

Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli

PEARL.1  
LUXURY YACHTING

# NAPLES

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



Castel Sant'Elmo  
Palazzo Reale di Napoli

*Naples*  
**UNDERGROUND**

Catacombs of San Gennaro  
Napoli Sotterranea  
Galleria Borbonica

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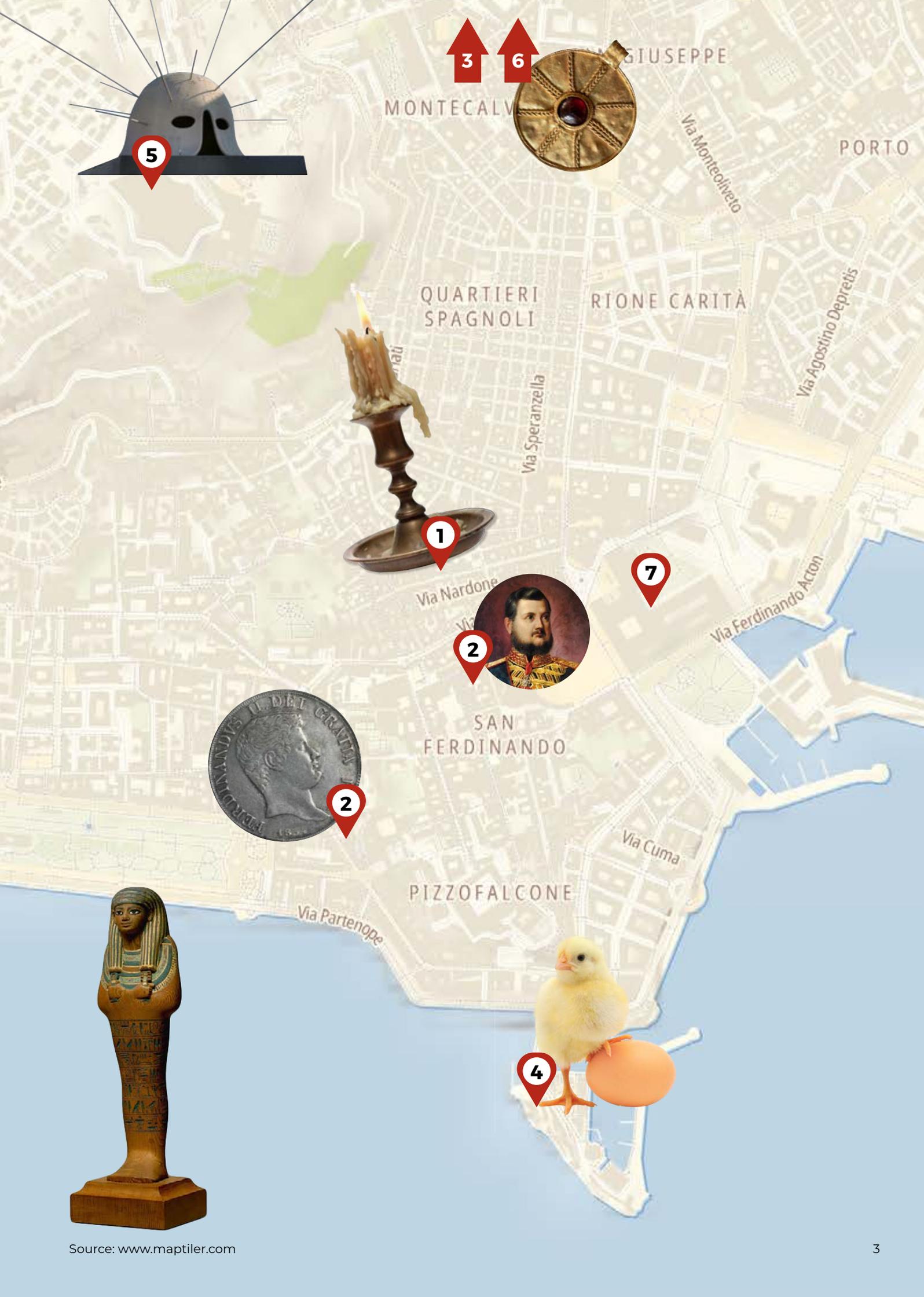
## UNDERGROUND 1

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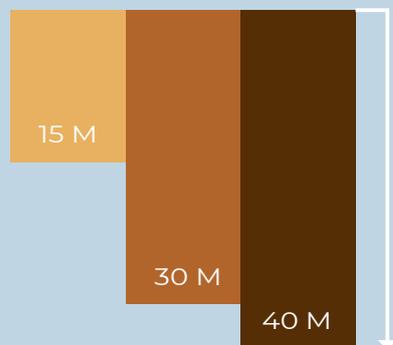


# UNDERGROUND IN NAPLES

Beneath the vibrant streets of Naples lies a hidden world shaped over more than two millennia. Carved into volcanic tuff stone, these underground spaces reveal ancient engineering, royal ambition, and early Christian devotion.

