

ENTERTAINMENT





NAPLES NIGHTLIFE

An unruly insomniac, Naples is a high-voltage jolt of teeming piazzas, thunderous opera, and sexy, sweat-soaked dance floors.

Naples has been tagged everything from filthy to fabulous. One thing it's not is boring. The Neapolitans' infamous Bacchanalian bent makes *divertirsi* (enjoying oneself) a high priority. For many, it's as simple as an evening *passaggiata* (stroll), when locals hit the streets en masse to chat, smoke and lick gelato (ice cream). For many more, it's an evening spent sipping, supping and socialising on the city's cobbled piazzas. Particularly buzzing are the cosy little squares in the centro storico (historic centre), filled with philosophical students, joint-smoking punks and jazz-loving bohemians.

For languid seaside lounging, head west to the restaurants and bars on Borgo Marinaro, where yachting types, hopeless romantics and scooter-happy teens kick back and eye the passing throng. The *lungomare* (seafront) itself is a hugely popular spot for strolling and smooching and at its Mergellina end the Chalets serve up some epic ice cream concoctions to boisterous families and first-date teens.

Pleasure-seeking fashionistas hang out in upmarket Chiaia, home to Naples' best *aperitivo* (happy hour) scene (see the boxed text, p123). Most of the action takes place west of Piazza dei Martiri, where minimalist bars sit alongside chichi restaurants, *enoteche* (wine bars) and A-list clubs fit for Prada kit. Less known to visitors is the Vomero bar scene, which features a small string of funky little drinking spots on Via Aniello Falcone. Popular in the spring and summer, this is where Vomero's Polo Ralph Lauren set drinks beer, kicks back and gazes out over city and bay.

In the summer months, the clubbing scene moves west to the beaches of Bagnoli and Campi Flegrei. Here, cabanas, A-list acts and waterside bars and dance floors make for heady summer nights.

Of course, Naples is more than beach babes, bars and clubs. A packed cultural calendar includes the biggest rock music event in southern Italy, an all-night art and shopping festival and world-class opera at the legendary Teatro San Carlo. Each May, people flock to the city for the Maggio dei Monumenti (see p18), a month of concerts and cultural activities in museums and monuments around town, most of which are free. In summer, the Amalfi Coast and Bay of Naples islands host a range of festivals, chief of which is the world-famous Ravello Festival (see p238 for details). For more festival dates, see p18.

The monthly *Qui Napoli* (in Italian and English) and local newspapers (in Italian) are the best guides to what's on when, or ask at tourist offices for details.

For background information on many aspects of Naples' arts scene, see p43.

top five BARS

Kestè (p130) A student hot spot with DJs, cool pop art and a buzzing square to boot.

Enoteca Belledonne (right) The wine bar of choice for the city's chic.

S'Move (p130) Funky fit-out, acid jazz and slinky scrubbed-up drinkers.

White Bar (p131) Minimalist, modern and white, the music is lounge and the vibe cool and laid-back.

Al Barcadero (right) An unpretentious spot to sip by the sea.

AL BARCADERO MAP PP284-5

☎ 333 222 70 23; Banchina Santa Lucia 2; 🚗 C25 to Via Partenope

Turn left down the steps as you walk towards Borgo Marinaro and you'll find this unpretentious waterfront bar. Grab a beer and watch boat-rowing fishermen and a menacing Mt Vesuvius.

ARET'A'PALM MAP PP280-1

☎ 339 848 69 49; Piazza Santa Maria La Nova 14; 🕒 6pm-2.30am Mon-Sun; 🚗 CS to Via Diaz

Red velvet curtains, a soaring palm on the piazza and a laid-back crowd of artists, actors and academics who flock here as much for the jazz and blues as for the inspiring wine list. On summer evenings, an elderly man sets up a stall in the piazza and sells cheap beer for those with more thirst than money.

