

## Vatican City at Night – February 15, 2018 – Rome, Italy

By Tom Allin

We had a light lunch late this afternoon and we are hungry. So we bundled up: long underwear top, shirt, sweater, leather jacket, and gloves for me and Nancy dressed similarly.

We walked to the end of our street or about five blocks. We then walked into a small restaurant that had a single couple occupying an indoor table. We made a mistake – we only ate here one more time! Our two meals at Osteria Le Streghe are as good as it gets. And by the time we left this evening over half the tables were occupied – we are early dinners and had arrived a few minutes after 8:00 pm. Note: this photograph was taken in the late afternoon on our second visit, not our first visit at night.



After dinner and fortified by a bottle of wine against the night's cold air, Nancy suggested we go for a walk. About three blocks later we were standing on the bridge facing Castel Sant'Angelo. Looking toward Vatican City and St. Peter's Basilica.





We weren't the only ones out in the frosty air. Castel Sant'Angelo at the end of the bridge.





Less than ten minutes later we are standing in St. Peter's Square looking at St. Peter's Basilica. Spoiler alert: we toured St. Peter's Basilica several days later and it is one of the largest buildings and definitely the largest *open-space* building I have ever set foot in. Incredible!



One of the Square's fountains.



Some of the 284 columns outlining the square.





More of the Square and Basilica.





The other fountain in the Square – same as the first.



Looking at St. Peter's Basilica.



And a last photograph of the Castel Sant'Angelo. Not nearly as many people as my first photograph.



Warning: time to brace yourself. The Lonely Planet identifies 25 “Must Visit Recommendations” for Rome. The Castel Sant'Angelo is one of the seven we didn't tour. That means we saw 18 others and I am sure I have photographs of each one we visited. ☺

It also means we need to return to Rome to see what we missed; oh damn life is so tough.