Discover three distinct experiences — each offering a different perspective on the layered soul of Naples.

## THREE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS BENEATH THE CITY



# COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW

Feature	Napoli Sotterranea	Galleria Borbonica	Catacombs of San Gennaro
Historical Period	Greek & Roman (from 4th c. BC)	19th century (Bourbon era)	2nd–4th century AD
Original Function	Quarry & aqueduct system	Royal military escape tunnel	Christian burial site
Depth	Approx. 40 meters	Approx. 30 meters	Approx. 10–15 meters
Spatial Experience	Narrow passages & cisterns	Large tunnels & chambers	Wide halls & basilicas
WWII Connection	Used as air-raid shelter	Major air-raid shelter	No significant WWII use
Artistic Elements	Roman theater remains	Historic vehicles & artifacts	Frescoes & sacred art
Ideal For	Ancient history enthusiasts	Modern & political history lovers	Art and early Christianity visitors



# NAPOLI SOTTERRANEA

The Ancient Aqueduct  
& Roman Theater



Piazza San Gaetano, 68,  
Naples (200 meters from  
the cathedral)

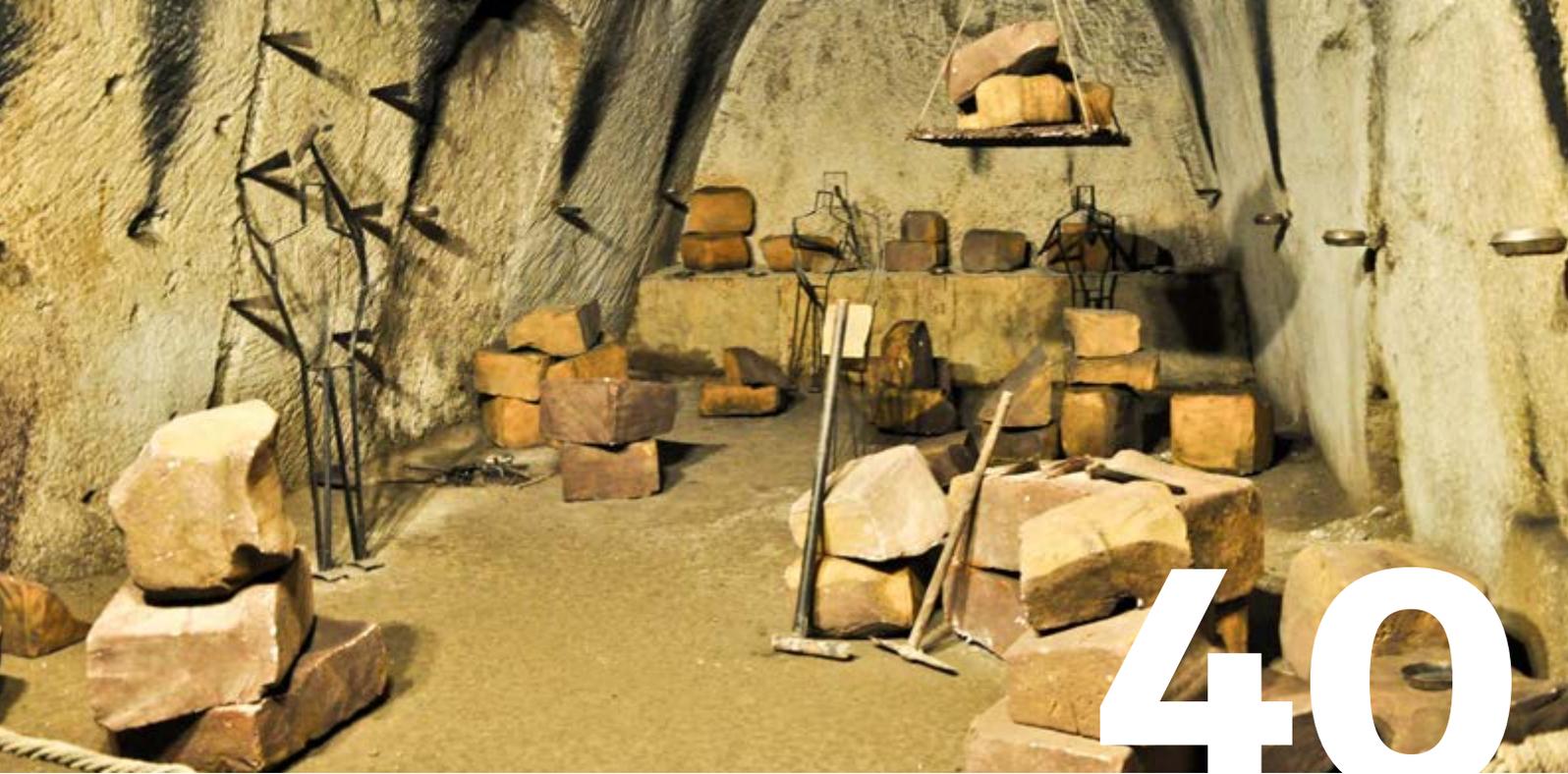
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NAPOLI