CHANDELIER MAP PP284-5

☎ 333 252 81 77; Vico Belledonne a Chiaia 34/5; 🕒 6.30pm-2am daily; 🚗 C25 to Piazza dei Martiri

Chandelier is a slick pic of shiny white floors, black walls and a bright-yellow motorbike on show beside the bar. Popular for evening *aperitivo*, its perma-tanned clientele nibble and chill to house, pop and R&B.

ENOTECA BELLEDONNE MAP PP284-5

☎ 081 40 31 62; Vico Belledonne a Chiaia 18; 🕒 4.30pm-2am Mon, 10am-2pm & 4.30pm-2am Tue-Sat; 🚗 C25 to Riviera di Chiaia

Exposed brick walls, ambient lighting and bottle-lined shelves set the elegant scene at Naples' best-loved wine bar. Grab the savvy wine list and swirl, sniff and sip your way to bliss.

DRINKING

Neapolitans are not big drinkers, so don't expect boozy English-style pubs. In fact, in the centro storico many people simply buy a bottle of beer from the nearest bar and hang out on the streets.

Here, the biggest concentration of bars is found around Via Cisterno dell'Olio, Piazza Bellini, Piazza del Gesù Nuovo and Piazza San Domenico Maggiore. The proximity of the university ensures a vibrant atmosphere.

In upmarket Chiaia, head to the area around Via Ferrigni and the nearby Vicoletto Belledonne for the city's most stylish bars.

Uphill in Vomero, a string of eclectic little bars on Via Aniello Falcone mixes a preppy crowd with toast-worthy views.

Cafés usually open from about 7am until about 1am. Bars either open for *aperitifs*, at around 6pm, or directly for the evening shift at 10pm. Closing is rarely much before 2am or 3am. Many city centre bars close for a month over the summer.

GREG ELMS



S'Move bar, Chiaia

GREG ELMIS

FARINELLA MAP PP284-5

☎ 081 423 84 55; Via Alabardieri 10; ☎ 12pm-late daily; 🚗 C25 to Piazza dei Martiri

Skip the restaurant and head straight for the chocolate-toned bar. Here, style-savvy locals nibble on *aperitivo* gems such as steamy risotto and tapas and kick back with fruity Martini Pleasers.

FUSION BAR 66 MAP PP284-5

☎ 081 41 50 24; Via Bisignano; ☎ 6pm-3am daily; 🚗 C25 to Riviera di Chiaia

Vintage Turkish lanterns and gilded gold and silver chairs give this place a funky ethnic vibe. A 30-plus crowd spills out onto the street, living it up to jazz, lounge and the occasional live bossa nova act.

GROOMING MAP PP278-9

☎ 081 193 607 00; Via Aniello Falcone 346; ☎ 9pm-2am daily; 🚗 C28 to Parco Lamaro

One in a row of quirky bars, Grooming is a hit with Vomero's rich kids. Under its hanging African masks, they sip *apéritifs*, snack on *panini* (sandwiches) and gaze out over city and sea. Head in early for food as it tends to run out.

KESTÈ MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 551 39 84; Largo San Giovanni Maggiore 26/7; ☎ 8.30am-7.30pm Mon & Tue, 8.30am-3am & 8.30pm-3am Sat & Sun; 🚗 R2 to Corso Umberto I

A student hot spot, with tables spilling onto the square and a pop painting of San Gennaro above the DJ deck. Monday to Saturday, punters bop to pop, electronica and world beats. Sunday features live blues, folk and jazz.

KINKY BAR MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 552 15 71; Via Cisterna dell'Olio 21; ☎ 10.30pm-3am daily Oct-mid-Jun; 🚗 Dante

No whips and chains here – just a funky smoky cellar pumping out dub and reggae, man. A mainly student crowd packs the place, with the overspill packing out the bar-lined street outside.

