

# PICTURE COVERS – REAL CAVES

## ITALY – ISLE OF CAPRI

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### Arco Naturale

Isle of Capri

**PC-RE-IT-CAP1** Italy ca.1969

**45:** BELLA BELLA CAPRI

**Perf:** Adriano (Popular)

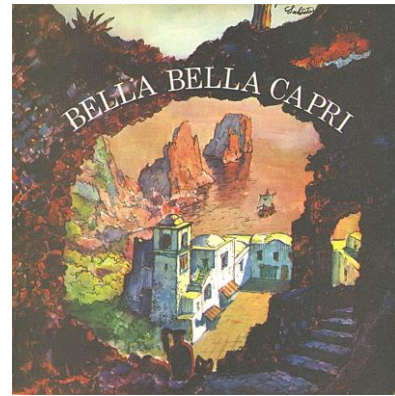
**Label:** Le Dome

**Artist:** Salvator

**Notes:** The pic sleeve of this 45 has a stylized painting of the Arco Naturale at Capri where the arch of the natural bridge has been thinned considerably and the whole thing moved from its location at the cliffs on the east coast of the island to the southeast coast overlooking the Faraglioni Rocks. Two openings are shown in the right-hand buttress of the bridge, one natural and one artificial doorway. This second opening corresponds roughly with a small natural opening in the buttress of the actual bridge. This cave remnant has an arch that spans 12 m at a height of 18 m above ground.

The 50-meter-long sea tunnel traversing the middle tower of the Faraglioni Rocks cannot be seen from this angle but the artist has very indistinctly suggested it in this painting.

**Ref:** Arco Naturale, Capri, (in Italian) [Wikipedia](#) & (in English) [Wikipedia](#)



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### Grotta Azzurra

Isle of Capri

**PC-RE-IT-CAP2** Italy ca.1970s

**LP:** BAGLIORI DEL GOLFO

**Perf:** Nino Fiore (World)

**Label:** Bella BRLP 10026

**Photo:**

**Notes:** One of six vignette photos placed on either side of the front cover. A classic postcard shot from the back end looking out towards the entrance of the Blue Grotto with seven tourist rowboats scattered about on the blue water. The boatmen traditionally stand in the middle of the boat to row. This is exactly the same photo as one of the postcards (shown here) edited by Vincenzo Carcavallo at Naples around that same time.

It's quite surprising that there are not many more Italian LP and CD covers picturing the Blue Grotto, what with the number of striking paintings of the cave that would have made beautiful, eye-catching covers.

Most of the numerous amateur videos of the Blue Grotto are so cheesy and poorly done that they take away from the magic of the cave. The tasteful Vidmaker video uses only stills, including nice paintings of



the cave (by Heinrich Jakob Fried & Emilio Pettoruti), but somehow manages to capture the spirit of the cave. The D'Aniello professional video shows the mechanics of the boatman's maneuvers, the happy people going in, the singing of the boatmen, and the oars splashing the water inside the cave.

For more information on the cave-inspired music on this album see under World Music – Italy – 'A Grotta Azzurra.

**Ref:** Archivio Sonoro della Canzone Napoletana, Ricerca, [Canzonenapoletana](#)

Blue Grotto (Capri), [Wikipedia](#)

D'Aniello, Umberto 2010, Grotta Azzurra (Blue Grotto), (2:38), [YouTube](#) (◀VIDEO CLIP)

Grotta Azzurra, Capri, Photos, [Capri](#)

Lindenmayr, Franz, Die Blaue Grotte – The Blue Grotto (in German), [lochstein.de](#)

Musica Napoletana, [MusicaNapoletana](#)

Vidmaker, Luca 2009, Grotta Azzurra (Capri), (3:36), [YouTube](#) (◀VIDEO CLIP)

**PC-RE-IT-CAP3** Italy 1998

**CD:** CAPRI MUSIC 1 – SOUVENIR DELLA CANZONE – MADE IN ITALY

**Perf:** Various Artists (World & Popular)

**Label:** Capri Music DEA 11E40/02

**Photo:** A. Catuogno

**Notes:** Another classic shot looking out towards the entrance of the Blue Grotto with the daylight reflected off the clear blue of the cave waters.

