

MY COUNTRY

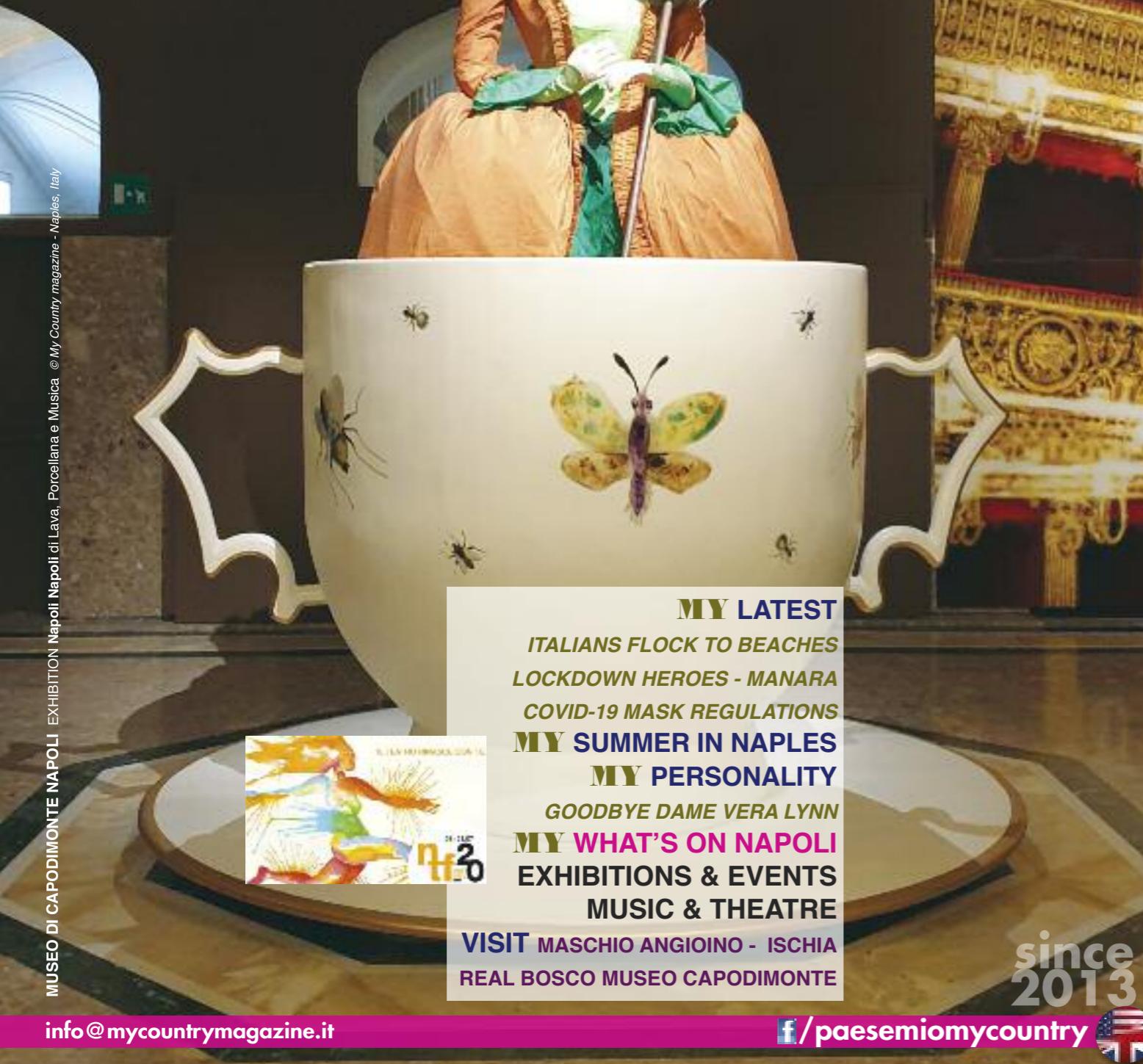


PAESE MIO



FREE MONTHLY MAGAZINE - NAPLES, ITALY

JULY 2020



MY LATEST
ITALIANS FLOCK TO BEACHES
LOCKDOWN HEROES - MANARA
COVID-19 MASK REGULATIONS
MY SUMMER IN NAPLES
MY PERSONALITY
GOODBYE DAME VERA LYNN
MY WHAT'S ON NAPOLI
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IN & AROUND NAPLES - ITALY
Napoli - Italia

