

campania



art and archaeology



REGIONE CAMPANIA

Assessorato al Turismo
e ai Beni Culturali



how to get here

by air: direct flights link all the major Italian and European cities with Naples Capodichino airport (www.gesac.it, tel. 848 888777). Long haul flights land at Rome Fiumicino (tel. 06 65951), from where you can continue to Naples by plane, train or bus

by train: the Italian railway network (Ferrovie dello Stato) links the whole of Italy with the station of Napoli Centrale (www.trenitalia.it, tel. 892021)

by coach: the coach company SITA runs services between Naples and many Italian cities and also Germany (www.sitabus.it)

by car: Campania is reached by the motorways A1 from central and northern Italy, A3 and A16 from the south

by ship: Molo Angioino in the port of Naples (tel. 081 2283302 - 081 2445111) is served by Italian and international cruise lines

campania > artecard



www.campaniartecard.it

combined pass that allows you to queue-jump at all museums and archaeological sites of Campania and to travel on the entire public transport network on land and sea.

Starting from as little as 13 euro (8 euro for youths 18 to 25), you can organize your 3 or 7 days in Campania, travel where you like using the means of transportation of your choice, and enjoy free entrance or discounts.

where to buy it
Naples' Capodichino airport, railway stations of Naples Centrale, Mergellina and Pozzuoli, Port of Naples (Molo Beverello), main hotels, ANM carparks of Via Brin and Colli Aminei (Naples), travel agencies, main newsstands, and in all the featured museums and archaeological sites, and during the summer in the main seaside resorts; in addition it is available through the internet, the call center (free number)

800 600 601
from cell phones or abroad
+39 06 39967650

how to use this guide

the series

this booklet is one in a series of themed guides designed to help tourists planning a trip to Campania. The eight separate booklets illustrate the wealth of attractions to be found in this region

colour scheme

each guide is identified by a specific colour

themed itineraries

each guide is organized in itineraries with the indication "not to be missed", featuring the absolute 'musts'



curiosities, in-depth treatments, useful information

coloured insets

the text of presentation is accompanied by a series of coloured insets: recommendations of things to do if you are staying just 1 or 3 days and hints on what to buy, where to go with children and what's on ("shopping", "outings with children" and "events")

themed insets

every itinerary features certain themed insets which, in addition to the specific topic, highlight the most important things to see and do in that particular area. The colours used refer to the respective guides in the series, where the places and topics featured in the insets are presented more fully

abbreviations

the abbreviations Doc, Docg and Dop indicate official EU recognition of quality products. The Doc (Denominated origin controlled) and Docg (Denominated origin controlled and guaranteed) labels refer to wines, Dop (Denominated origin protected) to local gastronomic specialities

symbols



archaeology



protected marine area



art



beaches



thermal pools

regione campania

theme guides

art and archaeology

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Campania: is an extraordinary mixture of art, culture and nature, a land where ancient and modern fuse together in a grandiose spectacle which has lasted for thousands of years. Even today the remains of buried civilizations come to light, an eloquent testimony to the wrath of the Vesuvius. In the shadow of the volcano, Pompeii, Herculaneum and other cities that were destroyed by the eruption re-emerged in all their stupendous beauty. The throbbing hearts of the Mediterranean coast, such as Pozzuoli, Baia, Miseno, charmed Roman emperors and rich noble men, who built sumptuous villas there. Further south, there is Paestum and its majestic temples, and Velia, where the philosophers Parmenides and Zeno enquired into the secrets of the universe. Myths and legends abound in this region, lending the routes a special magic. Starting from the bowels of Naples, where caves dug out of the tuff (volcanic rock) bore witness to primitive Christian rituals, one proceeds through the Phlegrean Fields, gate of the Underworld, where the Sybil of Cuma made her prophecies; to arrive at Benevento, where Roman cults enriched Medieval legends with sabbath and witches.

Surrounded by green fields, and almost suspended in time, the medieval villages of Campania, from Casertavecchia to Sant'Agata dei Goti and on to Teggiano, are distinguished by a myriad of tiny houses, decorated in the Longobard and Norman tradition to form a long barrier. On the coast there are towering fortresses, built during the Middle Ages to fend off Saracen pirates, whose splendid architecture can still be seen at Positano, Amalfi and Ravello. Monumental splendour still enliven the ancient centre of Naples; there are churches, castles, sumptuous palaces, and the magnificent royal residences, bearing the stamp of the Bourbon kings, such as the immense Royal Palace in Caserta. But Campania is still conversant with the language of contemporary art, now more than ever. Museums and squares are open to artists from all over the world; the stations of the new Naples underground railway system are used as exhibition space, which has been described as the best Museum of contemporary art in Italy. Travellers, today as in the past, continue to visit Campania, attracted by its extraordinary artistic and historical heritage. The stupendous coastline, the spectacular glimpses of the islands, the wild beauty of the mountains, the verdant plains and their inhabitants continue to exert a mysterious charm.



The 'discovery' of Pompeii and Herculaneum

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NOT TO BE MISSED

Pompeii



Herculaneum



Oplontis, Villa of Poppea



Stabiae



Pompeii, the forum



Majestic and menacing, Vesuvius still dominates the Neapolitan landscape. From the Eighteenth century onwards travellers have been prepared to tackle the climb up to the top in order to admire the panorama and look down into the crater. There is no better starting point to begin a journey through the history and culture of Campania.

A journey which takes us back in time, as far as that 24th of August in 79 A.D. when Vesuvius 'put on a show' with a devastating eruption which buried Pompeii, Herculaneum, Oplontis and Stabia.

The rediscovery of the places that were victims of the wrath of the volcano came about almost by chance. In 1709 the prince d'Elboeuf, was having a well dug in his Vesuvian residence, when he came upon the remains of the theatre of Herculaneum. From then on, researches were made which brought to light an archaeological, artistic and historical heritage of inestimable value, which every year draws millions of visitors.



Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Napoli
piazza dei Martiri 58
tel. 081 4107211
www.eptnapoli.info

Azienda Autonoma di Cura Soggiorno e Turismo di Pompei
via Sacra 1
tel. 081 8507255
www.pompeiturismo.it

Office of Archaeological Heritage, Pompeii
Via Villa dei Misteri 2
Tel. 081 8575111
Pompeii
www.pompeisites.org

Herculaneum Archaeological Site Pompeii
Archaeological Site Oplontis
Archaeological Site
Tel. 081 8575347/7324338

too-to-train trips around Vesuvius on the Circumvesuviana
The Circumvesuviana sets aside reserved trains for the use of trippers taking advantage of too-to-train, a turistic programme aimed at discovering rural civilisation and famous places of the region.
tel. 081 2507195

Pompeii, daily life two thousand years ago

8

Pompeii, being an important commercial centre in *Campania felix*, played a strategic role in the redistribution of goods between Rome, the inland cities and the ports on the Mediterranean. The life of the city centred around the Forum. Still today one can admire the remains of the **Basilica**, seat of justice and chamber of commerce, religious buildings and the

in 1 day

Pompeii

in 3 days

Pompeii

Herculaneum

Oplontis

Stabiae

Macellum, site of the marketplace. From the main square streets lead off to the ancient city, revealing majestic houses, such as the **House of the Faun** and the **House of the Vettii**, with their splendid frescoes. The shops in **via dell'Abbondanza**, offer a lively impression of everyday life two thousands years ago. From here we carry on to the **Stabian Baths**, the

The fresco of
Villa of the Mysteries

famous travellers

...faring out to Pompeii on a Sunday afternoon, I enjoyed there, for the only time I can recall, the sweet chance of a late hour or two, the hour of the lengthening shadows, absolutely alone. The impression remains ineffaceable.

Henry James, 1900



nature and parks

Vesuvius National Park

for young people

Ruins of Pompeii

Trekking on Vesuvius

specialities

Vesuvian apricots

Tomatoes on the vine

wines

Lacryma Christi

spas and wellness

Thermal Baths of Torre

Annunziata

Thermal Baths of

Castellammare di Stabia

oldest public baths in Pompeii, ending up at the massively impressive **Amphitheatre**, where even today, as in the Large Theatre, there are concerts and theatrical productions.

Just outside the city, stands the **Villa of the Mysteries**, the most 'enigmatic' monument in Pompeii, with its grand fresco celebrating the mysterious cult of Dionysus.

In summer the ruins can also be visited at night, with theatre props and multimedia shows that recreate the atmosphere of the lost city and the dramatic phases of the eruption.



The fresco of
House of the Vettii



The treasures of Herculaneum and its surroundings

outings with children

Night time walks through the ruins of Pompeii
Vesuvius National Park

shopping

Coral and cameos
Wines and typical food products

10

At Herculaneum, unlike Pompeii, where the eruption destroyed roofs and attics, a large part of the buildings remain several stories high: the **House of Argus** still has its wooden balcony. The **House of Relief of Telephus** is distinguished by its refined marble decorations; the **House of Neptune and Amphitrite** have beautiful mosaics; the **House of the Deer** has sumptuous rooms and the superb **Villa of the Papyri** is famous for its sculptures, now on view in the Archaeological Museum of Naples and its library of philosophical texts. Not far from Herculaneum, near Torre Annunziata (formerly ancient **Oplontis**) stands the **Villa of Poppea**. The traditional view is that it belonged to Poppea Sabina, Nero's second wife. The building, standing in a large garden, is decorated with brilliant frescoes representing still life subjects. Castellamare, formerly ancient Stabiae, was an important settlement destroyed by the Vesuvian eruption of 79 A.D. Today the settlements of Arianna and San Marco constitute a precious testimony to lost splendours. Some of the most beautiful frescoes of the Roman period have been found here, together with precious mosaics and thermal plants.



