

Michelangelo's "Secret Room"

A hidden chamber discovered in 1975 beneath the *Basilica di San Lorenzo* in Florence, and adorned with what are believed to be *Michelangelo* sketches, is open to the public for the first time

New Sacristy
Basilica di
San Lorenzo

Piazza
di San
Lorenzo

New Sacristy
(north wall)

"Stanza Segreta"
(Secret Room): Resides
behind unassuming
windows (above)

Trapdoor:
Rediscovered
under wardrobe
in 1975

Wall 1 features sketch
that resembles statue of
Laocoön and His Sons
– ancient artwork that
inspired Michelangelo

Special
LED lighting
rails installed

Open from
Nov 15, 2023
to Mar 31,
2024

Wall 3 has several drawings of legs, including
likely study for statue of *Giuliano de' Medici*,
on tomb in room above hidden chamber

Detail from
Wall 2

Drawings
executed in
charcoal and
sanguine
(red chalk)

Works believed to have been
carried out in 1530, when
Prior of San Lorenzo hid
Michelangelo from wrath of
Pope Clement VII, who was

infuriated by his supervision
of city fortifications during
shortlived republican uprising
that saw *Medicis* thrown out
of Florence