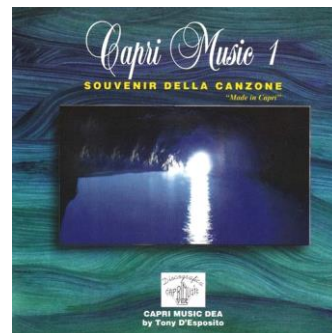


Inside the liner note folder is a very small vignette reproduction of a painting by the renowned local artist, Salvatore Federico, looking south over the top of the Arco Naturale, compressing the distances all the way to the Faraglioni Rocks. Regrettably, we don't have a larger more appropriate reproduction of this excellent painting.

For more information on the cave-inspired music on this album see under Popular Music – Italy – *Grotta Azzurra de Capri*.

**Ref:** Archivio Sonoro della Canzone Napoletana, Ricerca, [Canzonenapoletana](#)

Paola, Grotta Azzurra de Capri, Capri Love Song and Liscio de Capri, [itunes](#)



## Grotta del Belvedere

Isle of Capri

**PC-RE-IT-CAP4** Brazil 1965

A. Brazilian Compilation **LP:** OS GRANDES SUCESSOS (1965)  
Odeon MOFB 330

B. Italian **LP:** PEPPINO E LE CANZONI DI NAPOLI (1971)  
Carisch S. TCA 15003

**Perf:** Peppino di Capri (Popular)

**Photo:** (?)

**Notes:** Peppino di Capri sitting on top of a stone guard rail pillar located at the edge of the garden at the Certosa Monastery. Just behind him in the distance is the Faraglione Rocks and also (under his left leg) is the karren terrace and the entrances of the Grotta del Belvedere (Overlook Cave). This are two adjacent but separate caves, one wide entrance to a wide chamber, 20 meters long, and the other a narrow entrance to a joint passage, about 25 meters long.

Georg Kyrle is his classic treatise on the caves of Capri writes – "Der südliche Teil hat schmal, hohe Querprofile der nördliche ist im Grundriss flächenhaft, in den Profilen niedrig und breit entwickelt. Am Ende dieses Höhlenteiles finden sich völlig eben gelagerte Schichten von versinterter lehmigen und erdigen Ausfüllungsprodukten, die stellenweise mit Schichten vulkanischer Asche durchschossen sind. Zweifellos ist hier eine mit Süßwassersedimenten erfüllte Karsthöhle durch die Brandung angerissen worden." (Kyrle ca. 1947)



[The southern part is narrow, sloping in profile whereas the northern part is flat in the ground plan, low and wide in the profile. At the end of these cave segments one finds entirely evenly piled layers of deposited clay and earthy refill, which in places are interspersed with layers of volcanic ash. Undoubtedly, this is a karst cave filled with freshwater clastic sediments that was torn apart by the surf.]

**Ref:** Brison, David N. 2005, Caves in the 1954 Capri Stamp, *Speleophilately International*, n. 74, April 2005, p. 8-9  
 Kyrle, Georg ca. 1947, *Die Höhlen der Insel Capri*, Wissenschaftliche Beihefte zur Zeitschrift "Die Höhle", n. 1, Vienna, p. 13

Kyrle, Georg 1998, *La grotte dell'isola di Capri*, Istituto Geografico Militare, Firenze, p. 66-68

Mazzetti, Ernesto 2012, *Le grotte di Capri*, Edizioni La Conchiglia, Capri, p. 51-52

Peppino di Capri, Os grandes sucessos de Peppino di Capri LP, [Discogs](#)

Peppino di Capri, Peppino e le canzoni di Napoli LP, [Discogs](#)

## Grotta dell'Arco della Stella & Grotta del Belvedere

Isle of Capri

**PC-RE-IT-CAP5** Italy 1959

**45:** Forget Me ?

**Perf:** Peppino di Capri (Popular)

**Label:** Carisch VCA 26073

**Photo:** Rossi; Capri

**Notes:** Surrounded by his group Peppino takes the wheel of a classic wooden Capri excursion boat. In the distance are the Faraglione Rocks. The smallest of the three limestone towers, the one in the middle, has a 556 meter long tunnel running through it (see below), which cannot be seen in this photo.

