

The background of the entire page is a reproduction of a painting, likely by Raphael, depicting the Virgin Mary. She is shown from the chest up, wearing a white robe and a yellow veil. Her hands are clasped in prayer. The background is a soft, golden-brown color with small white stars.

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES

ITALIAN MASTERPIECES

FROM SPAIN'S ROYAL COURT, MUSEO DEL PRADO

16 May – 31 August

MEDIA KIT

MESSAGES

TONY ELLWOOD, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

“This unique collaboration between the National Gallery of Victoria, the Museo del Prado and Art Exhibitions Australia brings to Melbourne majestic works from the heart of the Prado’s collection, many of which have never before left Spain.

We are deeply grateful to the Prado for loaning such a significant collection of their works to our gallery and for their deep curatorial insight.

As Australia’s oldest art gallery, we welcome this astonishing collection from one of Europe’s oldest and finest museums.

Our accompanying program of innovative public programs, Italian and Spanish language tours, events for children and families, performances, live music, lectures and tours will all contribute to making this an exceptional experience for all of our visitors.”

MIGUEL ZUGAZA, DIRECTOR, MUSEO DEL PRADO

“The Museo del Prado is a privileged witness of the close historical, political and cultural ties that link Spain and Italy in the early Modern period. The 100-or-so works which will be travelling out of the Museum for the first time reflect the extraordinary quality and importance of the art made in Italy for the Spanish court from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Through this astounding selection of masterpieces the National Gallery of Victoria’s public will be able to appreciate the genius of the great artists of the Renaissance and Baroque periods and the Spanish crown’s exceptional patronage tradition of Italian art.”

THE HONOURABLE DR DENIS NAPHTHINE MP, PREMIER OF VICTORIA

“The Victorian State Government proudly supports *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado*, the latest exhibition in the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series at the National Gallery of Victoria.

This is the eleventh Melbourne Winter Masterpieces season at the NGV, continuing a spectacular series of international exhibitions that began in 2004 with *The Impressionists: Masterpieces from the Musée d’Orsay*. The enjoyment these exhibitions have brought to more than four million visitors to date is amply matched by the enormous economic benefits they have brought to Victoria.

The 2014 *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court* is no exception. Displayed exclusively in Melbourne, this exhibition brings more than 100 spectacular works from the Museo del Prado, Madrid, one of the world’s greatest art repositories, to Australia for the first time. This is the largest number of Italian works the Prado has ever lent.”

THE HONOURABLE TONY ABBOTT MP, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

“The Australian Government proudly supports the presentation of *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado*, at the National Gallery of Victoria.

I wish to acknowledge the enormous generosity of the Museo del Prado, Madrid, in lending so many cultural icons to Australia and to congratulate Art Exhibitions Australia and the NGV for bringing this superlative exhibition to Melbourne. It is with great pleasure that the Australian Government supports the NGV through the International Exhibitions Insurance Program to make *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court* available to Australian audiences.”

MARIANO RAJOY, PRIME MINISTER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN

Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado, brings us even closer to understanding Spain’s image, admirably illustrating its decisive role in the construction of Europe’s identity and culture. The works shown here, over 100 in all, reveal Spain’s extremely close relations with Italy during the Renaissance and Baroque, when both countries shared not only cultural, religious and artistic interests, but also the same political structure: the Spanish Monarchy, which included Naples, Sicily and Milan.

With this exhibition, *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado*, Spain presents a fundamental part of its historical-artistic heritage, sharing a diverse, plural and integrated history and offering the Australian public an opportunity to enjoy some of Western Art’s greatest creations. My most cordial congratulations to the promoters of this inspired initiative: the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Art Exhibitions Australia and the Museo del Prado. I wish them great success.”

MAZDA AUSTRALIA

“Mazda Australia is again delighted to be partnering with Art Exhibitions Australia as Principal Sponsor of *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado*, the latest exhibition in the National Gallery of Victoria’s annual Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series.

The Prado’s collection of Italian art is renowned for its captivating and unrivalled beauty. At Mazda, we use our stunning ‘KODO - Soul of Motion’ design language to create vehicles that are equally distinctive and stylish with exceptional visual appeal.

Our longstanding relationship with Art Exhibitions Australia, now in its twentieth year, has brought some of the most revered art from around the world to our doorstep, and this is one of the ways Mazda gives back to the community that has supported Mazda’s success in Australia.

