



Villa Wolksonky

The Residence of the British Ambassador in Italy

The Villa Wolkonsky was built in the 1890s by the descendants of the Russian Princess Zenaide Wolkonsky, the wife of an aide-de-camp to Tsar Alexander I.

In 1830, the Princess's father gave her a large piece of land near the church of San Giovanni in Laterano (the Pope's Church in Rome). The plot included thirty-six bays of the aqueduct spur which Nero added to the system constructed by Claudius in the middle of the 1st century AD.

The Princess built a small villa incorporating three of the aqueduct bays and created a garden with roses, sculptures and Roman statuary as the main features. After her death in Rome in 1862, her son Alexander lived in the villa and he uncovered the Roman tufo tombs beyond the aqueduct. During the rapid expansion of Rome in the 1870s, much of the estate was sold off for development. The sales enabled the descendants of the Princess, the Campanari family, to build a new, imposing villa on the site. The house was greatly extended in the 1930s with the addition of two wings and a fourth storey, and the Princess's original villa was also enlarged at the same time. Five columns were used to build a little roofed temple.

The Villa Wolkonsky has been the British Ambassador's Residence since 1947. The main State Rooms are maintained by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Estates Division and most of the pictures are from the Government Art Collection.



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Read On! Extensive Reading Project Awards Ceremony · Tuesday 16th July 2013

15.30 **Exhibition area**
Guests and VIPs visit the Student Read On! Exhibition in the Ballroom

Refreshments served in the garden

17.00 **Lemon Terrace**
Nina Prentice, *Extensive Reading Teacher Trainer*
Christine Melia, *British Council*
Donatella Fitzgerald, *Oxford University Press*
Elisabetta Ghirlanda, *Barclays Bank*
Ivan Baggi, *Shell Italia*
Carmela Palumbo, *Direttore Generale MIUR*

His Excellency **Christopher Prentice**, *British Ambassador*

Class Awards

Most books read · Most effort · Most improved

Jane Austen/Dracula competition awards

Enterprise Awards

Individual Awards

Most Books read · Most Creative response · Best Digital response

18.00 **End of Festival**

Thanks to the project sponsors



*With kind thanks to **Barclays Bank** for sponsorship of the project in Lombardia, Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta, Toscana, Lazio, Emilia Romagna.*



*With kind thanks to **Shell Italia** for sponsorship of the project in Basilicata.*