MY COUNTRY FREE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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MY COUNTRY

THIS MONTH
WELCOME TO NAPLES, ITALY

DISCOVER the MY COUNTRY
JULY 2020 edition

THIS MONTH Welcome back to Naples! The last few months have been quite an experience following the lockdown restrictions but we are slowly getting back to everyday life. The Campania region announced strict anti Covid-19 regulations from the beginning of March but thankfully the situation is now easier - even though social distancing is still required. Keep informed about the latest face mask regulations - use is now optional outside. We are saying Goodbye to Dame Vera Lynn and learning about her life.



So, the heat is on - why not get back to the beach? Avoid traffic thanks to the new shuttle bus service running to and from Vomero to Miseno. Once again choose from a great selection of exhibitions and **VISIT Capodimonte**, **Maschio Angioino** together with the enchanted gardens of **Ischia - Giardini La Mortella**. Look out for some fantastic events, concerts and opera at the main square of **Piazza del Plebiscito** together with the International Festival of Theatre **NTFI20** including over 130 scheduled events taking place for the whole month of July. At the moment all Museum's have various rules that must be followed to safeguard visitors - therefore if you are visiting Napoli please check beforehand for different opening times and methods.

Stay Safe! and Buon Viaggio...



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mundi**

CAPPELLA PALATINA
MASCHIO ANGIOINO
NAPOLI

JULY 2020



Italians Flock to Beaches Hoping Tourists Will Follow

Many have seized the chance to return to the sands, soak up the sun and take a swim. But social distancing? Maybe, maybe not.

GIUGLIANO IN CAMPANIA, Italy - The lifeguard turned his back to the water and looked for danger on the sand. All around him at the beach club west of Naples, children on their stomachs dug moats while adults reclined on beach chairs, catching rays, eating stuffed shells and reconnecting with friends on the first Sunday back at the beach after a months-long lockdown. Some maintained the new social-distancing restrictions. Some did not.

As the temperatures rise, sun-starved Europeans are desperate to get to the beach and tourism-starved Mediterranean countries are desperate to have them. In Greece, the government is trying to negotiate an "air bridge" from Britain, with promises of 40 bathers per 1,000 square meters and disinfected chairs. The Spanish are trying to convince Germany to send tourists their way, while Baltic Sea resorts, which had a far less severe epidemic than Spain, are trying to poach them.

But it is Italy, which endured one of Europe's worst outbreaks, that is most counting on the economically restorative powers of its beaches and seas. Tourism accounts for 13 percent of Italy's gross domestic product, and 40 percent of that is from beach activity. Officials and beach club owners have expressed hope that foreign tourists will spend time and money in their country when the borders reopen in June. But in the meantime, it is the Italians who must pick up the sunbathing slack.

On May 18, the national government, citing the dipping curve of infections, allowed Italian regions to reopen beach clubs. Different regions have reacted with varying degrees of caution. Tuscany allowed them to reopen on May 18, Campania on May 23, Lazio on May 29, and Sicily on June 6. But the national government also said that any sharp rise in new infections would prompt another lockdown, and the mayor of one small town in the southern region of Puglia closed the beaches this week after seeing an "invasion" of sunbathers, many, he said, "wearing their masks as necklaces."

Italians have been waiting to get back to the beach for months and have obsessed over their summer prospects essentially since the lockdown began in March.

In the Italian news media, detailed graphics and videos regularly illustrated the possible restrictions and proposed bathing innovations. There were the rows of plexiglass cubicles - each holding an umbrella and recliners, or entry gates that sprayed disinfectant on bathers like cars entering a carwash, or a village of eco-friendly bamboo and fabric beach huts. ("We were in Mongolia for many years," the architect explained.) None caught on.

