THE ITINERARY

Once inside the museum, the group is taken to the **Cortile della Pigna**, the Courtyard of the Pinecone – this is the official starting point of the tour. The Courtyard gets its name from the enormous bronze Pinecone from the Roman area stands. It was originally a fountain. A copy of the **Roman** baths of Agrippa. Aquarius and Nereus looks from Hadrian's mausoleum stand on either side of the Pinecone. From the Courtyard visitors can admire the beautiful facades of the Vatican Palaces.

Alldesroughout the tour the guidewilldalso point out importantarchitectural elements of the galleries and explain the buildings' history.

The next stop is at the

Next is the fascinating **Gallery of Maps**. The gallery is 120 metres long and took 3 years to paint its 40 panels. These topographical maps were the first complete set of their kind showing all of Italy. Also of note is the highly-detailed ceiling. From the windows in the Gallery of Maps visitors can admire the gorgeous Vatican gardens.

The **Sobieski Room**