



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 2431

Date of Publication 27th June 2014

Property Name	Chapel of Our Lady of Virtu'		
Address	Triq tal-Virtu'		
Town Name	Rabat	Toponym	Local Council Rabat
Property Owner	Religious	Managing Body	Religious Denomination
Guardianship Deed			

Period	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Architectural Artistic Social	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	High
Property Function	Religious	Conservation Area	

Outline Description	Chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Virtu'
Property Description	<p>This church is built on an important archaeological site which is rich in Phoenician and Romano-Punic tombs. The present day church had replaced a medieval chapel dedicated to the same saint. The church was built between 1717 and 1723, and was modelled on the 1678 Sarria rotunda at Floriana. The chapel has a circular plan and its facade is characterised by double pilasters on plinths, with composit capitals placed at regular intervals around its circumference. The pilasters support a cornice and attic band that supports a ribbed dome. The main doorway occupies one of the spaces between two sets of pilasters; it is characterised by a rectangular opening flanked by double pilasters on either side which support an architrave and triangular broken cornice. A festoon is centrally placed within the cornice. The original lantern was dismantled to make room for a 4.57m high gilt metal statue of Christ the Redeemer. The crypt was probably formed through the re-cutting and fusion of burial chambers of the hypogeum. Its shape resembles that of a Latin cross with three apsed recesses which probably contained altars. Two pilasters support the ceiling, and light is filtered through two skylights. The crypt is accessed through a 15th Century facade, characterised by a slightly pointed arched doorway, with long voussoirs round which runs a Gothic hood-mould with end rosettes decorated with acanthus leaves. The crypt is reached through a flight of stairs.</p>

Scheduled by MEPA	Degree of Protection	G.N. No.	G.N. Date
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Recommended Bibliography	Buhagiar Mario, 1979 Guillaumier, Alfie (1972) Bliet u Rhula Maltin Kilin (2000) A Hundred Wayside Chapels of Malta and Gozo
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Coordinates : Easting

70303

46491

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

