

San Giovanni in Oleo



San Giovanni in Oleo is a small church in Rome, devoted to Saint John the Evangelist, on the place where, according to tradition, his martyrdom was attempted.

History:

According to an ancient tradition recorded by Tertullian, Saint Jerome, and Eusebius, in 92 A.D., St. John survived martyrdom through immersion in a vat of boiling oil, attempted by Domitian himself. The old apostle survived a long while without even being burnt and the crowd demanded that he be spared; Domitian condemned him to exile on the little island of Patmos, where John wrote Revelations. After his exile, he died in Ephesus. This ancient tradition, and the centralized plan of the church, customary for votive oratories on the sites of martyrdoms, support the 5th century origin of this foundation. Beneath the alter are remains of the ancient furnace that heated the caldron.

The present church was built in 1509 by Mgr. Benolt Adam, of Burgundy, French auditor of the Rota. The current church is an octagonal 16th century Renaissance chapel, by the Porta Latina. San Giovanni in Oleo is attributed to Bramante and Antonio da Sangallo the Younger or Baldassare Peruzzi,

The dome was rebuilt by Francesco Borromini in 1658, who added the terracotta decoration of roses and palms on the drum, and installing a cross on an orb on the top of the dome. The work was paid for by Cardinal Francesco Paolucci, and authorized by Pope Alexander VII.

There was a restoration in 1967, after the dome fell into disrepair. To relieve the load on it, the original finial was removed and replaced by a plaster copy. The original is in the porch of

Exterior:

Above the door is the coat-of-arms of the founder, Benoît Adam, with the motto "Au plaisir de Dieu".

Interior:

The fresco with *scenes from the life of St John the Evangelist* were painted in 1716. by Lazzaro Baldi.

Location:

Coord: [41° 52' 35.8" N, 12° 30' 7.7" E](#)

Notes:

Can be visited upon request. Contact the Basilica St John at Latin Gate
Telephone: 0039 06 774000032 - 340 3544798

Links:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Giovanni_in_Oleo

http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/San_Giovanni_in_Oleo

<http://www.060608.it/en/cultura-e-svago/luoghi-di-culto-di-interesse-storico-artistico/chiese-cattoliche/san-giovanni-in-oleo.html>

http://www.info.roma.it/monumenti_dettaglio.asp?ID_schede=504

Ref:

Donovan, Jeremiah; ROME ANCIENT AND MODERN AND ITS ENVIRONS; 1842