The ruins of Herculaneum

famous travellers

All around me, the sea, the mountains, and a limitless view... These Corinthian columns, this orderliness which is so simple and linear, these streaks of blue cut into the marble trunks: what an impression must be made on the soul when you have seen such sights from earliest childhood!

Hyppolite Taine, 1864



How a museum is born

The artistic heritage recovered in Pompeii and Herculaneum were first taken to the Portici Royal Palace and displayed in a small museum. These findings formed the base of the present collection in the National Museum of Naples, one of the most celebrated in the world.



Detail of the mosaic in House of Neptune and Amphitrite



Journeying through myths, in the tracks of the Greeks and Romans

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NOT TO BE MISSED

Cuma archaeological park



Paestum



National Archaeological Museum of Naples



Underground Naples



Pozzuoli



Baia



Paestum, Temples



Cuma, Paestum and Velia: discovering Magna Grecia

The origins of civilization in Campania and its relation to the Greek world are very ancient.

Cuma is the most ancient Greek colony in Italy, founded in the VIII century B.C. At the foot of the acropolis there is the famous Sybil's Cave, associated with the myth of the famous clairvoyant (in reality it was a Roman military installation).

There is a magnificent view from the top of the acropolis, from where the remains of the Roman city can be seen in the plain.

In the plain of Sele, there is **Paestum**, the other important Greek settlement in Campania (VI century B.C.). It is famous for its magnificent Doric temples: the 'Basilica', the temple of Neptune (in fact connected with the cult of Hera), and the temple of Cerere (in fact dedicated to Pallas Athena). In the Roman era shops and a market were added to the Forum. The Archaeological Museum of Paestum contains precious items found in the area around Heraion in the plain of Sele, together with tomb paintings, including the highly celebrated ones in the Tomb of the Diver. Further south, **Velia** (formerly ancient Elea, founded in 540 B.C.) was the seat of the famous school of philosophy run by Parmenides and Zeno. Today the remains of an ionic temple and a theatre can be seen. The Porta Rosa, which formed part of the city walls, is one of the most well preserved and most beautiful of the vestiges of Magna Grecia.

Azienda Autonoma di Soggiorno e Turismo di Paestum
via Magna Grecia 887
tel. 0828 811016
www.infopaestum.it

Azienda Autonoma di Cura Soggiorno e Turismo di Pozzuoli
largo Matteotti, 1/A
tel. 081 5266639
www.infocampiflegrei.it

Parco Archeologico di Cuma
via Licola
tel. 081 8543060

Scavi di Paestum
via Magna Grecia
Paestum
tel. 0828 811023

Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Paestum
via Magna Grecia
Paestum
tel. 0828 811023

Scavi di Velia
località Piana di Velia
Ascea Marina
tel. 0974 972396

Napoli sotterranea
piazza San Gaetano 68
Napoli
tel. 081 296944
www.napolisotterranea.it



Going back in time: Underground Naples

14 Wrapped in a tissue of legends, the origins of Naples go back to remote times: it was founded in the VII century B.C. by Cuma. On the slopes of Mount Echia in Pizzofalcone and around Piazza Bellini the remains of the **Greek walls** can still be seen. Underground there are caves that were hollowed out long ago to extract tuff and later used as a place for secret rituals. Starting out from piazza San Gaetano, the former market place of ancient *Neapolis*, one can follow an '**underground route**' to discover a city with in a city. At San Lorenzo Maggiore more remains have been discovered, including shops, *tabernae* and the *Erario*, site of the municipal treasury.

On the Posillipo hill the remains are still to be seen of the vast **Villa del Pausilypon**. High on a cliff commanding an astonishing view there still remain parts of the theatre and the *odeon* (covered concert hall). The archaeological area is reached through the monumental Grotta di Seiano in Via Coroglio. Some parts of the Roman Villa have been submerged due to bradyseism. These now form part of the **Gaiola Underwater park**, a protected marine area.



Publio Vedio Pollione, the owner of *Pausilypon*, has been described as being as cruel as he was rich: according to a famous anecdote, he intended to punish a servant who had broken a precious vase by throwing him as food for the eels. The Emperor Augustus, who was present at the time, saved the servant and ordered the whole collection of vases to be destroyed.

famous travellers

No gulf sparkles more
than the delightful Baia

Horace, I A.D.



Gaiola

In the 'Burning Fields'. The holidays of Imperial Rome

Saturated in art and history, the Phlegrean Fields owe their name to volcanic upheavals which have existed since remote times (in Greek *flegraios* means 'burning'). These very phenomena are responsible for creating one of the largest underwater archaeological sites in Italy. This includes urban settlements, thermal baths, ports and fish farms, many of which were submerged by bradyseism, a geological phenomenon which alternately lifts or lowers the land. In **Pozzuoli** the columns of the **Temple of Serapis** are covered by marine organisms, bearing witness to the time when there were submerged. Other monuments of particular interest are the **Flavian Amphitheatre**, one of the largest in antiquity, and the remains of **Rione Terra**. Under the Cathedral, constructed in the XI century on the site of a Roman temple, digs have revealed an entire city with streets lined with warehouses, thermal baths, shops, fountains and houses.

Temple of Serapis



San Lorenzo Maggiore
via dei Tribunali
Napoli
tel. 081 2110860
www.sanlorenzomaggiorenapoli.it

Tempio di Serapide e Anfiteatro Flavio
via Terracciano 75
Pozzuoli
tel. 081 5266007

Rione Terra
largo Sedile di Porto
Pozzuoli
tel. 848 800288

Castello di Baia e Museo Archeologico dei Campi Flegrei
via Castello 39
Bacoli
tel. 081 5233797

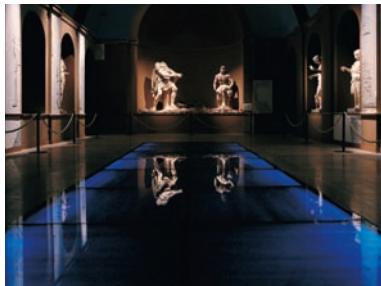
Parco Archeologico di Baia
via Sella di Baia 22
Bacoli
tel. 081 8687592

Parco Monumentale di Baia
via Bellavista
Bacoli
tel. 081 5233797

Parco Sommerso di Baia
piazza De Gasperi
tel. 081 8688923
www.areamarinaprotetta.baia.it

Cento Camerelle
via Cento Camerelle
Bacoli
tel. 0815233690

Sacello Augustali Bay



in 1 day

Naples

Phlegrean Fields

Cuma

in 3 days

Naples

Phlegrean Fields

Cuma

Santa Maria Capua Vetere

Paestum

Velia

Palinuro

16

After following a route of great scenic beauty and passing by the lake of Averno, thought in the past to be the entrance to the Underworld, one arrives at **Baia**, the most fashionable holiday resort of Imperial Rome. The town extends from Punta Epitaffio to the headland where the **Aragonese Castle** stands, now the site of the **Phlegrean Fields Archaeological Museum**.

The **Archaeological and Monumental Park** are of great interest, for here is located the *Palatium*, a grandiose imperial complex where thermal baths, temples, ponds and theatres follow one after the other. Nearby is **Bacoli** with its complex of **Cento Camerelle**, a vast collection of cisterns dug out of the tuff stone, and the impressive **Piscina Mirabile**, an enormous reservoir fed by the Serino aqueduct, created to refill the Roma fleet at the port of **Miseno**.

At Miseno, where Tiberius died and Caligula was invested, the most important monument is that of the **Shrine of the Augustals**: threatened by water due to brandyseism, it was taken down and put up again in the Phlegrean Fields Museum. Another interesting exhibition to be seen at the Museum is the reconstruction of the **Nymphaeum of Punta Epitaffio**, salvaged from the sea: the statues of Ulysses and his companion with a goatskin of wine, as well as beautiful statues of the Imperial family.

Recent research in the **Baia Underwater Park** has brought to light, impressive remains below sea level, which can be visited on a specially equipped boat.

Pozzuoli,
Amphitheatre



nature and parks

Vesuvius National Park
Phlegrean Fields
Regional Nature Park
Cilento and Vallo di Diano
National Park

for young people

Underground Naples
Baia Underwater Park

specialities

Buffalo Mozzarella Dop
Paestum artichokes
Cilento dried figs

wines
Campi Flegrei Dop
Cilento Doc



Among craters and fumaroles: the Solfatara

The Phlegrean Fields still have an active volcano which can be visited: 'The Hall of Hephaestus' was the name given to the Solfatara by the Greeks, attributing the disturbing fumaroles with their clouds of sulphurous vapours and boiling mud to the presence of the God of fire.



