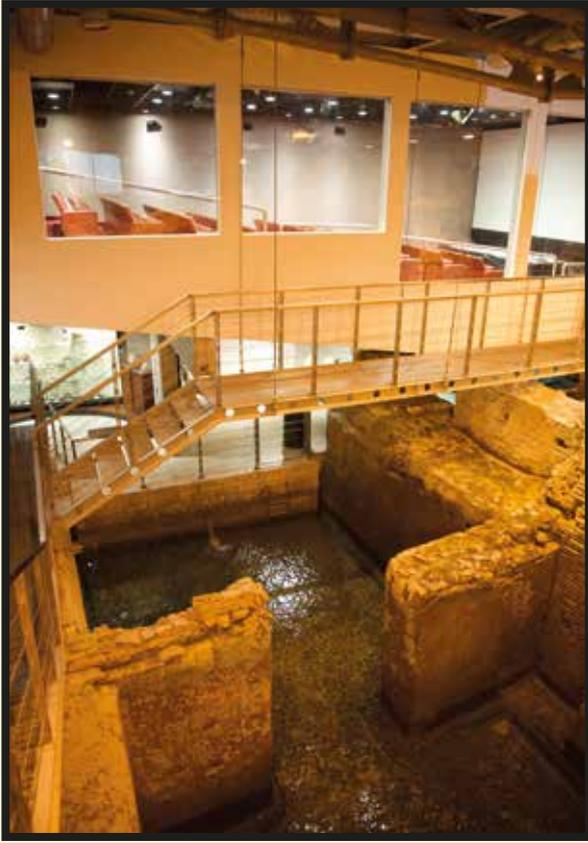


“The City of Water”

underground archaeological area of Vicus Caprarius



The **Trevi Fountain** is famous worldwide. Less known is the fascinating archaeological stratification that extends beneath the Trevi district, where the underground archaeological area of **Vicus Caprarius – the City of Water** is a evocative example [1].

A few steps away from one of the most breath-taking masterpiece in the world, the archaeological surveys carried out between 1999 and 2001 during the renovation of the **former Cinema Trevi**, discovered a building complex from the imperial age, more than nine meters below the current road level, representing a remarkable example of the urban development in ancient Rome.

The **Cremonini Group**, owner of the property and contractor of the renovation work, has permitted a complete restoration and an attentive enhancement of the archaeological site that extends over an area of around 350 square meters between Via San Vincenzo and Vicolo Puttarello [2].

The name “**City of Water**”, used commonly to define the archaeological area of **Vicus Caprarius**, is due to the element that obviously characterises the site, the water.

It's the same water that flows from the **Trevi Fountain**, the monumental baroque exhibition of the **Virgin Aqueduct**. Here the excavations have brought to light one of its distribution tank, the **castellum aquae** [5]. It is the same water that feed the lead pipes and basin of an ancient house, an **insula** [4], a block of flats transformed in the mid-4th century into a rich, elegant, **domus** [6].

After the fall of the Roman Empire, in many area of the city and in the **Vicus Caprarius** as well, modest settlements replaced the majestic buildings of before, often using the more ancient structures underneath; the excavations have uncovered, surrounded by the walls of a house, a courtyard paved in cocciopesto and a well [3].

What makes the visit of the archaeological area unique it is not just the impressive structures of the **Virgin Aqueduct** and the ancient buildings. The findings discovered during excavations have been collected and displayed in three sections of the **antiquarium** [7]: precious polychrome marbles, refined decorations (including the famous head of **Alessandro helios**), African amphorae for transporting oil called **spatheia**, a marvellous “treasure” made up of over **800 coins**, they are all examples of the different stages of use and life of the structures brought to light.

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