Salvatore Trinchillo, the third-generation owner of the Lido Varca d'Oro club in Giugliano in Campania, said that the plexiglass

cubes were only ever promoted by "a guy who makes plexiglass" and would "turn sunbathers into rotisserie chickens." Instead, Mr. Trinchillo, who is also the vice president of Italy's union of beach club presidents, opted for more traditional arrangements, with more room between the umbrellas and lounge chairs. The people around the pasta and coffee bars wore masks and those who wanted to eat at the outdoor restaurant had their foreheads scanned with a thermometer.

Campania's latest measures were adopted once again when Vincenzo De Luca, the governor, perhaps best known during the coronavirus outbreak for threatening to take a "blowtorch" to illegal gatherings and for calling his citizens "doubly imbeciles" for bothering to wear masks but then letting them hang around their necks, decided that infections had gone down enough for beach clubs to open. The region also allowed bathers to remove their masks on the beach, as long as they observed social-distancing measures. One client described herself as a year-round beach enthusiast. And she said that after months of going stir crazy in her nearby home, the opening of the beaches and the ability to stare out at the hazy island of Ischia was "a mercy from God." "We all got fat!" she added, referring to the "quarantine kilos" she said she had put on. Mr. Trinchillo agreed that "everyone is a little chubbier" and said through a mask that he was delighted to finally see people back on the beach. To observe social-distancing measures, he had to reduce his beach-chair capacity to 1,200 from 2,000. He also created broader corridors for people to pass through and spaced his chairs out even more than required by the region.

Yet there remained a dense and vibrant forest of orange umbrellas. As he took it in, Mr. Trinchillo said more exclusive and expensive beach clubs in the region, such as on the Amalfi Coast or on the island of Capri, spots known for their crystalline waters, coves and rocky cliffs, "were now jealous of us" because they lacked the space for proper distancing and could not open. "Life is bizarre," he said. At the Lido Varca d'Oro, people didn't seem so few or far away. A toddler with goggles and a face mask the colors of the Italian flag scampered into the sea, next to a circle of adults with their bare faces pointed up at the sun.

Since Italy eased its lockdown, the country's mayors have wrestled with crowds drawn to newly reopened bars, but also to its boardwalks and beaches. At the beach on Sunday, policing duties often fell to the club's staff "I ask people if they are relatives or friends," said one of the club employees. He said that people were generally behaving then he turned and excused himself. "See over there? I have to go and remind them that assemblies are banned." He walked toward the part of the beach where two cousins from Naples were spending the afternoon sun bathing with small children playing in the sand.

"Feel this air, smell the sea, it's safer out here.. It's freedom"

Text Source: New York Times International Edition

Published: May 27, 2020

Full reportage by: Jason Horowitz

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LOCKDOWN HEROES MILO MANARA

Milo Manara is an artist that has frequently been highlighted by *My Country magazine*. His latest works are dedicated to "Lockdown Heroes" to produce charity funding to help hospitals situated in **Naples, Milan and Padua**. The project consisting of 25 illustrations designed by Manara was created in collaboration with **Comicon** (Comic Festival) and **Feltrinelli Comics**.



“

"I cannot say exactly how I started this series of watercolours," commented **Manara**, "it was not at all programmed as I simply found myself drawing the first image. I remember the dismay and disbelief of the looming catastrophe that made it impossible to continue my routine work as I just couldn't concentrate. It was **International Women's Day - March 8th** and I was trying to find an image for the occasion but the emergency news overlapped any inspiration. Doctors and Nurses were facing a virus that they knew nothing of, often without any adequate protection as the wards filled and intensive care facilities proved insufficient. It seemed quite natural after more than fifty years spent celebrating women's beauty and seduction to also celebrate their other virtues. Together with all health workers many other people continued to work throughout the emergency stages exposing themselves to risk including supermarket cashiers, hospital cleaners, pharmacists and police and military forces amongst others. Giving tribute to women workers at a time like this isn't just being kind but it means affirming life against death, hope against anguish, beauty against sadness and love against hatred."

Today, we need this even more than ever.