SOTTERRANEA



## THE NAPOLI SOTTERRANEA

is an official route through the underground tunnels of Naples city and is the most visited of all routes. You will find a completely different world 40 meters below the streets of Naples, but with a deep connection with the upper world. The following sights can be found on the route of the Napoli Sotterranea tour:

### **The Greek Roman Aqueduct:**

After descending 136 steps you will find the Greek Roman Aqueduct. The area you visit is initially well lit, but in some parts it is too dark. So you can continue the rest of the route with a candle or a flashlight to view the underground water basins. It is a special experience to

move through the very narrow corridors of the aqueduct and not recommended for people with claustrophobia.

### **The Roman Theater:**

Also on this Naples underground tour you will visit a typical Neapolitan house, also called "layer". The reason for this is that it is located at the street level of the city. Once inside, a hatch opens to the ancient Roman theater of Neapolis, where Emperor Nero had a private dressing room.

### **Summa Cavea:**

Recently the Napoli Sotterranea has been expanded with a new discovery, Summa Cavea. It is another part of the Roman theater which houses a permanent exhibition of 'Scarabattoli'. Here you will see characteristic settings of beautiful handmade sculptures in glass display cases.

### **★ Important:**

It is only possible to visit the underground Naples of Napoli Sotterranea with a guided tour. Please note whether you are booking an Italian or English tour. Due to the limited capacity, it is strongly recommended to book tickets in advance.

### **Atmosphere:**

Authentic, archaeological, immersive.

Some passages are narrow and may not be suitable for visitors with claustrophobia.

# 2



## THE BOURBON TUNNEL & WAR MEMORIES

### GALLERIA BORBONICA

The king Ferdinando II Borbone, in 1853, wanted its realization. The Bourbon Tunnel was officially born as a public work. **Actually, it had a military purpose:** the King Ferdinand II Borbone wanted for himself and the royal family a quick escape to the sea to be used in case of riots; he also wanted to create a direct connection between the palace and the soldiers housed in the Chiaia's barracks.

