



Monte Solaro in Anacapri

INSIDE:

- Blissful Places to Stay 4
- Dining Caprese-Style 6
- Diving Into Capri's Deep Blue Sea 11
- A Bell From Capri 12

SPECIAL REPORT: CAPRI

DREAM OF ITALY®



Dream Of PUBLICATION

Volume 19, Issue 3

www.dreamofitaly.com

April/May 2020

CAPRI:

A Place of Dreams

If everything ever written about *Capri* could be put together, one theme would emerge. Dreams. While

Rome intrigues, Florence marvels, and Venice enchants, there is something about Capri that lends itself quite naturally to dreaming. For some it is the tantalizingly blue sea and natural beauty of its gardens, sheer cliffs, and soaring mountains.



Augustus Gardens

Whatever the reason, Capri is the epitome of Italy dreams in so many ways.

In these times when the entire world has been transformed by the coronavirus, the beauty of Capri offers a respite — a place that both inspires and welcomes our dreams. This alluring island, located just off the tip of the Sorrento

Peninsula south of Naples, has been irresistible for travelers since ancient times. Greek settlers found the island not only captivating but also strategically placed in the Bay of Naples.



With no natural water source and

continued on page 2

For others, it's that unforgettable seafood meal steps from the sea. Or maybe it's a once-in-a-lifetime shopping experience or a souvenir that continues to warm your heart. Perhaps you haven't been yet, but there's something about the island that has always made you long to visit.



La Parisienne

FIND YOUR Fashion Inspo ON CAPRI

Capri is synonymous with fashion and style. At the heart of the island's design sense is simplicity, comfort and a look that is relaxed and often colorful. In the 1950s, this refreshing sensibility and *la dolce vita* style appealed to jet set travelers — from movie stars to aristocracy — who came to Capri for Mediterranean holidays. From the classic cropped pants known the world over as Capri pants to the simple handmade sandals donned by countless celebrities, there's something iconic about Capri's style.

Yet the island isn't stuck in time by any means. The fashion scene is thriving and you'll see boutiques by the biggest names in international fashion on Capri town's trendy shopping streets like *Via Camerelle*, *Via Vittorio Emanuele*, and of course the *Piazzetta*. Yet what is more intriguing while shopping on Capri is uncovering the island's local designers who are an integral part of putting Capri on the fashion map. These handpicked boutiques are at a moderate-to-higher-end price point, but the quality and uniqueness of the offerings are exquisite.

LA PARISIENNE

With a prime location right in the Piazzetta, *La Parisienne* (Piazza Umberto I, 7; www.laparisiennecapri.it) has been a fixture of Capri's fashion scene

continued on page 8

Capri is home to 12 churches and 7 museums.

surrounded by rocky cliffs and shores, the island was not an easy place to approach or live. Perhaps it was this built-in defense system, along with the impressive beauty, that made the island such an appealing spot for the Romans.

CAPRI'S HISTORY

Emperor Augustus was the first to begin large-scale building projects on the island. Later, *Emperor Tiberius* built a lavish home called *Villa Jovis*, where he ruled the Roman Empire for 10 years until his death in 37 AD.

Over the centuries, Capri's fortunes

were closely tied to that of Naples just across the bay, which vacillated from splendid peaks to tumultuous disarray. By the early 1800s, the island's rich heritage and crumbling ancient ruins had caught the attention of European travelers on the Grand Tour. Here was a place of dramatic beauty that seemed lost to time.

At the end of the 1800s and into the early 1900s, the island appeal only grew. Artists, writers and intellectuals sought out the unique blend of solitude and freedom that Capri offered. From artistic inspiration to eccentric artists and scandalous stories, Capri was a popular spot well before the jet set crowd discovered it after WWII.

Yet it was truly the Hollywood stars, royalty, and VIP travelers who visited the island starting in the 1950s that firmly fixed Capri's international fame.

ask is how to experience the best of Capri. Time is the greatest gift you can give yourself when it comes to reveling in the dreaminess that is Capri.

Should you do a day trip if that's all the time you have? *Yes*. Should you stay longer? *Absolutely*.



Piazzetta

Here's why. Even if the expression is rather well worn itself, there is truly a beaten path on Capri. One of the secrets of Capri, just like many popular travel destinations in Italy, is that when travelers hit a short checklist of top spots it actually makes getting off the beaten path much easier. Often this is as simple as taking a left when everyone else is taking a right.

For Capri, this means getting a bit lost in the maze of little streets around the trendy *Piazzetta*. Or following peaceful walkways past bougainvillea draped gates to overlooks that few know. Hike to the ruins of that once lavish Roman villa and take in the same panoramic views that Emperor Tiberius gazed at centuries ago. There is so much to Capri that most travelers don't have the opportunity to enjoy.

If you only have one day, you can hit many of the island's main sights. When you arrive in the morning, consider heading straight to *Anacapri* to stroll around and take the chairlift up to the top of *Monte Solaro*, the island's highest point.

