

## Catacomb of St Pancrazio

Heart of a man, body of a child



"[...] Pancrazio answered [to Diocletian]: "Although my appearance is that of a child, the heart in my chest is that of a mature man [...]. Codice Vaticano Latino 5771

The first nucleus of the St Pancrazio complex stems from a previous Roman public cemetery dating to the 1st century AC. The catacomb, in written sources also referred to as 'Coemeterium Otcavillae', developed side-by-side to an exposed sub-surface area as well as to an underground area composed of four regiones (sections), still in use today.

Currently, the decorations within the complex are in a poor state of conservation due to the constant use of the catacombs over the years. Nonetheless, the catacomb provides several notable examples of impressively-made funerary architecture (ramps, stairs, retro sancta rooms, barrel vaults and arcosoli) as well as many testimonies on the important cultic worship linked to the figure of St Pancrazio.

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