I designed them one-by-one to simply thank them... or perhaps even hoping that we will remember them all when this is all over..."

LOCKDOWN HEROES will be on-sale in Bookshops from July 30th and is already available by pre-order. Lafeltrinelli.it, Ibs.it, shop.comicon.it/milo-manara, Amazon.it, Hoepli.it, Webster.it

COVID-19 FACE MASK REGIONAL REGULATIONS

Latest on Covid-19 (Campania, Napoli)
Face Mask Regulations

The **Campania** region declared the obligatory use of protective face masks starting from April 10th 2020. Well, after two long months these regulations are easing but regarding outdoor use only. In fact, masks are no longer obligatory (but optional) for outdoor use starting from June 22nd 2020. As for wherever social distancing of at least 1 metre proves impossible and for indoor use - such as public transport, shops, supermarkets etc., use will still be necessary until further notice. Social distancing is still required. Stay Safe!

The epidemiologist Doc. Angelo D'Argenzio recently commented: I believe as a technician that it would be preferable to continue to use protective face masks even without obligation, to maintain social distancing and avoid any gatherings. This is an appeal to each personal conscience and the respect for others. It will only be when the Campania region results with zero infections for at least two consecutive weeks that we can start the next phase, but cautiously. Cases are still registering throughout the world and so this situation must be faced until we create an effective vaccine. Our behaviour must change until then as Covid-19 has shown an extremely high contagious index and is fully capable of spreading rapidly. We must continue to be carefully aware".

The regional president Vincenzo De Luca commented as he presented the latest ordinance: Even though it is no longer mandatory to wear masks on the streets caution will still be necessary however in all closed areas. This does NOT mean we can "party" every day and that it's all over... De Luca has in fact gained a great number of fans and social followers during these last few months - thanks to his critical, frequently comical but at the same time clearly annoyed comments during the Lockdown stage. De Luca was also frequently portrayed as a **Superhero!**



The **Campania** region is currently focusing on smart working and the resumption of normal working activities - obviously in compliance with all anti-Covid safety standards. Changes are also on the way regarding contact/group sports but as for restrictions regarding the so-called "**Movida - By Night**" situation, the ordinance will be revised on June 30th.

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FORCES' SWEETHEART DAME VERA LYNN SAYS GOODBYE



JUNE 18th 2020

Dame Vera Lynn peacefully passed away at her home in Sussex on June 18th 2020 surrounded by close family aged 103. She had remembered this year in May, just before the 75th anniversary of VE Day "the brave boys and what they sacrificed for us. They left their families and homes to fight for our freedom and many lost their lives trying to protect us and our liberties". During her last interview, Dame Vera described her bond with the Allied troops who gave or risked their lives for their country - with her own war effort making her name as enduring as that of Sir Winston Churchill.

Celebrities and politicians lined up to pay tribute to Dame Vera, a humanitarian and beloved entertainer.

'Dame Vera Lynn was one of the greatest ever British popular singers, not just because of her immaculate voice, warm, sincere, instantly recognisable and musically flawless. She will be remembered just as affectionately for her vital work in the Second World War and for her own Charitable Foundations in the 75 years since. A link with more certain times has been irrevocably broken.' Said author and lyricist Sir Tim Rice.

Born in east London on March 20th, 1917 Vera Lynn became known as the "forces' sweetheart" during WWII, often performing at high personal risk for troops around the world including India, Egypt and Burma, and with songs that gave them hope that they would see home again.

Vera Lynn remained mostly in London until 1944 but then she made her famous tour of Burma to entertain the troops. She was stirred into action in her twenties, when she learned that few entertainers went to Burma, where the men of the Fourteenth had called them-

selves the Forgotten Army. Her four-month tour began in a Sunderland flying boat. She was then transferred to smaller aircrafts until arriving on the road from Rangoon to Mandalay in an old battered car.

Describing the experience later, she said it was 'the trip of a lifetime' and the smell that continued to haunt her most was the gangrene pervading the field hospitals where she spent hours talking with soldiers. During that time she flew 25,000 miles and through her songs and talking to them about home she persuaded them that they were not forgotten. Vera Lynn was awarded the Burma Star in 1985 in honour of her contribution.