LONTANO DA DOVE MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 549 43 04; Via Bellini 3; ☎ 5pm-late Tue-Sun Sep-Jul; 🚗 Dante

Literary types head here to sip espresso, talk Baudelaire and tap their fingers to Chet Baker. Close to Piazza Bellini, this erudite café also hosts poetry readings. Turtleneck sweaters are optional.

S'MOVE MAP PP284-5

☎ 081 764 58 13; Vico dei Sospiri 10a; ☎ 12pm-2am Mon-Sat, 7pm-3am Sun Sep-Jul; 🚗 C25 to Riviera di Chiaia

A local favourite. Wine-red lounges and slick retro lamps draw a friendly crowd of the glam and the corporate. *Aperitivo* is served between 7pm and 9pm and DJs spin nu-jazz, acid jazz, electro and funk.

ST TROPEZ MAP PP278-9

☎ 081 64 44 37; Via Aniello Falcone 336B; ☎ 10am-2am, closed Mon; 🚗 C28 to Parco Lamaro

Looking like a tiny Buddha Bar with its red paper lanterns and zebra-print bar stools, this intimate bar soothes with its retro, lounge and house tunes. *Aperitivo* starts at 7pm. Dig in with a rum-and-pear cocktail.

TRINITY BAR MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 551 45 69; Calata Trinità Maggiore 5; ☎ 7am-4am daily; 🚗 R1 to Via Monteoliveto

Trinity Bar looks like any other café on the block, but for some mysterious reason it draws the biggest crowds on Piazza del Gesù Nuovo. So grab a beer and join the throng.

WHITE BAR MAP PP284-5

☎ 081 64 45 82; Vico Satriano 3B; ☎ 10pm-4am Thu-Sun; 🚗 C25 to Riviera di Chiaia

Bar-hopping fashionistas always make time for White. Stark and minimalist, it never upstages their Capri tans and catwalk threads. Join the moneyed masses for lounge tunes and one of the city's best *aperitivo* spreads.

YACHTING BAR MAP PP284-5

☎ 328 944 67 53; Via Mergellina 2B; ☎ 10am-late Tue-Sun; 🚗 140 to Via Mergellina

Pumped-up studs and down-to-earth dykes head here for drinks, snacks and languid chill-out tunes. On the weekend, DJs burn it up with thumping commercial house.

CLUBBING

Most of the big clubs are out of town and out of reach of public transport. Central clubs tend to be small and eclectic, from cavernous reggae boltholes to galleries-cum-discos.

Venues usually open at 10.30pm or 11pm but don't fill up until after midnight. Many clubs close in summer (July to September), some transferring themselves to out-of-town beach locations (see the boxed text, p132).

Admission charges vary, but expect to pay between €5 and €25, which may or may not include a drink.

The student-dense centro storico and yuppie-centric Chiaia are clubbing hot spots. Pick up a free copy of mini-mag *Zero* in bars and for up-to-date listings.

DEPOT CRUISING BAR

☎ 081 780 95 78; www.depotmilano.com; ☎ 10pm-3am Tue-Thu, 10pm-6am Fri & Sat, 8pm-3am Sun; Via della Veterinaria 72; admission €10; 🚗 C55 to Albergo dei Poveri

This gay playpen attracts men with one thing on their mind, and it's not Kylie – think skin flicks, cruising maze and dark private cabins.

Check the website for themed leather, uniform and naked nights. The club is located just off edgy Piazza Carlo III, so catch a cab home.

FREELOVERS @ EDENLANDIA MAP P287

☎ 328 307 11 05; www.freelovers.it; Viale Kennedy 76; ☎ 12.30am-late Sat Jun-Sep; admission €12; 🚗 Cumana to Edenlandia

Set in a Disney-style theme park, this is a queer summertime favourite. Groove under the stars beside a fairytale castle or crash into a cutie on the dodgem cars. Music is pop-ish and the vibe is fun. You'll need a taxi to get back into town.