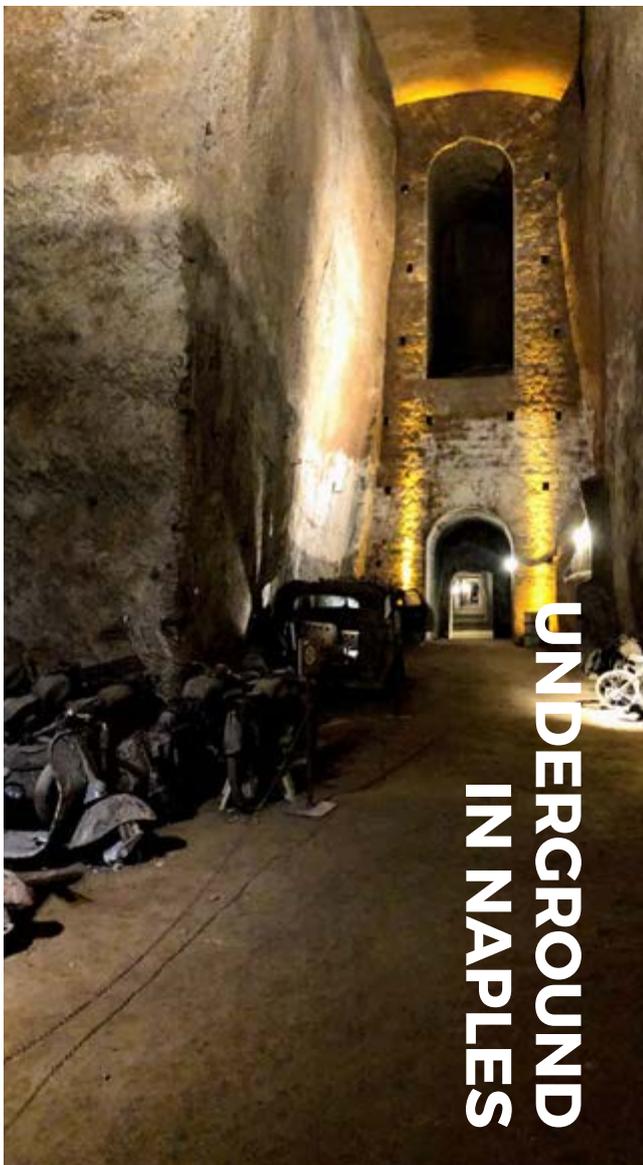


Via Domenico Morelli 61, 80121 Napoli  
Vico del Grottone 4, 80132 Napoli

**The works lasted three years:** the Bourbon Tunnel was inaugurated in 1855, with the passage of the king, but remained open to the public only three days. The tunnel was never completed, measuring only 431 meters and arriving behind the colonnade of Piazza del Plebiscito.

The excavations made it possible to discover old tuff quarries, majestic water collection cisterns and paths dating back to the Greek and Roman eras. Vertical wells and a bridge were also built.





## THE BOURBON TUNNEL OFFERS

- **Standard path** through the Bubble aqueduct of seventeenth century and rooms adapted for refuge during the II World War. Accessible to all.

- **Adventure path** through very narrow tunnels and raft trips on the underground aquifer of Naples, with a visit to the cisterns.

Not recommended for those suffering from claustrophobia or motor problems.

- **Speleo path** through the narrow tunnels of the Bolla aqueduct, bridges and cableways suspended over the water at a height of 6 meters.

Not recommended for those who suffer from claustrophobia, to those who exceed a weight of 100 kg and to those with motor problems.

- **Via delle Memorie** through quarries and cisterns of the Palazzo Serra di Cassano, you walk among the war shelters where the former President of Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano also took refuge. Accessible to all.

**During the Second World War**, the Gallery was used by the Neapolitans as an anti-bomb shelter. Later, until the '70s, it became a Municipal Judicial Deposit, where it was stored the material recovered from collapses, evictions, seizures and all that was extracted from the rubble as a result of the bombing.

*Along the gallery you can admire vintage cars and motorcycles found under piles of debris, along with statues of different eras (restored and exhibited).*

The Bourbon Tunnel was opened to the public in 2010 thanks to a Cultural Association with the help of volunteers, that cleaned it up from the accumulated waste over time.



By Metro:

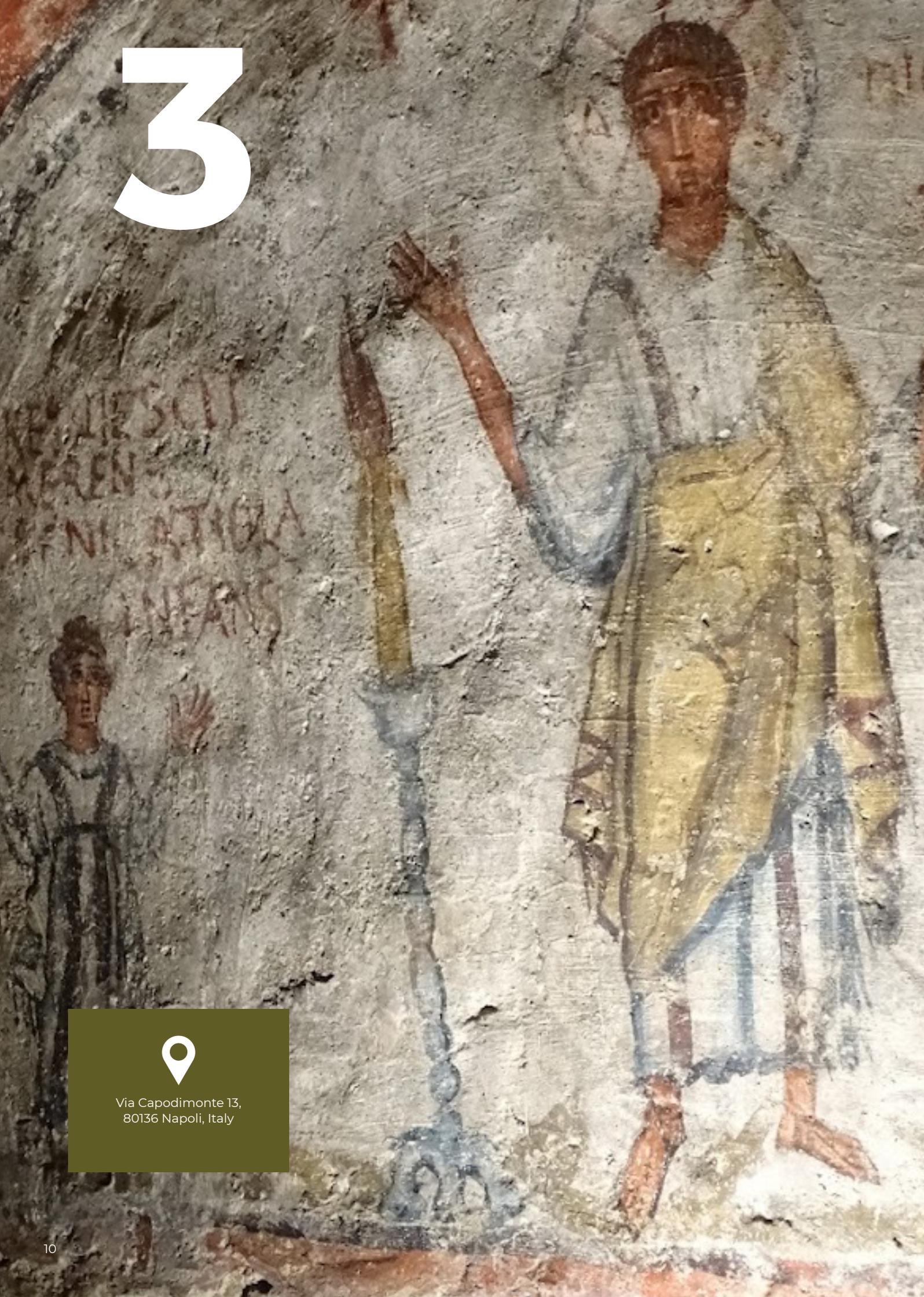
starting from Piazza Garibaldi, you can reach the Bourbon Tunnel with the Metro Line 1, exit at Municipio stop, from there it takes only 9 minutes on foot.



By bus:

many lines that depart from Piazza Garibaldi and pass through Corso Umberto arrive at nearby stops.

# 3



Via Capodimonte 13,  
80136 Napoli, Italy

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## UNDERGROUND IN NAPLES

### CATACOMBS OF SAN GENNARO

Situated in the Rione Sanità district, the Catacombs of San Gennaro date from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD and represent the most important early Christian burial site in southern Italy.

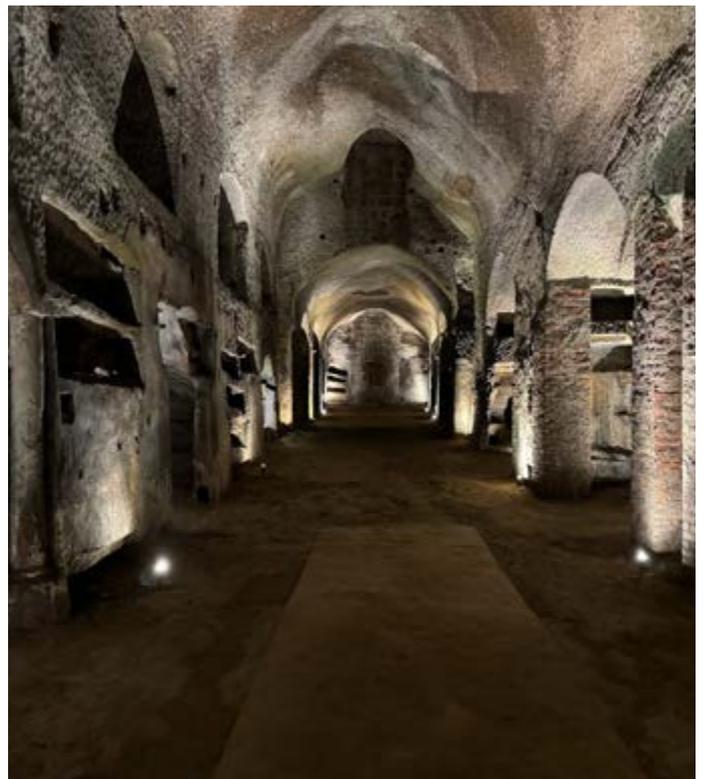
Unlike tunnel systems, these catacombs consist of vast underground basilicas and galleries adorned with frescoes.

