

S P E C I A L I S S U E

DEPARTURES

LIFE AT ITS BEST

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The

ITALY

We Love





C A P R I

BEST VIEWS

- From the Gardens of Augustus.
- From Via Krupp, the vertiginous winding road that descends to the sea from the garden.
- From Punta Tragara.



Blue Grotto To avoid the chaos and lines in season at the Grotta Azzurra (above), take a boat there before it opens (9 a.m.) or after it closes (5 p.m.) and swim into the cave, something you can't do during business hours.—M.M.

Want to get married on Capri? Or be whisked over from Naples on a private launch? Or get a special suite at one of the top hotels on the island? The man to call is Gianni Chervatin, head of Capri Marketing & Promotion, formerly the general manager of the Grand Hotel Quisisana. 39-81-8376895; fax 39-81-8375417.—G.W.

Room 51 at the Hotel Punta Tragara is the ultimate room with a view, a spacious one-bedroom suite with an enormous terrace at the top of the hotel. The vista is stupefyingly beautiful.



Hotel Punta Tragara is built higgledy-piggledy into the cliff overlooking the Faraglioni, the three great rocks—the tallest is almost 400 feet high—on and just off the southwest tip of Capri. The decor—antiques, tapestries, and a huge fireplace in the reception hall—gives the hotel a solid, northern Italian feel, as if you were in Tuscany. The irregular layout is delightful, but makes it difficult to pinpoint the best series of rooms. My advice is to ask for a room high up and in the back or try for suite 41, which has a loft bedroom with bath and a downstairs sitting room that opens to a wonderful little terrace. \$315–\$385. 57 Via Tragara; 39-81-8370844; fax 39-81-8377790.—M.M.

CULINARY SOUVENIR

Limoncello is a *digestif* made of lemons, what else? It's the original Capri liqueur. Buy it at Limoncello di Capri. 79 Via Roma; 39-81-8375561 or in Anacapri, 27 Via Capodimonte; 39-81-8372927.—M.M.



La Scalinatella A hotel so exclusive that it doesn't even have a brochure. This is Capri's hideaway in excelsis, 30 simply done rooms—whitewashed walls, majolica tile floors—each with a private terrace or garden. The pool is small, though beautifully situated. And anyway, you get the feeling that most of the guests just burrow into their rooms here. I particularly liked room 50, which has a vaulted ceiling and an enormous bathroom. \$335–\$410. Cash only. 10 Via Tragara; 39-81-8370633; fax 39-81-8378291.—G.W.

Da Luigi Work up an appetite by walking down the hundreds of steps from the Punta Tragara belvedere to this casual trattoria, which looks out on the Faraglioni. Have the spaghetti with clam sauce or a Caprese salad (mozzarella, tomato, and basil), then call a boat for the 10-minute cruise to Marina Piccola, where you can get a taxi or bus back up to town. \$70. 5 Via Faraglioni; 39-81-8370591; fax 39-81-8376113.—M.M.