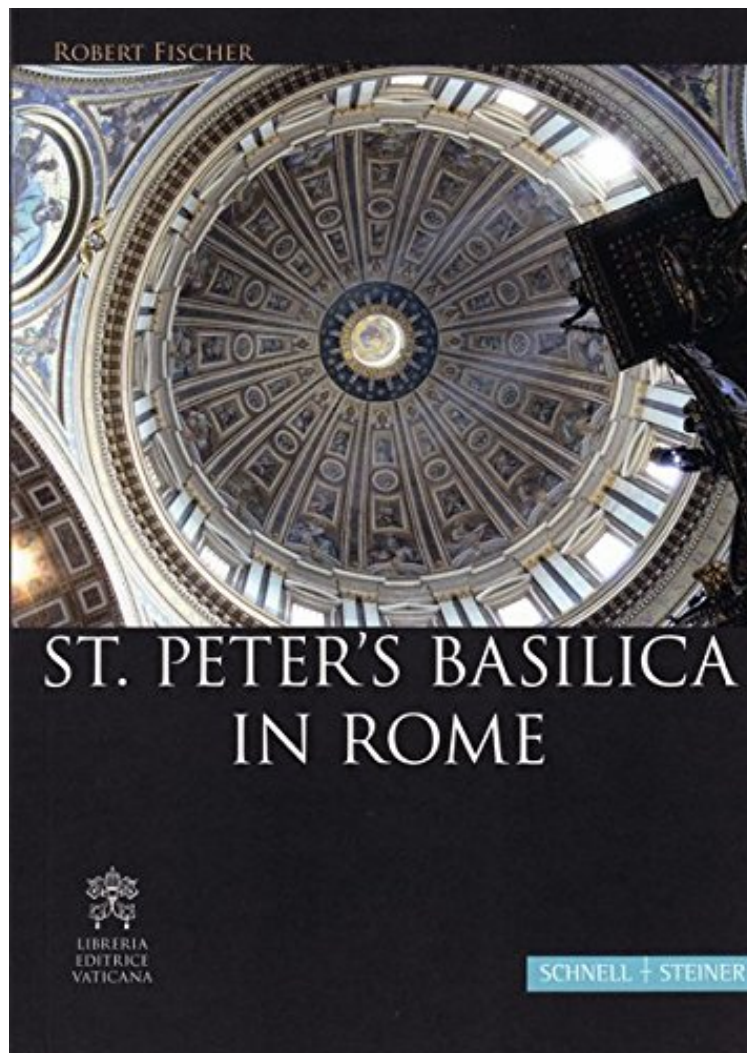


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St. Peter's Basilica in Rome: A Handout for Tours or for Independent Exploration of the Basilica

Robert Fischer

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Robert Fischer : St. Peter's Basilica in Rome: A Handout for Tours or for Independent Exploration of the Basilica before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised St. Peter's Basilica in Rome: A Handout for Tours or for Independent Exploration of the Basilica:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thorough for such a small volumeBy David M.Packs a lot into 116 pages. Great descriptions and pictures that lead you on a thorough tour of the Basilica. Nice accompanying history as well. The only weakness is that from time to time you can tell this is either a translation or English is a second

language for the author. But, for a reasonable reader the issues are minor and shouldn't hinder the usefulness of the book. This was money well spent. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Ildiko R. Valone
My husband like this book. It helped him prepare for our trip. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Interesting"
By Steven C. Porter
When asked how someone views something, the response "interesting" has many connotations. Mr Fischer's book is interesting, very well illustrated, very well researched, and well laid out. For the price of 10 euro at the Vatican Bookstore, also good value. But it's "interesting"... The first sadness is that the English translation is poor: a couple of examples only. The Basilica of San Paolo fuori le Mura (in English St Paul's outside the Walls) is given as "St Paul in front of the walls" (p 12), and "Twenty three emperors were coronated..." (p 8). There are lots of strange English constructions and words used, most of which are archaic, and all of which would have been obviated by having a native English-speaker review the text before publishing the book. Because of the "interesting" nature of the English text, several areas are not clearly expressed, again two illustrations only. On page 6 there is a paragraph on the levelling of the Vatican hill in the 4th century, which suddenly leaps to the 20th century, back to the 16th, and ends with the 14th. Are these dates accurate, even if in a strange order? And on page 10 it is stated that the obelisk "on the day of the summer solistice on June 21, ... casts no shadow at noon". Objects can only cast "no shadow at noon" if they are within the tropics, and when I last checked Rome is located north of the Tropic of Cancer. And I've only got to page 14... On the plus side, however, there is strong emphasis on the fact that St Peter's is a church and not a museum; that it is the "cathedral of the pope as the bishop of the world church" (an interesting metaphor - p 4), and that every visit, regardless of religious affiliation (even with no religious affiliation) is a spiritual experience, which sometimes only becomes clear later on. So this is an "interesting" book, at least in its English translation, and if you use it as it suggests "A Handout for Tours or for Independent Exploration of the Basilica", remember where you are and say a prayer or two. After having picked up the book again to rty to finish it, my review will descend to the depths. OK, the English doesn't get any better, and the punctuation of inverted commas is the German style (which in an English text is very annoying). On page 23 he talks about the last Stuart kings of England and their memorial: King "Jacob" III (James in English, aka The Old Pretender) and his son "Carl" Edward (Charles Edward in English, aka The Young Pretender), and this error is repeated several more times. On page 27 Pope John XXIII is "canonized" (no, he is only beatified). The errors compound in the rest of the book, another 80+ pages in all.

Shedding light on a memorable monument in the Italian metropolis, this beautifully illustrated guide demonstrates why St. Peter's Basilica is a "must-see" for any visitor to Rome. The tour begins in St. Peter's Square, following a walkabout through the Basilica, the lower church, the dome overlooking the gardens of the Vatican, the excavations underneath St. Peter and the Campo Santo Teutonico, and the German cemetery, which is only accessible through the Vatican city. A plan of the Basilica and the lower church is also included, and the religious experience of the site is emphasized, citing excerpts from the scriptures related to St. Peter. Combining the history of the arts, the Italian culture, and the institution of the church itself, this is a superb overview of a magnificent landmark.

About the Author
Robert Fischer is a tour guide for St. Peter's Basilica. He has studied philosophy in Rome as well as economy and art history in Munich.