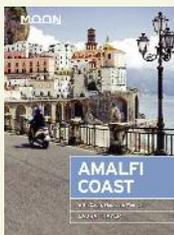
Then hop on a bus or taxi down to



GUEST EDITOR:

Laura Thayer

Laura Thayer, who guest edited and wrote most of this special issue on *Capri*, is a writer and art historian with a passion for photography. She has lived on the Amalfi Coast for 13 years where she works as a travel writer, enjoying the constant interplay of words and images it provides. She has also shared her love of the area in her recent guidebook *Moon Amalfi Coast: With Capri, Naples & Pompeii* published by Moon Travel Guides. She lives in the historic center of Amalfi with her husband, a tour guide in Campania, and their two cats. Visit her website www.ciaoamalfi.com or follow her @ciaoamalfi on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for more stories about the Amalfi Coast.



Faraglioni

That ethereal appeal of Capri is still a part of the island. There's something that captures the heart in the way the *Faraglioni* rocks soar out of the electric blue sea or the mingling scent of pine trees baked hot in the sun and the sea breeze. In all of this, Capri's chic style sits so comfortably with rugged cliffs and a natural setting almost too beautiful to believe.

HOW TO SEE DREAMY CAPRI

Given the island's strong pull on the heartstrings, it does mean that the experience of visiting Capri can be a busy one. The classic question travelers

Convertible taxis can transport

We hope that its moments of quiet beauty bring you peace, its colorful and sunny beaches offer an escape and that the allure of Capri shines through to bring you hope and help you dream.



Capri town to see the *Giardini di Augusto* (Gardens of Augustus) and savor some tranquil moments in the 14th-century *Certosa di San Giacomo*. Back in the busy Piazzetta, catch the funicular train back down to the port at the end of the day.



Certosa di San Giacomo

However, to get off the beaten path on Capri you'll need to give yourself more time to explore. Capri's most popular sights absolutely deserve to be seen for their beauty, but you certainly won't be alone visiting them.

Once you've hit the top spots, there's little if no time during a classic day trip for experiencing what Capri really can offer. Rather than rushing the day, do yourself a favor and plan at least one overnight — more if you can — to give yourself the time to really explore the island.

With the extra time, you will be able to enjoy Capri's peaceful morning atmosphere before the ferries arrive with the day-tripping crowds. The island's small population of only about 14,000 surges with more than two million visitors over the course of the season, many of these arriving only for the day.

Instead of a harried day seeing the top sights, with more time you can slow down to the pace that the island deserves. That pace includes an *aperitivo* with the warm glow of the sunset, a leisurely dinner, perhaps a dip into the island's nightlife scene, and the chance to fall asleep knowing there's more of Capri to discover the next day.

If staying multiple nights on an island seems too much, just take a look at Capri's tempting beach clubs and you'll be dreaming of leisurely days in the Mediterranean sun. Or imagine the peaceful spots away from the crowds and you will be ready to book a longer stay.



View from Monte Solaro

Take a cue from the insider tips in this publication on finding Capri's quieter side, local shopping experiences, and best places to eat and relax and you'll be rewarded by a Capri that is hard to capture in just one day — and one that will leave you dreaming for years to come.

We've created this special report on Capri at this particular moment in history when we know that Italy is deep in our hearts. We hope that its

moments of quiet beauty bring you peace, its colorful and sunny beaches offer an escape and that the allure of Capri shines through to bring you hope and help you dream.

A love of Italy has a way of bringing people together and creating a sense of connection that we all need. Enjoy being transported to the island of Capri and keep those Italian dreams alive!

—Laura Thayer

DREAM OF ITALY®

Kathleen A. McCabe
Editor in Chief and Publisher

Associate Editor: Elaine Murphy
Design: Kim Leaird
www.leaird-designs.com

Dream of Italy, the subscription travel newsletter covering Italian travel and culture, is published 10 times a year. Delivery by mail is \$97 in the U.S., Canada and abroad. A digital subscription (downloadable PDFs) costs \$77 per year. Subscriptions include online access to more than 170 back issues and regular e-mail updates.

Three ways to subscribe:

1. Send a check to *Dream of Italy*, P.O. Box 2025, Denver, CO 80201
2. Call 202-297-3708
3. Subscribe online at www.dreamofitaly.com (Visa, Mastercard and American Express accepted)

Editorial feedback is welcome.
E-mail: kathy@dreamofitaly.com

Advertising opportunities are available.
E-mail: kathy@dreamofitaly.com

Copyright © 2020 *Dream of Italy*, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited. Every effort is made to provide information that is accurate and reliable; however, *Dream of Italy* cannot be responsible for errors that may occur. ISSN 1550-1353 www.dreamofitaly.com

you around the island in style.

CAPRI LODGING: *Find Your*

Capri offers an array of superb hotels. The level of quality and service is quite high across the board and most accommodations feature hand-painted ceramic tiles, décor that complements the Mediterranean colors, and views to dream about long after your stay.

A few words of advice for planning your Capri vacation. You will want to book well in advance as most of the accommodations here are small to medium in size. This is, naturally, the place to splurge on a sea view room if possible. A private balcony or terrace means you will enjoy the island's famous views to their max.

Packing light is also a saving grace when visiting Capri. However, if you do have a larger suitcase or luggage, many hotels can arrange to meet you at the port to transfer your luggage or can arrange a private transfer to your accommodation.

