GAPA



Compliments
of the
AMERICAN RED CROSS

Capri

Welcome to Capri!

Every hill and every rocky grotto sings out its greeting, and the words are echoed by every bright-eyed ragamuffin. « Hello, chew' gum », « Hello, caramell' », « Want to see Blue Grott'? » — this is the noisy, boisterous welcome of the natives; but the visitor to Capri just as surely feels the silent,

magic greeting of the tiny isle itself.

Through the ages, to Capri have come people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world, to revel in her natural beauty and to delve into her rich and varied historical background. From Augustus Caesar to the ill-fated Count Ciano, from Ulysses to Gracie Fields, all have fallen under her spell. Her tiled-floor villas of today have known the tread of the great from many lands. But Capri has her roots in antiquity, and her cobblestone walks and narrow pathways have echoed the footsteps of the mighty since before the dawn of our Christian era. Yet so lightly and so gracefully does she bear the weight of her historic past that we are conscious of it only as a subtle enrichment of her natural beauties, and a stimulus to the imagination.

To understand the people of Capri, we must understand their background. The story begins in legend, with Ulysses and the Sirens, and with the coming of the pre-hellenic Teleboae. The sea-faring Greeks sailed into Naples Bay, and then claimed Capri for their own. Then came the Romans, and at the beginning of our era the Emperor Augustus, paying a chance visit, fell in love with the island, built there an imperial residence overlooking the northern beach, and retired occasionally to the seclusion and quiet it offered. His step-son and successor. Tiberius Caesar, finding in Capri a retreat from all his enemies, real and imagined, built twelve magnificent villas on the island, and from this spot he ruled the Roman Empire for the last ten years of his life.

With the fall of the Roman Empire came the end of Capri's golden era, and for centuries the island changed hands among the ruling nations of Europe, withstanding meanwhile the terror of raids by the Saracen pirates. Norman, German, French and Spanish, each ruled successively the tiny island, each leaving behind permanent impression of that dominion. In the Napoleonic War at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Capri became a bone of contention between the English and the French, who successively occupied the island, and left their ruined forts as memorials to the struggle. With the defeat of Napoleon, Capri returned to the pre-Napoleonic King of Naples, Ferdinand IV, who made of her a sporting and quail-hunting resort. And finally, when Garibaldi took Naples in 1860, she passed into the hands of the New Italy, and became, as she is today, a haven of peace in the midst of turmoil.

This, then, is the background from which have emerged the sturdy Capriotes of today - industrious, religious, happy-golucky. The war has ruined Capri's peacetime tourist trade, but the coming of the American soldier has provided a tourist trade all its own. The island folk will sell you anything from a coral necklace to a boat ride around the island - and will charge three times what it's worth. The taxi-drivers have agreed upon a standard fare, but it's all part of the game to get the unwary passenger to pay more. Find out the charge before you commit yourself, and if you are doubtful about prices, ask the local M. P.'s, or the American Red Cross.

The island of Capri lies about three and one-half miles off the peninsula of Sorrento, and it is six square miles in size. It is about four miles long, and from three-fourths to one and three-fourths miles wide. To circle the island by boat is about a twelve mile journey. Capri is unique of all the nearby islands in that it is non-volcanic in origin.

The exact origin of the name «Capri» is not clear. Some claim it has its origin in the Latin word for goat, on the imaginative idea that the shape of the island resembles that of a sleeping goat; but more probably it comes, like Anacapri, from the Greek «capros», the wild boar.

The village of Capri nestles amid the surrounding mountain peaks of the eastern part of the island. It is a labyrinth of narrow. picturesque alleys, down which the unheeding pedestrian can quickly lose his way. Its center of activity is the SQUARE, or PIAZZA, where the local people congregate at all hours of the day. This is the center from which radiate the myriad of paths and narrow roadways leading to all parts of the island. From the terrace off the Square one can look down over the GRANDE MARI-NA, where the ferry boat from Naples brings its load of new arrivals each evening, and watch the tiny FUNICOLARE glide sturdily up the hill. On a clear day the terrace affords a commanding view of the magnificent Gulf of Naples, with Vesuvius and the city of Naples in the background. Surrounding the Square are the old doorways of Capri and the steps leading to the old Cathedral of St. Stefano.