However, at the base of the largest tower can be seen the Grotta dell'Arco della Stella (Star Arch Cave), a 20-meter-long sea arch. In the coastal cliffs at the extreme left edge just above sea level is a karren terrace and the entrances of the Grotta del Belvedere (Overlook Cave).

This single was released in 1959 with at least three other different pic covers.

**Ref:** Brison, David N. 2005, Caves in the 1954 Capri Stamp, *Speleophilately International*, n. 74, April 2005, p. 8-9

Kyrle, Georg ca. 1947, *Die Höhlen der Insel Capri*, Wissenschaftliche Beihefte zur Zeitschrift "Die Höhle", n. 1, Vienna, p. 13

Kyrle, Georg 1998, *La grotte dell'isola di Capri*, Istituto Geografico Militare, Firenze, p. 62-63, & 66-68

Mazzetti, Ernesto 2012, *Le grotte di Capri*, Edizioni La Conchiglia, Capri, p. 50-52

Peppino di Capri, Forget Me? 45, [45cat](#)



**PC-RE-IT-CAP6** Italy 1963

A. Italian Releases:

1. Single **45:** Non ti credo/ Poof (1963)  
 Carisch VCA 26157

2. Compilation **LP:** IL MEGLIO DI PEPPINO DI CAPRI (1984)  
 RCA CL 33366

B. West German Single **45:** Signorina mit dem blonden Haar (1964)  
 Italia I 2015

C. Spanish **EP:** CANTA EN ESPAÑOL (1964)  
 Hispavox HI 307-10

D. Iranian **EP:** THE BEST OF PEPPINO DI CAPRI  
 Top 4 EX-4283

**Perf:** Peppino di Capri (Popular)

**Photo:** (?)

**Notes:** Seen from a completely different angle than the preceding picture cover, Peppino di Capri leans on a viewing telescope at the garden at the Certosa Monastery.

In the distance are the Faraglione Rocks and just in front of the tower on the left at sea level is the dark entrance of the Grotta dell'Arco della Stella (Star



Arch Cave). Just above the steel railing can be seen the two entrances of the Grotta del Belvedere. There were five releases from four different countries that all used this same photo. However, the Spanish single cover cropped off the lower portion of the shot showing the Grotta del Belvedere and the Iranian EP blocked out the Grotta dell'Arco della Stella with printing.

**Ref:** Peppino di Capri, The Best of Peppino di Capri EP, [Discogs](#)

Peppino di Capri, Il meglio di Peppino di Capri LP, [Discogs](#)

Peppino di Capri, Non ti credo 45, [Discogs](#)

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**PC-RE-IT-CAP7** Italy 2004

Compilation **CD:** NAPOLI ETERNA MELODIA – VOL. 9

KappaO CD 0254

**Perf:** Nino Fiore (World)

**Photo:** (?)

**Notes:** Seen from above the garden at the Certosa Monastery showing the viewing balcony terrace in the foreground.

The Faraglione Rocks in the distance and just below the balcony on the coast at the left can be seen the two entrances of the Grotta del Belvedere. In the distance, just in front of the tower on the left at sea level is the dark entrance of the Grotta dell'Arco della Stella.