Piscina Mirabile
via Piscina Mirabile
Bacoli
tel. 081 5233199

Vulcano Solfatara
via Solfatara
Pozzuoli
tel. 081 5262341
www.solfatara.it

Anfiteatro Campano
piazza 1° ottobre
Santa Maria Capua Vetere
tel. 0823 798864

Mitreo
via Pietro Morelli
Santa Maria Capua Vetere
tel. 0823 798864

**Museo Archeologico
dell'Antica Capua**
via Roberto d'Angiò
Santa Maria Capua Vetere
tel. 0823 844206

Museo dei Gladiatori
piazza 1° ottobre
Santa Maria Capua Vetere
tel. 0823 798864

Museo Campano
via Roma
Capua
tel. 0823 961402

Museo del Sannio
piazza Matteotti
Benevento
tel. 0824 21818
www.museodelsannio.com

Teatro Romano
piazza Carlo Ponzio
Telesino
Benevento
tel. 0824 47213



Sybil's Cave



Santa Maria Capua Vetere: the splendours of classical antiquity

18

The civilization of Campania was born on the banks of the river Volturno. Ancient Capua (today Santa Maria Capua Vetere) was the most important city in this area. Its monuments testify to the splendours of the past: the **Amphitheatre**, in size second only to the Colosseum; the **Mitreo**, an exceptional example of the widespread cult of the Persian God Mitra in the West; the **Collegiate Church of Santa Maria**, founded in the V century. The **Museum of Ancient Capua**, where recently discovered material is on display, should be visited, as should the **Gladiators Museum**, which is unique of its kind.

famous travellers

I made a short visit to ancient Capua and what remains of it. Only in this land can one understand what vegetation is and why the land is cultivated. The linen was already in flower, the wheat a hand and a half high. Around Caserta the region is completely flat and the fields are cultivated like flowerbeds in a garden.

Johann Wolfgang Goethe, 1787

spas and wellness

Stufe di Nerone (Baia)

Thermal Baths of Agnano

Contursi Terme

Montesano sulla

Marcellana



The Mothers of Capua

One thing not to be missed is the unique collection in the Campano Museum in Capua: the impressive statues in tuff of the Mothers (VI-II B.C.). Found in a temple dedicated to a goddess, these votive figures representing seated

women, holding in their arms one or two babies: some are even holding a dozen! It is assumed to be the *Mater Matuta*, goddess of fertility who was in fact worshipped in *Campania Felix*, referring to the fertility of the soil and to female fecundity.

Santa Maria Capua Vetere,
Amphitheatre



From legends to the Empire: Benevento

Present day Sannio is only a part of the area which was occupied in antiquity by the warlike Samnite tribes, which was finally occupied by the Romans after epic battles. In Benevento, the **Trajan's Arch**, the **Theatre** and much of the material now housed in the Sannio Museum (in the beautiful Romanesque church of **Santa Sofia**) attest to the splendours of the city in the time of Imperial Rome. The **Sannio Provincial Museum** is one of the most remarkable in Campania.

The archaeology section contains prehistoric material, Greek and Italic ceramics, Hellenistic-Roman statues and Egyptian sculptures originating from a temple dedicated to Iside. It was in fact these exotic cults introduced by the Romans, along with the pagan rites of the Longobards, that contributed to the Myth of the witches of Benevento: a legendary tradition which still hovers over this land, adding to its mysterious allure.

outings with children

Gladiators Museum of Santa Maria Capua Vetere
Night time walks through the Ruins of Paestum
Living Museum of Hera Argiva

shopping

Wines and typical foods products



Provincial Museum of Benevento

Trajan's Arch in Benevento



Caserta Benevento
Prata di
Principato Ultra Avellino
Napoli Cimitile
Salerno

Saints, martyrs, catacombs: the dawn of Christianity

20

NOT TO BE MISSED

Catacombs of
St. Gennaro (Naples)



Catacombs of
St. Gaudioso (Naples)



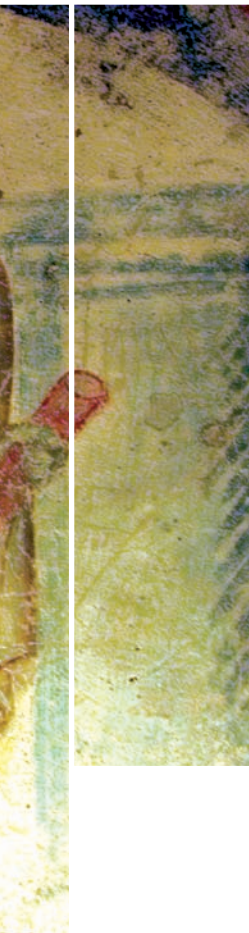
Paleochristian
Basilicas Park
(Cimitile)



Basilica di Santa
Maria Annunziata
(Prata di Principato
Ultra)



Catacombs of
San Gennaro, fresco



Travelling to Rome, Saint Peter stopped for a brief rest in Naples. Here his hosts were Candida and Aspreno who were converted to Christianity. The first Christian community therefore owes its existence to Christ's chosen apostle, and thus predates that of Rome. In those days religious rituals took place in secret, either in houses or cemeteries.



Ente provinciale per il Turismo di Avellino
via Due Principati 32a
tel. 0825 747321
www.eptavellino.it

Catacombe di San Gennaro
via Capodimonte, 13
Napoli
tel. 081 5441305
www.catacombedinapoli.it

Catacombe di San Gaudioso
piazza Sanità, 14
Napoli
tel. 081 5441305
www.catacombedinapoli.it

Catacomba di San Severo
piazzetta S. Severo a
Capodimonte
Napoli
tel. 081 5441305

Complesso delle Basiliche Paleocristiane
via Madonnelle
Cimitile
tel. 081 5127141
www.aneanolana.it

Basilica di Santa Maria Annunziata
via Maria Santissima
Annunziata
Prata di Principato Ultra
tel. 0825 961019

From Naples to Prata di Principato Ultra

22

The **catacombs of San Gennaro** (III century A.D.) formed the most ancient and the largest Christian cemetery of antiquity. Up until the XI century they were considered to be a place of worship, as the precious murals attest. Near the church of Santa Maria della Sanità, the **catacombs of San Gaudioso** and **San Severo** date back to the V century and these too are

in 1 day

Historical centre of Naples
National Archaeological Museum (Naples)

in 3 days

Avellino
Naples: historical centre and Archaeological Museum

decorated with mosaics and frescoes. Between the VII and VIII centuries, thanks to the Longobards having been converted to Christianity, the Church assumed control of many centres in Benevento and Irpinia. The Basilica of **Santa Maria Annunziata in Prata di Principato Ultra** contains catacombs dating back to the IV century.

Catacombs of San Gennaro



nature and parks

Naples: Botanical gardens,
Capodimonte Park,
Vesuvius National Park
Avellino: Partenio Regional
Nature Park

for young people

The historical centre
of Naples
The historical centre
of Avellino

specialities

Avellino: chestnuts
and truffles

wines

Greco di Tufo Docg
Fiano di Avellino Docg
Taurasi Docg

spas and wellness

Bagni di San Teodoro
(Villamaina)

The Basilicas of Cimitile

In Cimitile, near Nola, there is an impressive group of Paleochristian Basilicas which offer exceptional architectural testimony to the passage from the late Roman Imperial period to the Middle Ages. The fame of the bishop San Felice and the miracles that were witnessed near his tomb, transformed this centre into a shrine for pilgrims. Shortly after, four small basilicas sprang up. With Paolino, bishop of Nola and then a Saint, a monastery was added to the basilicas in the IV century. After a period of splendours during which more buildings were built, Cimitile was gradually abandoned and almost forgotten.

The complex of at least thirteen edifices including basilicas, churches and buildings decorated with frescoes and mosaics, is one of the most fascinating examples of Paleochristian art in Italy.

outings with children

Città della Scienza
(science center) (Naples)
'Anton Dohrn' zoological
station (Naples)

shopping

Porcelain of Capodimonte
(Naples)
Shepherds and cribs
of San Gregorio Armeno
(Naples)
Chestnuts, mushrooms,
truffles (Avellino)



The Festival of 'Gigli' in Nola

The Festival of 'Gigli', which is held on the Sunday following June 22nd, commemorates the return of the bishop Paolino from imprisonment in Africa (410 A.D.): he was welcomed with

flowers and candles (*cilii*, hence the word 'Gigli'). For centuries the people of Nola have been carrying in procession ever larger candles and torches, which have reached the heavy, 25-metre tall towers of today covered in papier-mâché decorations.

The lillies of Nola





“A thousand and a thousand no more” Medieval routes

24

NOT TO BE MISSED

Casertavecchia



Sant'Angelo
in Formis



Salerno



Casertavecchia



**Ente provinciale per
il Turismo di Caserta**
Palazzo Reale
tel. 0823 321137
www.eptcaserta.it

**Ente provinciale per
il Turismo di Salerno**
via Velia
tel. 089 230411
www.eptsalerno.it

**Parco Archeologico
di Fratte**
via Fratte
Fratte (SA)
tel. 089 481014

Castello di Arechi
via Croce
Salerno
tel. 089 233900

**Museo Archeologico
Provinciale**
via San Benedetto 28
Salerno
tel. 089 231135

Museo Città creativa
via Ogliara 127/143
Salerno
tel. 089 282159

**Museo Didattico
della Scuola Medica
Salernitana**
via Mercanti 72
Salerno
tel. 089 2573213

**Museo dell'Abbazia
della SS. Trinità**
via Morcaldi 6
Cava de' Tirreni
tel. 089 463922

Once Campania had overcome its fear that the world would end in the year one thousand, it became the site of ferocious battles which marked the decline of Longobard power and the beginning of Norman dominations. Small mountain towns and large towns on the coast faced the new Millennium, protected by thick walls with crenellated battlements, with time marching to the tune of the chimes of the Romanesque Cathedrals. Ample testimony to these hard times is still evident in Campania.