From the Square easy access can be had to many of the famous and enchanting



FUNICOLARE

beauty spots of Capri along the inviting pathways that stem outward from this axis. Listed below are suggested walks that can be taken, followed by a brief description of the places to be seen.

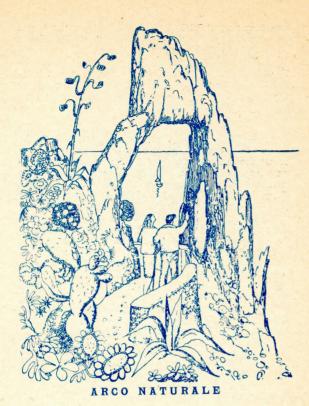
- 1. Ascending the steps from the Square, and keeping to the right, a narrow street called the Via Madre Serafina leads in just a few minutes to the hilltop on which rests the beautiful Villa Ciano, and above it the CASTELLO DEL CASTIGLIONE. Stemming off to the left, as one ascends the hill toward the Villa Ciano, is a pathway leading to a balcony which presents one of the most charming views of the FARAGLIONI, to the left, and the PICCOLA MARINA to the right.
- 2. Descending from the Square and passing to the right of the Hotel Quisisana, the Via Augusto leads to the PARCO AUGUSTO on the right, while to the left the path leads to the doorway of the CONVENTO DELLA CERTOSA. From the upper terrace of the PARCO AUGUSTO one has, again, an excellent view of the FARAGLIONI, and also the CERTOSA, MONTE TELEGRAFO and MONTE SAN MICHELE. Continuing on the Via Augusto past the PARCO AUGUSTO and on down the switchback with its enchanting views of rock and sea, it is possible to reach the PICCOLA MARINA in an easy half hour's walk. To return, the highway offers a gentle, more leisurely slope than the rugged switchback of the Via Augusto.
- 3. Leaving the Square by the Via Tiberio and passing along in front of the Morgano Tiberio Hotel, one makes the ascent to the highest point of the eastern half of the island, MONTE TIBERIO, with its imposing ruins of the VILLA JOVIS and its fabulous SALTO DI TIMBERIO, in approximately forty minutes. This trip can be made either on foot or by donkey back, and it is one of the regularly scheduled « tours » of the Red Cross Information Center.
- 4. Leaving the Square by the Via Tiberio and turning to the left just beyond the little Church of San Michele, we find the beautiful estate of Lady Lennox with its stately gardens surrounding the MONTE SAN MICHELE and its mysterious underground grotto. While it takes but a few minutes to reach the entrance to the Monte San Michele villa from the Square, to reach the top of the MONTE SAN MICHELE itself will require about a half hour of steady climbing.
- 5. Leaving the Square by the narrow Via Sopramonte leading to the Ercolano Restaurant and turning right up the steps going past the Windsor and Splendido Hotels, a brief twenty minute walk will take one past vineyards and along the hillside to the

awe-inspiring ARCO NATURALE. From here can be seen the peninsula of Sorrento and the Islands of the Sirens. Before reaching the ARCO, there are some steep steps to the right leading to the GROTTA MATROMANIA, and from there one can continue on down to the FARAGLIONI, returning by another path going around Telegraph Hill and by the PUNTA TRAGARA.

