

Penelope Cruz:
yes to sexy roles

B5

Beckham continues
as underwear model

B6

KRISTIN ALDANA-LERIN Contributing Editor

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Springtime in Rome

BY MANNY GONZALEZ, PLANTATION
BAY RESORT AND SPA

(Conclusion)

Everything I know about Rome, I learned from the movies – *Roman Holiday*, *Only You*, *Three Coins in the Fountain*, *Under the Tuscan Sun*, to name a few. And when you get there, guess what? Rome looks exactly like the movies!

This, however, does not look like Rome.



That's because it is Florence, where we spent three days en route to Rome. From the rooftop of our hotel we could see the famous Duomo (Florence's cathedral). Hannah Patalinjug and author Manny Gonzalez.

Okay, now this looks like Rome.

The Colosseum is Italy's most famous landmark. Not that Zuri Almendras (left) or Geli Reyes (right) knew what it was, since they don't watch many movies.



Most visitors to Rome are too rushed to appreciate its magnificent pine trees, which are almost everywhere.



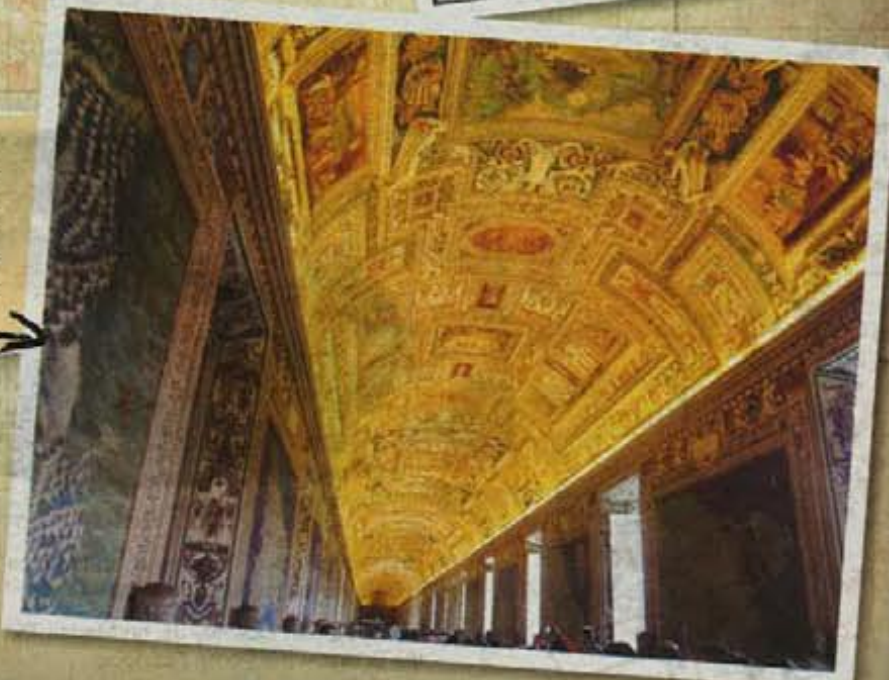
The Spanish Steps figure in many movies set in Rome.

This is Hannah's Ralph Lauren look. And Zuri's "What, me worry?" look.



Everyone raves about the Sistine Chapel, but in the author's opinion, the absence of paintings of naked women (see last week's installment) considerably detracts from the Sistine's charms. This is much more impressive.

Even without naked women, the Vatican's Hall of Maps is stunning.



CONTINUED ON B2

FROM B1

The Vatican also has large open spaces.



This is about as holy as any of these four will ever look. Hannah was thinking of St. Peter (the Rock).



Rome's second most-famous tourist attraction is the Trevi Fountain.

After midnight, having had – again – too much to drink, one of the girls – who shall remain unnamed – stripped and waded around the pool before getting caught by a policeman. But the editor made me crop that part of the picture.

Almost wherever you are in Rome, St. Peter's is visible.

The Tiber is a much wilder-looking river than most people imagine.



If you watched *Angels and Demons*, you should recognize this – the Castel St. Angelo (aka Hadrian's Mausoleum) – and the Piazza Navona, which is where one of the movie's most exciting scenes takes place.



(Though Geli is even more exciting, when she puts her mind to it.)



In *Only You*, Robert Downey Jr. and Marisa Tomei danced on a romantic bridge over the Tiber.

No Robert Downey Jr., no Marisa Tomei. But this is the bridge – the Ponte Fabricio.

And that was our Springtime in Rome.

SPRINGTIME IN ROME

by Manny Gonzalez, Plantation Bay Resort & Spa

Everything I know about Rome, I learned from the movies – Roman Holiday, Only You, Three Coins in the Fountain, Under the Tuscan Sun, etc. And when you get there, guess what? Rome looks exactly like the movies!

This, however, does not look like Rome:

Rome 1

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Okay, now this looks like Rome:

Rome 2

The Colosseum is Italy's most famous landmark. Not that Zuri Almendras (left) or Geli Reyes (right) knew what it was, since they don't watch many movies.

Rome 3

Most visitors to Rome are too rushed to appreciate its magnificent pine trees, which are almost everywhere.

The Spanish Steps figure in many movies set in Rome:

Rome 4

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Rome 5

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Rome 6

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Rome's second most-famous tourist attraction is the Trevi Fountain.

Rome 7

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Rome 8

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Rome 9

- and the Piazza Navona, which is where one of the movie's most exciting scenes takes place.

Rome 10

(Though Geli is even more exciting, when she puts her mind to it.)

In Only You, Robert Downey Jr. and Marisa Tomei danced on a romantic bridge over the Tiber.

Rome 11

No Robert Downey Jr., no Marisa Tomei. But this is the bridge – the Ponte Fabriccio.

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