

The larger rooms are indicated by letters, and their four sides by numbers, whilst on the contrary the cabinets are marked with numbers, and their sides with letters. This will enable the spectator to easily find out the picture mentioned in this guide. Besides, each picture bears at the top the artist's name, and at the bottom the number in the catalogue.

**A.** (Corner room towards the north) **Raphael's Maria with the Child**, known under the name of **Madonna di San Sisto**. It is the greatest treasure of the gallery, a far-famed picture not surpassed by any other work of Raphael's. The Virgin who is soaring up to heaven with an expression in her eyes of leaving all earthly concerns behind, and of being lost in the anticipation of the heavenly joys she is to meet, bears in her arms the Divine child. Pope Sixtus from whom the picture is named, is represented on the one side gazing with pious awe upon *the Virgin*. On the other side kneels St. Barbara, in youthful beauty. Below this group are two angelic children the innocent expression of which cannot be too much admired. Their eyes upturned towards the central figures of the picture seem to beam out the praises of the Holy Virgin. The picture is the most precious acquisition made by Augustus the Strong for the benefit of the Gallery. After twenty years negotiation he was at-last so fortunate as to acquire