We sincerely wish everyone who visits *Italian Masterpieces* an enjoyable experience to treasure.”
– Managing Director Martin Benders

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

“Singapore Airlines is proud to be supporting *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado* at the National Gallery of Victoria as Principal Donor. We are honoured to carry one of the largest and most significant collections of Italian masterpieces to Victoria. Singapore Airlines is a major sponsor of the Arts with a long standing collaboration with Art Exhibitions Australia spanning almost three decades, and a world renowned carrier of priceless artworks. The *Italian Masterpieces* exhibition presents a significant opportunity for Singapore Airlines’ customers to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity as the airline will be hosting exclusive tours of the exhibition for its KrisFlyers members and key stakeholders. Singapore Airlines is Australia’s largest foreign carrier and the world’s most awarded airline providing the highest quality of customer care and service in the sky. ”

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

“The University of Melbourne, Australia’s leading University, is delighted to be the Learning Partner for the Italian Masterpieces exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. Melbourne is a city rich in culture and diversity and this exhibition will further build on the NGV’s and the city’s tradition of bringing esteemed artists and artworks to the people and visitors of Melbourne.” – Vice-Chancellor Professor Glyn Davis AC

THE AUSTRALIAN

“The Australian is proud to partner with Art Exhibitions Australia, the Museo del Prado and the National Gallery of Victoria on the 2014 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court*.

Read by over 3.3 million* people each month around the nation, The Australian reaches an exclusive, desirable audience interested in arts and entertainment. This year, we are marking our 50th birthday, an exciting time as we grow, innovate and look towards the future, so supporting the greatest Italian Masters exhibition to be shown in Australia, a highlight of the visual arts calendar, will have excellent and mutual benefits for all parties.”

*Source: emma conducted by Ipsos MediaCT12 months ending September 2013. Nielsen Online Ratings September 2013. Audit Bureau of Circulation, Jul-Sep 2013

THE HERALD AND WEEKLY TIMES

“The Herald Sun is proud to partner with Art Exhibitions Australia and the National Gallery of Victoria for the exhibition *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado*.

We are delighted to be able to showcase this incredible collection to over 3,109,000 readers every week via our brands including the Herald Sun, Leader Community Newspapers, mX and the Weekly Times. We look forward to sharing the stories and imagery of the art and artists with our readers and showcasing one of the finest collections of Italian Masterpieces to ever come to Australia.”

SOFITEL MELBOURNE ON COLLINS

“As the Hotel For the Arts in Melbourne, Sofitel Melbourne On Collins is proud to be a supporter of the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces: *Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado*.

Sofitel Melbourne On Collins has been a sponsor of Melbourne Winter Masterpieces since inception. It is a relationship the hotel greatly values. We are very much looking forward to the Italian Masterpieces exhibition opening at the National Gallery of Victoria in May. It is a wonderful opportunity to see and appreciate some great works by Italian masters.”

TRIPLE M

“For over 30 years, 105.1 Triple M has been a part of Melbourne. Triple M is the home of the Hot Breakfast with Eddie McGuire, Luke Darcy and Mick Molloy – Melbourne’s favourite breakfast show. With real music across the day and the number 1 footy call on the weekend – Triple M is everything Melbourne!”
triplem.com.au

CHANNEL SEVEN MELBOURNE

“Channel Seven Melbourne is proud to once again partner with National Gallery of Victoria for the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series. *Italian Masterpieces* is truly a landmark exhibition. Seven is also pleased to continue its long partnership with Art Exhibitions Australia, having worked with them closely over the past two decades to bring to all Australians some of the world’s greatest works of art.”

CITY OF MELBOURNE

“From the contemporary to the classics, the NGV continues to offer exhibitions that surprise and astound. To host such a renowned collection of art as a world-first highlights Melbourne’s cultural richness and puts our city on both the national and international stage. We welcome *Italian Masterpieces* and I encourage all Melburnians and visitors to experience this truly impressive exhibition.” – Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley

The NGV also gratefully acknowledges Tourism Victoria, Dulux Australia, Penfolds, APN Outdoor, Adshel, V/Line, Melbourne Airport and Palace Cinemas for their generous support of the exhibition.