#### Highlights

- Early Christian frescoes
- Underground basilicas carved into stone
- Tombs of bishops and noble families
- Spiritual and artistic heritage

#### Atmosphere

Spacious, serene, and culturally significant. Suitable for visitors who prefer open underground environments.





Via Eldorado 3,  
80132 Napoli



4

# CASTEL DELL'OVO

Naples Egg Castle



## OLDEST CASTLE

The imposing Castel dell'Ovo is one of the oldest buildings in Naples and can not be missed during a city trip. The castle can be found on a peninsula and you will find nice eateries at the foot and with a beautiful view of the sea. While strolling on Lungomare Caracciolo, the Castel dell'Ovo for sure will catch your eye.

## EGG CASTLE

What gives Castel dell'Ovo its name?

Freely translated to English, Castel dell'Ovo means 'Egg Castle'. There are several stories why this is called the Egg Castle. One of the legends is that the Roman poet Virgil placed an egg in the foundation of the castle. Should the egg break, the castle would perish together with the city of Naples. The castle is still standing, so that would mean the egg is still whole. There is little left of the original castle, but the view from the castle makes this place worth a visit.

# THE BEST VIEW POINT IN NAPLES



Via Tito Angelini, 20/A,  
80129 Napoli, Italy

## CASTEL SANT'ELMO

At the fortress of Castel Sant' Elmo you look impressively down on the city of Naples. The fortress is located on the top of the **Vomero hill** and offers you an extraordinary view stretching from the hinterland to the islands and from the Sorrento peninsula to the Mount Vesuvius. The high location and the hexagonal star shape make this fortress a tourist attraction in Naples.

The first documentation of Castel Sant' Elmo dates back to the second half of the 13th century. Roberto of Anjou commissioned the architect and sculptor Tino di Camaino to begin work on Castel Sant' Elmo in 1329. Between 1537 and 1547 Viceroy Don Pedro de Toledo started reconstruction work. The result is the hexagonal fortress we know today. An explosion in 1587 destroyed much of the castle. The reconstruction was done by architect Domenico Fontana.



The Vomero district sits above central Naples, so locals literally go “up” to Vomero and “down” to the city center. It’s often overlooked by tourists, but it’s great for shopping—especially along Via Alessandro Scarlatti and Via Luca Giordano, where you’ll find popular brands like Nike and Zara.

One way you reach Castel Sant' Elmo is by taking a walk through the stylish district of Vomero, which you can easily reach with one of the three funiculars, such as the funicular '**Funicolare di Montesanto**'. In total there are three different cable cars to the top of the Vomero mountain. Arriving at the entrance of the castle, you will walk past the watchtowers, have fantastic views of the city and the gulf of Naples. Cultural activities and events regularly take place in Castle Sant' Elmo, which bring a lot of liveliness and activities to the castle.

**Tip 1:** Combine a visit to the castle with the adjacent monastery 'Certosa di San Martino'.



**Tip 2:**  
**Are you sporty?**

You can also walk down instead of taking the funicolare. Opposite the monastery you can descend via a path in poor condition via many steps. It is a neglected path with graffiti on all sides, where you descend through a poorer part of Naples and you will return to the center via the back of the 'Quartiere Spagnoli' district. An interesting way to discover another part of Naples.

# EGYPTIAN COLLECTION

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Piazza Museo, 19, 80135  
Napoli, Italy