- 6. From the Square one can descend to the GRANDE MARINA by way of the FUNICOLARE. or by the carriage road, or on foot along the pathway leading past the Marconi Theatre or down the stairway which passes under the FUNICOLARE. From the GRANDE MARINA a footpath going off behind the Hotel Bristol leads to the PALAZZO A MARE (a twenty minute walk), where are found the massive ruins of one Tiberius' villas rising from the sea, and the BAGNI DI TIBERIO, a beach that is a favorite bathing spot. This same spot may be reached by boat from the GRANDE MARINA in about fifteen minutes. From the GRANDE MARI-NA, too, one may ascend the ancient « Phoenician » steps to ANACAPRI, a steady, tortuous climb along a pathway leading off behind the Hotel Bristol. The oldest church in Capri, the SAN COSTANZO CHA-PEL, is located on the GRANDE MARINA.
- 7. Descending from the Square and turning to the left in front of the Quisisana Hotel along the Via Camerelle, a little jog to the left beyond the Pensione Tragara leads past the German Church on to the Via Tragara. Along this level road bordered with oleanders, almonds and holm oaks is reached the PUNTA TRAGARA overlooking the FARA-GLIONI. A rough path descends from the PUNTA TRAGARA to the FARAGLIONI. One can return by way of the ARCO NATURALE on the little path going around Telegraph Hill.
- 8. From the Square along the Via Sopramonte leading to the ARCO NATURALE a pathway going off to the right in front of the little shrine leads to the ascent of MONTE TELEGRAFO (Telegraph Hill, or Semaforo).

ARCO NATURALE

One of the marvels of Capri, it consists of an arch of rock that almost appears to have been carved by man. At one time this was the level of the sea. The calcarious rock of Capri here has been pierced by erosion, and the picturesque precipices all around the arch are very interesting. The color of the rock is gray, but sometimes during the sunset violet and yellow streaks may be seen. Perhaps the arch was the entrance to a very old grotto pierced by the sea thousands of vears ago. It is located on the eastern side of the island, and from this spot is presented a wonderful view of the Gulf of Salerno and the Island of the Sirens (I « galli »).



BLUE GROTTO (Grotta Azzurra)

The most famous cave in the world, noted for the deep blue reflection of light found therein. The sunlight passes through a great opening in the rock under the level of the sea, and all the light rays except those of blue are absorbed by the water. This cave can be reached by boat from the GRANDE MARINA in about an hour. To enter, the boat must pass through an opening not more than four feet high and six feet wide. If the sea is at all rough, or if there is a north or east wind, it is impossible to enter. The boatman must wait for an incoming wave, and the passengers lie down flat on the bottom of the boat in order to get through the opening. The light effects in the cave are generally considered to be at their best on a bright, sunny day about eleven o'clock in the morning. Remains of Roman construction show that the grotto was well known to the Romans. Perhaps it formed a stronghold for pirates during the time of the civil wars before Augustus. Tiberius knew it almost certainly, and he built a small villa outside near its entrance. The grotto was then forgotten, and rediscovered in 1826.

CASTELLO DEL CASTIGLIONE

The ruins of a medieval castle (probably of the fourteenth century), built as a defense against the inroads of the Barbarians, who infested the island from the ninth to the eighteenth century. It is supposed

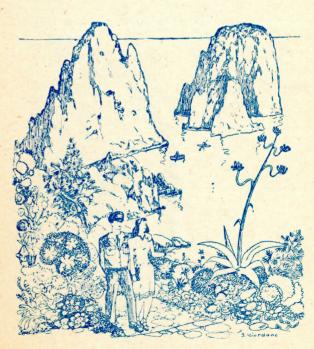
that the Castiglione was built on the ruins of one of the villas of Tiberius. The hill of the Castiglione, from which you can obtain one of the most beautiful views of the island, is about 700 feet high. Descending by a little pathway to the right as you face the Castiglione, it is possible to reach a natural grotto of some size. This grotto, formed by erosion (indicating that the level of the sea was once at this height), is supposed to have been used by inhabitants of Capri during the inroads of the Barbarians to hide their women and goods.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. STEFANO

