

PICTURE COVERS – REAL CAVES

ITALY

Arco Naturale

Isle of Capri

PC-RE-IT1 Italy ca.1969

45: BELLA BELLA CAPRI

Perf: Adriano (Popular)

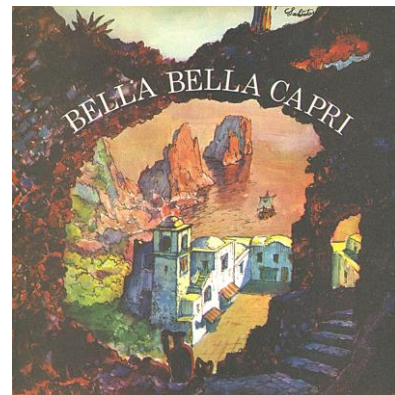
Label: Le Dome

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](#)



Buco del Piombo

Erba, Lombardy

PC-RE-IT2 United Kingdom 2003

CD: JOHANN HUMMEL – PIANO SONATAS

Perf: Stephen Hough (Classical)

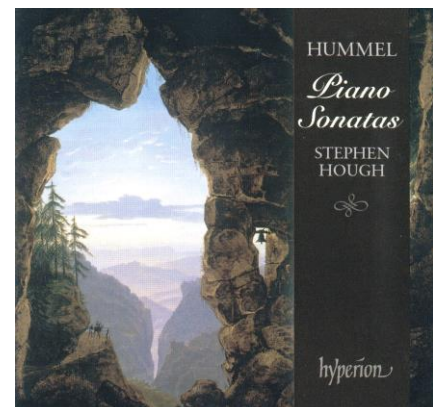
Label: Hyperion CDA 67390

Artist: Carl Friedrich **Schinkel** (1781 - 1841)

Title: *Das Felsentor* (The Rock Portal) – 1818
(Oil on canvas, 74x48 cm)

Berlin, Germany; Staatliche Museen

Notes: Very probably the Buco del Piombo. View looking out of wide, high entrance with a much smaller opening on the right which, has a bell hanging near the top of its arch. Three large pines stand on steep slope outside on the left. Three travelers, one mounted on a mule, are on the trail ledge beneath these trees. A narrow canyon is seen lower down. Mountains, at about the same elevation as the cave, are seen in the distant haze under a bright cloudy blue sky.





Schinkel Went to Italy in 1803 and again in 1824, but it is no known if he went to Lombardy. If this is the Buco del Piombo then the artist has taken several liberties with the shape of the entrance. The gigantic natural entrance is 45 meters high and 38 meters wide, but it has a rounded arch (see engraving on left). Presumably the artist was working further back in the entrance area somewhat behind a wall buttress that we see on the right in the painting. The top and bottom of the original painting have been slightly cropped on the CD cover.

Ref: Buco del piombo, Data, (in Italian), [Wikipedia](#)

Carl Friedrich Schinkel, Bio, [karl-friedrich-schinkel](#)

Carl Friedrich Schinkel, Bio, [Wikipedia](#)

Ripamonti, Stefano 2006, El Buco del Piombo, Erba, (in Italian), [altabrianza](#)

Stephen Hough, Johann Hummel – Piano Sonatas CD, [Allmusic](#)

Stephen Hough, Johann Hummel – Piano Sonatas CD, [hyperion-records.co.uk](#)

Grotta Azzurra

Isle of Capri

PC-RE-IT3 Italy ca.1970s

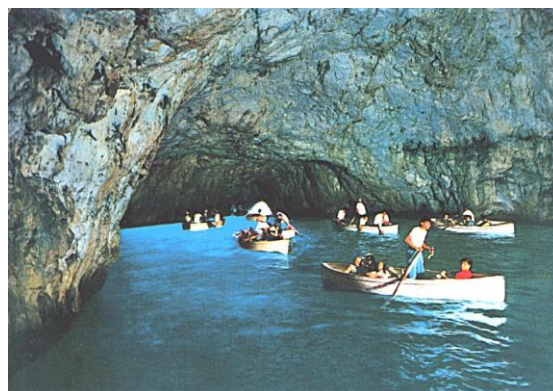
Perf: Nino Fiore (World)