**Ref:** Nino Fiore, Napoli eterna melodia – Vol. 9 CD, [Apple](#)



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## Grotta dell'Arco della Stella & Grotta del Belvedere & Grotta Albergo dei Marinai

Isle of Capri

**PC-RE-IT-CAP8** Italy 1982

**LP:** LA CANZONE ITALIANA – IN GIRO PER L'ITALIA

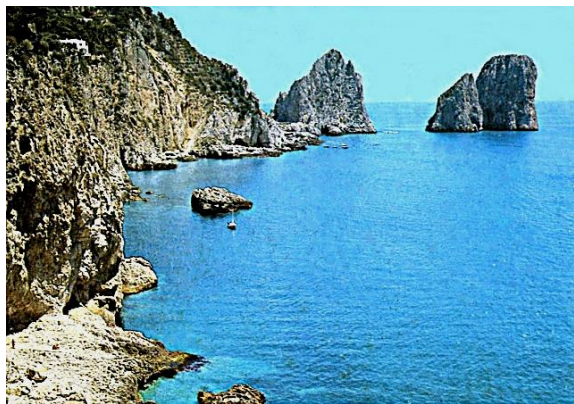
**Perf:** Various Artista (Popular)

**Label:** Gruppo Editoriale Fabbri 362863

**Photo:** (?)

**Notes:** One of four vignette color photos on this LP cover.

The southeast coast of the Isle of Capri seen from a spot fairly close to the shore showing the Faraglione Rocks and three littoral limestone caves.



Starting in the distance just in front of the tower on the left at sea level is the dark entrance of the Grotta dell'Arco della Stella. Moving closer and further to the left is the karren terrace and the entrances of the Grotta del Belvedere. Finally just below and to the left at sea level is the front entrance to the Grotta Albergo dei Marinai (Sailors' Refuge Cave).

The Grotta Albergo dei Marinai is well over 30 meters long and can easily be entered with a small outboard boat. The entrance passage heads due south then turns

east for a few more meters to a second low entrance. The Italian reedition of Georg Kyrle's classic adds to the short original description of this cave – "... una piccola insenatura marina nascosta, al riparo dalle tempeste. Da tale circostanza è derivata la denominazione di questa ampia caverna, rifugio sovente ricercato dai pescatori durante improvvise burrasche." [... a small hidden sea creek, sheltered from storms. From this circumstance is derived the name of this vast cave, a refuge often sought after by fishermen during sudden gales.]

**Ref:** Brison, David N. 2005, Caves in the 1954 Capri Stamp, *Speleophilately International*, n. 74, April 2005, p. 8-9

La Conzone Italiana – In giro per l'Italia LP, [Discogs](#)

Kyrle, Georg ca. 1947, *Die Höhlen der Insel Capri*, Wissenschaftliche Beihefte zur Zeitschrift "Die Höhle", n. 1, Vienna,

## Grotta di Matermania

Isle of Capri

**PC-RE-IT-CAP9** East Germany 1976

**LP:** MENDELSSOHN – OUVERTÜREN

**Cond:** Kurt Masur (Classical)

**Label:** Eterna 8 26 621

**Artist:** Carl Blechen (1797-1840)

**Title:** *Blick aus des Felsenhöhle auf See und Gebirge* – ca.1829  
(Oil on canvas)

Berlin, Germany; Staatliche Museen

**Notes:** An oil painting (“View from the Felsenhöhle of the Sea & Mountains”) looking out of a high arched cave entrance showing a cliff buttress on the left and low vegetation in the foreground. A blue sea and two mountains are seen in the distance.



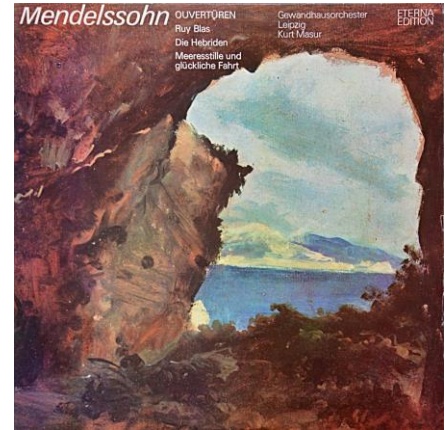
Photo D. Brison, 2003

**Ref:** Carl Blechen, Bio, (in German) [Wikipedia](#) & (in English) [Wikipedia](#)

Grotta di Matermania, Capri, Data, (in Italian) [Wikipedia](#) & Grotta di Matromania, (in English) [Wikipedia](#)

