

THE TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO INSPIRED PURSUITS

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VIRTUOSO LIFE

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61 TRAVEL IDEAS TO TAKE YOU AWAY



Capri Reawakens

Welcome spring on Italy's isle of chic.

BY AMY LAUGHINGHOUSE

GO FOR An opportunity to see Capri, the celebrity haunt three miles off Italy's Sorrento Peninsula, before the crowds and summer heat descend. Many hotels in Capri town and Anacapri, its sleepier sister two-and-a-half miles to the west, close in winter, reopening with a fresh coat of paint and spanking-new renovations in early April. With the annual **Rolex Capri Sailing Week** (yccapri.org), an international regatta slated for May 19 through 23 this year, visitors from

Blue yonder and big style, clockwise from top: Capri's coastline, Caesar Augustus terrace, and a Canfora original.

around the world arrive to race or simply to watch dozens of yachts slicing through the azure water beneath the sheer, rocky cliffs of this dramatic Mediterranean isle.

EAT The menu and the view often share top billing at Capri's restaurants. Heaping portions of caprese salad, pasta, and seafood with imminently quaffable house wine are on offer at **Add'o Riccio** (Grotta Azzurra, Anacapri; 39-81/837-1380), which overlooks the famed Blue Grotto. Perched above the massive stone Arco Naturale, **Le Grotelle** (Via Arco Naturale 13, Capri; 39-81/837-5719) offers traditional local cuisine and seating inside a cozy cavern or on a terrace facing the water. **Capri's** (Via Roma 38, Capri; 39-81/837-7108) boasts a sleek interior, a postcard panorama of the Bay of Naples, and seasonal fare.

DRINK **Piazza Umberto I** buzzes day and night as Capresians gather for espresso or cocktails at alfresco establishments such as **Caffè Caso** (Piazza Umberto I 4, Capri; 39-81/837-0600). **Quisi Bar & Terrazza** (Via Camerelle 2, Capri; 39-81/837-0788), with its sleek black-and-white interior and a terrace where you can watch shoppers click-clacking along the flagstones in towering heels, is a favorite place for an aperitif. For late-night drinks and live music, head to **Anema e Core** (Via Sella Orta 39/e, Capri; 39-81/837-6461), a tavern that's often packed to the exposed wood rafters with famous faces such as Antonio Banderas and Giorgio Armani.

SHOP Put a spring in your step with custom-made sandals from **Canfora** (Via Camerelle 3, Capri; 39-81/837-0487), just a few doors down from Versace,

Bulgari, and Dolce & Gabbana on one of the busiest shopping streets in Capri. The **Centro Artigianale, Sapori di Capri** (Viale Axel Munthe 16, Anacapri; 39-81/837-3967) sells deliciously smooth limoncello and other local products. In a gallery nearby, **Salvatore Federico** (Via Capodimonte 58, Anacapri; 39-81/837-3061) shows luminous landscapes that capture Capri's wild beauty.

STAY With its multilevel terraces, a two-tier infinity pool, a cliffside restaurant, and manicured gardens, the 55-room **Hotel Caesar Augustus** is one of the most spectacular places in Anacapri to watch the sunset (opens April 1; doubles from \$492). Also in Anacapri, the 79-room **Capri Palace Hotel & Spa** is renowned for its two-Michelin-starred restaurant, L'Olivo, and spa, The Capri Beauty Farm, which has attracted much attention for its bLeg School program, designed to tone and firm gams (opens April 9; doubles from \$420).



(COASTLINE) SIMONE S.A.S./ISTOCK PHOTO