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Naples  
*APRIL 15-30,*  
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# NAPLES

Draped over low hills that overlook the bay, the city of Naples occupies one of the world's most beautiful physical settings, and provides a background for some of the greatest contrast that the Mediterranean tourist will see.

Italy's third largest city, with a population of 1,015,000 is not only one of the country's most important ports, but it also challenges Istanbul for the claim of occupying the most beautiful port site in all of the Mediterranean.

Built on the sides of a natural amphitheater that drops sharply down to the sea on the northwest, the city is bordered by the deep blue water of the Bay of Naples, and is crowned by the beauty of Mount Vesuvius which rises to meet the sky to the south of the city.

The history of Naples is traced back to 600 B. C., to a group of Greek colonists who settled there and gave their home the name of Neapolis, or "new city", in contrast to the earlier settlement of Grecians who had founded Paleopolis, or the "old city".

In 328 B. C. the leaders of Neapolis negotiated a treaty with Rome which at that time was attacking Paleopolis. From that time Neapolis became an allied city, a dependency of Rome to which it became faithful. Pyrrhus made an unsuccessful attack upon the walls of Neapolis in 280 B. C., and Hannibal, in the second Punic Wars was repelled by the strength of the massive walls that protected the city. However, during the civil wars of Marius and Sulla, a group of Sulla's partisans gained entry into the city and massacred its inhabitants. Neapolis recovered quickly, and was flourishing again by the time of Cicero.

Neapolis soon became a favorite resort for the nobility of Rome. Attracted by the scenic beauty of the area, the climate, and the superior culture of the Greeks who lingered long after Roman conquest, Nero, Titus, Hadrian, Augustus and Tiberius Caesar often came to Neapolis to enjoy their pursuit of pleasure and to conduct state business. It was here at Neapolis that Virgil composed the greater portion of his "Georgics", here that both Tiberius and Hadrian held political office and on Capri that Emperor Augustus and Tiberius built some of their most lavish villas.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, Neapolis suffered heavily at the hands of the invaders who pillaged, burned, looted, and left much of the city in smoldering ruins. The list of conquerors of the city starts with the Goths and not stop until 1860 when the forces of Garib won the city and it was incorporated in the United Kingdom of Italy. Neapolis has flourished through wars, invasions and depressions. Damage to the city during World War II amounted to 135 million dollars. Eighty per cent of the port was destroyed, but most of it has been rebuilt.

Modern Naples has been described as "the gayest city in the world." Certainly it is a city of contrasts. It is the story of "rags and riches." With the stately San Carlo Opera House, the Musical Conservatory, the former Royal Palace, restaurants filled with music, the glass-covered meeting square of "Galleria," the ancient acad-

emies and clubs, the umbrella pine trees and the beautiful sea views, the old Castle Sant'Elmo, the 400 churches, the palaces and all its old buildings, Naples provides a colorful setting for the gaiety of the Neapolitans.

Located just 135 miles southeast of Rome, 35 miles from Sorrento, 18 miles from Pompeii, and 17 miles from the Isle of Capri, Naples is an excellent starting point for the camera enthusiast and for sightseeing. The city of Naples does not command the interest nearly as much as the nearby vacation spots of Sorrento, Amalfi and Capri, or the excavations that have unearthed the ruins of Pompeii - a city buried under lava in the year 79 A. D. - or the grandeur that was ancient Rome, and which still makes modern Rome one of the most interesting and captivating cities of the world.

## POMPEII

The ancient city of Pompeii is known around the world although it has been buried for almost 1800 years. The city was recovering from a disastrous earthquake which occurred in 63 A. D., when on 24 August in the year 79 A. D., Vesuvius, the majestic mountain, erupted violently and swiftly.

This was the first eruption of Vesuvius ever recorded, and the worst known to man. A twenty foot blanket of fiery lava and volcanic ash covered Pompeii and the nearby city of Herculaneum, burying everything in sight. The people who remained in Pompeii were the victims of asphyxiation due to the poisonous gases, and those who tried to flee the city were buried on the roads leading out.

The ruins of Pompeii were first discovered in the sixteenth century, but early excavations did not begin until 1748. Work continued in 1860 in and orderly fashion, exhuming block by block the remains of what was once a flourishing city. The work continues today. As one walks through the streets of this city of the first century A. D., for which all time stopped, forever, the entire pattern of the city is at once visible - the roads, houses, stores, forums, temples, theaters, flour mills, mosaics, works of art, election posters cut into the walls, advertisements of the next show at the Amphitheater - everything is just as it was the day time stopped for Pompeii.