FREEZER MAP PP278-9

☎ 081 750 24 37; www.freezestereobar.it; Via F. Lauria 6, Centro Direzionale, Isola G6; ☎ 11pm-3am Sat & Sun Sep-Jul; admission €13; 🚗 Garibaldi

Blue neon and acid-green walls set the post-modern scene at this Berlin-style bolthole. Dressed to kill in latex and plastic creations, a mixed crowd of extravagant clubbers hits the floor for high-octane house and electronica.

LA MELA MAP PP284-5

☎ 081 41 02 70; Via dei Mille 40/bis; ☎ Thu-Sat; 🚗 C25 to Riviera di Chiaia

Chiaia's 30-something 'It' crowd saunters here for civilised clubbing after drinks at Farinella (opposite). DJs spin mainstream sounds and the look is über-chic. Dress to impress or face rejection at the door.

top five CLUBS

Velvet Zone (p132) Hot and funky grooving in the centro storico.

La Mela (above) Elegant clubbing for the seriously chic.

Rising South (p132) Art-house flicks, drum 'n' bass and a savvy boho crowd.

Free Lovers @ Edenlandia (above) Fabulous gay fun in a fairytale setting.

L'Arenile di Bagnoli (see the boxed text, p132) Live acts, DJs and Caipirinhas on the beach.

TWISTING BY THE BEACH

Not that long ago, summertime Naples was a clubbing wasteland. When the city's nightclubs closed in June, party people were left counting the days to October. Times are changing, however, as a growing number of beachside venues turn the coast west of Naples into a bite-sized Ibiza. Four of the best:

L'Arenile di Bagnoli (Map p287; ☎ 081 570 60 35; www.larenile.it in Italian; Via Coroglio 14B, Bagnoli; 🚗 C9)

The biggest and oldest of the clubs. Tan on the beach, order a pizza, chill at the bar, catch a band (BB King has performed here) or hit the beachside dance floor for thumping house under the stars.

Lido L'Altro (Map p287; ☎ 335 879 04 28; www.altro-lab.com in Italian; Via Coroglio, Bagnoli; 🚗 C9)

More sun beds, comfy lounges and a funky four-sided bar. The crowd is fun and mixed and the music retro and commercial dance.

Vibes on the Beach (Map p287; ☎ 081 523 28 28; Via Miseno 52, Capo Miseno, Bacoli; 🚗 SEPSA to Bacoli)

DJs spin languid lounge to an older crowd. The frozen daiquiris are legendary and Sunday features brunch on the beach.

Nabilah (Map p287; ☎ 335 527 81 89; www.nabilah.it in Italian; Via Spiaggia Romana 15, Cuma; 🚗 Cumana to Torregaveta)

Cranks up the style factor (and bar prices) with candles and sofas on the sand and big-name DJs such as Moloko and DJ Ravin from Buddha Bar in Paris.

As these venues are out of town and serviced by limited transport, your best bet for getting there and back is in a cab. Budget for €35 one way from Naples to Bagnoli and €55 from Naples to Bacoli. Share and save.

MUTINY REPUBLIC MAP PP280-1

☎ 335 732 10 34; Via Bellini 45; 🗓 Tue-Sun; 🚗 Dante

Artful clubbing awaits at this funky centro storico newie. A friendly, boho crowd kicks back on silky sofas, eyes up cutting-edge art and gets down to DJ-spun jazz, electro-soul and disco funk or to live acts with a world music edge.

QUEERS & THE CITY

Rainbow flags might be thin on the ground, but Naples' modest gay scene is refreshingly unpretentious and eclectic.

Throughout this chapter queer bars and club are included in the main listings. For info on one-off events, contact **ArciGay** (☎ 081 552 88 15; www.arcigaynapoli.org; Via San Geronimo alle Monache 19; 🗓 5.30-8pm Wed, 5-9pm Fri; 🚗 Dante), or pick up the free monthly *Pride* magazine from gay venues. Some clubs and saunas insist you have an ArciGay membership card (€14), which is available from those venues that require it.