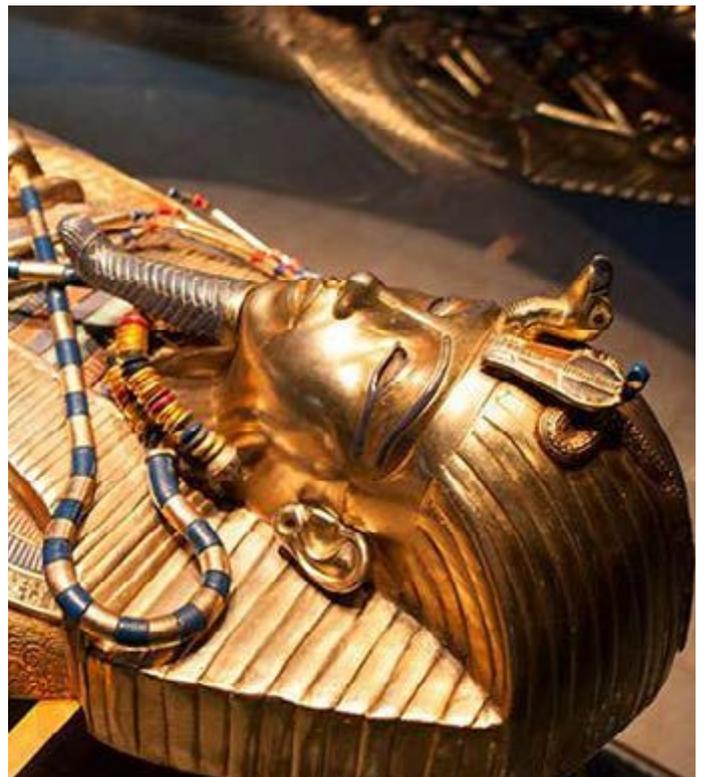


# MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO NAZIONALE DI NAPOLI



Among the most remarkable sections of the museum is the recently restored Egyptian collection. It consists of approximately **1,500 objects** dating from **3000 BC to the 2nd century AD**. The works are mainly connected to funerary cults and magical practices and include stelae, vases, jewelry, and sarcophagi.

The marble collection is equally impressive, featuring the Farnese Bull, a monumental sculpture discovered in the Baths of Caracalla. Standing about four meters high, it is the largest surviving marble group from antiquity. The mosaics and frescoes are also of exceptional beauty.