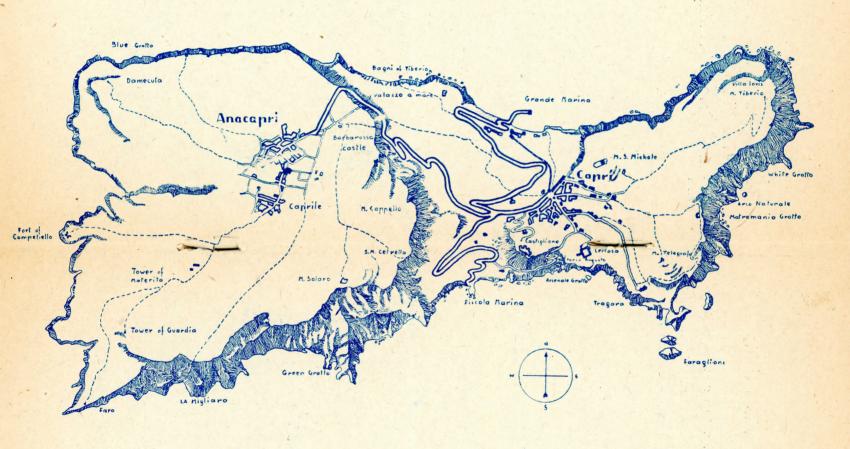
Located just off the Square, this church was entirely rebuilt on the site of a more ancient church at the end of the seventeenth century. Near the altar is an ancient Roman pavement taken from the VILLA JOVIS, and at the end of the right nave two funeral monuments of the Arcucci family, one of whom, Giacomo (on the left), was the founder of the Monastery of the Certosa (1374). Both monuments were in the Certosa before the Cathedral of St. Stefano was built.

CONVENTO DELLA CERTOSA

An ancient Carthusian monastery, built at the end of the fourteenth century, and rebuilt almost entirely during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, especially after the inroads of Kaireddin Barbarossa and Mustafà Bassà. This monastery formed the headquarters of Hudson Lowe, the commander of the British garrison in the Capri battle against the French under the Na-



FARAGLIONI



ISLE OF CAPRI

poleonic King Murat. It was used during the last war to house armed troops, and is once more gradually being restored. It now houses an art gallery and a library of French, German, English and Italian books. From a terrace near the large cloister one can enjoy a magnificent view of the south side of Capri.

FARAGLIONI

The three famous rocks rising out of the sea on the south side of the island. The innermost is the Stella, the others the Faraglione di mezzo and the Scopolo. The largest is approximately 325 feet high. On the Scopolo lives a species of blue lizard found no place else in the world. One can still see at the bases of these rocks some traces of an ancient Roman harbor.

FARO (ancient)

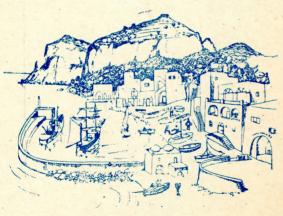
An ancient lighthouse was located on this site just below the ruins of the VILLA JOVIS on MONTE TIBERIO. It was built together with the Villa about 27 - 28 A. D., fell into ruins some time before the death of Tiberius (37 A. D.), and was later rebuilt. Testimony to this great age is found in the fact that it was mentioned by a Roman writer, Statius, in the second century A. D.

FUNICOLARE

The cable railway by which passengers are carried to and fro between the GRANDE MARINA and the PIAZZA 450 feet above. Approximately 2100 feet in length, this railway was constructed in 1907 and modernized in 1913. The tiny cablecar makes the seven minute ascent and descent through vineyards and citrus groves every half hour during the day.

GRANDE MARINA

The main harbor, located on the north side of the island. The harbor was enlarged in 1926, at a cost of



GRANDE MARINA

about twenty million lire, to accommodate ships of any tonnage and type. From the Grande Marina small boats may be obtained at any time for fishing purposes, or for trips to the BLUE GROTTO, ARCO NATURALE and other points of interest

GREEN GROTTO (Grotta Verde)

This grotto, located on the south side of the island, reflects a greer color, and is seen to best advantage about midday on a bright day. One-half hour by boat from the PICCOLA MARINA.