Freelovers (☎ 328 307 11 05; www.freelovers.it) organises great club nights, at locations such as amusement parks and swimming pools. Check the website for details.

Men who are looking to sweat it out with the locals can do so at the city's only gay sauna, **Blu Angels** (Map pp278-9; ☎ 081 562 52 98; Centro Direzionale Isola A7; admission €12; 🗓 1.30pm-midnight, daily), with its two Finnish saunas, Turkish bath, gym and darkroom.

OFFICINA 99

☎ 081 552 23 99; www.officina99.org in Italian;

Via Gianturco 101; 🚗 Gianturco

No Philippe Starck lighting here, just an abandoned factory packed with hardcore lefties, punks and raw live acts ranging from radical Neapolitan rap to anti-Establishment reggae. Gigs are sporadic, so call ahead or check the website.

RISING SOUTH MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 333 653 42 73; www.risingsouth.it;

Via San Sebastiano 19; 🗓 Mon-Sat mid-Oct-May; admission €10; 🚗 Dante

This club is so popular there is a 'guest list only' policy from Thursday to Saturday; call a day in advance to get your name on the door. Inside, the pierced, the arty and the unpretentiously cool watch art-house videos and groove to a mix of house, electronica and drum 'n' bass.

VELVET ZONE MAP PP280-1

☎ 347 810 73 28; Via Cisterna dell'Olio 11;

admission €10; 🗓 11pm-4am Wed, Thu & Sun, 11pm-6am Fri & Sat mid-Oct-May; 🚗 Dante

Different nights bring different sounds here at the legendary Velvet. You can expect anything from hip-hop, rock and retro, to techno, pop and more. The occasional live gigs held at this club feature local bands and dance-music outfits.

MUSIC

Music in Naples is more than mandolins and tenors. There's a thriving jazz scene, cultured classical ensembles and home-grown political hip-hop. The city also hosts the **Neapolis Rock Festival** (www.neapolis.it), a huge international rock fest in July, billed as the largest in southern Italy, which draws A-list acts and huge crowds.

Ticket prices range from about €5 to €12 for a jazz gig in a club, to €25 for a big stadium concert. In smaller venues you can usually buy your ticket at the door; for bigger events try the box office inside **Feltrinelli** (Map pp284-5; ☎ 081 240 54 11; Piazza dei Martiri) or from an agency such as **Box Office** (Map pp280-1; ☎ 081 551 91 88; www.boxofficeclub.it in Italian; Galleria Umberto I 17).

Naples' premier classical-music organisation, **Associazione Scarlatti** (Map pp284-5; ☎ 081 40 60 11; www.associazionescarlatti.it in Italian; Piazza dei Martiri 58; 🚗 C25 to Riviera di Chiaia), organises an annual programme of chamber music concerts.

AROUND MIDNIGHT MAP P283

☎ 081 558 28 34; www.aroundmidnight.it; Via Bonito 32A; 🗓 9pm-4am Tue-Sun, live music 11pm-1am, closed Aug; 🚗 Vanvitelli

One of Naples' most famous jazz clubs, this tiny swinging bolthole features live music six nights out of seven. Concerts are generally mainstream, but the occasional blues band puts in a performance.

MUSIC IN THE METROPOLIS

Music journalist Francesco Calazzo gives the lowdown on the city's spicy soundscape:

'As a port city, Naples has always absorbed foreign influences. Musically, the result is a fusion of styles, from classic Italian melodies to African percussion and American blues.

The late 1970s was a defining moment for the city's music scene, with Neapolitan new-wave pioneers like Eugenio Bennato, Pino Daniele and Enzo Avitabile reviving Neapolitan folk and crossing it over with rock, roots and hypnotic African beats. Enzo Avitabile now collaborates with the legendary Bottari di Portico ensemble, named for the old *bottari* (barrels) used in their music.