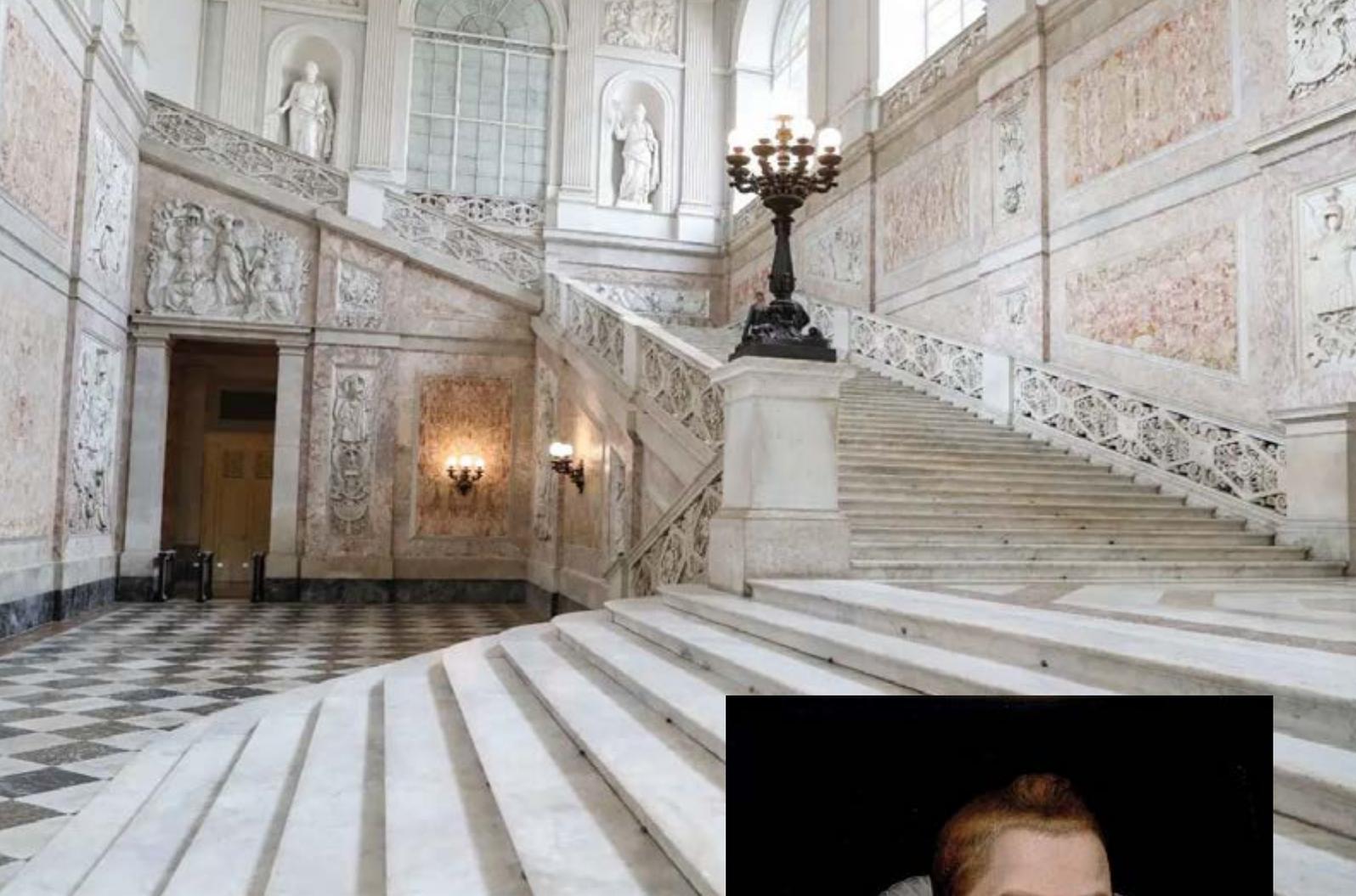


# PALAZZO REALE DI NAPOLI



Piazza San Gaetano, 68,  
Naples (200 meters from  
the cathedral)





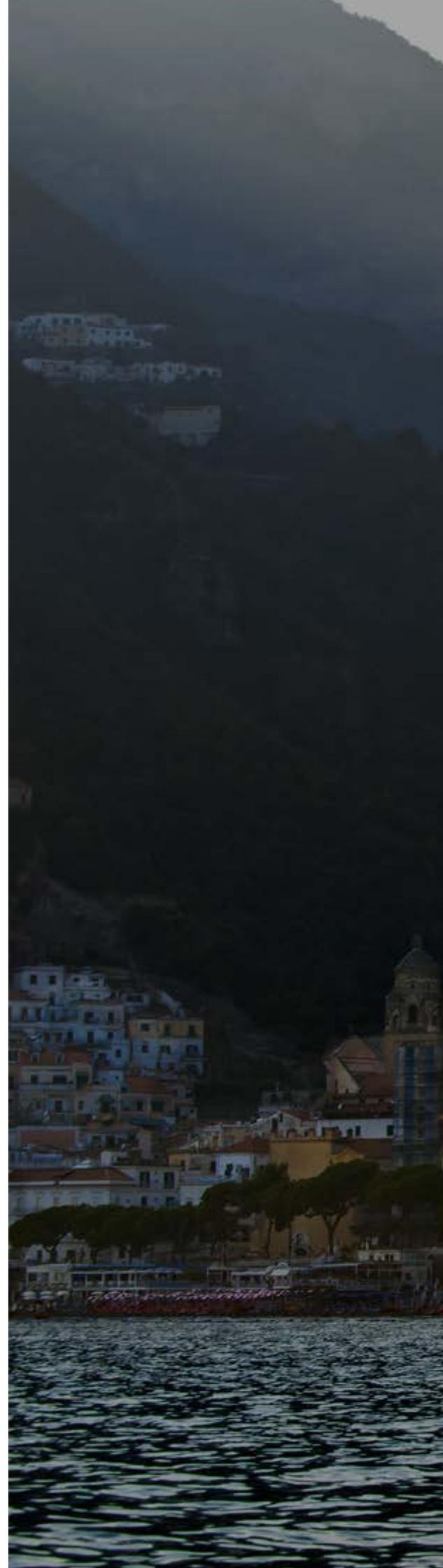
## PALAZZO REALE DI NAPOLI

The construction of the Royal Palace of Naples was commissioned in 1600 by Philip III of Spain as his residence, together with the viceroy Ferdinando Ruiz de Castro, Count of Lemos. The project was entrusted to the architect Domenico Fontana. The palace was built on the southern edge of the ancient city, facing what is now a pedestrian square.

In 1734, with the arrival of Charles III of Spain, the palace was enlarged toward the waterfront and a second courtyard was added. The interiors were redesigned in the late Baroque style, enriched with precious marbles and frescoes by artists such as Francesco De Mura and Domenico Antonio Vaccaro.



From the Courtyard of Honor, the monumental staircase leads to the Royal Apartments, featuring 19th-century stained glass commissioned by Ferdinand II of Bourbon. The palace also houses richly decorated royal chapels and the historic National Library Vittorio Emanuele III.



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