GROTTA DELL'ARSENALE

Between the PICCOLA MARINA and the FARA-GLIONI, near the shore. So called for its Roman ruins, which were falsely believed to be an ancient arsenal. In reality, probably a grotto transformed by Tiberius into a place for rest and recreation.

GROTTA MATROMANIA

A large cave located near the Natural Arch. This cave was supposed to have been an ancient temple of Mitra, God of Sun, Fire and Fertility, whose cult was popular among the Romans in the second and third centuries A. D. More probably it is one of many places of rest and recreation created by Tiberius in Capri.

MONTE SAN MICHELE

The mount rising behind the Morgano Hotel and topped by ruins of one of the ancient villas of Tiberius. The mountain is about 800 feet high. This mountain was the most strategic point during the Battle of Capri which was fought between the French and English in 1808. Beneath the Roman ruins, and surrounding the entire mountain, are the beautiful gardens of Lady Gordon Lennox, of England. On the grounds of her estate, also, will be found an interesting grotto of stalactites and stalagmites which may be entered through a steep underground stairway of stone. Flashlights are needed to explore this grotto.

MONTE TELEGRAFO (Semaforo)

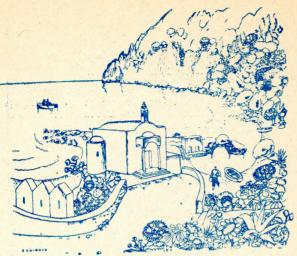
The mountain, about 850 feet high, on which is located the telegraph station. This mountain, situated on the southeastern part of the island, overlooks the PUNTA TRAGARA, FARAGLIONI and ARCO NATURALE.

MONTE TIBERIO

This is the highest point of the eastern half of the island, approximately 1100 feet above the level of the sea. Atop this mountain rests the famous ruins of the VILLA JOVIS, and below it the FARO and the legendary SALTO DI TIMBERIO. The top of this mountain affords one of the most beautiful views of the island.

PALAZZO A MARE

On the GRANDE MARINA, twenty minutes walk from the landing place. This is the site of the ruins of the palace of Augustus, the two wings of the pal-



PICCOLA MARINA

ace having been located where the villas of Professor Stepanow and Mrs. Harrison Williams now stand, the open space between being the courtyard. Tiberius enlarged the palace with buildings extending down to the seashore. These ruins are called the BAGNI DI TIBERIO (Tiberius' baths), and constitute a most beautiful spot for bathing in summer.

PARCO AUGUSTO

The «Gardens of Augustus», a lovely park from the upper terrace of which can be had a commanding view of the CERTOSA, FARAGLIONI and nearby mountain peaks. These gardens are situated on the south side of the island overlooking the PICCOLA MA-BINA.

PICCOLA MARINA

The beach located on the south side of the island, which is generally considered the best spot for bathing. It is the only safe landing place on this side of the island. Here, opposite the little cottages that line the shore, may be found the celebrated Reef of the Sirens. The Marina is believed by many to be the site of one of the villas of Tiberius, but it, is more likely that the ruins found near the Reef of the Sirens are what remain of an early quay. From the Piccola Marina excursions by boat may be made to the GREEN GROTTO, WHITE GROTTO and GROTTA MERAVIGLIOSA, GROTTA DELL'ARSENALE and other points of interest.

PÜNTA TRAGARA

The southeastern corner of the island. Here, from a beautiful terrace beneath MONTE TELEGRAFO, one can look down upon the FARAGLIONI and the little harbor of Roman times. On the Punta Tragara was located one of the villas of Tiberius, as testified by excavations that have been carried on here.

SALTO DI TIMBERIO

This is the famous « Leap of Tiberius », from which tradition has it that Tiberius was wont to hurl selected victims into the sea below. « Timberio » is the local corruption of the Emperor's name. From this rocky prominence it is a sheer drop of 500 to 600 feet to the water below.

