



Rome auctions off top cemetery lots 羅馬拍賣頂級墓園

The price of dying is going up in Rome, if a city auction of prime cemetery lots is anything to go by.

The most expensive burial ground in the city's prized Verano cemetery is on offer for 312,629 euros — the price of a modest apartment — before tax.

Like living real estate, the plot is described as being of "classical style, in brick and slate-roofed, with **decorative** elements in (white) travertine rock and Carrara marble," according to the **write-up** in brochures.

The tombs, one of which can hold up to 28 coffins, can be viewed via Google Earth with pictures placed on the Web site www.amaroma.it

Future **inhabitants** will become neighbors of such **luminaries** as actor Marcello Mastroianni, writer Alberto Moravia or other cinematic figures in Roberto Rossellini and Luchino Visconti.

Rome mayor Gianni Alemanno hopes to raise 2.5 million euros from the sell-off of tombs whose owners are no longer known, are empty or are threatened with collapse, and offers a 75-year **lease**.

The auction is due to end on July 24.

(AFP)

羅馬市正在標售頂級墓園，若依拍賣標準來看，死後想安息將付出更高的代價。

這座位於羅馬市最重要的維拉諾公墓內的頂級墓園起標價三十一萬兩千六百二十九歐元，相當於一戶小公寓未稅前的價格。

就如同活人的房地產一般，拍賣型錄中形容這座墓園「屬經典風格，磚砌主體配上板岩材質屋頂，還飾有（白色）石灰岩和卡拉瑞大理石」。

其中一個墓區可容納多達二十八具棺木。透過「Google地球」可觀看張貼在www.amaroma.it網站上的各墓區照片。

未來的遷入者將可與影星馬塞羅·馬斯托依安尼、作家艾伯托·莫拉維亞，及電影界聞人羅伯特·羅塞里尼、盧契諾·維斯康提等名人為鄰。

羅馬市長賈尼·阿萊曼諾希望藉由低價出售這些無主、空置或瀕臨倒塌的墓穴，籌募兩百五十萬歐元；租賃期限為七十五年。

拍賣活動至七月二十四日截止。

(法新社 / 翻譯：林倩如)

Caretakers at the Florida National Cemetery line up headstones next to a grave for a re-interment on Nov. 10, 2008 in Bushnell, Florida.

PHOTO: AFP

二〇〇八年十一月十日，佛羅里達州希奈爾國家公墓的管理員將墓碑一個個立放在墓穴旁，準備再安葬往生者。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **decorative** /ˈdekəreɪtɪv/ adj.

裝飾性的 (zhuang1 shi4 xing4 de5)

例： The vases are for decorative purposes only. Please don't put anything in them.

(這些花瓶僅供裝飾，請勿置物入內。)

2. **inhabitant** /ɪnˈhæbətənt/ n.

居民 (ju1 min2)

例： The previous inhabitants of this property left it in an awful condition.

(之前的住戶把這裡弄得亂七八糟。)

3. **luminary** /ˈluməˌnɛəri/ n.

名人 (ming2 ren2)

例： Luminaries from the world of art appeared at the gallery opening.

(藝術界名流現身畫廊開幕式。)

4. **lease** /liːz/ n.

租賃 (zu1 lin4)

例： The property is available on a five-year lease.

(這地產可租賃五年。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

write-up 報導，評論

A **write-up** is a written report or review, for example in a newspaper or magazine. It can sometimes be used to specifically refer to a positive account in a company brochure.

Examples: "I'm waiting to read a newspaper **write-up** about that new Thai restaurant before I visit," or "Have you read the **write-up** of last night's game? It sounded really exciting!"

「**write-up**」意指書面報導或評論，好比刊登在報章雜誌上的。這片語有時會特別用來指公司手冊中的實際描述。

例如：「去那家新泰國餐廳前，我等著看報紙對它的報導」，或「你看過昨晚那場比賽的評論了嗎？感覺真令人興奮耶！」。

OUT LOUD 對話練習

Jeremy: Have you figured out where to go on vacation yet?

Jonah: Not yet. But I've got a few ideas.

Jeremy: For example?

Jonah: I've found a great location in Okinawa.

According to the brochure **write-up**, it's like paradise on earth.

Jeremy: Well, don't take the brochure too literally. I'm sure there'll be some imperfections.

Jonah: You're probably right. But it looks great!

傑瑞米： 你想好要去哪裡度假了沒？

約拿： 還沒。不過我想了幾個地方。

傑瑞米： 例如？

約拿： 我發現沖繩有個地方很棒。根據簡介上的描述，那裡就像人間天堂。

傑瑞米： 嗯...別太相信簡介上說的，我相信那裡還是會有不好的地方。

約拿： 或許你說得沒錯，不過那裡看起來很棒！