

'LION AROUND'



Vatican City issued this souvenir sheet picturing the Piazza del Popolo's four lion fountains. Two of the lion fountains are visible in the photo (on the right).

Lion Fountains in Italy and Spain

By Greg Balagian

Piazza del Popolo- Rome, Italy

At the center of the Piazza del Popolo in Rome is the Fontana dell' Obelisco, a group of four mini lion fountains, each on a stepped plinth, surrounding the Egyptian obelisk of pharaoh Seti I.

The white marble lions were created by Giuseppe Valadier (1762-1839) in 1823.

Italy depicted the lion fountains on Scott B29 (1926), B33 (1928), and B38 (1930); Vatican City recently issued a souvenir sheet with them [above].

Alhambra Palace - Grenada, Spain

Twelve marble lions surround the celebrated Fountain of the Lions located in the Court of the Lions of the Palace of

the Lions in the heart of the Alhambra in Granada, Spain.

The fountain is the only lion-shaped structure in any Muslim palace, as Islamic art rarely uses images of living things. Originally the fountain was part of the 11th century palace of Jewish vizier of Granada Joseph ibn Naghrela and moved by Mohammed V to the Alhambra complex.

Spain pictures this fountain on Scott 491, 496 (1931), 630 (1936), and 1206 (1964), and also a 2011 souvenir sheet.

Stamps commemorating the 1992 World Stamp Exhibition in Granada also picture the lion fountain: Cuba 3413, Maldives 1679, and Romania 3743c. 🐾



The Lion Fountain at the Alhambra Palace in Grenada is depicted in a central medallion on a recent souvenir sheet from Spain. A closeup photo of the lions is on the right.