SAN COSTANZO CHAPEL

Located on the MARINA GRANDE opposite the Swiss Hotel, this is the oldest church in Capri. It was built probably in the twelfth century, and the central part of the church, in Byzantine style, is from that time: the cross-formed interior, with a small cupola supported by ancient Roman columns taken from some palace of Tiberius, and the little bell tower outside. This was the main church of Capri in that epoch, when the principal city of Capri was not on the saddle-back of the mountains as it is today, but rather was around the landing place, as in the Roman epoch. The church was enlarged at the end of the fourteenth century, and the entrance and choir loft, in Gothic style, are of this period.

VILLA JOVIS

Situated at the top of MONTE TIBERIO, these ruins are all that remain of what was once the finest of Tiberius' twelve palaces on Capri. Built about 27-28 A. D., large parts of the building, which combined the luxury of a palace with the utmost adaptation to the physical nature of the place (as evidenced in the large vaults of the cisterns for rain water, the panoramic terraces, etc.), still remain to bear witness to the power and wealth of the Roman Empire. It is here that Tiberius spent the last ten years of his life, and it is during this era that Capri can justly lay claim to having been the center of the civilized world.

WHITE GROTTO (Grotta Bianca)

A sea cave, called the White Grotto because of the silver reflections from the sun on the rocks. Just above this grotto is the GROTTA MERAVIGLIOSA, one of the most beautiful of all the grottos, with its soft stalactites of strange forms and its petrified vegetation. Situated on the eastern side of the island, these two grottos are about midway between the GRANDE MARINA and the PICCOLA MARINA, and are equally accessible from either.

The town of Anacapri is situated on the hills of the western part of the island, resting in picturesque seclusion among its vineyards and olive groves. A medieval legend tells that it was founded by a pair of young lovers who left the town of Capri to seek the seclusion which they found in this almost inaccessible place of isolation. Like Capri, the town is centered around a Square,

and it can be reached along the well-built carriage road from Capri in about fifteen minutes by automobile, or about forty-five minutes by foot, making use of the various short-cuts along the way. The name, Anacapri, is derived from a combination of "Capri" and the Greek word "ana", meaning up, or over. In the town of Anacapri is located the famous SAN MICHELE CHURCH with its lovely tiled pavement called "The Garden of Eden".

From Anacapri one has a choice of several delightful walks to places of natural beauty and historical significance. These are listed below with a brief discussion of

the points of interest.

- 1. Just outside the village of Anacapri on the highway toward Capri, about a ten minute walk from the Eden Paradiso Hotel, is the famous VILLA SAN MICHELE. By a little pathway passing to the right of the villa it is possible to reach in a very few minutes the ruins of the CASTELLO DI BARBAROSSA.
- 2. Descending the steps going to the left from the CAPRILE, at the end of the carriage road, a rough path leads up and down hill to the FARO, about a one hour walk. To the left as one goes down may be seen the medieval TOWER OF MATERITA, and beneath it the lovely villa of Dr. Axel Munthe, author of the book, «The Story of San Michele». A turn to the right before reaching the MATERITA leads one to the FORT OF CAMPETIELLO.
- 3. From the SAN MICHELE CHURCH a pathway to the right will lead in about forty minutes to the BLUE GROTTO. This is a beautiful walk, though the path is rough and sometimes steep.
- 4. From the pathway leading to the VILLA SAN MICHELE from the highway, a turn to the left brings one in about forty minutes to the top of MONTE CAPELLO. Keeping straight along the same path, MONTE CETRELLA, with its little four teenth century church will be reached in just a few minutes more. Turning to the right from MONTE CAPELLO, another thirty minutes will take you to the top of MONTE SOLARO, the highest point on the island.
- 5. Leaving the CAPRILE by a pathway to the left of the restaurant, the Caffe Caprile, an easy one hour walk over a smooth, level path leads to LA MIGLIARA, with its breathtaking view of the FARO, down to the right, and the FARAGLIONI

far off to the left. LA MIGLIARA can also be reached by a pathway leading off to the right from in front of the Eden Paradiso Hotel. Follow the Migliara pathway, keeping to the right on all turns.