From year 1935 she was singing on radio with the famous Joe Loss Band. By 1937 she started to sing with the Ambrose Orchestra, which played in West End nightclubs including the Cafe Royal and the Mayfair, remaining until 1940.

At the outbreak of war she was just 21 years old and her career was just starting to bloom having already appeared on early, experimental television with the Ambrose Orchestra as well as producing regular broadcasts by radio.

Many years later she recounted that at that time on the outbreak of war one of her first thoughts was, 'There goes entertainment - and my career with it'. It seemed to me then that entertainment would be the last thing people were going to worry about once the bombs started falling, but it turned out not to be the case at all.'

In 1940 Vera Lynn went solo. The following year she married Harry Lewis, a clarinet and saxophone player who also became her manager. Vera Lynn had already been awarded the title "Forces Sweetheart" in 1939. The competition included Judy Garland, Dinah Shore and Deanna Durbin who were all from the United States. Vera Lynn was the overwhelming choice, helped by her new but catchy and sentimental song she had begun singing that year, *We'll Meet Again*.

By November 1941 she was given her own regular radio programme, *Sincerely Yours*, which was broadcast after the Sunday evening nine o'clock news, a peak time which had much of the world listening in case the Prime Minister made an announcement. She took over one of the largest and most intent audiences, jesting in an interview in later years: 'Churchill was my opening act.'

The popularity of this music and words programme and her own standing soared, when thousands of servicemen wrote song requests to her. However, that popularity came at a surprising low point in the war when MPs and BBC governors attacked her programme and others like it as having a bad effect on "morale".

CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

FORCES SWEETHEART DAME VERA LYNN SAYS GOODBYE

cont. from page 6 A month after *Sincerely Yours* was launched, the BBC board of governors read: 'Sincerely Yours deplored. But popularity noted.' MPs had also complained about the BBC's musical output of 'sentimental, sloppy muck'. Without mentioning Dame Vera, the BBC introduced a new policy eliminating 'crooning, sentimental numbers, drivelling words, slush and so on'.

Sincerely Yours was taken off the air and a new programme featuring a military band, male voice choir and an unknown tenor replaced it, but lasted only a few weeks sinking into oblivion. By early 1943 Dame Vera was back again. People came to know her songs like well-loved hymns, including *We'll Meet Again, I'll Be Seeing You, Wishing and If Only I Had Wings*.

She was quoted as saying: 'My songs reminded the boys of what they were really fighting for, precious personal things, rather than ideologies and theories.'

She retired from the stage and microphone to bring up her daughter Virginia at their home in Sussex when the war was over. But, with a vast following across the world she was soon back at work with her own television show in the 1950's as well as back to radio broadcasts. She placed the first British record to top the US hit parade, selling more than 12 million copies to then tour throughout the world, to the US, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Her work did not end when the war was over - throughout her life, she remained an outspoken supporter of military veterans.

She said: 'I have never been terribly ambitious. I never wanted to be a Judy Garland or anything, and I wouldn't change the way I used to sing. If work came along I liked, I would do it. If it interfered with home life for too long or took me away, I wouldn't.'

Even though Vera Lynn was quite modest, she continued to receive honours including a DBE in 1975, following an OBE in 1969, Show Business Personality of 1975, the Freedom of the City of London in 1978 and the Variety Club International's Humanitarian Award in 1985. In 2016 she was 'surprisingly honoured' to be made a Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour for services to entertainment and charity in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Together with 14 gold discs she published her autobiography Vocal Refrain in 1975 and a picture book called *We'll Meet Again* in 1991. Vera Lynn was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the age of 101 by the 2018 Classic Brit Awards, which her daughter Virginia collected on her behalf. A statement from Dame Vera was read at the ceremony.

It said: 'I never imagined when a small child growing up in East Ham that I would be able to travel around the world as I have done, and seen and experienced so many interesting places and to meet so many interesting people.'