'Neapolitan hip-hop is a more recent example, using instruments like the tabla and jembe for a North African flavour. The most famous acts have been 99Posse and Almamegretta. While both groups have disbanded, band members still play the occasional gig at clubs like Officina 99 (opposite), where 99Posse was formed.

The arrival of American troops in WW2 introduced jazz and blues to Naples. Don't miss Blue Stuff, who play classic Chicago blues sung in Neapolitan. Check the band's website (www.bluestuff.it) for upcoming gigs.

'For local underground groups, try Velvet Zone (opposite) and check the daily papers – *Corriere del Mezzogiorno* or *Repubblica* (Naples edition) are best – as some indie gigs aren't advertised until the performance date. Otherwise, head to the music shops on Via San Sebastiano in the centro storico, where musicians will always let you in on a secret.'

BOURBON STREET

MAP PP280-1

☎ 328 068 72 21; Via Bellini 52;

🗓 9.30pm-3am Sep-Jun; 🚗 Dante

A red-brick slice of New Orleans in Napoli. Smooth American and Italian jazz musicians perform virtually every night to a mixed-age crowd of head-swaying jazz aficionados.

CAPPELLA DELLA PIETÀ DEI

TURCHINI MAP P283

☎ 081 40 23 95; www.turchini.it; Via Santa Caterina

da Siena 38; funicular Centrale to Corso Vittorio Emanuele Home to the baroque Orchestra Cappella della Pietà dei Turchini, this deconsecrated church is an evocative venue for classical concerts of mostly 17th- and 18th-century Neapolitan works. Tickets cost about €15.

OTTO JAZZ CLUB MAP P283

☎ 081 551 37 65; Piazzetta Cariatidi 23; 🗓 10pm-late

Fri-Sun Sep-Jun; admission €8-10; Funicular Centrale to Corso Vittorio Emanuele

Up the hill towards Vomero, Otto's is arguably the top jazz joint in town. It has hosted some of the biggest names in jazz and today still features top-quality concerts by mostly local, sometimes international artists.

PALAPARTENOPE MAP P287

☎ 081 570 00 08; www.palapartenope.it in Italian;

Via Barbagallo 115, Fuorigrotta; 🚗 152

Located in suburban Fuorigrotta, west of central Naples, the architecturally uninspiring

Palapartenope is the biggest indoor concert venue in town. A 6000-plus seating capacity sets the scene for big-name Italian and international acts, which have included everyone from local crooner Pino Daniele to vintage icons Lou Reed and Spandau Ballet.

STADIO SAN PAOLO MAP PP287

☎ 081 239 56 23; Piazzale Vincenzo Tecchio, Fuorigrotta; 🚗 152

A temple to the cult of football, this massive stadium played host to the notorious 1990 World Cup semi-final between Italy and Argentina during which Diego Maradona was jeered after asking Napoli football fans to cheer for Argentina. Pride aside, the stadium also hosts occasional pop concerts by big-name Italian acts.

THEATRE

While Naples' theatre scene is not as dynamic as it was in the days of Eduardo De Filippo, it still serves up the occasional gem. Look out for works by Roberto De Simone, Luca de Filippo and Enzo Moscato, with their revealing modern takes on Neapolitan traditions, or hit the city's smaller stages for experimental work from young local and international artists.

Ticket prices range from about €8 for experimental theatres to €30 and upwards for big-budget productions. To book, contact the theatre direct, or if possible log onto its website. Alternatively, try a ticketing agency such as **Box Office** (Map pp280–1; ☎ 081 551 91 88; www.boxofficeclub.it in Italian; Galleria Umberto I 17). Many hotels can also help with reservations.

BELLINI MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 549 96 88; www.teatrobellini.it in Italian; Via Conte di Ruvo; tickets from €15; 📺 box office 10.30am-1pm & 5-8pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-2pm Sat; 🚗 Museo

The gorgeous 19th-century Bellini is a classic picture in gold and red. Suitably, the repertoire tends to be fairly conservative, with big-budget musicals and classics such as Shakespeare, Manzoni and Oscar Wilde.