LP: BAGLIORI DEL GOLFO

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, Ricera, [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-IT3 Italy 1998

Perf: Various Artists (World & Popular)

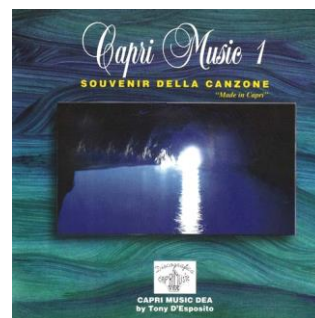
CD: CAPRI MUSIC 1 – SOUVENIR DELLA CANZONE – MADE IN ITALY

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 di Matermania

Isle of Capri

PC-RE-IT4 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



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-IT5 Italy 1965

Perf: Roberto Murolo (World)

Presented by: Roberto Murolo

1. **LP:** NAPOLETANA – 1954-1956

Durium MS AI 77103

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

Microsolco MS AI 77103

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)

Grotte di Su Bentu

Su Palo, Elighes Arlas, Nuoro, Sardinia

PC-RE-IT6 Italy 1997

CD: PERLE DI GROTTA

Perf: Mariolina Zitta & Michela Fomiatti (Contemporary)

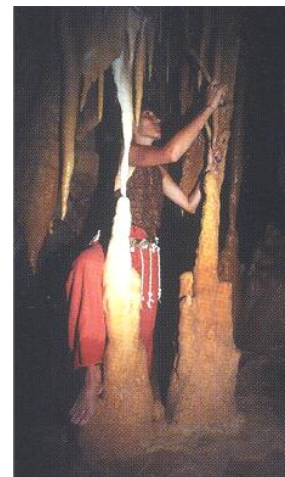
Label: MZ 087

Photo: (Color) Jacopo Merizzi

Notes: Several photos inside the 8-page liner notes booklet were taken in this



Sardinian cave. One on page 2 shows Mariolina Zitta rappelling down a pitch in the cave next to a flowstone cascade. Page 4 has four photos from this cave (clockwise from top left): Mariolina entering a crawlway under a cluster of stalactites; Mariolina tapping with mallets on a rimstone dam next to some thin iron-stained pillars and some brown draperies; Mariolina tapping on stalactites with padded mallets in a nice formation room (shown here); and Mariolina crouched in a low formation room tapping with padded mallets on a stalactite with her right hand and on the flowstone crusted floor with her left hand. The CD label also has a color photo of Mariolina Zitta,



dressed as in some of the other photos in this cave, tapping on a rimstone dams next to a rimstone pool.

Ref: Anon. 2013, Grotte di Sa Oche Su Bentu e Grotta Corbeddu, (in Italian), [ilportalesardo.it](#)
Corti, Andrea 2000, Musica dal sottosuolo, *National Geographic Italia*, v. 5, n. 3, Marzo 2000, p. (18)
Gobetti, Andrea 1991, *L'Italia in grotta*, Gremese Editore, Roma, p. 111

Grotta Su Bentu, Caving photos in this cave, [flickrhivemind](#)

Mariolina Zitta, Perle de grotto CD, [Amazon.fr](#)

Mariolina Zitta, Perle de grotto CD, [Discogs](#)

Zitta, Mariolina 1999, Personal communication, 13ème Festival de spéléologie en Île-de-France, Villejuif, Nov. 27, 1999

Grotte di Valdemino (Grotta di Borgio Verezzi)

Borgio Verezzi, Savona, Liguria

PC-RE-IT7 Italy 1997

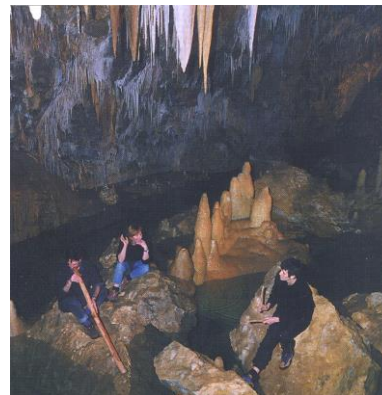
CD: PERLE DI GROTTA

Perf: Mariolina Zitta, Donatella Bardi, & Lorenzo Pieroban
(Contemporary)