When choosing a hotel on Capri, the two main locations are *Capri town* or *Anacapri*. If you like a buzzing atmosphere or want to experience the island's nightlife scene without the hassle of transportation, your best bet is to stay right in Capri town. From here you can see the sights of Capri, hit the beach in *Marina Piccola* or *Marina Grande*, and hop on a bus or taxi to explore Anacapri during the day.

If you're looking for a quieter holiday escape and love a natural setting, Anacapri is a perfect choice. Enjoy hiking, discovering quiet churches and panoramic vistas and relaxing by the pool or the sea.

This handpicked selection highlights the best of Capri's accommodations.

Capri Town

HOTEL LUNA

Hotel Luna beautifully combines Capri's style, picture-perfect views and a friendliness that makes you feel at home from the moment you arrive.

Nestled right between the *Giardini di Augusto* and the *Certosa di San Giacomo*, the setting couldn't be better.



Hotel Luna

Not only are the views of the *Faraglioni* excellent, but you're also just moments from all of Capri's sights, restaurants, and shopping while also feeling immersed in nature. Enjoy leisurely

moments by the hotel's large pool, relax at the spa, or be tempted to get in a workout at the gym thanks to its dreamy view of the *Faraglioni*.

The hotel's rooms and suites are classically designed with Mediterranean accents and either sea views or views overlooking the *Certosa di San Giacomo* or Capri's traditional homes. Go for a Deluxe or Imperial room with a private terrace overlooking the *Faraglioni*.

You won't forget the experience of glimpsing the moonlight on the *Faraglioni* before bed and waking up to the morning light on this incredible vista. Don't worry about pulling

yourself away from those views during your stay as there's an excellent restaurant and rooftop bar on site.

Viale Matteotti, 3
(39) 081 8370433
www.lunahotel.com

Rates: Double rooms start at 330€ including breakfast

HOTEL CANASTA

Exquisite in every detail, the *Hotel Canasta* is one of Capri's best kept secrets. Set in a peaceful spot very near the *Certosa di San Giacomo*, you'll enjoy discovering every angle from the elegant sitting rooms to the garden terraces and the pretty pool area. The boutique hotel only has 15 rooms, but each one is finely appointed with a crisp décor and decorative ceramic tiles.

The Standard rooms have a patio with courtyard views while the Medium rooms offer a terrace with garden views. Here's where booking in advance is your best friend, because you'll want to go for one of the two Superior Double rooms with a terrace and sea views.



Anne Cicolola



Hotel Canasta

An added perk of staying here is the fantastic onsite restaurant *Villa Margherita* that is lovingly run by the hotel's owners *Pietro* and *Paola* and their sons. The outdoor dining terrace under the olive trees is a dream. Don't miss the fresh seafood starter and keep it local with their house specialty, a lemon *fettucine* made with shrimp and infused with Capri lemons.

Via Campo di Teste, 6

The highest point on *Capri*

Mediterranean Bliss

(39) 081 8377532

www.hotelcanastacapri.it

Rates: Standard double rooms start at 180€ including breakfast

VILLA BRUNELLA

Enjoy a peaceful stay at the *Villa Brunella*, which is beautifully situated not far from the end of *Via Tragara* with one of Capri's best overlooks.

The boutique hotel cascades down a series of terraces with a lovely pool and solarium — all boasting a view over Marina Piccola and toward soaring *Monte Solaro*. The setting truly captures the dramatic landscape and stunning colors of Capri.

The solarium and pool feel completely immersed in nature with views you simply won't forget. The rooms are bright, spacious, and classically furnished with a blend of antiques, bright Mediterranean colors, and ceramic tiles. The Classic and Junior Suites offer terraces or patios with landscaped garden views and the Deluxe Junior Suite boast the most spectacular with a great sea view.

A popular spot on the island even for non-guests, the *Terrazza Brunella* restaurant is located on the top level of the hotel and offers a view overlooking Capri that is especially romantic at night with the lights of town twinkling in the distance and moonlight dancing across the sea.

Hotel guests can also enjoy the traditional Capri dishes created by *Chef Antonio De Simone* from the restaurant on their room's private terrace.



Villa Brunella

Via Tragara, 24

(39) 081 8370122

www.villabrunella.it

Rates: Double rooms start at 380€ including breakfast

Anacapri

CASA MARIANTONIA

Ideal for enjoying Anacapri's peaceful charms, *Casa Mariantonia* sits right off one of the town's prettiest streets lined with shops and restaurants. This boutique hotel is set amongst a lemon grove and boasts a pool area just right for relaxing in addition to nine nicely appointed rooms. Most rooms overlook the gardens, but the Suite Punta Carena on the top level of the hotel has a sea view and private terrace with sun beds.

The hotel has been a fixture for Capri hospitality for over a century and is family-run by *Pierpaolo, Marcello* and *Mariangela*, the great-grandchildren of the original founder, *Mariantonia*. Service is warm and friendly and you'll love your quiet moments lingering below the lemon trees.

The hotel also boasts two great dining spots to choose from.

La Zagara Restaurant & Wine Bar offers the chance to enjoy lunch or dinner in the citrus grove dining on classic Capri dishes and fresh seafood. Or stop by the wine bar in the evening to try crisp white *Falanghina* wine from *Campania* or go for a classic



Casa Mariantonia

Spritz with a charming ambiance.

