

Sant'Anselmo all'Aventino



Sant' Anselmo all'Aventino is a church connected to a Benedictine monastery and a college. It's dedicated to Anselm of Canterbury.

History:

In 1890 the Benedictine Order decided to build a church on the Aventine hill, next to an international college dedicated to Sant'Anselmo, theologian and doctor of the Church. The church and the college were built on a piece of land purchased by the Cavalieri di Malta, on top of a fortress created to protect the religious institutions of the Aventine in the 14th century.

The construction began in 1893 under the control of the architects Hildebrand de Hemptinne and Francesco Vespigniani. The church was consecrated in 1900. The International College of Sant'Anselmo is located here, as is the seat of the Abbot Primate of the Federation of 'Black Monks'. This includes all monks under the Rule of St Benedict except the Cistercians and the Trappists.

Exterior:

The entrance is preceded by a four-sided portico. In the atrium, there is a bronze statue of St Anselm, made in the late of the 20th century. From here, it is possible to see Santa Maria del Priorato, which lies in a complex that is closed to the public.

In the entrance to the monastery, reached from the atrium, is a Roman mosaic of Orpheus that was found when the college was built.

Interior:

The church has a basilical plan. The interior has a nave and two side aisles separated by two lines of granite ionic columns.

The apse mosaics are in an uncommon style, with only the figures in mosaic and no background - whether or not this is a good thing is a matter of personal tastes. The paschal candlestick is in the Cosmatesque style, but it is a modern reproduction.

The crypt, today destined to be the library, has five naves and twenty red marble columns. It occupies the entire lower area of the church. The crypt can be visited; it is accessed through a door by the altar of the Blessed Sacrament. Behind the altar is a statue of St Benedict, with his arms raised in prayer - the posture in which he died.

Notes:

Men may visit the monastery, and it is possible to ask for a guided tour from a student - they will certainly have some english-speaking students, and it may also be possible to get a tour in other languages. There is no charge, but please offer a donation if you are able to.

Artists and Architects:

Hildebrand de [Hemptinne](#) (1879-1913), Belgian Architect
 Virginio [Vespignani](#) (1808-1882), Italian architect

Location:

Addr: Piazza dei Cavalieri di Malta 5, 00153 Roma
 Coord: [41° 52' 55" N, 12° 28' 40" E](#)

Info:

Open 09:00-18:00
 Telephone: 06-57.91.319

Links:

http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/Sant'Anselmo_all'Aventino

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sant%27Anselmo_all%27Aventino

http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti_dettaglio.asp?ID_schede=472

<http://www.060608.it/en/cultura-e-svago/luoghi-di-culto-di-interesse-storico-artistico/chiese-cattoliche/sant-anselmo-all-aventino.html>

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Sant%27Anselmo_all%27Aventino_%28Rome%29

<http://www.santanselmo.net/>

<http://www.gcatholic.org/churches/rome/918.htm>