The Norman counties in 'Terra di Lavoro'

26

The evocative town of *Casahirta* (**Casertavecchia**), which dominates the plain of Terra di Lavoro, dates back to the IX century when it was built on a small Roman settlement.

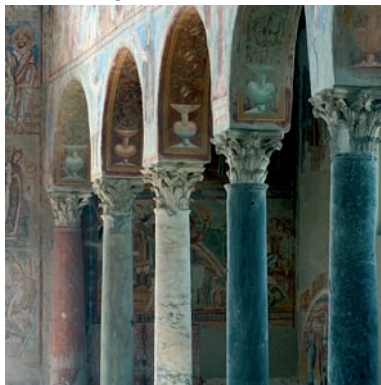
The town reached its high point in the XI century, under the Norman domination. The Cathedral, a real jewel of Romanesque architecture, was built in this period. Today its stone buildings make the town one of the most picturesque in the area. Nearby **Aversa** also owes its fame to the Normans. The Cathedral, with its majestic dome, its marble relief of *Saint George and the dragon* and beautifully decorated apse, represents a fine example of Romanesque architecture in Campania.

Capua, "the jewel in the crown and the key of the Kingdom", dates even further the back. It was founded in the IX century by the Longobards near the Roman Capua (present day Santa Maria Capua Vetere), before being abandoned later when it was invaded by the barbarians. In the thirteenth century Frederick the Second of Sweden had the famous Porta Roma built, a bulwark of Imperial power against that of the Pope. Inspired by ancient art, the sculptures of the Porta Roma are now to be found in the Campano Museum, in the Palazzo Antignano.

The Middle Ages in technicolor: Sant'Angelo in Formis

On the heights of Monte Tifata there is one of the most remarkable basilicas in Italy. Built on the ruins of a temple dedicated to the goddess Diana, Sant'Angelo in Formis was the work of the Longobards, but it was completely transformed in the eleventh century by Desiderio, abbot of Montecassino. The extraordinary frescoes with which the interior is decorated represent episodes in the life of Christ, and are works of Campano masters who were inspired by Byzantine painting dating from the same period: it is a cycle of paintings unique in Southern Italy.

Basilica of Sant'Angelo in Formis



in 1 day

Casertavecchia

Aversa

Capua

in 3 days

Casertavecchia

Aversa

Capua

Sant'Angelo in Formis

Salerno

Cava de' Tirreni

nature and parks

Foce Volturno and Costa di Licola Regional Nature Reserve

Roccamonfina-Foce del Garigliano Regional Nature Park

for young people

Casertavecchia

Historical centre of Salerno

Salerno between the Middle Ages and the thirteenth century

The archaeological area at Fratte bears witness to the Etruscan and Samnite origins of Salerno. It was founded in the V century B.C. but the city reached its apogee in the Middle Ages.

Conquered by the Longobards in the VIII century, it became a great military centre under Prince Arechi II, who elevated it to the capital of the Duchy of Benevento and built a fortress bearing his name. The **Arechi Castle** still dominates the town.

There are numerous examples that attest to its Medieval splendours: the Portanova district, site of the old market place, the very beautiful **San Matteo Cathedral**, founded by Robert Guiscard in 1084, with its Byzantine door, its ambos decorated with sculptures and mosaics and its great entrance.

Salerno has a **Provincial Archaeological Museum**, which houses prehistoric remains, ceramics from the Greek Era and paintings from the Neapolitan School dating from the VII and VIII centuries. The **Museo Città Creativa di Ogliara** (the Creative City Museum) is a place which conducts research into the local arts and crafts while also being a centre of experimentation.

spas and wellness

Contursi Terme

Montesano sulla
Marcellana

outings with children

Arechi Castle (Salerno)
Casertavecchia

specialities

Roccamonfina chestnuts

Buffalo Mozzarella Dop

Extravirgin Olive Oil

Colline Salernitane Dop

wines

Falerno del Massico Doc

Castel San Lorenzo Doc



An essential detour: the Abbey of Cava de' Tirreni

The Abbey of the Santissima Trinità (Holy Trinity) was founded in 1011 by a Neapolitan nobleman and is a few kilometres away from Salerno.

This important Benedictine centre of

Southern Italy has a museum which houses marble sculptures dating from the II to the XVI centuries, among which are several fragments by Tino di Camaino, paintings from the XVI to the XVIII centuries, Gothic jewellery, precious ceramics and ivory.

Salerno. A View from Arechi Castle



shopping

Wines and typical foods
products



Ancient villages, sanctuaries and quality wines

28

NOT TO BE MISSED

Benevento



Sant'Agata dei Goti



Avellino



Certosa of Padula





Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Benevento
via N. Sala 31
tel. 0824 319911
www.eptbenevento.it

Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Salerno
via Velia 15
tel. 089 230411
www.eptsalerno.it

Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Avellino
via Due Principati 32a
tel. 0825 747321
www.eptavellino.it

Museo Civico e della Ceramica
corso Umberto I
Cerreto Sannita (BN)
tel. 0824 815211

Mostra Permanente della Ceramica Antica e Moderna
via Roma
San Lorenzello (BN)
tel. 0824 815228

Museo Civico del Territorio
via Municipio 4
Cusano Mutri (BN)
tel. 0824 862120
www.museocusano.it

Legends and folk traditions, arts and traditional crafts, have come alive again in many parts of Campania. In **Sannio**, myths and ancestral cults related to farming are manifested by feasts and religious celebrations which provide the visitor with the opportunity to soak up the atmosphere of the past.

The calm beauty of nature, on the other hand, has made **Irpinia** the land of sanctuaries.

A magical balance between nature and religion seems to be a feature of the **Vallo di Diano**, where the monks of the Certosa of San Lorenzo established a monastic centre, among the largest in Europe.



Legend and tradition in the heart of Sannio

30 Benevento and its province has always given rise to fascinating myths and stories. From the witches of Benevento, for example, derives the legend of the bridge of San Lupo, near the Valley of Calore, which was supposed to have been used as a launching pad for their broomsticks. The ancient pagan rituals, in which the seasons were celebrated, are still re-enacted in nearby **Solopaca**. In the second week of September there is the great Festival of Grapes with a procession of symbolic floats, repeating ancient traditions. In the Telesina Valley, which takes its name from the famous thermal baths of Teleso, we find **Cerreto Sannita** and **San Lorenzo**, both known throughout the world for their ceramics. Climbing up from Cerreto towards Mount Mutria, one comes upon the village of **Cusano Mutri**, a little Medieval town famous for its mushrooms. The Museum of the area tells the story.



Ciro, the little dinosaur

Found in the Geopaleontological Park of Pietraraja, **Ciro** is the fossil of a perfectly preserved baby dinosaur: in past no one had been able to

see the internal organs of the reptile that lived more than 113 million years ago. The Park also has interesting fossils of fresh water fish, shellfish, amphibians and reptiles.



Ciro, the dinosaur
of Pietraraja

famous travellers

All along the road I tried to persuade the driver to tell me the whereabouts of the walnut tree under which the witches gathered to make their nightly rituals... in the end he admitted that he knew many old women in the area who knew all about the walnut tree and that he had some friends who had even heard the witches flying by on their broomsticks.

Henry Swinburne, 1783

in 1 day

Benevento
Avellino

in 3 days

Benevento
Montevergine
Cerreto Sannita
Pietrelcina
Sant'Agata dei Goti

Avellino
Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi
Padula

In the beautiful Valley of Fortore, **Pietrelcina** is connected with the figure of Padre Pio, who was born here in 1887. The village has preserved intact the places that marked the important steps in the Saint's life, such as the nearby Piana Romana, where the Saint received the stigmata and which has now become a shrine for pilgrims from all over the world.

A route lined with vines and fruit trees takes us to Colle Sannita and **San Marco dei Cavoti**, where the beautiful church del Carmine and the Tower Clocks Museum can be visited. San Marco is also the birthplace of the famous nougat.



The Saint from Pietrelcina

Francesco Forgione, known as Padre Pio, was born in a modest family of Pietrelcina in 1887. While he was praying in the small village church, on 20 September 1918 he received the stigmata. This event drew the attention of doctors, academics and journalists but, above all, of the common people, who in the following decades transformed Pietrelcina into one of the most famous shrines of pilgrimage of our time.



Parco Geopaleontologico
località Civita Cavere
Pietraroja (BN)
tel. 0824 868253
www.prolocopietraroja.it

Ricordi di Padre Pio
viale Cappuccini, 140
Pietrelcina (BN)
tel. 0824 990711

Museo degli Orologi da Torre
via Rovagnera
San Marco dei Cavoti (BN)
tel. 0824 984009

Certosa di San Lorenzo
viale Certosa
Padula (SA)
tel. 0975 77745

Grotte dell'Angelo
via Muraglione
Pertosa (SA)
tel. 0975 397037
www.grottedellangelo.sa.it

Irpinia, in the ancient lands

32

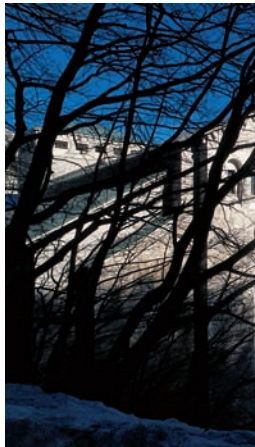
In the centre of Sannio, where once stood the samnite *Caudium*, we find **Montesarchio**. The town has fine buildings like the Cappella d'Avalos and the church of San Francesco, with its rich collection of works dating from the XVI and XVII centuries. But the place richest in history in Sannio is **Sant'Agata dei Goti**: a charming medieval town with a network of winding streets which lead to small squares full of old churches and monumental mansions.