Via Giuseppe Orlandi, 180

(39) 081 8372923

www.casamariantonia.com

Rates: Double rooms start at 300€ including breakfast

CAPRI PALACE

For an artistic oasis hidden away right in the heart of Anacapri, simply head to the *Capri Palace*. From the moment you step into the hotel, you'll be greeted by tranquility and remarkable works of



Capri Palace

art. The collection continues through the hotel and luxurious suites with works by artists like *Andy Warhol, Magritte, Miró Kandinsky* and *Mondrian*.

The feeling of complete seclusion continues through its exquisite 49

rooms and 19 suites. For peaceful moments, simply head to the large outdoor pool or visit the Capri Beauty Farm Spa for a world of relaxation.

For a top-notch dining experience, enjoy dinner at *L'Olivo*, one of the hotel's two Michelin starred restaurants. As if there weren't enough perks already, guests at the Capri Palace have exclusive use of the beach club services at *Il Riccio*. While the hotel's Michelin-starred beach club restaurant is open to the public, the stylish beach club experience is reserved for guests only.

Via Capodimonte, 14

(39) 081 9780111

www.capripalace.com

Rates: Double rooms start at 600€ including breakfast

is *Monte Solaro* at 1,932 feet.



WHERE TO DINE, *Caprese*

Capri has a way of making everything taste better. Whether you're dining on fresh seafood by the sea or tucking into traditional *Ravioli Caprese* in a family-run restaurant or just savoring a Spritz at sunset with a view, Capri's beauty adds something extra. One thing you'll also notice wherever you're dining is that Capri cooking is above all quite simple. Here the freshness of ingredients is what makes a dish come to life.

Nowhere is this on display better than the traditional *Insalata Caprese*. A taste of a warm summer day on Capri, this salad brings together fresh tomatoes, *fior di latte* mozzarella cheese, garden fresh basil, and a drizzle of the best olive oil. Just like the famous salad, two of the island's other most popular dishes are also so classic they have Capri right in their name, too.

Try those divine the famous and delectable cheese stuffed ravioli that will have you coming back to the island for more. The final touch for a Capri meal is the *Torta Caprese*, a rich flourless chocolate cake.

Whether you're stopping for drinks in the trendy *Piazzetta* or enjoying a quick meal, do expect to find higher prices when dining out on Capri. Our recommended restaurants are moderately priced, for the most part, but all offer a variety of options. Pizza and traditional pastas with vegetables or ravioli will naturally be priced more

affordably than fresh caught seafood. A bonus of the Campania region is that the house wine is often an excellent value.

Capri Town

RISTORANTE MICHEL'ANGELO

For authentic Caprese cooking, head to *Ristorante Michel'Angelo* where owners *Gianluca D'Esposito* and his Australian wife, *Holly Star*, will make you feel at home from the moment you walk through the door. Set on a quiet street not far from the Piazzetta, the menu options here will make you want to return again and again. The

Mozzarella Bar is a delicious place to start with fresh options of locally sourced mozzarella cheeses.



Ristorante Michel'Angelo

Then there's the irresistible scent of the *Ravioli Caprese*. One taste and you're hooked. What makes these ravioli unique is the fresh *caciotta*, a goat's milk cheese, that is used in the filling.



Ravioli Caprese

You'll also catch a hint of marjoram, which grows wild on the island. They're served topped with a tomato sauce, basil and a grating of fresh *Parmigiano Reggiano* cheese.

There are many more tempting options on hand and you also can't go wrong with the wood-fire oven pizzas or the seafood specialties. Try the *Linguine al Limone "Marina Piccola,"* a beautiful dish of lemon linguine with fresh

seafood. The wine list is extensive and exclusively features Italian wines hand selected by Gianluca.

Ristorante Michel'Angelo also hosts a variety of cooking classes and offers picnic lunches and boat catering so you can enjoy fresh specialties while taking in the island's most beautiful natural locations.

Via Sella Orta, 10
(39) 081 8377220
www.caprimichelangelo.com

Open Thursday through Tuesday for lunch and dinner from April to mid-November

RISTORANTE IL GERANIO

Nestled into a quiet spot right above the Giardini di Augusto, *Ristorante Il Geranio* has a natural setting and spectacular view of the Faraglioni that makes it a stellar dining option on Capri. The shade of the surrounding pine trees is perfect on a sunny day and the candlelit tables utter romance after dark.

The menu is based on Neapolitan and Caprese cooking traditions and while it changes seasonally, a house specialty is the *pappardelle* (thick and long noodles) with prawns and the grilled seafood platter. The wine list includes a great selection of wines from Campania as well as Italian and international options.

Viale Giacomo Matteotti, 8
(39) 081 8370616
www.geraniocapri.com

Open daily for lunch and dinner from April to October

1€ = \$1.08 at press time

Insalata Caprese literally translates

- Style



Il Riccio



RISTORANTE PULALLI

Ristorante Pulalli has an unbelievable location right next to the iconic bell tower in the Piazzetta. Climb the steps to reach the small restaurant and wine bar, where you'll find a panoramic terrace with a bird's-eye view overlooking the Piazzetta, with the Church of Santo Stefano in one direction and the Gulf of Naples in the other direction. Start with their salmon citrus tartare and then choose from a selection of refreshing first course options like *risotto al limone* (lemon risotto) or their specialty *linguine al limone* (lemon linguine). The homemade *scialatielli* pasta with shrimp is also a great choice. For main courses, there's both seafood and steak options on the menu to please all tastes.



