basalt cobblestones from the streets of Rome for the temple roundabout.

[SOT – Alberto Malara, Sr. Assistant, Temple Facilities Management]

“If you look closely at some of these stones you can still see the grooves worn in by the passage of old wagon wheels.”

[NARRATOR]

Additionally, the Church saved existing stone pine trees on the property that now provide a tranquil shady setting over stairs leading to the temple. Olive trees from the old farm were also preserved, and *ancient* olive trees, 400 to 500 years old, from northern Italy are planted in the piazza.

[SOT – David A. Bednar, Senior Project Manager]

“Whenever you cut the roots of an olive tree, they'll sprout. They don't die, they will continue to sprout. Some have suggested that perhaps that's symbolic of the hope of the resurrection.”

[NARRATOR]

Rome, with her storied past, now has a beautiful new and historic addition. Once dedicated, the Rome Italy Temple will be the 162nd operating temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

[SOT – David A. Bednar, Senior Project Manager]

“My genuine hope is that all people who come ... to the temple, to

the visitors' center, I just yearn for them to feel the joy that will be evident there."