When getting to know Irpinia, one discovers that apart from the marvellous landscape there is also a rich culture heritage: Etruscans, Greeks, Romans, Goths and Longobards... in more than three thousand years many peoples have crossed this land, and their passage is marked by Roman ruins, catacombs, Longobard castles and baroque monuments. The capital, **Avellino** is surrounded by splendid natural scenery. In the centre, while appearing modern, there are interesting historic buildings: the Cathedral, the baroque Clock Tower, the ruins of the Longobard Castle. The Irpino Museum houses some real masterpieces: findings from ancient *Abellinum*; the rich tomb of a tribal chief from Mirabella Eclano, buried together with his dog; the wooden

Sant'Agata dei Goti



The Sanctuary of Montevergine



nature and parks

Taburno-Camposauro
Regional Nature Park

Partenio Regional
Nature Park

Pietraroja

Geopaleontological Park

Monti Picentini Regional
Nature Park

Cilento and Vallo di Diano
National Park

statues from the Sanctuary of Mefite, ceramics and porcelain decorated by the Neapolitan school between the XVII and XIX centuries and a marvellous crib, dating from the XVIII century.

Solofra, among magnificent mountains scenery, contains artistic treasures like the Collegiate church of San Michele; on the banks of Sabato **Atripalda** is the archaeological area of ancient *Abellinum*.

In Mirabella Eclano the remains of the Roman city *Aeclanum* have been uncovered. Not far from the small Longobard settlement of **Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi**, which is perched on a hill with panoramic views, stands one of the most important European Medieval monuments, the **Abbey of San Guglielmo al Goletto** founded in 1113.



The Sanctuary of Montevergine

On Mount Partenio stands the great Sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary, with wonderful panoramic views. This is one of the most important religious centres, but is also full of works of art and monumental architecture. In the Museum there are paintings, sculptures, liturgical objects and cribs.



Ancient Compsa

At Conza della Campania, near the lake of Conza (a large artificial lake with an ecosystem of great interest to naturalists), archaeological digs have revealed important ruins and part of the Roman Forum; these can be visited at the *Ancient Compsa* Archaeological Park.



San Guglielmo al Goletto Abbey



In the Vallo di Diano: a city for monks

34 Nature and art are still the main attractions in the Vallo di Diano (which forms part of the **Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park**). One of the most important historical towns is **Teggiano**. It has retained its Medieval aspect, with a castle and the bell towers of small churches that line its winding streets. **Padula** contains the most important monastic edifice in Southern Italy and one of the largest in Europe, the **Certosa of San Lorenzo**. The majesty of this monastic town and the exuberant baroque decorations make this an experience which must not be missed.

Cuisine of Certosa of Padula



Certosa
of Padula

specialities

Walnut liqueur (Benevento)
Extravirgin olive oil Colline
Beneventane
Pietraraja ham

Benevento and San Marco
dei Cavoti nougat
Extravirgin olive oil
Cilento Dop
Mushrooms and truffles

wines
Sannio Doc
Solopaca Doc
Taburno Doc

Cilento Doc
Fiano di Avellino Docg
Taurasi Docg
Greco di Tufo Docg



The caves of Pertosa/Auletta

A wild and abundant nature typifies this region, where there is one of the most famous speleological sites in the world, including an underground lake. The Angel's grotto stretches for about 3000 metres under the massive rocks of Alburni mountains. The route passes through narrow galleries in which the slow passage of centuries has carved spectacular arabesque forms.



Inside the
Certosa of Padula

spas and wellness

San Teodoro ancient
spas, Villamaina
Montesano sulla
Marcellana

outings with children

Trajan's Arch (Benevento)
Pietraraja
Geopaleontological Park
Pertosa/Auletta Caves
Certosa of Padula

shopping

Wines and typical
foods products



Royal palaces, mansions, parks: in the footsteps of the Bourbons

36

NOT TO BE MISSED

Capodimonte
Royal Palace



Caserta Royal Palace



San Leucio



Caserta Royal Palace



The king's residences

In the VIII century Campania saw a number of majestic palaces spring up. In the capital, King Charles of Bourbon took up residence in the ancient Palazzo dei Viceré, known today as the **Royal Palace**. He also built another palace at **Capodimonte** where he spent his time hunting. The palace is now the National Museum of Capodimonte. 'Luogo di delizie' (the place of delights) on the other hand was the **Portici Royal Palace**. This building is now used as the Faculty of Agriculture of the University. Set between the sea and the volcano, it benefits from a wonderful scenic position. Perhaps in competition with the Sun King (his ancestor), Charles of Bourbon wanted a residence which would outdo the luxury and the majesty of Versailles. Thus the **Caserta Royal Palace**, Luigi Vanvitelli's masterpiece, was conceived. The immense residence contains four courtyards, thousands of rooms, chapels, museums and theatres. If the Reggia represents a veritable feast of architecture and decoration, the **Park** (120 hectares) is equally imposing with its majestic fountains, water displays and lawns that stretch as far as the eye can see. The water courses come to a dramatic finish in the Great Waterfall, also known as the Fountain of Diana. In the Park there is also an English Garden, made to satisfy the wishes of Maria Carolina of Austria. There is a bus service for those who wish to visit the Park. Near Caserta, **San Leucio** and the **Royal seat of Carditello** are the fruit of



Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Caserta
Palazzo Reale
tel. 0823 321137
www.eptcaserta.it

Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Napoli
piazza dei Martiri 58
tel. 081 4107211
www.eptnapoli.info

Reggia di Caserta
via Douhet 22
Caserta
tel. 0823 448084

Casino Reale del Belvedere
Belvedere di San Leucio
Caserta
tel. 0823 301817

Real Sito di Carditello
San Tammaro (CE)

Casina del Fusaro
piazza Rossini, 1
Bacoli (NA)
tel. 081 8687080
www.casinavanvitelliana.it

Reggia di Portici
via Università 100
Portici (NA)
tel. 081 7754850

Fondazione Ente Ville Vesuviane
Villa Campolieto
corso Resina 283
Ercolano (NA)
tel. 081 7322134
www.villevesuviane.net

in 1 day

Caserta Royal Palace
and Park

in 3 days

Caserta Royal Palace
and Park
San Leucio
Portici Royal Palace
Vesuvian Villas of the
Golden Mile

38 two experiments made by Ferdinand IV of Bourbon: near the silk factory of San Leucio a village was established on what were utopian lines for the period. The silk production of San Leucio found markets all over Europe and even today is much appreciated. Carditello, on the other hand, was a model of farming methods. In the middle of the VIII century, a small palace, farms and a church were built to welcome the sovereign. Hunting was the great passion of Charles and Ferdinand of Bourbon: from the Phlegrean Fields to the Vesuvian cities and as far as the plain of Caserta, hunting lodges were built in parks and wooded zones. In 1782 Carlo Vanvitelli built the Casina del Fusaro, a pavilion on lake Fusaro, in Bacoli.

Casina Vanvitelliana



Following the king: the villas of the Golden Mile

Already in the Roman Era Portici was an established holiday resort, appreciated for its natural beauty and its healthy climate. When in 1738 Charles of Bourbon decided to build a palace there, the Neapolitan noblemen raced to build sumptuous villas in the area with gardens that sloped down to the sea. The splendour of these residences caused the coastal road from San Giovanni a Teduccio to Torre del Greco to be called 'Miglio d'Oro' (Golden Mile). Villa Campolieto, Villa Ruggiero and the park near the sea belonging to the Villa Favorita bear testimony to the beauty of these spots.

The Royal Palace of Portici



nature and parks

Vesuvius National Park
Matese Regional
Nature Park

for young people

Baia Domizia
Caserta Royal Palace
and Park

specialities

Roccamonfina chestnuts
Buffalo Mozzarella Dop

wines

Falerno del Massico Doc
Vesuvian wines

39



The Royal Palace of
Caserta, Fountain of Diana

Villa Favorita



outings with children

Caserta Royal Palace
and Park
Vesuvius National Park

shopping

Wines and typical
food products



Naples, 'the most beautiful city in the universe'

40

NOT TO BE MISSED

Castel dell'Ovo



Duomo



National Archaeological Museum



Via dei Tribunali



Castel Nuovo



Capodimonte Museum



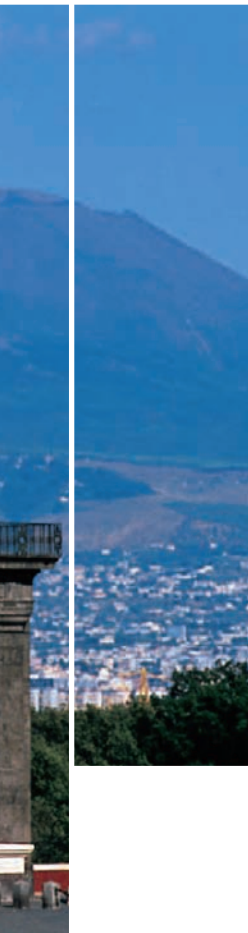
Museum and Certosa of San Martino



Palazzo Reale



Naples Royal Palace



Mysterious and fascinating, intriguing and passionate, chaotic and contradictory: this is Naples, the great capital of the Mediterranean. Moonlit nights, the sparkling atmosphere of popular feasts and the smell of the sea, all these have contributed to its fame. While being a modern city it is still solidly linked to the traditions of the past. The city offers itself as a universe to be explored: its artistic heritage is immense.



Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Napoli
piazza dei Martiri 58
tel. 081 4107211
www.eptnapoli.info

Azienda Autonoma di Cura Soggiorno e Turismo di Napoli
piazza Plebiscito
Palazzo Reale
tel. 081 2525711
www.inaples.it

information office:
piazza del Gesù
tel. 081 5512701

City sightseeing

A touristic bus allowing you to hop on and hop off (using the same ticket) with a multilingual audio guide. Four routes: Linea A "Venues of art", Linea B "Views of the Bay" and Linea C "San Martino"; Linea R "Donnaregina" all leaving from Piazza Municipio. The ticket lasts for 24 hours and can be purchased on the bus or from travel agencies
tel. 081 5517279
www.napoli.city-sightseeing.it

Castel dell'Ovo
via Eldorado
Napoli
tel. 081 240055

Castles, fortresses and enchantments

42

Unlike other European cities, in Naples the castles have never been home-cum-refuge for nobles and feudatories, but veritable palaces. The coastline is dominated by the massive tuff walls of the **Castel dell'Ovo**, the most ancient in the city, which towers over the tiny island of Megaride. First a Roman villa, then a convent and later a Norman Royal Palace, it is today one of the most evocative and panoramic places in the Gulf. To this day **Castel Capuano** still contains fine sixteenth century frescoes. The most luxurious palace built by the Kings of Naples in the Middle Ages was the **Maschio Angioino** (or **Castel Nuovo**). The castle, which now hosts the Civic Museum, was re-built by Alfonso d'Aragona, who added a Triumphal Arch in white marble in 1443: the magnificent sculpture in relief represents the highest point of Renaissance sculpture in the South of Italy. The massive fortress of **Castel Sant'Elmo** dominates the Vomero hill: the view from its bastions is unforgettable.

naples in 1 day

Royal Palace and
Piazza del Plebiscito
Castel Nuovo
National Archaeological
Museum

'Spaccanapoli' and
the historical centre
Castel dell'Ovo and seaside

Castel dell'Ovo



famous travellers

I am leaving. I shall not forget via Toledo, nor any other of the parts of Naples; to my eyes this City has no equal and is the most beautiful city in the universe.

Stendhal, 1817

naples in 3 days

Palazzo Reale and Piazza del Plebiscito

Certosa and Museum of San Martino

National Archaeological Museum

"Spaccanapoli" and the historical centre

Museum of Capodimonte
Castel dell'Ovo

MADRE Museum of contemporary Art
Donna Regina



Castel Capuano

Sant'Elmo Fortress, Piazza d'armi



Museo Civico di Castel Nuovo
piazza Municipio
Napoli
tel. 081 4201241

Castel Sant'Elmo
via T. Angelini 22
Napoli
tel. 081 2294401

Museo Archeologico Nazionale
piazza Museo 19
Napoli
tel. 081 4422111

Museo e Gallerie di Capodimonte
via Miano 2
Napoli
tel. 081 7499111

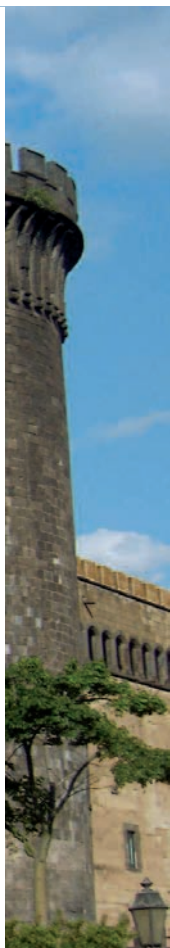
Museo Nazionale di San Martino
piazzale San Martino 8
Napoli
tel. 081 2294502

Palazzo Reale
piazza Plebiscito 1
Napoli
tel. 848 800288

Museo Duca di Martina
via D. Cimarosa 77
Napoli
tel. 081 5788418

Museo Principe Aragona Pignatelli Cortes
Riviera di Chiaia 200
Napoli
tel. 081 669675





Baroque churches, noble palaces and secret cloisters

46 Near piazza Bellini, where the old Greek walls dating from the IV century B.C. can still be seen, the main street of Greco-Roman *Neapolis* begins: this is **Via dei Tribunali**, which is lined by some of the most ancient palaces. Along this route rises the late medieval bell-tower of **Pietrasanta**, the oldest of the city, and then the **Purgatorio ad Arco** church, where the ancient cult of the Dead continues to this day, followed by the Gothic church of **San Lorenzo Maggiore**, built on the remains of a Roman building which can still be seen today. There is also an interesting museum. Not far from there, is the **Duomo**, where paleochristian basilicas and churches have been

nature and parks

Capodimonte Park
Virgiliano Park
Villa Comunale
Villa Floridiana

for young people

Historical centre
Naples Underground
Seaside

grouped together along with the precious Cappella del Tesoro di San Gennaro. It is here that twice a year the blood of the Saint liquifies. Near the Duomo, a vast collection of XVII and XVIII century paintings are on show in **Pio Monte della Misericordia**, including Caravaggio's masterpiece 'The Seven works of charity'. In **San Gregorio Armeno**, the very famous 'cribs street' is well worth a visit: apart from the workshops where the statuettes for the cribs are made, there is the Monastery with its sumptuous baroque church and a secret cloister with its garden of orange trees. This narrow street connects Via dei Tribunali with another Greco-Roman thoroughfare: the **Via San Biagio dei Librai**, also known as **Spaccanapoli**. Along this street some of the most

Santa Chiara



Church of Gesù Nuovo



specialities

Rum Babà

Coffee

Buffalo Mozzarella Dop

Pizza margherita Dop

Sfogliatella

Vesuvian wines

spas and wellness

Beauty centres in the large hotels

important monuments are to be found. Near the little church of **Sant'Angelo a Nilo**, rich in Renaissance sculptures, we find the statue of Nilo. The Monastic citadel of **San Domenico Maggiore**, with its baroque spire is also not to be missed. Another 'must' is the Gothic church of **Santa Chiara**, with its colourful cloister decorated in majolica, dating from the XVIII century. The church of **Gesù Nuovo**: with its austere ashlar façade contains within it a wealth of marble sculptures, gold and frescoes. A small detour must be made to see the **Cappella San Severo**, an unusual and splendid baroque building which contains one of the most beautiful sculptures of XVIII century Naples: Giuseppe Sanmartino's *Cristo velato* (the veiled Christ).



Veiled Christ in the Cappella San Severo

San Lorenzo Maggiore



Going around museums: art and history

48

Visiting Naples also means 'losing oneself' in its museums that are rich in art treasures. To begin with there is the **National Archaeological Museum**, which houses the Farnese collection and, above all, the findings of the Vesuvian archaeological sites: frescoes, mosaics, jewellery and everyday objects. There are also numerous 'curiosities': the Secret Cabinet, which brings together works of an erotic nature found in Pompeii, an Egyptian section and the Gems Collection. The precious Farnese collection, once belonging to Charles of Bourbon was first put on show in 1758 in the palace on the hill, now the **Capodimonte museum**. It contains paintings by Titian, Parmigianino, Carracci and other famous artists together with other art objects. The Royal apartments are most impressive, especially the drawing room of Queen Maria Amalia, which is entirely decorated in porcelain. The second floor is devoted to Neapolitan art from the 13th to the 18th centuries with extraordinary works by Simone Martini, Colantonio, Caravaggio and others. From the Vomero hill, the **Certosa of San Martino** dominates the city. The splendid rooms of the 13th century monastery, completely transformed by Cosimo Fanzago and sumptuously decorated such as to create a museum of Neapolitan baroque art, also houses the **San Martino Museum**, with the famous cribs section, a gallery where the history of the city is recounted and the *Quarto del Priore*. In the centre of Naples, the **Royal Palace** houses an interesting collection of 18th and 19th



Capodimonte Museum

century furniture as well as an elegant little rococo theatre. Two museums less known to the public are the **Duca di Martina Museum** in Vomero and the **Pignatelli Museum** in Chiaia: the first contains a collection of European and Oriental porcelain, the second is an aristocratic residence dating from the late 19th century with a lovely flower garden. In Piazzetta Mondragone there is the **Elena Aldobrandini Museum of Textiles and Clothes**, where fine old fabrics and clothes from 20th century fashion houses are on display.



outings with children

Aquarium of the Zoological Station Anton Dohrn
Città della Scienza

Archaeological Museum
(guided tours for children)

shopping

Cribs and shepherds of San Gregorio Armeno
Capodimonte Porcelains
Food market of Pignasecca (Montesanto)



The porcelain of Capodimonte

The 'recipe' of porcelain was one of the most closely guarded secrets of the 18th century. The European craftsmen competed with one another to discover what

was mixed in this substance that was imported from China. The first to succeed were the Germans at Meissen. When King Charles of Bourbon married the daughter of the Elector of Saxony, the owner of the

Meissen factories, he opened a factory in Naples. And thus the porcelain of Capodimonte was born, becoming celebrated throughout the world. Splendid antique pieces are now kept in the Capodimonte Museum.

National Archaeological Museum



The Flagellation
by Caravaggio





Sorrento, Capri, Amalfi: the panoramas that enchanted travellers of the Grand Tour

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NOT TO BE MISSED

Sorrento



Capri



Amalfi



Positano



Villa Rufolo, Ravello



The marvels of the coast

With its beautiful places, the smell of citrus fruits and its wonderful climate the Sorrento Peninsula became one of the favoured stops on the *Grand Tour*.