GALLERIA TOLEDO MAP P283

☎ 081 42 50 37; www.galleriatoledo.net in Italian; Via Concezione a Montecalvario 34; tickets €13; 📺 box office 10am-1.30pm & 3-6pm daily; 🚗 Montesanto

Tucked away in the Quartieri Spagnoli, this is the spot for cutting-edge and experimental new work from local and international playwrights. Occasional film screenings include offbeat international art house. Check the website for upcoming events.

MERCADANTE MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 551 33 96; www.teatrostabilenapoli.it in Italian; Piazza del Municipio 1; tickets from €13; 📺 box office 10.30am-1pm & 5.30-7.30pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-1pm Sat Sep-Apr; 🚗 R2 to Piazza del Municipio

Recently restored, the 18th-century Mercadante is home to Naples' major theatre company, the Teatro Stabile. A bumper season of high-standard productions includes new and classic Neapolitan, Italian and international works from the likes of Luca de Filippo, Roberto de Simone and Paul Léautaud.

TEATRO NUOVO MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 40 60 62; www.nuovoteatronuovo.it in Italian; Via Montecalvario 16; tickets around €8; 📺 box office 10.30am-1pm & 5-7pm Tue-Fri, 10.30am-1pm Sat Oct-May; 🚗 Montesanto

Samuel Beckett and controversial Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini are among the more recognisable names to appear on the Nuovo's

DEATH IN NAPLES

If you like your theatre with a murder or two, check out *Il Pozzo e Il Pendolo Teatro* (☎ 081 542 20 88; www.ilpozzoeilpendolo.it in Italian; Piazza San Domenico Maggiore 3). This theatre company performs whodunnit plays in atmospheric locations, including the Orto Botanico (p96). It also hosts murder-mystery dinners and weekends, and spine-tingling night tours of Naples. While the plays and dinners are in Italian, tours can be arranged in English if booked in advance.

programme. A modern theatre, it provides a stage for emerging European writers whose works may or may not appeal.

TRIANON MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 225 82 85; www.teatrotrianon.it; Piazza Vincenzo Calenda 9; tickets €10-22; 📺 box office 10am-1.30pm & 4-8pm daily; 🚗 R2 to Corso Umberto I
Deliciously kitsch, the Trianon orchestra belts out a repertoire of unashamedly sentimental Neapolitan classics while nostalgic audiences join in the chorus. Pre-concert, check out the small museum dedicated to opera star Enrico Caruso.

OPERA

Opera and Naples go together like a house on fire. After La Scala in Milan, the Teatro San Carlo is considered Italy's most important opera house and regularly stages world-class performances. Which is just as well; Neapolitan audiences are notoriously demanding.

Watching an opera at San Carlo is a magical experience, especially as tickets are not easy to come by. Most are snapped up by season ticket holders, who pay up to €800 for a year's subscription.

LA NOTTE BIANCA

For one night each September, Naples hosts *La Notte Bianca* (The White Night), an all-night celebration of art, culture and shopping. A huge programme of mostly free events includes theatre in piazzas, concerts in cloisters and tango lessons in train stations. Transport is free and runs all night. For details, go to www.nottebiancanapoli.it (in Italian) or check the local press the day before.

The opera season at Teatro San Carlo runs from January to December, with a mid-season break in July and August. Reckon on €40 for a place in the sixth tier and €90 for a seat in the stalls. For those who are under 30 years old, last minute tickets are available one hour before performances for €15.

For reservations contact the **Teatro San Carlo box office** (Map pp284–5; ☎ 081 797 23 31, 081 797 24 12; www.teatrosancarlo.it; Via San Carlo 98) at the theatre itself, or book online. In summer some performances are staged in the courtyard of the Castel Nuovo and at the ancient Parco Archeologico di Baia (p105). Check the local press for current opera productions.

