

# PICTURE COVERS – REAL CAVES

## ITALY

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### 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 not 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](#)

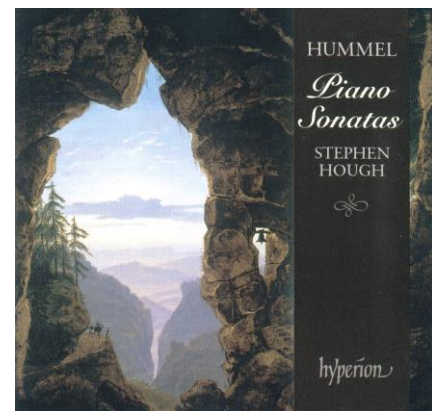
Carl Friedrich Schinkel, Bio, [karl-friedrich-schinkel](#)

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](http://hyperion-records.co.uk)



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### Grotte di Su Bentu

Su Palo, Elighes Arlas, Nuoro, Sardinia

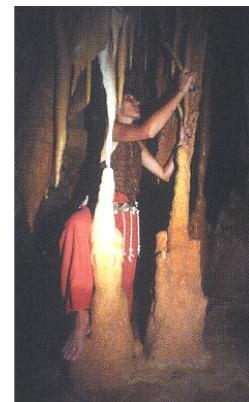
**PC-RE-IT6** Italy 1997

**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](http://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](https://www.flickrhivemind.com/)

Mariolina Zitta, Perle de grotto CD, [Amazon.fr](https://www.amazon.fr/)

Mariolina Zitta, Perle de grotto CD, [Discogs](https://www.discogs.com/)

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

## Grotte di Valdemino (Grotta di Borgo Verezzi)

Borgio Verezzi, Savona, Liguria

**PC-RE-IT7** Italy 1997

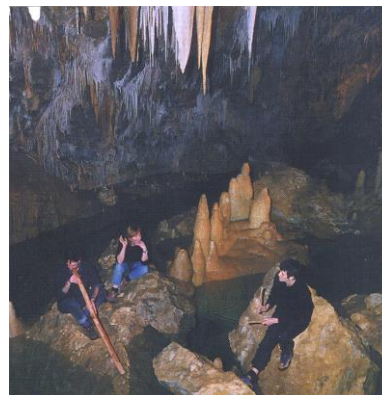
**CD:** PERLE DI GROTTA

**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 Borgo Verezzi, Website, (in Italian), [grottadiborgio.it](http://grottadiborgio.it) & (in English) [grottadiborgio](http://grottadiborgio.com)

Mariolina Zitta, Perle de grotto CD, [Discogs](https://www.discogs.com/)

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

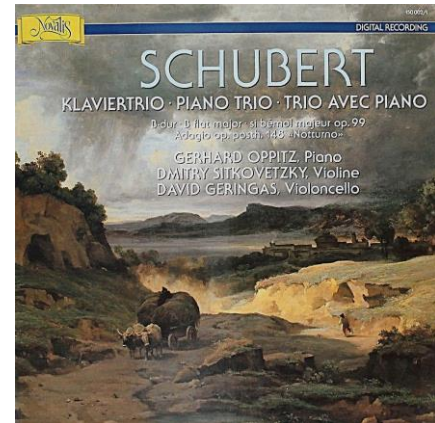
There is another oil painting by Martinus C. Rorbye dated 1835, entitled *Le repaire du chasseur, Cervara* (The Haunt of the Hunter, Cervara). It shows a natural cave where a hunter stands on huge breakdown blocks and peers out of the entrance.

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](#)



## Unidentified Littoral Caves

Nisida, Gulf of Naples, Napoli

PC-RE-IT9 Italy 1982

A. Italian 45: NISIDA

Ricordi SRL 10966

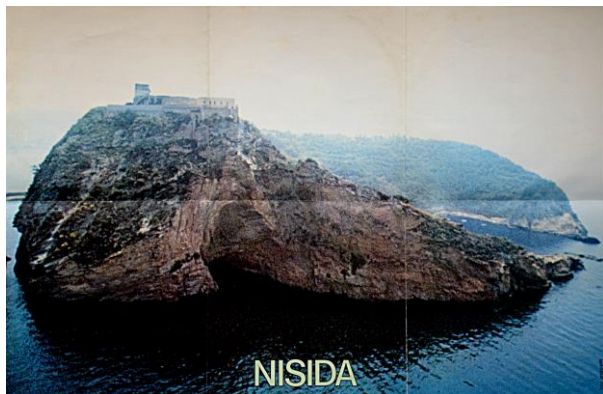
B. Swiss 45: NISIDA

Metronome 30548

Perf: Edoardo Bennato (Popular)

Photo: (Color) Photogost – Umberto Telesco

Notes: An unusual six-panel foldout picture cover. On the back cover one of two color shots shows Edoardo Bennato rowing a



small boat off the coast of the Isle of Nisida, which is located along the coast west of Naples. In this photo can be seen the flooded volcanic crater and four littoral caves eroded out of the tuff or volcanic ash: one very large entrance at the left end of the coast; two small entrances just to the left of Edoardo’s head; and a high cleft sea cave at the extreme right end of the island.

But the amazing thing about this foldout picture cover is the interior full-page six-panel 40x60 cm color poster of the west coast of the island showing the half submerged volcanic crater and the huge sea cave

entrance dominating the cliffs. The notches in the coastal cliffs on the right indicate the two small sea caves seen in the back cover photo.

The song, Nisida, on this record does not mention caves.

**Ref:** Edoardo Bennato, Nisida 45, [Discogs](#)

Nisida, Info, [Wikipedia](#)

[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)