Castellammare is the gateway to the Sorrento Peninsula.

Around the Varano hill, elegant Roman dwellings have been found, along with a dozen farming villages built in the fields, giving us an idea of what ancient *Stabiae* was like. At **Vico Equense** the urban settlement built by Charles II of Anjou as a summer residence has been preserved. The Giusso castle was built in this period, along with the Gothic Cathedral.

Sorrento, built on a mound of tuff, is of Greek origin, as its chessboard design indicates.

At the ancient crossroad stands piazza Tasso, dedicated to the author of *Gerusalemme Liberata*, who was born here in 1544. The piazza is the heart of Sorrento; on one side it opens on to Corso Italia, a street full of boutiques. On the other side stands the Correale Museum in which are kept examples of ancient art, paintings, and other art objects; as well as the church of San Francesco d'Assisi with its small XIV century cloister and the basilica of Sant'Antonino, famous for its XVIII century crib. A fine view is to be admired from the street which leads to the Marina Grande, while the Via della Pietà leads to the medieval part of the town.



Ente Provinciale per il
Turismo di Napoli
piazza dei Martiri 58
tel. 081 4107211
www.eptnapoli.info

Ente Provinciale per il
Turismo di Salerno
via Vellia 15
tel. 089 230411
www.eptsalerno.it

**Museo Correale
di Terranova**
via Correale 50
Sorrento
tel. 081 8781846

**Villa Arianna e
Villa San Marco**
via Passeggiata
Archeologica
Castellammare di Stabia
tel. 081 8714541/
081 8708278

**Museo Bottega della
tarsia lignea**
Palazzo Pomarici
Santomasi
via San Nicola, 28
Sorrento
tel. 081 8771942

Museo Ignazio Cerio
piazetta Ignazio Cerio 5
Capri
tel. 081 8376681

Villa Jovis
viale Amedeo Maiuri
Capri
tel. 081 8374549

**Certosa di San Giacomo
e Museo Diefenbach**
viale Certosa - Capri
tel. 081 8376218

An island worthy of an Emperor

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Rocky and sun-drenched, the most desired island of travellers throughout the world, Capri rises high up out of the sea. In Piazza Umberto I, the celebrated 'piazzetta' with cafes and ancient buildings, stands the **Palazzo Cerio**, where Queen Giovanna stayed, and which is now a museum with a collection of fossil, minerals and archaeological finds. The **Certosa of San Giacomo** is the most important religious edifice on the island and has been rebuilt several times due to pirate raids. Places of particular interest are the 'sala del Capitolo', the apartments of the priory, the cloisters and the Diefenbach Museum, which houses paintings by the German artist that offer a dreamy vision of Capri landscape. Various walks can be taken from the centre, one of which leads to the enormous **Villa Jovis**, one of the residences built by the Emperor Tiberius. A symbol of Capri, together with the Faraglioni, the **Blue Grotto** was used in Roman times as a pool beneath the lofty Villa di Gradola. The cave owes its name to the phenomenon of refracted light, which causes it to look completely blue. On the way to Anacapri, the second town in Capri, the remains of an impressive Roman villa can be seen, **Villa Damecuta**. A short distance from the centre stands the beautiful **Villa San Michele**, built in 1896 on the site of a Roman ruin by the Swedish doctor and writer Axel Munthe and made famous by the novel of the same name.

in 1 day

Sorrento

Positano

in 3 days

Sorrento

Positano

Amalfi

Capri



Villa Jovis

famous travellers

The island of Capri is a miracle. Yes, a miracle! I have been to Capri three times, each time for quite long periods, and I tell you: its impression will remain with me to my dying day.

Ivan Sergeevic Turgenev, 1871

nature and parks

Monti Lattari Regional
Nature Park
Punta Campanella
Nature Marine Reserve
Mount Solaro (Anacapri)

for young people

Sorrento
Capri
Positano



Living in Capri

Beyond the Villa San Michele, there are other places in Capri that bear witness to its illustrious guests. Villa Jovis, one of the twelve villas that the Emperor Tiberius had built, and Villa Lysis, owned by Baron Fersen, with its wonderful park. Lenin stayed here during his days of exile; a pillar is dedicated to him in the Augusto Park.

Curzio Malaparte, the author of *La Pelle*, had a villa built here in the 1930's by Adalberto Libera which is perched on a cliff and is an exceptional example of rationalist architecture.

Villa Malaparte



Villa di Damecuta
via Amedeo Maiuri
Anacapri

Villa San Michele
viale Axel Munthe
Anacapri
tel. 081 8371401
www.villasanmichele.eu

Museo della Ceramica
Villa Guariglia
via Nuova Raito
Raito
tel. 089 211835

Villa Rufolo
piazza del Vescovado
Ravello
tel. 089 857657
www.villarufolo.it

Villa Cimbrone
via Santa Chiara
Ravello
tel. 089 858072
www.villacimbrone.com

Museo Civico
piazza Municipio 1
Amalfi
tel. 089 8736211

Museo della Carta
via delle Cartiere 24
Amalfi
tel. 089 8304561
www.museodellacarta.it

specialities

Dairy products of Agerola
Sorrento Lemons
Pasta from Gragnano
Anchovy paste (Cetara)
Red tune of Cetara

wines

Capri Doc
Costa d'Amalfi Doc
Penisola Sorrentina Doc

Wines from Gragnano
and from Lettere

spas and wellness

Stabia Thermal baths
Vico Equense

Along the coast of the mermaids

54 Until the end of the 19th century the Amalfi coast remained isolated because the only way of reaching it was on the back of a mule. Today no trip in Campania is complete without a visit to this charming spot, pervaded by the intense smell of lemons and full of steep, winding roads that run down to the sea.

Vietri is a delightful town on a terrace overlooking the sea and is famous for its highly colourful ceramics that decorate most of the civic buildings and the façade of the Villa Guariglia, in the Raito district, where we find the Ceramic Museum. **Ravello** has one of the most splendid views on the entire coast. It was founded in the VI century and its antique splendour is still visible today in its churches and beautiful villas. The Medieval Cathedral contains a number of valuable art works, including its bronze doors and its mosaics. Villa Rufolo, built in the 13th century, every year hosts the Ravello Music Festival, behind which looms the figure of Wagner. Also worthy of note is the new *Oscar Niemeyer* Auditorium. The small fishing village of **Atrani** is

extraordinarily picturesque with its little houses constructed one on top of the other and its steep winding streets. The church of SS. Salvatore de Bireto is very elegant and was the place where doges were crowned and buried in feudal times. The little white houses hewn out of the rock and the impressive steps up to the Cathedral render the Amalfi panorama unique. **Amalfi** was the first maritime republic of Italy and in the Civic Museum the *Tabula Amalphitana*, the first navigational code in history, has been preserved. The Cathedral was dedicated to Sant'Andrea, the apostle who was a fisherman. The edifice is dominated by a bell-tower with elegant arabesques, which is a repeated motif in the 'chiosstro del Paradiso'.

The fame of **Positano**, now a favourite spot for international tourism, is due to its marvellous position on the coast and to the dozens of boutiques that set the style for beach clothes with their original creations. The majolica dome of the 13th century church of Santa Maria Assunta dominates the landscape. It is here that the Madonna Nera is venerated, a Byzantine icon fished out of the sea.

The Cathedral of Ravello



Villa Cimbrone



outings with children

Mount Solaro cableway (Capri)

Campano Mineralogical Museum (Vico Equense)

Paper Museum in Amalfi

shopping

Dairy products and cheese (Agerola)

Furniture and wooden objects (Sorrento)

Ceramics of Vietri

Limoncello of Amalfi, Capri and Sorrento

Wines



The ceramics of Vietri

From the 14th century, ceramics have been the main source of revenue of Vietri sul Mare.

Decorated with rustic scenes that reflect the surrounding landscape or with classical motifs, all brightly coloured, the ceramics of Vietri

are still greatly appreciated to this day. It is very enjoyable to go around the numerous shops or to visit the factories, for each place offers a different style and a different kind of decoration.



The Cathedral of Amalfi



Caserta Benevento
Procida Napoli Avellino
Ischia Salerno

Procida and Ischia: colours and lights in the islands between the volcanoes

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NOT TO BE MISSED

Terra Murata
in Procida



The Aragonese
Castle in Ischia





Procida (along with the tiny island of Vivara) and Ischia make up the archipelago of the phlegrean islands. Overshadowed by the scenic beauty of the mainland, they are nonetheless very enjoyable.

Procida, which is less frequented by tourists, is the most mysterious and unassuming. Its timeless dimension has inspired many writers from Lamartine to Elsa Morante, who have set their novels here; more recently it was chosen as the spot where several scenes were shot during the filming of *Il Postino* (*The Postman*), Massimo Troisi's last film.

The heart of this ancient island is **Terra Murata**: a town closed off by massive walls, constructed to keep pirates out.

At 100 metres above sea level, the Castle d'Avalos towers above the island and the Abbey of San Michele seems a jewel box, where paintings, sculptures and sacred vestments dating from its thousand years of history are kept.

The **Marina di Sancio Cattolico** is a charming spot, with its arched houses on the edge of the sea; as is the village of **Marina della Corricella**, with its fisherman's houses built like steps up from the sea, and the **Chiaiolella**.