Label: MZ 087

Photo: (Color) Massimo Trenti

Notes: The cover photo shows Mariolina Zitta inside this show cave tapping on two stalactites hanging from a ceiling covered with white



stalactites. Several photos inside the 8-page liner notes booklet were also taken in this cave. Page 5 has five photos (clockwise from top left); Mariolina rests with her mallets in a nice formation room with a white stalagmite on the left; a caver with a white beard and red sweatshirt sits next to white flowstone; a deep blue cave pool with small white stalactites and stalagmites; several soda straw stalactites hang from the ceiling; and a massive cluster of white and yellow stalactites. Page 6 has another photo taken in this cave showing a formation room with cave pools where the three musicians are sitting on the breakdown blocks surrounded by water – shown here from left to right: Lorenzo Pieroban playing the didgeridoo, Donatella Bardi, and Mariolina Zitta with her mallets.

A detail of the white stalagmite on the left of the first photo mentioned above is used on the back cover of the CD and also on back cover of the booklet.

Ref: Aellen, Villy & Strinati, Pierre 1975, *Guide des Grottes d'Europe Occidentale*, Delachaux & Niestlé, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, p. 226-227

Grotta di Borgio Verezzi, Website, (in Italian), grottadiborgio.it & (in English) grottadiborgio
Mariolina Zitta, Perle de grotto CD, Discogs

Grottes de Cervara

Cervara di Roma

PC-RE-IT8 Switzerland 1985

Perf: Gerhard Oppitz, Dmitry Sitkovetzky,
& David Geringas (Classical)

LP: SCHUBERT – Klaviertrio
Novalis 150 002-1

Artist: Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot (1796-1875)

Title: *La Cervara* (Detail)
(Oil on canvas, 1826-1827)
Zurich, Kunsthaus

Notes: This cover illustration is a detail of the Corot painting, cropping into the sides of the full work. This painting is in the true tradition of 19th Century Romantic “peinture de plein air” (painting outdoors from the motif).

La Cervara di Roma is situated 71 km east of Rome. The three cave entrances in the low cliff on the left may either be natural caves or mines. A wagon loaded with hay is pulled along a dirt road by two oxen. Left of center a boy or young man runs toward the sunlit gully in the center. In the mid-distance is maybe the town of La Cervara di Roma or maybe a neighboring town. The mountains in the far distance are probably the Simbruini Mountains.

One source mentions that “the largest and most magnificent quarries in the suburban district are the so-called Grotte della Cervara.” (Anon. 2013) There are travertine mines in this area, but site descriptions also mention “grottes” or caves. A field check would be needed to clarify the matter.

There is another oil painting by Martinus C. Rorbye dated 1835, entitled *Le repaire du chasseur, Cervara* (The Haunt of the Hunter, Cervara). It shows a natural cave where a hunter

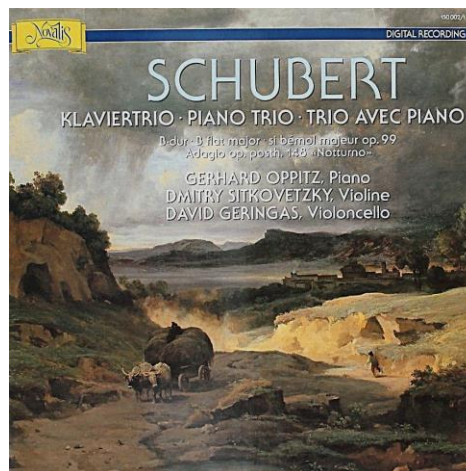
stands on huge breakdown blocks and peers out of the entrance.

Ref: Anon. 2013, *The Quarries and Bricks of the Ancient City – Rome, Italy*, yodelout

Franz Schubert, Klaviertrio, Piano Trio, etc. LP, rateyourmusic

Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot, Bio, (in French) Wikipedia & (in English), Wikipedia

Le repaire du chasseur, Galerie Jean François Heim, galerieheim.ch



caveinspiredmusic.com