

# Mosaic Tour 2020: The Kingdom of Naples

## A Cultural Mosaic in Campania

OCTOBER 7-14, 2020



The cultural mosaic of a portion of the Kingdom of Naples is the focus of this tour as it is a microcosm of European history. We are concentrated on what today is the province of Campania and will be staying mostly on the Sorrento coast.

In many ways, the Kingdom of Naples (after 1816 the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies) is the birthplace of Europe. The importance of the ancient Greek and Roman monuments in Southern Italy, the Arab overlay in certain areas and the architectural vision of the Spanish and French rulers were a magnet for the Grand Tour aristocrats and eventual ruling classes from northern Europe and North America who sought a common culture heritage and philosophic expression for their own emerging nations. Stendhal considered Naples a great European capital, the equal of Paris. Much later, of course, Naples was also an important arena in World War II for Canadian forces moving up the shin of Italy with the British 8<sup>th</sup> and the US 5<sup>th</sup> Army.





*Greek Temples  
at Paestum*



*Amalfi Cathedral*

The first tesserae in this mosaic are the Greek colonists, at Paestum, where an early city plan provided a model for urbanization in Southern Italy. That model would be modified by the Romans as they tried to unify a peninsula of indigenous peoples and Greek colonies. The differences between a Greek city and a Roman city are visible at Pompeii, discovered in 1748. Pompeii started a mania for ruins and antiquity that would provide the visible Neoclassical identity of Europe. The Pompeii excavations provided the foundation for the British Museum original collection and was an obligatory stop, as was Paestum, for the early Grand Tourists. Amalfi, an important maritime republic during the Byzantine rule of Southern Italy in the mid 800's, retains much of that influence in the world famous lemon cultivation and in the Cathedral.



Certosa di Padula



Majolica Cloister of Santa Chiara

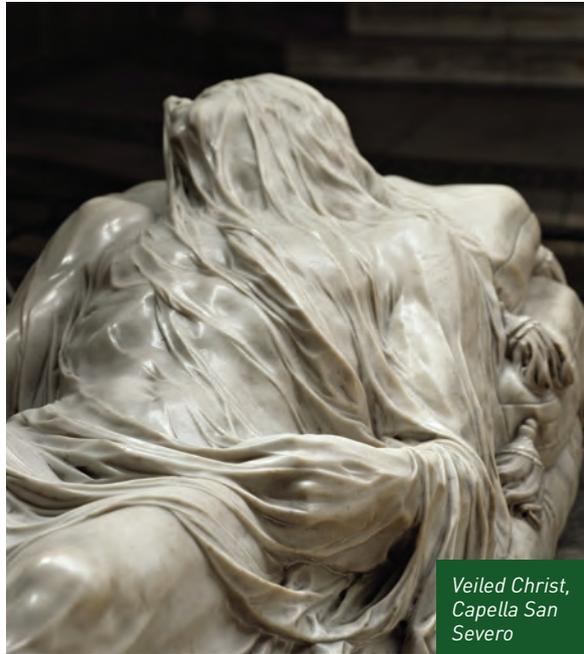


Historic center of Naples

The Carthusian Monastery or Certosa of Padula, the largest cloister in the world, documents the French monastic order in 1306. Although the Certosa was largely redecorated in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century to highlight the artistic technique of *scagliola*, faux marble and faux intarsis, the basic structure remains, underlining the Monastic Order's emphasis on both contemplation and work in distinct parts of the huge structure. The historic center of Naples is dominated by Spaccanapoli, the main Greek and Roman road through the town. The monuments along the road document those periods in Naples as well as the Angevin (1266), Spanish (mid 1400's) and

French (1734-1861) domination of the Kingdom. Naples was a primary cultural center for the Enlightenment and the **Humanism** of the 17th, 18th, 19th centuries. Walking the historic center, we will pass a Roman statue of the Nile river God, Piazza Gesu to visit the church and monastery of St. Chiara and its majolica cloister created in the 1740's.

An important stop will be the Capella Sansevero where the Veiled Christ (1753), one of the world's most remarkable statues, is housed. The Mausoleum of the Capella is a Freemason temple, full of the symbolism that marks that association, still very active in Italy today. Our last tesserae in the construction of Europe takes us into the countryside with a visit to the Royal Palace at Caserta (1752), and the Royal Silk Factory at San Leucio (1773), the first experiment in a socialist utopian society, with its own statutes to guarantee equality for all workers. A final moment with a view across the Bay provides a chance to remember the significant Canadian contributions in World War II throughout the area.



*Veiled Christ,  
Capella San  
Severo*

NO COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IS INTENDED



*Garden and the Royal  
Palace at Caserta*





Vico Equense

Two nights in the area of Poseidonia/ Paestum and the our remaining nights on the Sorrento coast, with spectacular views across the Bay of Naples, to Naples itself, to Mt. Vesuvius and to Ischia will provide visual pleasure and stimulation.

As always, a Mosaic tour is leisurely: we rarely start before 9 am, and the days include free time for you to have your own experience. In order to make a historical development comprehensible, the chronological order of our visits is important, but occasionally we have to break that due to logistics. One free day allows time for a visit to Sorrento or Capri, easily accessible from the Sorrento Coast by the high speed train.

A Mosaic tour mixes the cultural aspects with local cuisine and conversation about the theme of the tour, the making of Europe. The modern situation will also be discussed as this area is most often likened to the Canadian maritime provinces in terms of economy and in its relationship to the rest of Italy.

A long term quandary in Italy, from the unification of Italy in 1860, is the 'Southern Question', tied to issues such as the Mafia, inequality of wealth and central to a number of current political situations.

Several lunches are enjoyed by the entire group. At a local farm, a light lunch based on the local cheeses made from water buffalo milk is restorative after Paestum. Lunch at the Certosa will not be monastic. In Naples we will sample a true Neapolitan pizza in its cultural context . Several dinners at Paestum and smaller towns on the Sorrento Coast, one with a lesson on Campanian wines are enjoyed with the group. Other meals are at your own discretion. When no dinner is offered, an *apericena*, a substantial aperitif with food is included. While nibbling, Helena and Laura will converse about the themes and activities for the next day.

Join us for autumn by the sea, for limoncello,  
in a little known and unexplored part of Italy.



Tour leaders are Dr. Helena Fracchia, UAlberta Professor Emerita in Classical Art/ Archaeology, Founder and Director of the UAlberta School in Cortona, Italy and Ms. Laura Santiccoli, Program Director of CREA and Program Manager of the UAlberta School in Cortona, Italy.

**Our comprehensive registration fee includes:**

- Accommodation September 28–October 4.
- Meals (breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and apericena) listed in the attached daily itinerary
- Visits to:
  - Paestum
  - The Certosa di Padula
  - Pompeii
  - Participation in the Lemon Tour
  - Entrance to the Capella San Severo
  - Santa Chiara and the majolica cloister
  - San Leucio and the Reggia at Caserta.
- Daily conversations on itinerary topics listed facilitated by Dr. Helena Fracchia
- A guided walking tour of the town of Vico Equense
- Transportation to and from activities and day trips in the itinerary
- Transportation between Naples and Paestum/Sorrento Coast
- All tips/gratuities during scheduled activities, including meals, guides/ instructors and drivers

**The registration fee does not include:**

- Airfare and associated costs (e.g. baggage fees)
- Travel insurance
- Passport fees
- Travel between your airport and Naples train station
- Cancellation, medical and any other personal insurance
- Meals and beverages, except those listed in the itinerary
- Laundry and personal services
- Visas and entry/departure fees, if applicable
- Activities undertaken during free time

