

WHERE NAPLES  
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NAPLES CITY GUIDE  
COAST&ISLANDS

# Where

JANUARY 2019

RECOMMENDED BY YOUR CONCIERGE

## UNUSUAL NAPLES

Discover Rione  
Sanità: an authentic  
neighborhood between  
art, history and folklore

**#FerranteFever**  
Tour to the places  
of "My Brilliant Friend"  
a literary case  
all over the world

DETACHABLE  
SPECIAL

WhereJunior:  
Campania suitable  
for families

ALL YOU CAN DO IN THE CITY

SHOPPING | DINING | ENTERTAINMENT | MUSEUMS&ATTRACTIONS

# Naples | COAST&ISLANDS | 1.19

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#### ON THE COVER

Peter Paul Rubens. Herod's Banquet, 1635-1638 ca. Oil on canvas, 208 x 272 Edinburgh, National Galleries of Scotland. Courtesy Gallerie d'Italia which hosts the exhibition of Rubens, Van Dyck and Ribera 'The collection of a prince', until April 6, at Palazzo Zevallos Stigliano in Naples.

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# Neapolitan ferment: the Rione Sanità

A real and authentic neighborhood, that gave birth to the great Totò. After years of degradation it is a concentration of wonders that is experiencing an unprecedented cultural rebirth

Palazzo dello Spagnuolo

**T**he birthplace of Totò, born at number **109 in Via Santa Maria Antesaecula**, is one of the most authentic districts of the city and contains a mixture of **wonders and works of art**.

The Rione Sanità was built at the end of the **16th century** in a country valley outside the city walls. The name was linked to the healthiness of the area: the **frequent floods** caused by the stream that came **down from Capodimonte** purified the air. A district that for a long time has lived in degradation and abandonment but that in recent years is affected by an unprecedented **cultural fervour**. **Many are its beauties:** for example, the **Church of Mercy**, the seat of the

Experimental Centre for Contemporary Arts where local and international artists express their creativity and also a new Naples, the underground one. From the **'Basilica delle Incoronata Madre del Buon Consiglio'** you can access the **Catacombs of San Gennaro**, a spectacular underground Christian site that winds through tunnels, frescoes and mosaics. On the other hand, the **Church of Santa Maria della Sanità** leads to the **Catacombs of San Gaudioso**, which is smaller in size but equally suggestive, with the **frescoes in the main tunnel** that bear the remains of real skulls embedded in the walls. The Sanità also houses the **Cemetery of the Fontanelle**, an ancient tuff cave used, after the plague of **1656**

and after the cholera of **1836**, to make room in the now saturated city cemeteries: the exhumed bones were stacked here, giving rise to the cult of the **"capuzzelle"**, that is the skulls of the dead. Forgotten deaths, and here piled up because they are beggars, hence the other definition by which they are called, **"pezzentelle souls"**, doomed to be trapped in Purgatory. **Tradition says** that capuzzelle bring benefits to the person who takes care of them and to their family: cleaned of dust, they are paid homage with **symbolic objects** linked to the soul of the deceased; some of them have become famous, such as the skull of **Donna Concetta** and the **Captain**. Leaving the underground, it is time to get lost in the streets of Rione, with its





Installation by Hera Büyüktaşçıyan

## Coming back. The cult of 'pezzentelle souls'

Once upon a time the Neapolitan underground was full of statuettes representing the "little bittersweet souls". Today, for the first time, more than one hundred statues are on display, made of polychrome terracotta, wood, plywood and cork, acquired from the Opera Pia Purgatorio ad Arco and coming from a private collection. Souls return home.

**Until 17 January**  
**Museum complex of Santa Maria delle**  
**Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco.**  
 Via Tribunali, 39, Naples  
[www.purgatorioadarco.it](http://www.purgatorioadarco.it)



Santa Maria della Sanità

## ADVICE FROM WHERE

### CAKE'S SHOPS

**Casertano** 

**Di Costanzo**

[www.dicostanzopasticceria.it](http://www.dicostanzopasticceria.it)

**Mignone**

[www.pasticceriamignone.it](http://www.pasticceriamignone.it)

**Poppella**

[www.pasticceriaipopella.com](http://www.pasticceriaipopella.com)




### PIZZERIAS

**Antico Borgo Ai Vergini** 

**Concettina ai tre Santi di Ciro Oliva**

[www.pizzeriaioliva.it](http://www.pizzeriaioliva.it)

**Isabella De Cham fried pizza** 

**Taverna di Totò**

[www.latavernaditoto.it](http://www.latavernaditoto.it)

**beautiful murals** and lively markets that color the squares. The real heart of the district is **Piazza Borgo dei Vergini**, with two spectacular buildings in the background: **Palazzo Sanfelice**, with its monumental double flight of steps similar to a painting by Escher, and **Palazzo dello Spagnuolo**, an extraordinary example of Baroque architecture.

On the ground floor of **Palazzo Peschici Maresca**, at number **5 Via Arena alla Sanità**, the Aqua Augusta or Serino Aqueduct from Roman times, **discovered by chance in 2011 and opened to the public in 2015**, is worth a visit. It was developed over a distance of more than 100 km, supplying water to the most important centers of

Campania that time including Pompeii and Ercolano.

It is here that, **until March 10**, the site-specific installation "From We Came Out and Saw the Stars, by **Hera Büyüktaşçıyan**, as part of the contemporary art program "**Underneath the Arches**" is hosted. The **Turkish artist's installation** involves the viewer, making him feel like he is immersed in a basin of water: the stories of the ancient city of Naples blend with the stratifications of the aqueduct.

## HOW TO GET THERE

### Subway

>> Line 1, Museum Station

>> Line 2, Cavour Station