In June 2019, she marked the 75th anniversary of D-Day by recording a voice message which was played to a Royal British Legion cruise organised to commemorate the occasion. She told the 250 heroes on board: 'Hello boys, Vera Lynn here. I wish you and your carers a memorable trip to Normandy. It will be nostalgic and sure to bring back lots of memories. Rest assured we will never forget all you did for us. I'm sending you all my best wishes for the trip.'

Queen Elizabeth II recently referred to one of Dame Vera's wartime songs during her rare TV speech as she told Britain - with its 66 million people separated from family and friends during the coronavirus pandemic "We will meet again". This song became a lockdown anthem as it once again entered the singles charts with profits going to the NHS charity and poignantly she performed the song virtually just six weeks ago. The veteran singer was beamed as a hologram to stand next to Katherine Jenkins at an empty Royal Albert Hall to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Dame Vera became the oldest living artist to score a top 40 album in the UK charts last May. Her songs inspired a spirit of optimism and she spent her career fostering nostalgia which, during the war, was just what people felt they needed. More recently, her words became a source of comfort to many during the coronavirus pandemic.



Singer Katherine Jenkins commented "It was she who chose the sentiments of her songs - she knew instinctively what people needed to hear, how to rally the morale and her spirit and strength created the soundtrack of a generation. Her voice brought comfort to millions in their darkest hours, her songs filled the nation's hearts with hope, and her emotive performances, whether home or abroad, then or now, helped to get us through. "There will never be another Dame Vera Lynn. Forces' Sweetheart and our sweetheart. An icon. A legend. An inspiration. My mentor and my friend. I will miss you greatly and I know we'll meet again some sunny day."

My Country magazine is distributed free-of-charge throughout Naples every month. See page 3 for the main pick-up points

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VISIT REAL BOSCO E MUSEO DI CAPODIMONTE

The magnificent Museum **Real Bosco e Museo di Capodimonte** opened June 9th with an informative Press Conference presented by the Director *Sylvain Bellenger* and attended by the *My Country* team. He welcomed the press outdoors within one of the sites courtyards and everyone wore masks. During the recent months of forced closure, the Museum continued working to produce various conferences online and the Farnese Collection has been reconstructed including a new lighting system. The Director *Bellenger*, together with Staff and various associations clearly expressed total passion and energy regarding the reopening presenting a promising array of future programmes.



IL TEATRO DEI BURATTINI AL REAL BOSCO DI CAPODIMONTE

La tradizione delle Gueriglie interrotta da Bruno Leone e Irene Vecchia promossa da Amici di Capodimonte onlus



The association **Amici di Capodimonte Onlus** presented the theatrical programme *Il Teatro dei Burattini* - of puppet shows (not only for children!) held within the Park **Real Bosco** - zona Belvedere - scheduled through June and on Saturdays **4th and 11th of July** at 11.30 pm and 12.30 pm. Events are without charge but booking is necessary by contacting: info@amicidicapodimonte.org Leave your full names and telephone numbers together with the desired time and date.

Future schedules involve a selection of street artists, *Musicapodimonte* musical events and *Luglio Musicale* Napoletano Neapolitan music tributes followed by outdoor Cinema screenings on show during September.

Capodimonte will also host over 30 fantastic events taking part in the latest thirteenth edition of the International Festival of Theatre - **NTFI20 Napoli Teatro Festival Italia**. This year's Festival has scheduled over 130 events running from **July 1st to July 31st** to be held through *Naples*, *Salerno* and *Santa Maria Capua Vetere*. For details visit the website <https://napoliteatrfestival.it/>. Events will be held at *Capodimonte* (Courtyard from *Porta Piccola* entrance and at the *Casino* and *Fagianeria* entrance from *Porta Miano*) and 35 shows at the Royal Palace **Palazzo Reale di Napoli** (Courtyards and Garden). Each ticket purchased for events taking place throughout both sites will receive a free entrance ticket to visit the site - valid until August 31st 2020.