Kyrle, Georg ca.1947, *Die Höhlen der Insel Capri*, Wissenschaftliche Beihefte zur Zeitschrift “Die Höhle”, n. 1, Vienna, Austria, p. 28-29

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The German romantic painter, Carl Blechen, spent nine months in Italy starting at the end of 1828 and we know that he painted several landscapes in Tivoli, Amalfi, and Capri.

This scene corresponds fairly closely with the view looking out of the Grotta Matromania on the east coast of the Isle of Capri. An angular buttress is outside on the left and the mountains of the Cape Sorrento can be seen across the Gulf of Naples in the distance. The cave is approximately 27 m long, 18 m wide, and 18 m high. The photo shows the cave entrance today with the flagstone walking trail that skirts this end of the island.

## Grotta Meravigliosa

Isle of Capri

**PC-RE-IT-CAP10** Italy 1965

1. **LP:** NAPOLETANA – 1954-1956

Durium MS AI 77103

2. **LP:** NAPOLETANA – VOL. 11 (Mid 1970s)

Microsolco MS AI 77103

**Perf:** Roberto Murolo (World)

**Presented by:** Roberto Murolo

**Photo:** Luciano d’Alessandro

**Notes:** A collection of popular Italian songs that came out of Naples during the period 1954 to 1956, none of which has anything to do with caves. The handsome color shot of this cave in the cliffs on the east coast of Capri shows a view looking down to the sea from inside under the arched opening fringed with stalactites. This cave is actually the upper fossil level of the marine cave, Grotta Bianca, which is developed directly beneath it. Both caves share the same marine entrance.



A nice video on this cave can be found at [YouTube](#). It jumps around a bit and is overly long, but it has good production values, includes some old footage taken in the cave with a magnesium flare, and does a competent job of explaining with diagrams the various stages in the formation of this cave.

**Ref:** Kyrle, Georg ca. 1947, *Die Höhlen der Insel Capri*, Wissenschaftliche Beihefte zur Zeitschrift "Die Höhle", n. 1, p.8-9

Molino, Louis 2013, Grotta Meravigliosa di Capri, (in Italian), [caprinotizie.it](#)

Roberto Murolo, Napoletana – Antologia, Durium LP, [Discogs](#)

Scognamiglio, Veronica 2013, Grotta Meravigliosa di Capri, (7:29), [YouTube](#) (◀VIDEO CLIP)

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## Sottopassaggio nel Faraglione

Isle of Capri

**PC-RE-IT-CAP11** Italy 1994

**CD:** MANDOLINAPOLI – VOL. 5

Phonotype CD 0033

**Perf:** Various Artists (World)

**Photo:** (?)

**Notes:** The view of the Faraglione Rocks from a fishing boat at some distance to the south of the three towers. The central and smallest limestone tower is pierced at sea level by a 56-meter-long cave tunnel that can be traversed by boat.

The many other photos showing the Faraglione Rocks listed above do not show this cave tunnel, which faces due west and is not visible from the southeast end of the island.

**Ref:** Brison, David N. 2005, Caves in the 1954 Capri Stamp, *Speleophilately International*, n. 74, April 2005, p. 8

Kyrle, Georg ca. 1947, *Die Höhlen der Insel Capri*, Wissenschaftliche Beihefte zur Zeitschrift "Die Höhle", n. 1, Vienna, p. 12

Kyrle, Georg 1998, *La grotte dell'isola di Capri*, Istituto Geografico Miliare, Firenze, p. 59-60

Mandolinapoli – Vol. 5 CD, [Apple](#)

Mazzetti, Ernesto 2012, *Le grotte di Capri*, Edizioni La Conchiglia, Capri, p. 48-49



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