Ristorante Pulalli

In addition to the excellent setting and restaurant, Pulalli offers an extensive wine selection curated by owner *Alessandro Arbace*. With over 250 labels to choose from, the staff will help you choose the perfect match to accompany your menu selections.

Piazza Umberto I, 4
(39) 081 8374108
www.facebook.com/pulallicapri
Open Wednesday through Monday for lunch and dinner from April to mid-November

Anacapri

DA GELSOMINA

With a quiet setting in Anacapri that feels worlds away from the buzzing vibe of Capri, **Da Gelsomina** is surrounded by terraced vineyards and gardens at the base of *Monte Solaro*. The restaurant has a rustic feel and serves up traditional home cooking in a family-friendly environment.

On the menu you'll find Capri favorites like ravioli with the traditional *caciotta* goat cheese and seafood specialties as well as chicken and rabbit dishes. When the weather is fine, enjoy dining on the pergola-covered terrace with a view over Anacapri and to the sea beyond.

The peaceful walk to reach the restaurant from the center of Anacapri is pleasant and not too long, but the restaurant does offer a free shuttle service from 9 a.m. until later in the evening if you call ahead. Nearby the restaurant is their large pool set on a terrace that offers sweeping views overlooking the sea with the island of Ischia in the distance.

Via Migliara, 72
(39) 081 8371499
www.dagelsomina.com

Open daily for lunch and dinner mid-April to mid-November



IL RICCIO

Il Riccio takes seaside dining to superb levels. Set right into the rocky cliff overlooking the famous *Grotta Azzurra*, this casually elegant Michelin-starred restaurant has a refreshing blue and white décor that complements the natural environment. The sound of the sea just steps below is the perfect backdrop for exploring the restaurant's menu of seafood dishes.

Here the specialty truly is seafood and the menu highlights a wonderful selection of freshly caught fish and seafood in a variety of traditional and creative approaches. Enjoy the abundance of their Plateau Royal starter with oysters, clams, and an assortment of raw fish. For the curious, don't miss the chance to try the spaghetti with *ricci di mare*, or sea urchins, a local Capri dish you won't find on many menus.

You simply must save room for dessert. Forget the dessert cart or menu, at *Il Riccio* you visit the aptly named Temptation Room. This sweet space is clad in colorful ceramic tiles and lined with an array of Neapolitan and local Caprese desserts. The restaurant also includes the *Il Riccio* Sea Lounge, a popular spot for drinks with a hip atmosphere and music at sunset from a DJ set to enhance the scene. While prices are higher in this exclusive setting, it truly is a dining experience worth the splurge.

Via Gradola, 4
(39) 081 8371380
www.capripalace.com

Open daily for lunch and Thursday to Sunday for dinner from May to October

to "the salad of Capri."

since it opened in 1906. Already by the 1920s and 30s, the boutique was noted for its blend of comfort and striking Capri flair that appealed to travelers. Since their early days, the store's in-house atelier has created custom dresses, kaftans, tunics, pants and more for clients.

Now run by the third generation, you can have the same experience today with a handcrafted piece in their signature style that captures bold color and striking patterns effortlessly. Why not have a dress custom fitted or a pair of pants tailored right where Jacqueline Kennedy had her famous crisp white pants made on Capri?



Y'AM CAPRI

Capri's vibrant fashion history continues to inspire young designers. Founded in 2016, *Y'AM Capri* (Via Madonna delle Grazie, 7; www.yamcapri.it) was created by Capri-born designer *Valeria De Gregorio*. After studying marketing management in Milan

and working in the luxury industry, she returned home to pursue her dream of starting a fashion line.



Y'AM Capri



La Parisienne



Eco Capri

ECO CAPRI

Across the Piazzetta in a tiny yet very appealing courtyard is the entrance to *Eco Capri* (Piazzetta Ignazio Cerio, 11; www.ecocapri.com). Created by *Federico Alvarez de Toledo*, Eco Capri continues the artistic tradition of his grandmother *Letizia Cerio* with a clothing and home décor line inspired by her artwork.

Letizia's drawings, fabric designs, and paintings were abundantly inspired by the colors, architecture, and characters of the island she loved. Capri's Piazzetta and iconic natural elements like the Faraglioni and local flora and fauna swirl in her delightful designs that now appear on Eco Capri's stylish dresses, tunics, clothing, and accessories as well as their homeware collection. Besides the many temptations on display, while shopping be sure to look for Letizia's original artwork on display.



Canfora

For Valeria, "the brand, inspired by the

eccentricity and light-heartedness of Capri, offers distinctive designs reminiscent of the island's laidback yet sophisticated lifestyle."

Y'AM Capri's style blends clean tailoring lines and whimsical prints of lemons and tomatoes as well as the tradition linen and lace. Each piece is entirely made on the island from the design to the production, and allows you to add a touch of 1950s Capri glamor to your wardrobe.

