

A WELCOME IN ROME



The Vittoriano Monument



On the center of the Monument of the Nation with the Statue of the Roman Goddess and the Unknown Soldier Tomb

“The Vittoriano”

The name comes from the first king of Italy, Vittorio Emanuele II. At his death, in 1878, it was decided to build a monument to celebrate

The Father of the Nation and the Risorgimento period.

As King of Sardinia, Vittorio Emanuele had become a symbol of the movement for a united Italy. After his army joined forces with Garibaldi and defeated the papal army, the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed in 1861 with Vittorio Emanuele as King.

Construction

In 1885 construction of the monument started after a design by Giuseppe Sacconi. The site on the northern slope of the capitol hill was cleared to make way for the monument. Roman ruins and medieval churches were destroyed in the process. In 1911, on the 50th anniversary of the new kingdom, the new symbol of a united Italy was inaugurated.

The monument consists of a large flight of stairs leading to the Altar of the Nation, dominated by a colossal 12m long equestrian statue of the King. Near the statue is the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, with an **eternal flame**, guarded by two sentries of honour. At the back is a long corridor with 15m/50ft high columns. On top of the corridor are two bronze quadrigae, each with a winged Victory. It was opened on the 4th of June, 1911, the most important point of the International Exposition to celebrate the first 50 years of the Unification of Italy. At the inauguration of the monument, the authorities decided to offer a vermouth and some pastry to a limited number of selected people involved in the project and the refreshment for these 10 people was offered in the belly of the horse of the equestrian statute!

This monument, otherwise known as the "Altare della Patria " (altar of the nation) was nicknamed by the French, because of its appearance, "La grande tarte" (the big cake).The Roman population, known for being very direct in expressing its views, has never been very fond of this cumbersome construction. That is why the Romans have always bitingly called the monument "la macchina da scrivere" (the typewriter), certainly not comparing it to modern keyboards, but rather to those early

mechanical contraptions, with vertical keys called "cembali scrivani"

Few people know that the architect of the monument, Sacconi, almost died of stroke, or possibly of a heart attack, because of all of the abuse that he suffered to complete the project. In order to celebrate the unification of Italy and create the Altar of the Nation, he intended to reproduce the "Pergamon", the splendid Greek monument also known as the "ara di Pergamo" (the altar of Pergamo) that had been unearthed and reconstructed in an area of Berlin. This monument was not easily seen until after the fall of the Berlin wall because it was located in the eastern zone of the city.

The Quadrigae: They symbolize Unity and Liberty. They were posed on 1927 and enhance the monument to 81 meters.



A view of the skyline from the monument.



A view of the skyline from the monument.

Views

The monument is nevertheless well worth the visit, if only for the great views from the top. The top of the Il Vittoriano is also connected to the [Campidoglio](#), saving you another climb of the Capitol hill.