



Saint Giovanni Battista Church in Marsala



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ABSTRACT

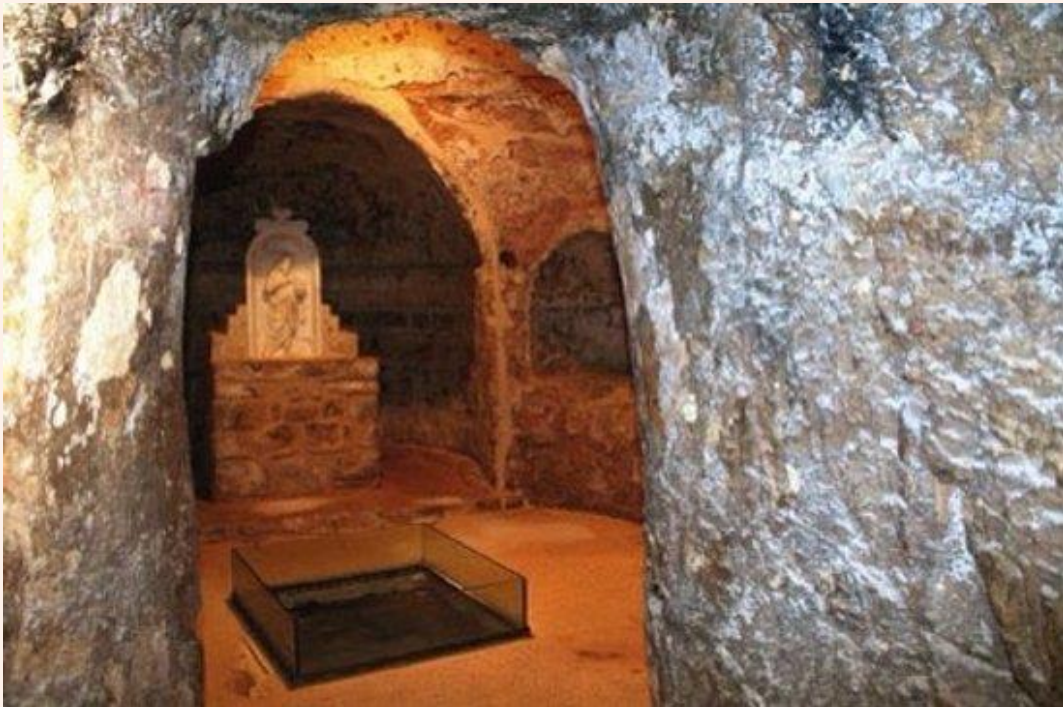
Saint Giovanni church is a church in Marsala located at the sea front and is also called "Church of San Giovanni at the Boeo".

The church was built on cap Boeo by the Jesuits in 1555, near the coast; it has a rather simple architectural style but, inside, has a very important characteristic, the "Cave of the Sibyl".

The central compartment is carved into the rock and is covered with a low dome, built in masonry, with a skylight that is connected to the floor of the church.

The center of the cave is occupied by a square bathtub, not very deep, with fresh water inside where the first Christians, formerly, received the baptism.

In the northern part of the cave, which is entirely carved in the rock, there is a fresh water well, at ground level, feeding the bath of the central zone; in front of the cavity is a large altar with a marble statue of "Saint Giovanni Battista", from the 15th century.



The western part, although also carved in the rock, was probably made from a well, and the flat ceiling presents two supports spared in the rock.

Legend says that given the presence of the water well, Odysseus went there to quench his thirst.

Inside the cave is a bed seeming almost hand dogged in the rock, where the Sibyl was resting.

Website :

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