CANFORA

Of course, no stroll through Capri's fashion history — or indeed any Capri

outfit — would be complete without a pair of handmade leather sandals. One of the icons of the island's style, the simple, comfortable designs pair naturally with the relaxed-yet-elegant Capri vibe. While there are many fine sandal makers throughout the island, a visit to *Canfora* (Via Camerelle, 3, Capri, www.canfora.com) offers a chance to step back in history while also seeing the tradition vibrantly alive today.

In 1946, *Amedeo Canfora* opened a sandal shop on *Via Camerelle*. Tucked away behind his workbench with the walls lined with soles of shoes and colorful strips of leather, he hammered away at his handmade designs that became a must for well-heeled travelers. He kept on hand the

measurements for his regular clients, and among that list are names like Princess Margaret, Grace Kelly, Maria Callas and Jacqueline Kennedy who returned many times over the years.

Amedeo Canfora passed down his skills to his children and now his grandsons *Costanzo* and *Fabrizio* are both active in the family business and maintaining the fine craftsmanship tradition. Stop in and chat with the family for the short time it takes for your sandals to be made and you will walk away with stories of Capri's past as well as a piece of its history to accompany you on your journey.

MANE CAPRI

If you can't make it to Capri in person, the website *Mane Capri* (www.manecapri.com) sells items from local artisans and boutiques like Eco Capri.



The fashion vibe on *Capri* is airy,

A Simple, Delicious Recipe From Capri

Gianluca D'Esposito and his Australian-born wife, Holly Star, from Capri's Ristorante Michel'angelo have shared a family favorite recipe:

Capri is a natural paradise and its rich soil and moderate climate make it perfect to cultivate the fresh ingredients that feature in its traditional cuisine. At Gianluca's family home, they plant eggplant, tomatoes and basil every year. With access to the best of Campania's mozzarella, the family has all the fresh ingredients to make the most delicious *Parmigiana di Melanzane* (eggplant parmesan).

Growing up, Gianluca's mamma would make this dish either for family Sunday lunches at home or to take down to the beach, where Gianluca and his brothers ate it inside a panino as they spent carefree afternoons playing in the crystal clear waters of *Marina Piccola*. This cherished childhood memory that has now been passed onto our children, *Valentino* and *Francesca*.

These days Gianluca's mamma uses our *Michel'angelo* organic *Salsa di Pomodoro* and extra virgin olive oil to make the family favorite. We use these products at our restaurant and cooking school. Now we are excited to ship them around the world so you too can enjoy a taste of Capri at home. For more information, visit www.caprimichelangelo.com. Happy cooking and *buon appetito!*

—Holly Star



Holly and Gianluca

RECIPE: ZUCCHINI OR EGGPLANT PARMESAN

INGREDIENTS

4 medium zucchini, about 1 3/4 pounds
OR
6 eggplants about 2 1/2 pounds
1 bottle of tomato sauce or Michel'angelo Salsa di Pomodoro (1 1/4 lbs)
2 cloves of garlic
10.5 ounces mozzarella fior di latte
1 cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano
2 bunches of basil
Flour (00)
Fine salt
4 tablespoons olive oil
1/4 gallon of peanut, sunflower or vegetable oil for frying



INSTRUCTIONS

Take the zucchinis, cut off the ends, and cut each zucchini in half. Then slice each half lengthwise in half again so that you have 4 long quarters. Thinly slice each quartered zucchini lengthwise approximately a tenth of an inch in thickness.

Or

Take the eggplants, cut off the ends and remove the peel on the length sides and then cut the eggplant lengthwise at approximately a tenth of an inch in thickness. Lay the sliced eggplant onto a wire rack over a tray and sprinkle with salt. Leave for a minimum of 30 minutes to drain the water from the eggplant and then squeeze any remaining water from the eggplant with your hands.



Take a saucepan and bring the oil for frying up to a boil. In the meantime, coat both sides of each zucchini or eggplant slices in flour, shaking off the excess.

Fry the zucchini or eggplant slices in the oil for frying until they are lightly browned and then place on a paper towel to absorb the oil.

Peel the garlic cloves and slightly crush them.

Take a pan, put in 4 tablespoons of olive oil and cook the garlic until golden. Remove the garlic (this was used to flavour the oil) and then pour in the tomato sauce to make a *passata* mixture, with some torn basil and a pinch of salt, and cook on a low heat for about 5 minutes.

In the meantime, slice the mozzarella into cubes.

Preheat oven to 350 Fahrenheit for 10 minutes.

Take an 8 x 12" baking dish and place a layer of the *passata* mixture on the bottom, then a layer of fried zucchini or eggplant, then another layer of *passata* mixture, then the parmesan. Sprinkle a layer of the mozzarella cubes on top of the parmesan and add the basil leaves. Repeat 3-4 times until all the zucchini or eggplant is used and cover everything with a final light layer of *passata* mixture and grated parmesan.

Bake in the oven for 10 minutes. Wait 5 minutes to cool and then slice and serve. Garnish with fresh basil. Serves 4 to 6 people.

flowing, casual but elegant.

Quiet Corners of Capri

While Capri is noted for the crowds of travelers it attracts, one thing you will rarely hear about is how many quiet spots there are on the island. Yes, quiet.

