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In the Footsteps of Popes: A Spirited Guide to the Treasures of the Vatican

Enrico Bruschini
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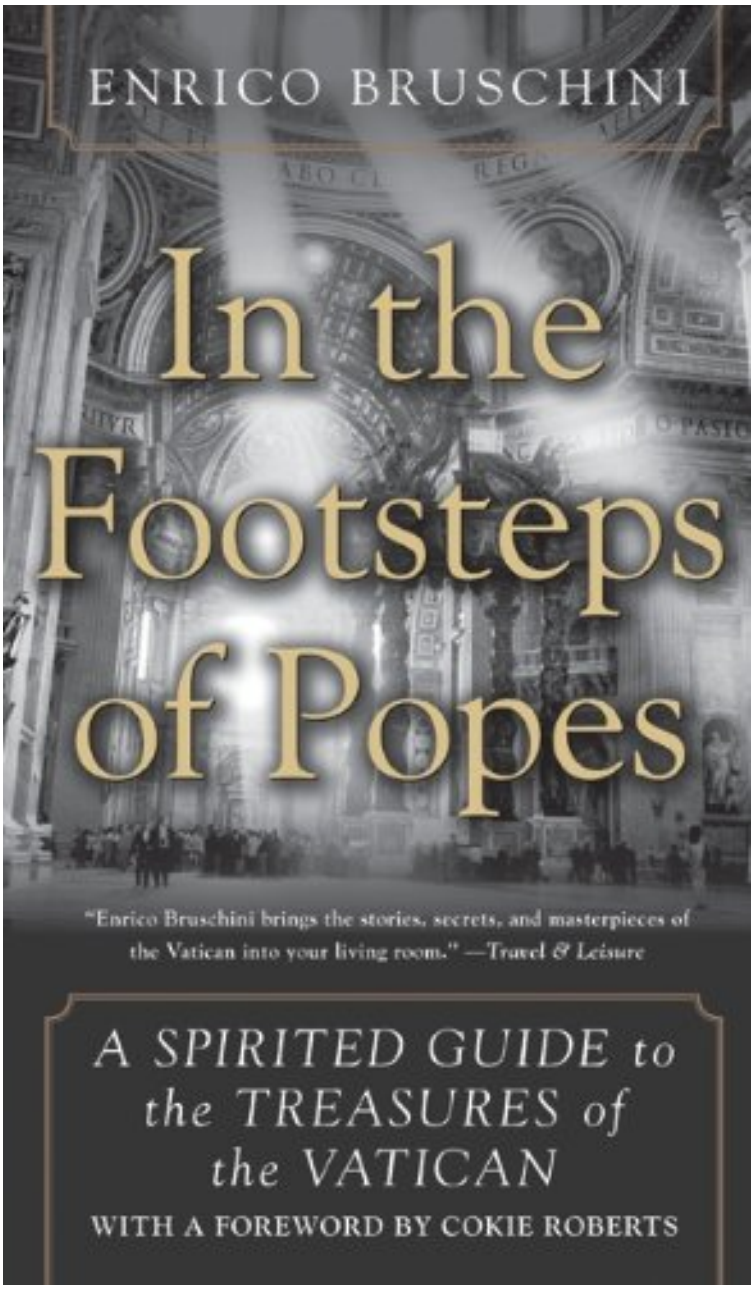

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A unique look at the treasures of the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, and the Basilica of Saint Peter from an official guide of the Eternal City.In a tiny enclave in the heart of Rome lies the world's smallest independent statemdash;the Vatican. Over the course of fifteen hundred years, successive popes have commissioned and assembled an extraordinary collection of artistic works within Vatican walls.Eminent expert Professor Enrico Bruschini takes readers on a fascinating personal tour through the Vatican's magnificent sacred halls, vividly bringing to life works by Raphael, da Vinci, Caravaggio, Michelangelo, and many others, while sharing interesting curiosities about the artists, their art, and the historical context in which they worked. Bruschini's unprecedented access to areas rarely open to the public enables him to offer a unique behind-the-scenes tour that reveals the Vatican's most intimate secrets and hidden treasures. With maps and rare photographs from the Vatican archives, In the Footsteps of Popes is an extraordinary excursion that is not to be missed.

.com Most travel guides are long on information and short on wisdom; readers going to Rome will find plenty of both in Enrico Bruschini's In the Footsteps of Popes. Bruschini, a noted expert on the Vatican, writes with the enthusiasm of Rick Steves and the calm assurance of a Fodor's guide, with a depth of knowledge about religious and art history that exceeds them both. His book is literally a step-by-step guide through the Vatican's museums, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica, with photographs and histories of every major point of interest, from the Pieta to Raphael's Transfiguration. Bruschini candidly informs readers of his opinions about what's worth seeing and what can be skipped. And he breathes fresh life even into descriptions of the best-known sites, as when he reminds readers of the familiar story of Michelangelo's creation of the Sistine Chapel's frescoes: for four years he worked lying on his back, "the paint dripping in his eyes." Details like that make In the Footsteps of Popes a valuable addition to the growing body of guides for spiritual travelers. --Michael Joseph GrossFrom Library JournalBruschini, an art historian and former curator of fine art at the American Embassy in Rome, is one of Rome's best and most experienced tour guides. He has spent a good portion of his professional life offering legendary guided tours of the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, and the Basilica of Saint Peter. This book puts into print the very best of his tour information on the treasures of the Vatican. Bruschini interweaves his knowledge of history and of art with fascinating tales of emperors and popes, artists and politicians. He also advises readers on what to see, what to skip, and where to most profitably examine artistic treasures. This is the only vade mecum one would need for a satisfying day or two at the Vatican. Recommended for all libraries. David I. Fulton, Coll. of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorNamed art historian of the American embassy in Rome and official Guide of Rome, Enrico Bruschini is an Italian historian, art expert, professor, author, and passionate storyteller. Until his retirement from the embassy in 1998, he served as its fine art curator. He is the author, most recently, of The Vatican: Masterpieces, the official guidebook of the Vatican. He lives in Rome.