## SORRENTO

One of the most scenic and thrilling drives in the world is the thirty-five mile drive around the fringe of the Bay of Naples to Sorrento.

The early Romans were quick to attach themselves to an unusually beautiful spot, and, people being what they are, vacation habits in Italy have changed very little, if any, after twenty centuries of Roman holidays. The early Romans "found" sorrento and built villas there where they enjoyed the summer months. The sea, the serenity, silver olive trees, orange blossoms and a plaintive song called "Come Back to Sorrento" have combined to lure people there ever since.

The list of those who made the trip (and who enjoyed it) includes such great names as Richard Wagner, Goethe, Byron, Sir Walter Scott, Alexander Dumas and Henrik Ibsen who completed the "Peer Gynt Suite" while there. Also listed as visitors are Verdi, Longfellow, Oscar Wilde and Nietzsche, who alone failed to be captured by the serenity of Sorrento, and while there revolted against his old friend Wagner, calling him a musician of decadent emotionalism.

## EATING OUT TONIGHT?

There are a good many places to visit in Naples if you are in search of a good meal. Most of the best hotels have very good dining rooms and serve excellent meals.

Umberto's, just off Piazza del Martiri, is good. This was once a gathering place for notables of all nations. It is at 14 Piazza Carlo de Cesare, just off via Roma, near the Royal Palace and the San Carlo Opera House.

La Arcate and Da Angelo, halfway up the Vomero on Amillo Valcone are good and the view of the city from here is excellent.

These restaurants are recommended:

DA UMBERTO, Via Alabardieri  
SANTA LUCIA, Via Partenope 46  
GRANDE LANDRA, Piazza Metropolitane  
ESVICI BUONOSCONTO, Via Verdi  
DA RAFAELA PILSON, San Ferdinando Square  
CASINA DEL PIORI, Via Caracciolo  
CONTINENTAL, Via Partenope 44

The enlisted men's club is at via Petronia 12 and serves excellent meals. The officer's club is at Bagnoli, CINCSOUTH Headquarters.

NOTE - THIS PAMPHLET MAY NOT BE TAKEN ASHORE, HOWEVER IT MAY BE MAILED HOME.

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Have a good time with our Italian friends. Eat well, drink wisely, and buy prudently. Whether you like it or not, you are on display and what you do reflects for good or for bad the attitude and ideas of the United States. Don't give a false impression.

## CAPRI

About 17 miles from Naples, in the blue Mediterranean, is the Island of Capri which has served as the inspiration for poets, artists and novelists for many years. Acclaimed as the world's most beautiful island, this gem of the Mediterranean is a "must" for the tourist.

The Emperor Augustus first came to Capri by accident, having been forced to take refuge there on a return voyage from Sicily. He used the island as a royal playground for many years. His stepson, Tiberius, settled on Capri when he was 68 years old, and during the last ten years of his life ruled the Roman Empire from a castle on top of one of the imposing cliffs on the island.

The ruins of Villa Jovis, Tiberius' lofty retreat, remain and can be visited. The trip to the villa is made aboard one of the four donkeys kept in town for these excursions. Naturally, one of the donkeys, out of deference, is named Tiberius, and the others are Michaelangelo, Raphael and Ulysses.

No trip to Capri is complete unless you visit the Blue Grotto, a fantastic water-level cave. The visit is a natural one for Navy personnel—it is by small boat.



## HELPFUL HINTS ON WHAT AND WHERE TO BUY

Like anything else in the world, it is easy to spend money here. There are good buys for the careful shopper. Some of the local specialties are:

**JEWELRY.** Coral and tortoise shell are worked locally with gold and silver filigree. Shops recommended are: Morabito, Apa and Donadio's. The latter is at 137-139 Santa Lucia and also on the road to Pompeii.

**GLOVES.** Made locally, excellent quality, not too expensive. Two Barra shops - one at 31-32 Piazza dei Martiri.

**HATS.** Plain felt hat "blanks" or cones. Your wife can have any style she wants made up at a shop at home. For men, the famous Borsalino brand. Try Balbi stores on Via Chiaia.



