

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818785903321
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Titolo	The seven hills of Rome : a geological tour of the eternal city / / Grant Heiken, Renato Funiello, and Donatella De Rita
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton : , : Princeton University Press, , [2005] ©2005
ISBN	0-691-06995-6 1-4008-4937-3
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (265 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	FunielloR De RitaDonatella
Disciplina	913.7/602
Soggetti	Geology - Italy - Rome Rome (Italy) Guidebooks
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 231-236) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Foreword / Veltroni, Walter -- Preface -- CHAPTER 1. A Tourist's Introduction to the Geology of Rome -- TIMELINES -- CHAPTER 2. Center of the Western World-The Capitoline (Campidoglio) Hill -- CHAPTER 3. Palaces and Gardens-The Palatine (Palatino) Hill -- CHAPTER 4. The Aventine (Aventino) Hill -- CHAPTER 5. The Tiber Floodplain, Commerce, and Tragedy -- CHAPTER 6. The Tiber's Tributaries in Rome-Clogged with Humankind's Debris -- CHAPTER 7. The Western Heights-Janiculum, Vatican, and Monte Mario -- CHAPTER 8. The Celian (Celio) Hill -- CHAPTER 9. Largest of the Seven Hills-The Esquiline (Esquilino) -- CHAPTER 10. Upper Class - The Viminal (Viminale) and Quirinal (Quirinale) Hills -- CHAPTER 11. Field Trips in and around Rome -- Acknowledgments -- Further Reading -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	From humble beginnings, Rome became perhaps the greatest intercontinental power in the world. Why did this historic city become so much more influential than its neighbor, nearby Latium, which was peopled by more or less the same stock? Over the years, historians, political analysts, and sociologists have discussed this question ad infinitum, without considering one underlying factor that led to the rise

of Rome--the geology now hidden by the modern city. This book demonstrates the important link between the history of Rome and its geologic setting in a lively, fact-filled narrative sure to interest geology and history buffs and travelers alike. The authors point out that Rome possessed many geographic advantages over surrounding areas: proximity to a major river with access to the sea, plateaus for protection, nearby sources of building materials, and most significantly, clean drinking water from springs in the Apennines. Even the resiliency of Rome's architecture and the stability of life on its hills are underscored by the city's geologic framework. If carried along with a good city map, this book will expand the understanding of travelers who explore the eternal city's streets. Chapters are arranged geographically, based on each of the seven hills, the Tiber floodplain, ancient creeks that dissected the plateau, and ridges that rise above the right bank. As an added bonus, the last chapter consists of three field trips around the center of Rome, which can be enjoyed on foot or by using public transportation.

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