Sylvain Bellenger also reaffirmed that entrance to the Park **Real Bosco** will continue to be free of charge. The Park and Museum fully respects all anti-Covid-19 safety measures to ensure the well-being of all visitors including one-way circuits, regulated entrance with limited numbers and reservation online for tickets using <https://coopculture.it/>. Contact numbers: **848 800 288 / +39 06 399 67050** (from mobiles and abroad)

Current ticket fees: Standard admission including exhibitions - € 8; ages 18 to 25 yrs - € 2; Under 18's and Artecard holders - FREE. Tickets are valid for one-day - giving visitors the possibility to enter and exit the museum until closing time. The Museum is open from 8.30 am to 7.30 pm except Wednesdays.

(for current exhibitions on display at Capodimonte see page 11)



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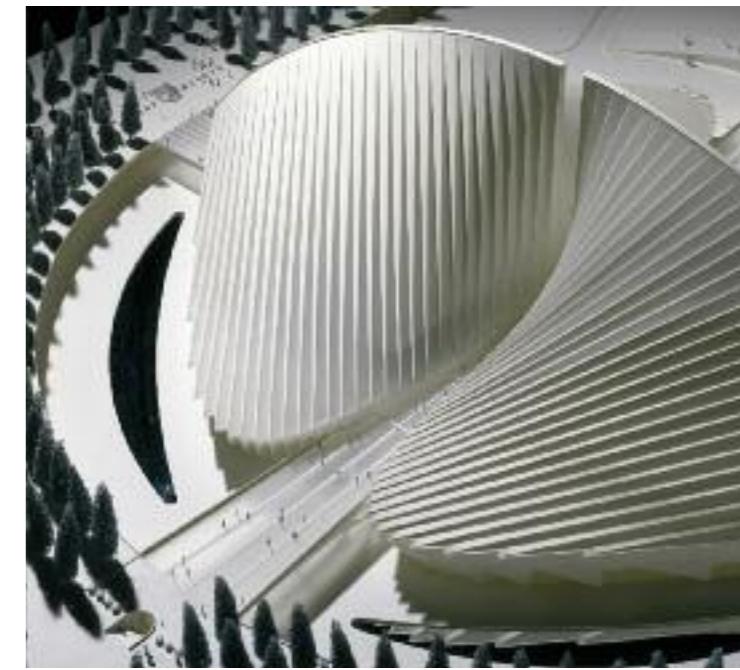
EXHIBITION

NAPOLI NAPOLI DI LAVA, PORCELLANA E MUSICA @ MUSEO DI CAPODIMONTE until SEPTEMBER 20th 2020

The exhibition *Napoli Napoli. Di lava, porcellana e musica* is promoted by the **Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte** in collaboration with **Teatro di San Carlo di Napoli** and curated by *Sylvain Bellenger*. This spectacular exhibition is the third act of a trilogy designed to evolve the museum's Permanent Collection following the exhibitions "Carta Bianca. Capodimonte Imaginaire" and "Depositi di Capodimonte. Storie ancora da scrivere" (fully highlighted by *My Country magazine*)



The Royal Apartments boast 18 halls of which have become a unique setting and a multi-sensory journey placed in 18th-century Napoli created by the artist **Hubert le Gall**. Each hall follows a different theme ranging from sacred music, politics and succession of dynasties, the Grand Tour, ironic wigs and to the art of embroidery and sewing including paintings, musical instruments, furnishings, more than 100 costumes and 500 porcelain artefacts. Precious porcelains are staged together with intricate costumes taken directly from the dressmaker's workshop of the theatre *Teatro di San Carlo* selected by *Giusi Giustino*. The exhibition represents those fascinating times when the arts were considered as a celebration and splendour was a cornerstone of the new Bourbon reign.