6. — Leaving the village by way of the path leading to the Blue Grotto, a left hand turn just outside the village will take one in a half hour to the TORRE DI DAMECUTA.

CAPRILE

The little square at the end of the road in the village of Anacapri. From here one can look down upon the TOWER OF MATERITA. The little village Caprile is not to be confused with the village Square, which is the town center.

CASTELLO DI BARBAROSSA

Ruins of an ancient castle, named after the Saracen pirate Kaireddin, the red-bearded brother of the King of Algiers. The exact date of its construction is unknown, but it is generally supposed to be some time in the fifteenth century. Here the inhabitants of Anacapri used to take refuge during the inroads of the Barbarians. The castle was destroyed in 1535 by the pirate Barbarossa, and was rebuilt a few years later.

FARO

The lighthouse tower situated on the southwestern tip of the island. Unlike the Faro on MONTE TIBE-RIO, this is not an ancient structure, though it has been built directly over the ruins of an old lighthouse of the fourteenth century. This site affords a magnificent view directly over the sea to the west.

FORT OF CAMPETIELLO

Built by the English when they occupied the island for a brief period of two years during the Napoleonic War and called by them the «Small Gibraltar». Nearby is the site of the Battle of 1808 in which the Frenchtook the garrison by surprise and forced its surrender.

LA MIGLIARA

This promontory presents what is generally considered the most beautiful view on Capri. The sunset from the terrace, or belvedere (built probably by Tiberius), is a never-to-be-forgotten sight. Down to the right can be seen the FARO, and to the left, far off at the other end of the island, the everstately FARA-GLIONI. On a grimmer note, the hilltop to the left at the belvedere is the favored suicide point of the island, in recognition of which a cross has been erected on the site.

MONTE CAPELLO

One of the three main mountain peaks of the western half of the island. From the top of this peak one has an excellent view of Anacapri.

MONTE CETRELLA

A sister peak to MONTE CAPELLO, this mountain derives its name from the little fourteenth century church, Santa Maria a Cetrella, which nestles near its summit.

MONTE SOLARO

The highest point on the island, slightly over 1900 feet above sea level. From this point one has a magnificent view of the entire island, the Gulf of Naples and of Salerno and the peninsula of Sorrento, The summit is topped with ruined fortifications of the Napoleonic period.

SAN MICHELE CHURCH

The little seventeenth century church of Anacapri, famed for its majolica tile floor representing the Creation. Housed within the church are some excellent early paintings. Not to be confused with San Michele Church of Capri, located on Monte San Michele next to the villa of Lady Lennox and built at the end of the fifteenth century.

VILLA SAN MICHELE

This beautiful villa, built about forty years ago by Dr. Axel Munthe, the famed Swedish physician, and author of the book « The Story of San Michele », incorporates in its structure innumerable articles of ancient Roman architecture. Because of its magnificent site, and because of its interesting architectural arrangement, it is considered one of the outstanding show places of the island. As a result, it has now assumed the function and name of a museum, and is often called the San Michele Museum. Should not be confused with the villa of Lady Lennox in Capri called Monte San Michele.

TORRE DELLA GUARDIA

And old watch tower nestling among the hills to the southwest of Anacapri.

TORRE DI DAMECUTA

An ancient tower dating back to Saracen times, located to the west of Anacapri. The plateau near the tower was the site of one of the largest of Tiberius' villas, and from its ruins have been obtained some of the prize archeological treasures of the island.

TOWER OF MATERITA

Another medieval tower, not far from the TORRE DI DAMECUTA. Beneath this tower is the villa which is the present residence of Dr. Axel Munthe when he is on the island.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Services on Capri

Information Center: on the Square

TOURS

LOST AND FOUND



FREE GUIDE SERVICE

ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION

Library: TRAGARA TERRACE
Theater: PARCO AUGUSTO

Enlisted Men's Recreation Centers:

VILLA VALENTINO
TRINETTA LOUNGE



SPORTS

Boating - Fishing - Bathing Cennis