For information about the theatre's ballet performances, see below.

TEATRO SAN CARLO MAP PP284-5

☎ 081 797 23 31; www.teatrosancarlo.it; Via San Carlo 98; 📺 box office 10am-6.30pm Tue-Sat; 🚗 R2 to Via San Carlo

Italy's largest opera house, the opulent Teatro San Carlo is one of the world's premier venues. A six-tier arena in classical gold and red, it can seat up to 1000 people. The year-round programme is largely traditional; works by Wagner, Tchaikovsky and Verdi are reliable crowd pleasers. The theatre also showcases dance performances; for more information, see below.

DANCE

Based at the Teatro San Carlo, the San Carlo Ballet Company is the oldest dance academy in Italy, performing a year-round repertoire of world-class traditional and modern works.

For cutting-edge international choreography, head to Rome or Milan.

TEATRO SAN CARLO MAP PP284-5

☎ 081 797 21 11; www.teatrosancarlo.it; tickets €20-90; 📺 box office 10am-3pm Tue-Sun Oct-May, 10am-4.30pm Mon-Fri Jun-Sep; Via San Carlo 98; 🚗 R2 to Via San Carlo

The in-house ballet company performs to a consistently high standard. Tickets start at €25 and rise to €60. If you're under 30 (and

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FILM FESTIVALS

Napoli Film Festival (www.napolifilmfestival.com in Italian) A week-long showcase of international cinema and film events, held in June.

Estate a Napoli (www.napolioggi.it in Italian) Open-air screenings from June to September, as part of the summer-long cultural fest.

Artecinema (www.artecinema.com in Italian) International festival of documentaries about contemporary art and artists, in October.

can prove it) you qualify for a €15 ticket, available one hour before performances. In summer some performances are staged in the courtyard of the Castel Nuovo.

CINEMA

Catching a flick is primarily a winter activity and many smaller cinemas close in summer. Families and older viewers go to the 8pm feature, the young go to the 10.30pm showing.

Nearly all films screened in Italy are dubbed, which means that your choices are fairly limited if you don't speak Italian.

Films shown in their original language are indicated in listings by *versione originale* or VO after the title.

Cinema tickets cost between €4.50 and €8. As a rough guide, screenings begin every two hours from 4.30pm to 10.30pm. Afternoon and early-evening screenings are generally cheaper than films shown later in the evening. Check the daily papers for schedules and ticket prices.

CINEMA MODERNISSIMO MAP PP280-1

☎ 081 580 02 54; www.modernissimo.it in Italian; Via Cisterna dell'Olio; tickets €7; **M** Dante

The hip and the arty head here for a mix of art house, retro and mainstream flicks. The complex includes a small cinema-themed library and is slap-bang on bar-packed Via Cisterno dell'Olio. Films are dubbed in Italian.

CINEMA PLAZA MAP P283

☎ 081 556 35 55; Via M Kerbaker 85; tickets €7; **M** Vanvitelli

Featuring two screens, this cinema is popular with the district's well-heeled denizens, who come here for a film fix of the mostly blockbuster variety.

WATCHING SPORT

Naples' football team is the third-most supported in the country after Juventus and Milan. Big matches attract crowds of up to 80,000 to the San Paolo stadium, where the light-blues play on alternate Sundays.

The football season runs from September to May, with a short midseason break around Christmas. The cost of a ticket varies depending on the opposition, but as a rough guide expect to pay around €14 for a place in the curve (the stands behind the goals) and up to €40 for the *tribune* (side stands).

Buy tickets at the stadium, **Stadio San Paolo** (ticket information ☎ 081 239 56 23; Piazzale Vincenzo Tecchio; ☎ 152) or from the official outlet **Azzurro Service** (☎ 081 593 40 01; Via Galeota 17; ☎ 152), both in the Fuorigrotta district west of Mergellina.



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