EXHIBITION

NELLA LUCE DI NAPOLI SANTIAGO CALATRAVA @ MUSEO DI CAPODIMONTE until JANUARY 31st 2021

Santiago Calatrava was highlighted in our last February edition presenting the exhibition *Nella Luce di Napoli*. The opening dates have now been extended to next January. The multi-talented Spanish artist (painter, architect, engineer) displays forty years of creativity with more than 400 works including sculptures, designs, ceramics and models of his most-famous architectural projects. Calatrava's works also include the 2016 *Oculus project* created for the *World Trade Center Transportation Hub* and situated at the *Ground Zero* site of New York. He was also assigned the Golden Award by the *AIA American Institute of Architects* and held an exhibition at the *New York Metropolitan Museum of Art*. PICTURED ABOVE: UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA Tor Vergata 2015 H.Helfenstein



Open for Dinner
Tuesday to Saturday from 7pm
Sundays for Lunch & Dinner
Closed Mondays

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SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE NAPOLI-LUCRINO-MISENO

The latest Shuttle Bus service with two routes connecting the **Vomero** area of central Naples to **Miseno** and the **Lucrino Cumana** train station to **Capo Miseno** will be available until **August 31st 2020**.

EAV already offers different itineraries throughout the Phlegraean area called "Archeabus".

SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE VOMERO (NAPOLI) - MISENO - VOMERO

Departure from Piazza Muzii:
8:00 - 9:00 - 10:00 - 11:00 am

Departure from Miseno:
3:00 - 4:00 - 5:00 - 6:00 pm

ANM Stops: P.zza Muzii - P.zza Arenella - Via Pisicelli - Via Altamura - Via Rossini - Vico Acitillo - Via Gemito - Via Cilea - Via Piave - Viale Traiano - Loggetta - Via Terracina - Tangenziale - Miseno

SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE LUCRINO (CUMANA TRAIN STATION) - CAPO MISENO - LUCRINO

Daily service hourly from 10:15 am to 7:15 pm
ITINERARY: Miseno - Piscina Mirabilis - Castello di Baia - Baia - Lucrino - Return

One ticket (biglietto unico) will be available from June 27th for return trips valid by bus and train.

PLACES TO VISIT:

MISENO AND MILISCOLA BEACHES, BAIA PORT AND UNDERWATER PARK (PARCO SOMMERSO), THE CASTLE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM CASTELLO DI BAIA, PARCO ARCHEOLOGICAL TERMALE DI BAIA, VILLA FERRETTI, PISCINA MIRABILIS (BACOLI), BACOLI CENTRE, TOMBA DI AGRIPPINA, CENTO CAMERELLE, DRAGONARA, SACELLO DEGLI AUGUSTALI.

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The enchanted gardens **Giardini La Mortella** were created by **Sir William Walton** and **Lady Susanna Walton**. The original plan was designed around the suggestive volcanic promontory by the renowned British landscape architect **Russell Page** who worked together with **Lady Walton** during the 1950's. The botanic gardens are situated on the isle of Ischia, Naples boasting 2 hectares of rare plant and flower collections from the Mediterranean and over the world together with trees, ponds, streams, fountains, tropical greenhouses, Nymphaeum and William's rock.

Sir William Walton was a British composer who arrived to **Ischia** shortly after marrying **Susanna** in 1949 when the land was purchased situated in an area known as "**Le Mortelle**" due

to myrtle bushes present throughout volcanic rocks and so giving the name to the property "**La Mortella**". **Lady Walton** worked over 50 years with dedication to create a refuge for **William** to compose in isolated peace. When **William** passed away in 1983 she decided to open the grounds to the public by 1991. She formed two foundations in his name - the **Fondazione William Walton** in Italy and the **William Walton Trust** in Britain, aiming not only to promote her husband's love and knowledge of music but also to maintain the beautiful grounds and gardens. To **Lady Susanna Walton**, **La Mortella** has proven to be a mission of a lifetime, a monument to the life and works of William and a poignant reminder of the great love they experienced together.

2020 OPENING TIMES The Garden is open to the public from June 16th to October 31st, 2020. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 7 pm. Last admission by 6 pm. At least two hours are recommended for the visit. The garden is also accessible to disabled visitors. Guided Tours for groups are available in Italian and English by appointment only +39 081 990118. All visitors receive a map of the gardens including a suggested itinerary and the main attractions.

Giardini La Mortella - 45, Via Francesco Calise 80075 **Forio**, Ischia (NA) phone: +39 081 986220 mail: info@lamortella.org

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