Ente Provinciale per il Turismo di Napoli
piazza dei Martiri 58
tel. 081 4107211
www.eptnapoli.info

Azienda Autonoma di Cura, Soggiorno e Turismo di Ischia e Procida
via A. Sogliuzzo 72
Ischia
tel. 081 5074211
www.infoischiaprocida.it

Pro Loco Procida
via V. Emanuele 168
Procida
tel. 081 8101968

Abbazia di San Michele
via Terra Murata
Procida
tel. 081 8967612
www.abbaziasanmichele.it

Riserva Naturale Statale Isola di Vivara
via Milano, 100
Napoli
tel. 081 283388

in 1 day

Terra Murata
Marina di Corricella
Marina di Chiaiolella
Ischia Porto

in 3 days

Ischia Porto
Lacco Ameno
Folio d'Ischia
Sant'Angelo
Terra Murata

nature and parks

Procida
Vivara Nature Oasis

Ischia
Mount Epomeo
Giardino La Mortella
(Folio)

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Ischia, once the ancient *Pithecusae* founded by the Greeks, is now a well known spot for international tourism that owes its success to variety of its landscape and its extraordinary thermal sources. The 'green' island offers marvellous spots with lush vegetation, gardens, vines and all that is necessary to spend a truly relaxing holiday. The first pleasant discovery is the port itself, distinguished by the arched houses that are typical of old fishing villages, and the Cathedral. In the nearby Ischia Ponte is the **Museo del Mare** (Sea Museum) and, above all, the monument and symbol of the island, the **Aragonese Castle**. Built in the 15th century, it is a citadel-fortress, with

churches, prisons, gardens, a Museum of Instruments of Torture and ancient weapons and provides extraordinary views from its terraces. In Lacco Ameno, the beautiful Villa Arbusto houses the **Archaeological Museum of Pithecusae**, which provides ample evidence of the first Greek settlement. Folio's medieval roots can be seen by its narrow streets and some 15th century buildings, namely the Torrione and the **sanctuary of the Madonna del Soccorso**. Here is also the villa of Luchino Visconti, the **Colombaia**, which today houses a museum devoted to the film director as well as a splendid park.

Sanctuary of the Soccorso, Folio d'Ischia

Archaeological Museum of Pithecusae, Lacco Ameno



for young people

Procida

Marina di Chiaiolella

Ischia

'Rive Droite' in Ischia Porto
Sant'Angelo



Procida in literature

Innocent and wild like her island: this is how Lamartine described Graziella, the young heroine from Procida in the novel of the same name (1851) which has helped make Procida known throughout the world.

The 'Festa della Graziella' is a beauty contest in which the prettiest girl on the island is elected. The Elsa Morante literary prize is also linked to a novel, the tragic and haunting story of an adolescent from Procida: *L'isola di Arturo*.

Terra Murata, Procida



spas and wellness

Ischia

Spa establishments and parks, beauty centres of the large hotels

outings with children

Procida

Marina di Chiaiolella

Ischia

Aragonese Castle
(Ischia Ponte)

specialities

Procida

Procida Lemons

Ischia

Ischia Rabbit
wines
Ischia Doc



The cup of Nestor

In the Archaeological Museum of Pithecusae is kept the famous Nestor's Cup (750 B.C.). This bears one of the earliest Greek inscriptions and alludes to the cup of the King of Pila, mentioned in Homer's *Illiad*: "from Nestor... a good cup for drinking, but he who drinks from this cup will be immediately filled with desire for Aphrodite of the beautiful crown".



Museo del Mare

Palazzo dell'Orologio
Ischia Ponte
tel. 081 981124
www.museodelmareischia.it

Castello Aragonese

piazzale Aragonese
Ischia Ponte
tel. 081 992834

La Colombaia

via F. Calise 73
Folio d'Ischia
tel. 081 3332147
www.fondazione.lacolombaia.it

Museo Archeologico di Pithecusae

Villa Arbusto
corso A. Rizzoli
Lacco Ameno
tel. 081 900356
www.pithecusae.it

Sea Museum

(Ischia Ponte)

shopping

Procida

Limoncello

Ischia

Artistic Ceramics
Natural Cosmetics
Wines

Towards the third millennium



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NOT TO BE MISSED

MADRE (Naples)



PAN (Naples)



Museum Arcos
(Benevento)





A land which knows how to change itself, which looks to the future without betraying its past. This is Campania: capable of offering the modern traveller its ancient splendours but ready to seek the way towards the next millennium. Creative workshops, theatre and film shows, as well as polyfunctional centres spring up in numbers in towns and small villages bringing life back to degraded areas or the suburbs. A significant example of such action can be seen in the post industrial area of Bagnoli, where the **Città della Scienza** science centre, an interactive museum devoted to spreading scientific knowledge, has become a reference point for young people. At the same time, the public transport system is planning to concentrate on the connections between the city centre and the outskirts with the intention of furthering the culture and art of our time.



MADRE Museo d'Arte Donna Regina
Palazzo Donnaregina,
via Settembrini 79
Napoli
tel. 081 19313016
www.museumadre.it

PAN Palazzo delle Arti Napoli
via dei Mille 60
Napoli
tel. 081 7958605
www.palazzoartinapoli.net

Città della Scienza
discesa Coroglio 104
Bagnoli
tel. 081 7352111
www.cittadellascienza.it

Arcos Arte Contemporanea Sannio
corso Giuseppe Garibaldi
Benevento
tel. 0824 312465
www.museoarcos.it

In the heart of contemporary art

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Designed by the Portuguese architect, Alvaro Siza, the **MADRE, Museo d'Arte Donna Regina**, displays works created for the city by celebrated artists from all over the world that have made their mark on the artistic life of Naples in recent years: a great museum with an international breath. The main collection is composed of works by the many artists who have collaborated with the city in the past. In fact it contains classic works that are on extended loan from national and international collections, together with works that have been created specially for this museum. Works by Bianchi, Clemente, Horn, Kapoor, Kounellis, Paolini, Sol Lewitt, Serra and many more. The **PAN**, Palazzo delle Arti Napoli, in the 18th century Palazzo Roccella, is a workshop

which hosts short exhibitions, concerts, film shows, theatrical productions and happenings. Designed by prestigious architects, decorated by works of art by the most important contemporary artists: no, it's not a museum but the Line 1 of the Neapolitan subway. Known as the "**metro dell'arte**" (the Art Subway), it showcases daring installations like that of Joseph Kosuth in the station at Piazza Dante (a neon board quotes the *Convivio* of Dante), of Jannis Kounellis, fascinating and essential, as well as those of Michelangelo Pistoletto and Nicola de Maria. At the Museo Station, along the tunnel which leads to the Archaeological Museum, there is a show of objects that were found during the construction of the subway. Fruit of the playful

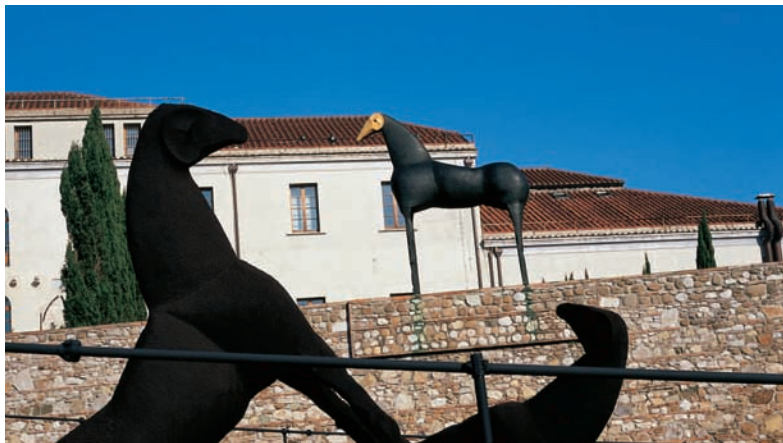
MADRE, Museo d'Arte contemporanea Donna Regina



imagination of the Mendini atelier, the Materdei Station offers a lively *Wall drawing* by Sol Lewitt, a monochrome construction by Ettore Spalletti and mosaics by Sandro Chia. The Salvator Rosa Station is not just decorated with art works on the inside: the entire district has become part of the installation with views of the buildings drawn by Renato Barisani, Gianni Pisani and Ernesto Tatafiore. The works of several famous artists can also be seen at the Quattro Giornate Station; Vanvitelli Station, where there is a spectacular neon blue spiral by Mario Merz, and Rione Alto Station. A few years ago, the number 6 underground line also inaugurated the Mergellina, Lala, Augusto and Mostra 'stations of art'. The evocative cellars of the Palazzo di Prefettura,

in the heart of Benevento, houses the Museum **Arcos**, Contemporary Art of Sannio. A perfect site for art displays, it was opened in 1992 when Mimmo Paladino set up in the garden of the closed convent of San Domenico his **Hortus Conclusus**: a group of sculptures that are extraordinarily evocative and seem to recall a mythical past beyond any human memory. The Caserta Royal Palace hosts the **Terrae Motus** collection: more than seventy works of contemporary artists pulled together by gallery owner Lucio Amelio in the emotional aftermath of the 1980 earthquake. Andy Warhol, Beuys, Alfano, Mapplethorpe, Pistolletti and many other artists throughout the world created masterpieces inspired by the earthquake.

Hortus Conclusus



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photographs

Alfonso Grotta

Vittorio Guida

Oreste Lanzetta

Mario Milo

Enzo Rando

Luciano Romano

printing

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art and archaeology



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