

ITALIAN CLASS MAGAZINE – CAPRI PALACE

Mediterranean heart

It has always been considered the most beautiful island in the world. And even today, with mass tourism, Capri is still a precious jewel. Starting from a famous oasis-hotel

Is there still a reason why one should go to Capri? Does it still make sense to land on the most beautiful island – as it has been once defined?

Of course, if the objective is a cocktail in Piazzetta or a boat tour of the Blue Grotto, there is little hope to escape from: daily giant crowds, day cruisers, Americans with hats made in China, Chinese with American baseball caps, Neapolitan ladies with typical Capri sandals, and elegant French dressed in blue.

After all, Capri like Portofino is one of those few places made of 'brands': ranging from caprese salad, to Capri sandals, villas in true Capri style, or that typical Capri blue consecrated by Emilio Pucci and registered in the color scale with the code 5019. Therefore free way for those who land on the island with the illusion of finding themselves in the heart of high society, and being part of it.

Writing beauty

It is hard to imagine that Capri has been the favorite retirement sport of many writers, from Virgilio to Conrad, Rilke, D'Annunzio, Gorkij, Malaparte, Graham Greene or of royals and Hollywood celebrities. And yet, the Island of Mermaids still keeps many of the characteristics which have transformed it into a myth. One only has to look for them., off the beaten track. Even just a few meters away from the Piazzetta and the iconic boutique La Parisienne one can take tiny roads without shops and discover panoramic and unspoiled spots, like the enormous, rundown, charming cloister of the ex-convent of the Teresiane, where the bedding was hung under the peeling vaults, an unknown fact even for the Capri taxi drivers (convent? Cloister? you must have gotten it wrong, you must have seen it on another island). In other words to live Capri today one has to look for the 'dolce' view, not the 'Dolce vita'. Looking for panoramic views, gardens overlooking the sea, the Saraceni towers. Contemplating the Faraglioni, which thank God, have remained unchained since the days of Tiberius. Or going up to Anacapri, where despite the Japanese tourists in line to take the lift up to the Monte Solaro, there are plenty of oasis of peace, indeed there are.

One above all, the Capri Palace, where Tonino Cacace, believer in holidays as an esthetic experience, made it a 'destination hotel'. No one before this visionary intellectual hotel owner, had imagined for a hotel in Capri, enormous bedrooms full of light, suites with private swimming pools a collection of contemporary art called the White Museum which deserves a true museum, two restaurants which total 3 Michelin stars, a Beauty Farm named the best medical spa in the world.

Excellences which the Capri Palace maintains even after its transition to the Mytha group, a collection of five star hotels by the Mediterranean beauty, as unchanged is the cultural vocation of the hotel, which every spring invites famous artists to involve students from the island with the program Artists in Residence: Adrian Paci and Francesca Sarti for 2018.

Corners for Romance

Of course, even in Anacapri, the crowds invade the stores of via Giuseppe Orlandi, but all it takes is to turn the corner going by white tiny and silent roads, covered in Mediterranean perfumes, which make one understand why Alberto Moravia and Elsa Morante spent the happiest part of their relationship here. Here it is easy to be surprised. For example, admiring ceramic pavement of the San Michele church from its balcony, which tells the story of the expulsion of Adam and Eve from another type of Eden. Even more surprising, ignored and unknown, is the tomb found in an isolated square which recounts a modern day prophecy, not at all from the Middle Ages! In 1992, while two Anacaprese boys were playing, they saw a Cardinal dressed in red. They instinctively began to scream "The Pope, the Pope!". The face of the cardinal turned to the color of his robe, it was Joseph Ratzinger. Who had landed on the island to pick up the prestigious Capri-San Michele award. In other words, as Maxim Gorkij used to say, sometimes it seems that 'life in Capri is not real, it is a piece of art'.