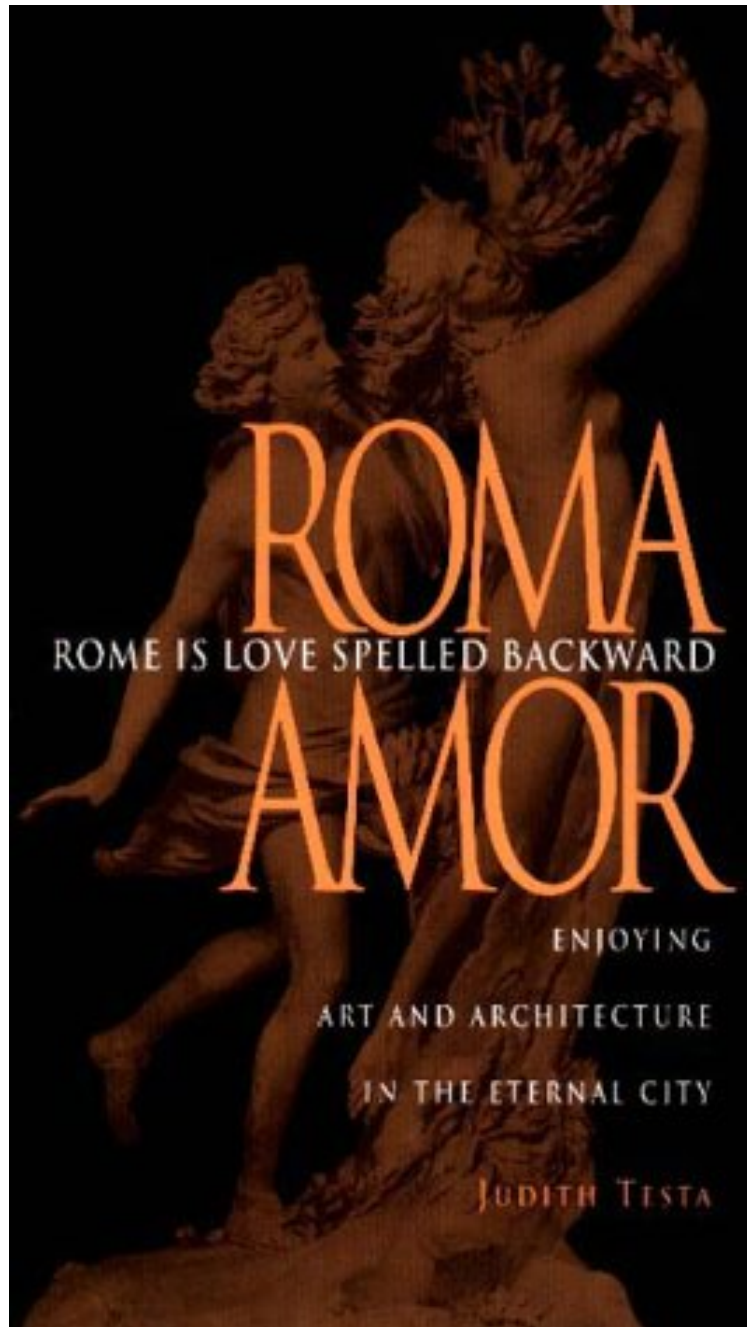


[FREE] Rome Is Love Spelled Backward: Enjoying Art and Architecture in the Eternal City

Rome Is Love Spelled Backward: Enjoying Art and Architecture in the Eternal City

Judith Testa

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Judith Testa : Rome Is Love Spelled Backward: Enjoying Art and Architecture in the Eternal City before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Rome Is Love Spelled Backward: Enjoying Art and Architecture in the Eternal City*:

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By Walter J. McDonald Professor Testa has selected about 35 of her favorite works of art and architecture in Rome. She provides the background story you won't find in guide books. This is truly an awesome, well-written book. Although each section has illustrations, I encourage readers to follow along with Google images to access views of the entire setting of each work, particularly the reconstructed images of the ancient structures. Her writing style is informal yet full of context and colorful historical insights. Rarely have I found an author so able to render academic research and knowledge into such a readable format. Of particular interest is the very comprehensive bibliography providing suggested readings at the end of each essay. If you are energized by the meaning and importance of Rome in art and architectural history, this book is for you. I also highly recommend Testa's "*An Art Lover's Guide to Florence*," which offers similar thoroughly enjoyable background and deeper understanding of the art and architecture of Florence.

A celebration of the art, architecture, and timeless human passion of the Eternal City, *Rome Is Love Spelled Backward* explores Rome's best-known treasures, often revealing secrets overlooked in conventional guidebooks. With the ancient play on "Roma" and "Amor"—ROMAMOR—Testa invites readers to experience the world's long love affair with one of its most beautiful cities.

From Publishers Weekly Emperor Hadrian is credited for pairing the patron goddess, Roma, with the long-worshiped love deity, Venus, thus creating the palindrome Romamor, which gives this unusual and worthy guidebook its name. In five chronologically arranged sections (Ancient Rome, Early Christian and Medieval Rome, Late Medieval and Renaissance Rome, Baroque Rome and Modern Rome), Northern Illinois University art history professor Testa covers the city's art and architecture with insight, sensitivity and scholarly perspective rarely found in travel manuals. Many chapters are devoted to a single monument: S. Maria Sopra Minerva, the Trevi Fountain, Castel Sant'Angelo, the Colosseum. Others are on larger themes, such as the building programs of Sixtus V or those of Mussolini. Everything is presented in welcome detail with background information for fuller understanding of the sites that surround a visitor to the Eternal City. Anyone interested in the classic arts will learn something from Testa's text, whether it's the reason the Pantheon was built, the source of the Christian and Jewish catacombs, or the roles that Caravaggio and Bernini played in creating a baroque Rome. With 50 photos, narrative text and no information on shops, restaurants, or hotels, it's a guidebook for sophisticated travelers who already know where to stay, but want more than a sentence on what they're seeing. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This unusual and worthy guidebook ... covers the city's art and architecture with insight, sensitivity, and scholarly perspective rarely found in travel manuals."—Publishers Weekly "With a text both scholarly and entertaining, Testa has produced a guide useful for the serious student and passionate sightseer.... The text is characterized by both lucidity and a sincere love of the subject matter, and this makes the book a pleasure to read and also a wonderful guide for travelers to Rome."—Choice "The touch is light and the enthusiasm infectious.... An informative book for lovers of Rome and its art that armchair travelers will also enjoy."—William L. MacDonald, author of *The Art and Architecture of the Roman Empire*