

Santa Maria in Carinis

(Deconsecrated)



Santa Maria in Carinis was an 18th century convent church that used to stand on the north side of the junction between Via del Colosseo and Via del Tempio della Pace, at Via del Colosseo 61a. This is in the rione Monti. The dedication was to the Nativity of Our Lady.

The church derives its name from the ancient district of the *Carinae*, which existed between the Colosseum and the present Via di San Pietro in Vincoli. The origin of the denomination *Carinae* is obscure, but it may have something to do with the enormous offsets of the Esquiline, which once appeared here in the form of *carene*, i.e. keels.

Its origins goes back to the late 12th century, but it has been rebuilt several times since then.

This was the church of a small Cistercian monastery between 1780 and 1805. This seems to have been a private villa beforehand, as the Nolli map does not show the church but has a large establishment with a garden on the site. In 1809 it was passed on to Greek-Melchite Basilians from Monte Libano.

After the monastery was confiscated by the state in 1873, the church was deconsecrated towards the end of the 19th century and the convent replaced by a block of private apartments.

Around 1970 the church served as a storehouse for a haulage company. Between the years 2000 and 2001 the building, which incorporates the former church, underwent an extensive restoration. The photographs show that the exterior of the church is devoid of any individual architectural appearance. The cross-piece between the door and the small grated window has the following, scarcely readable, dedicatory inscription: S. MARIA IN CARINIS.

The church was reached through the entrance to the monastery, and its doorway faced this across a small hallway. It was of a simple rectangular plan, with a semi-circular apse containing the only altar.

Location:

Coord: [41°53'34.6"N 12°29'20.6"E](#)

Address:

Via del Colosseo 61a

Links:

[Roman Churches Wiki](#)

[Italian Wikipedia page](#)

["De Alvariis" gallery on Flickr](#)

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