If you're staying in Capri town, visit the *Giardini di Augusto*, the Gardens of Augustus, (Via Matteotti, 2; open daily April to September and until 4 p.m. October to March; 1€) at the start of the day or the evening hours to enjoy those iconic views of the *Faraglioni* rock formations and the vertiginous views looking down on the zig zag of *Via Krupp* away from the day-trip crowds.



Giardini di Augusto

Not far away, the *Certosa di San Giacomo* (Via Certosa, 10; open 10 a.m. to dusk, May to October and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. November to April, closed Monday year-round; 6€) is one of the island's most peaceful spots. Here even in peak season you can wander, usually nearly alone, through the ruins of a Carthusian monastery that was built starting back in the 14th century.



Certosa San di Giacomo

Don't miss the frescoes in the church or a walk around the large cloister lined with the cells that were once the home of the monastery's monks. This has always been a place of peace. The Certosa is also home to a collection of impressively large and dramatic paintings by the German artist *Karl Wilhelm Diefenbach*. He arrived in Capri in 1900 and spent the next 13 years until his death inspired by the island's beauty.

Capri town is a delight for walkers. Lace up a pair of comfortable shoes and set out from the *Piazzetta* to see the *Arco Naturale*, a soaring arch that frames a perfect view of the cliff side down to a sliver of turquoise sea.

A longer exploration includes a scenic walk along the coastline from the Arco Naturale past the *Faraglioni* and back to the *Certosa di San Giacomo*. Along the way, you'll be vying for space with the

resident lizards lounging in the sun while colorful wooden boats putter



Villa San Michele



Chairlift

along below and the call of seagulls fills the air.

If you have longer and enjoy nature, the northeastern part of the island could be an entire day's exploration. Following a well-marked walkway that also sets off from the Piazzetta up to *Monte Tiberio* leads to *Villa Jovis* (Via Tiberio; open 10 a.m. to dusk daily from March to December, closed January and February; 6€), the ruins of Emperor Tiberius's once sprawling estate where ruled the Roman Empire from 27 to 37 AD in this incredibly scenic spot.

Nearby, stop in to visit the *Villa Lysis* (Via Lo Capo, 12; www.villalysiscapri.com; open 10 a.m. through dusk Thursday through Tuesday; 2€), once the home of French writer *Jacques d'Adelswärd Fersen*. The villa was a haven for artistic travelers to Capri in the early 20th century. While the villa is a ghost of its former glory, stories still fill its empty rooms and the view of *Marina Grande* from the gardens is one of the island's best.

Before leaving this part of Capri, spend some time exploring the *Parco Astarita* (Via Tiberio; free entrance) to meander through pathways carved into the cliffs that lead to a series of overlooks.

While exploring Anacapri, do stop to visit the peaceful gardens of *Villa San Michele* (Viale Axel Munthe, 34; www.villasanmichele.eu; opens 9 a.m. daily; 8€), the former home of Swedish author and physician *Axel Munthe* (1857-1949). The villa is preserved as a museum that feels like you've stepped back in time. Once out in the gardens, it's hard not to fall in love with them just as

Munthe did at the turn of the 19th century.

To truly escape from it all on Capri, hop on the chairlift (Via Caposcuro, 10; www.caprieggiovita.it; opening hours vary during the year; 12€ roundtrip or 9€ one way) in Anacapri to ride up to the top of *Monte Solaro* for the most stunning bird's-eye view you can imagine.

Looking to spend more time in nature while on Capri? Read more about the best hikes on Capri in the June/July 2017 issue of *Dream of Italy*.

The Emperor Tiberius used to

DIVING INTO *Capri's Blue Sea*

If there's one thing about *Capri* that inspires travel dreams, it's the island's tempting sea. *Capri's* rocky beaches make up in dramatic beauty what they lack in comfort. To help, there are beach clubs that offer a variety of options from chairs to loungers, with umbrellas usually costing extra. Entrance includes access to changing rooms, outdoor showers, and onsite services including seaside restaurants so you can make a day of it.

Along the southern side of *Capri*, **Marina Piccola** is the most charming and scenic spot on the island for a day at the beach. With several small beaches tucked in and around the *Scoglio delle Sirene*, a rocky outcropping, *Marina Piccola* offers the most laid-back setting on the island and



Holly Star

Marina Piccola



La Fontelina

is a great spot for families. There are a host of beach clubs to choose from, but **Bagni Internazionali** is a lovely option. (Via Marina Piccola, 95; www.bagninternazionali.com; open April to October; from 23€ per person)

Just east in Marina Piccola, **La Fontelina** is one of the most sought-after spots on the island for the VIP and celebrity crowd. With its pretty umbrellas well-spaced out and scattered among the rocky shore, it offers a truly luxe beach experience. Do note, however, that to reserve a spot in advance during high season you'll need to book a minimum of three consecutive days. Otherwise you can wait until two days before and

hope a space is available. (Località Faraglioni; www.fontelina-capri.com; open April 1 to October 1, from 30€ per person)

Nearby, **Da Luigi ai Faraglioni** has an impressive setting



Grotta Azzurra



Da Gemma

right at the base of the Faraglioni with a similar rocky access to the sea.

Here you'll find a bit more of a relaxed atmosphere and incredible turquoise water to dive into. Both beaches near the Faraglioni are best reached by boat, which can be arranged through the clubs. (Via Faraglioni 5; www.luigiaifaraglioni.com; open end of April to October 1, from 25€ per person)

At the southwestern tip of the island where *Punta Carena* is marked by a pink and white lighthouse, the **Lido del Faro** offers a swimming experience immersed in nature. Here in this more isolated area of Anacapri, the beach club is set into the rocks around a small bay carved into the rocks that is perfect for more adventurous

swimming. (Località Punta Carena; www.lidofaro.com; open late April to late October, from 30€ per person)

If you have limited time or are staying in *Capri* town or near Marina Grande, **Le Ondine Beach Club** is a great choice for a swim, comfortable setting, and excellent onsite dining at their restaurant *Da Gemma*. (Via Marina Grande; www.dagemma.com; open mid April to mid October; from 15€ per person)



Near the northwestern side of the island is the famed **Grotta Azzurra**, or Blue Grotto. One of the top tourist destinations on the island, the grotto is known for the shimmering light on its intense blue water and the exhilarating experience of being pulled in through the small entrance on a row boat to see inside. While it's a quick tour for the cost, it is a unique experience. You can visit the grotto from the island by taking a taxi or bus to the entrance point. However, the best way to go is by boat through local companies like **Motoscafisti Capri** (Marina Grande; www.motoscafisticapri.com; 18€ plus 14€ entrance fee, per person).

The Grotta Azzurra can be a stop on a boat tour around the island, which is an excellent way to enjoy *Capri's* beauty from the sea. You'll also have the benefit of reaching some of the island's other fascinating grottoes and swim in little coves only reachable by boat. **Capri Blue Boats** based in Marina Piccola offers a variety of excursions around the island, from 2.5 hour tours up to full day excursions or sunset cruises. (Via Mulo, 72; www.capriblueboats.com, starts at 80€)

swim in the *Grotta Azzurra*.

THE STORY OF A Little, Lucky Capri Bell

The legend of the bell of *San Michele* (Saint Michael) holds a storied place in the history of *Capri*. And one of these bells might just be a big reason I am here on Earth today.

It was an April night in 1966. My mother had plans to meet a friend for a drink at a bar on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. When her friend cancelled at the last minute, my mom went alone for one drink. There she met a sweet man with stunning blue eyes and a great sense of humor. He said he heard bells. They were married the next January. That man was my father.

That night my mother was wearing a small 18-karat gold bell with “Capri” etched on it. Her parents bought it a few years earlier at the jewelry store *Alberto e Lina La Campanina*.

After meeting my father, my mother considered this bell her lucky charm and wore it nearly everyday for more than 50 years.

It isn't surprising that my mom found this bell to be lucky. As the legend goes, one night a poor shepherd boy on the island could not find the one sheep his family owned. Panicked, he heard bells and followed the sound to a ravine. There St. Michael appeared to him and took a small bell off his neck and gave it to the boy saying, “Take this bell and always follow the sound of it to keep you from danger.”

For years, jewelers on Capri have produced these bells as small charms. During World War II, American soldiers came to

Capri for rest and relaxation and bought these bells at a little shop owned by a woman named *Olimpia*. They pinned them inside their uniforms for good luck or sent them home to their families in the U.S. President Roosevelt was given a large replica of the bell in 1944 and it was rung to mark the end of the war.



My mom's bell

Olimpia's daughter *Lina* married a man named *Alberto* and they opened their own jewelry shop in 1950. As a pilgrimage of sorts, my mother added Capri to the itinerary of our first trip to Italy in 1995 — simply to visit *Alberto* and *Lina's* store where my grandparents bought her the bell.

Oh how I wish I could find the photos of that visit. My mother was smiling ear to ear and thrilled to finally meet *Alberto* and *Lina*, famous on the island for their 4th of July parties, and tell



Alberto e Lina La Campanina

them her story. My mother bought me a silver version of her bell, which came with a tiny piece of paper recounting the legend. Oh,

how I wish I could find the photos of that visit.

A day after my mother entered the hospital for the last time, she unhooked her necklace with the bell on it as well as medal of *Santa Barbara* and told me to put in on for safe-keeping. “You're never alone when you wear the bell,” she said.

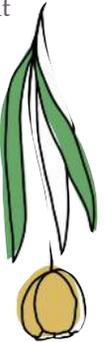
I haven't taken it off in the two years since she passed away and have now added a sunflower from *Delbrenna* in Tuscany to join the charms on the necklace. I

dream of returning to Capri to film an episode for the PBS series. You can be sure the bell and its legend will play a starring role.

La Campanina, now run by *Alberto* and *Lina's* children and grandchildren, still sells a bell similar in design to my mother's but also all kinds of modern, colorful versions. Don't visit Capri without picking one up. You never know what kind of luck it might bring you, as well as the comfort that St. Michael is protecting you.

—Kathy McCabe

Alberto e Lina La Campanina
Via Vittorio Emanuele, 18
(39) 081 8370643
www.lacampaninacapri.com



How I wear the bell



My mom and I on our first trip



The Capri Bell brings luck and prosperity.